

ARTS & CULTURE:

Priscilla Lawrence

The Historic New Orleans Collection
New Orleans, Louisiana

Priscilla Lawrence, Executive Director of The Historic New Orleans Collection, has been affiliated with the organization since 1980. Born in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Mrs. Lawrence received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a major in Commercial Art in 1971 from Mississippi State College for Women and completed coursework toward a Master of Arts in Art History in 1980 at Tulane University. Prior to becoming Acting Executive Director in 1998, Mrs. Lawrence served as registrar and Collections Manager at The Collection.

In addition to her regular column in "The Collection's Quarterly," Mrs. Lawrence has authored "A New Plane: Pre-Civil War Lithography in New Orleans" in "Printmaking in New Orleans," "Proceedings of the North American Print Conference; Before Disaster Strikes," "Prevention, Planning, and Recovery, Caring for Your Personal Collections In the Event of Disaster," and "Preservation Guide III: Care of Paintings" and has contributed to several exhibition catalogs and collections management publications.

Mrs. Lawrence is active in the American Association of Museums, Southeastern Museums Conference and the Women's Professional Council. She is a member of the boards of the Tennessee Williams Literary Festival, the Beauregard-Keyes Historic House, and the Friends of the Vieux Carré Commission. She has received numerous awards including France's Chevalier in the Order of the Arts and Letters, City Business Women of the Year Lifetime Award, Young Leadership Role



Model, and Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Humanities. Her personal commitment to preservation is reflected in The Historic District Landmarks Commission's residence award for work done on her Bywater home and the Preservation Resource Center's recognition for work on her Marengo St. residence.

Mrs. Lawrence is especially proud that the staff of The Historic New Orleans Collection returned quickly following Hurricane Katrina's aftermath and worked diligently to prepare the museum and research institution for the public. It was the first museum to re-open and resume its program of services in October 2005. She recognized the importance of a sense of normalcy for the devastated returning population. In spite of personal challenges and with the support of the board of directors, the staff undertook ambitious projects and programming. After Common Routes, an exhibit with international lenders, closed in June 2006, the City of Hope exhibition opened for the first anniversary of the storm as a striking commemoration of human strength in the face of disaster. Mrs. Lawrence is honored to be in a position to support The Collection's preservation of material culture for the benefit of future generations.