

October 24, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of a proposed performance and workshop by Wade Barnes and his ensemble in New Orleans during Satchmo Summerfest 2009.

I was involved in a collaborative program with Wade Barnes and the Louisiana State Museum in August 2008, while I was Manager of K-12 and Family Programs at LSM. Mr. Barnes and his ensemble conducted a full day of interactive performances at the LSM's Old U.S.Mint, in conjunction with Satchmo Summerfest. The free program was attended by more than 300 public school students, who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to attend a program of this kind. It consisted of a performance with a strong interactive component by Mr Barnes and his ensemble, after which the students visited the exhibitions on view at the museum.

Wade Barnes and his ensemble conducted an extraordinary and inspiring program, which engaged and compelled students, while giving them the opportunity to enjoy themselves and to learn about the history of music. I believe it set the tone for students to have an exciting experience afterwards in the galleries and left them with a positive impression of their museum experience.

I can attest to Mr. Barnes and his ensemble's high standards of excellence, and I can recommend a similar program without hesitation.

Sincerely,



Marinta Skupin  
Director of Education