



June 4, 2026

BATON ROUGE'S FAVORITE CASTLE LAUNCHES FREE PUPPET THEATRE AND STORYTIME SERIES FOR TODDLERS

BATON ROUGE, La. — [Louisiana Secretary of State Nancy Landry](#) invites families to experience history and storytelling in a whole new way. Louisiana's Old State Capitol is launching "Once Upon a Castle: Storytime & Puppet Theatre," a dynamic, free monthly program designed specifically for toddlers, young children, and their caregivers. The one-hour event runs from 11 a.m. to noon on Friday, June 26 and combines interactive book reading, hands-on learning, and a custom puppet show production.

A Spectacular, Show-Stopping Puppet Production

The series will bring Louisiana wildlife and historic expeditions to life in an original puppet show written and performed entirely by museum staff. Inspired by "[Mama Opossum's Misadventures](#)" by [Gina Gallois](#), the show follows Mama Roux on a high-stakes adventure after she falls out of a tree and loses her five baby joeys. Audiences will help Mama Roux track down her babies, Biscuit, Cheddar, Maple, Pepper, and Beignet, before daylight!

Along the way, children will meet local critters and learn about indigenous Louisiana wildlife. The show features a vibrant cast of characters, including Grits the Opossum, the program's official mascot who will host every monthly event.

Connecting Play to Real-World Discovery

This monthly show serves as an educational launchpad for the museum's newest traveling exhibits, which open on June 23, 2026. The inaugural story time program centers around themes from "[Excursions, Expeditions, and Discoveries: A Young Nation Expands](#)" and "[Reimagining America: The Maps of Lewis & Clark](#)."

By engaging with books and puppets, young children will build a basic understanding of cartography, epic journeys, and local nature. Caregivers can then confidently explore with their toddlers through the museum's galleries, turning a historic outing into an accessible, interactive playground of discovery.

Calling All Little Royals!

To make the magic come alive, children are encouraged to arrive in their favorite castle-themed garb. Whether dressing up in crowns, tiaras, capes, or gowns, or simply bringing along a stuffed dragon companion, kids can fully immerse themselves in the castle experience.

Because this program is completely free and occurs monthly, it provides families with a recurring, budget-friendly activity that blends entertainment with early childhood education. Families can register for the inaugural session [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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