



June 2, 2026

LOUISIANA'S OLD STATE CAPITOL ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING EVENT REIMAGINING AMERICA'S WILD FRONTIER

BATON ROUGE, La. — [Louisiana Secretary of State Nancy Landry](#) invites you to experience an evening of history, cartography, and contemporary photography. On Wednesday, June 24, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Louisiana's Old State Capitol will host a public opening ceremony for two dynamic exhibitions: "[Excursions, Expeditions, and 'Discoveries: A Young Nation Expands'](#)" and "Reimagining America: The Maps of Lewis & Clark."

These new installations complement the museum's current powerhouse exhibit, "[Bought for a Song: A Young Nation Expands](#)," which features the original Louisiana Purchase document signed by Napoleon Bonaparte, on rare loan from the [National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.](#) Together, this exhibit trio offers viewers a close-up look at how a young United States doubled its size and forever transformed the continent.

The opening reception offers Baton Rouge and surrounding communities a fully immersive cultural experience:

- "Excursions, Expeditions, and 'Discoveries: A Young Nation Expands'" (June 23-Dec. 19): Step directly into the journals of explorers William Dunbar and Dr. George Hunter, sent by President Thomas Jefferson on an expedition to map the land west of the Mississippi River. This exhibit juxtaposes their historic 1804 southern route with contemporary landscape photography created by Louisiana State University School of Art students under Associate Professor Johanna Warwick, capturing how these local landscapes look today.
- "Reimagining America: The Maps of Lewis and Clark" (June 23-Nov. 28): On loan from the [Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance, Inc.](#), this exhibition showcases historic map reproductions of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition following the Louisiana Purchase. It reveals how cutting-edge 19th-century science, combined with vital geographic intelligence shared by Native Americans, provided a new understanding of America's development.
- Keynote Presentation (5 p.m. on June 24): Renowned historian and award-winning author Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze will deliver a presentation on the Louisiana Purchase. He will look past the standard real estate narrative to explore its massive cultural impacts, including the US-Indian Treaty system and the displacement of Native peoples. The lecture will also examine how the purchase accelerated westward expansion, intensified debates over slavery and constitutional power, and transformed the young republic into an emerging continental empire.

Admission to the event and the museum is completely free. Community members are encouraged to reserve their spots in advance [on Eventbrite](#).

About Louisiana's Old State Capitol

The Old State Capitol is one of nine museums to operate under the Secretary of State's Office. The 176-year-old statehouse has withstood war, fire, and scandal, and now serves as a museum of political history. Admission is

free, and the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Plan your next visit to Louisiana's Old State Capitol, experience the living history, and feel the heartbeat of our culture. For more information, visit <https://louisianaoldstatecapitol.org/>.

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