

LETTER OF INTENT

October 03, 2024

Heather Diebold, Historic District Director
Hammond Historic District
219 East Robert Street
Hammond, La 70401

Dear Heather Diebold:

I am reaching out to you because I am very interested in the upcoming vacancy for the position of Commissioner for the Historic District. I have been a resident of Hammond for 40 years; and have lived in downtown Hammond for 31 years. I am registered to vote in Hammond, and I have been an active voter for many years. I am proud of, and love our beautiful community. Hammond is my forever home, and I want to contribute to the future successes of our community through this opportunity.

I would be a valuable addition to the Historic District Commission because I have knowledge and experience in archaeology, history, urban studies, and communication. I am currently working towards my second bachelor's degree in Anthropology (concentration in Archaeology) at the University of New Orleans. I have taken courses such as: The History of Anthropological Theory, Burial and Mourning Traditions, Urban Anthropology and Exceptionality, North American Archaeology, Field Methods in Archaeology, and Advanced Field Research in Archaeology. I recently completed a six week field school in Germany through UNO and the DPAA- Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (<https://www.dpaa.mil/>). Upon graduation (May 2025), I plan to begin graduate school at UNO in Planning and Urban Studies concentrating in Historic Preservation, Urban Planning, and Cultural Resource Management. In addition to my relevant coursework, I work at ELOS Environmental as an Intern in the Cultural Resource Management department.

I am a coauthor for several Archaeological reports for the State of Louisiana, and I have also worked on Section 106 projects. In addition, a project that I spearheaded- focusing on a collection of artifacts from the St. Louis Cathedral has recently been published. I have been featured in publications for my work as an Archaeologist in the field and lab through the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans.

I currently volunteer for History Forge (SELA) through the Midlo Center at UNO: HistoryForge combines historic maps and photos with census records of the people who lived in Southeast Louisiana, creating a unique way to visualize the history of communities in the early 1900s. I also volunteer for OldInsuranceMaps.net which is a crowdsourcing site for creating and viewing georeferenced mosaics of historical fire insurance maps, based on the digital Sanborn map collection at the Library of Congress.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am excited for this opportunity, and it seems like this is a perfect fit for me.

Sincerely,

Courtney L. Mahler

Courtney L. Mahler

Hammond, La 70401-3246

@gmail.com

EDUCATION

University of New Orleans, New Orleans, La — B.A. Anthropology; concentration in Archaeology January 2024- Graduation Date: May 2025

Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, La — B.A. Communications; concentration in Organizational Communication

August 2002- July 2008

iTeachLouisiana: Certified Elementary Teacher — State of Louisiana, Department of Education :Certification Level 2 #3953301

2015-Present

Future Education: University of New Orleans, New Orleans, La — M.S. Urban Studies; concentration in Historic Preservation, Urban Planning, and Cultural Resource Management

Expected date to begin the program: June 2025, Possibly August 2025- expected graduation date Summer of 2028

PUBLICATIONS:

Phase I Cultural Resource Survey: Lincoln Beach Project; Orleans Parish, Louisiana — Coauthor

Phase I Cultural Resource Survey: Louisiana Highway 22 Gapping Project; Ascension Parish Louisiana — Coauthor

Phase I Cultural Resource Survey: LA 466: 5th Street Improvements; Jefferson Parish, Louisiana — Coauthor

Phase I Cultural Resource Survey: Energy Transition Parkway; Ascension Parish, Louisiana — Coauthor

Phase I Cultural Resource Survey: SLEMCO Powerline Rebuild Project; Vermillion Parish, Louisiana — Coauthor

Preliminary Cultural Resource Investigation: Rock Creek Ranch Park Project; Tarrant County, Texas — Coauthor

St. Louis Cathedral Excavations: January, 2024

https://prcno.org/archaeology-under-st-louis-cathedral-documents-an-unparalleled-architectural-history/?fbclid=IwZXhobgNhZWwCMTEAAR2BARutBpNQIHQOE6RpXQFXvopaqk5qOsZmRXxhHupq3GDFxcU1rVclDqk_aem_EU1euBzc8bzc-z05uelnPg

St. Louis Cathedral Artifact Collection:

Responsible for screening, cleaning artifacts, bagging, labeling bags, taking photographs of artifacts, photo editing, researching artifacts, identifying artifacts, and cataloging the assemblage

https://hub.catalogit.app/9619/folder/0e09b720-fd9b-11ee-ac26-b54c56e403b0?fbclid=IwZXhobgNhZWwCMTEAAR1TP5EWxj26vVpAXf7YjRmk9oKN8jih_iFkDcXjVYJ7iXkWJRo9ppebmkTA_aem_sf2z7OrpasB6hKogUzWWlQ

SKILLS

Strong Work Ethic
Diplomatic
Integrity
Reliable
Resourceful
Creative
Problem Solver
Researcher

AWARDS

Southeastern Louisiana University: Dean's List, President's List, Thirteen Club, TOPS Scholarship, Catholic Youth Leadership Scholarship

LANGUAGES

English- Proficient; Spanish: somewhat proficient

HOW CAN I HELP?

I have knowledge surrounding Historical Registry: photographing potentially eligible sites, locating parcels, recording data, and knowledge of Historical Aerials and how to utilize aerials from different time periods. I have experience navigating the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map to locate Archaeological Sites, Cemeteries, Assessment and Reconnaissance Surveys, and Phase I, II, and III projects.

AFFILIATIONS:

University of New Orleans Anthropology Club
2004- Present

Archaeological Institute of America:
Member #: 70041329;
Society-LA-180-New Orleans
March 2024- Present

Louisiana Archaeological Society:
Member #: 364115376135191
March 2024 - Present

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Excavator, UNO/DPAA- Field School

Germany: June 07, 2024 - July 20, 2024

Assisted in the exhumation of human remains, personal artifacts, and aircraft remains from the B-17G "Flying Fortress" located at a WWII crash site

Followed DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) standards in the removal, and processing of artifacts

Participant, Continuing Education Credits: 1.5 hours

Attended an online presentation hosted by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions: Protecting Historic Cemeteries through Recordation, Regulation, and Community Outreach

October 09, 2024

WORK EXPERIENCE

ELOS Environmental, Hammond, La — *Cultural Resource Management Intern*

December 2023 - PRESENT

Tangipahoa Parish School System, Tangi Academy Charter School, North Shore Charter School — *Teacher*

August 2013 - December 2023

Artist, Hammond, La —

June 2006 - Present

Neill Corporation, Hammond, La — *Contract Worker*

June 2004 - Present

[REDACTED]

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition:
October 2024 - Present

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions:
October 2024 - Present

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:

History Forge- Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies at the University of New Orleans

2024 - Present

HistoryForge combines historic maps and photos with census records of the people who lived in Southeast Louisiana, creating a unique way to visualize the history of this community in the early 1900s.

<https://sela.historyforge.net/>

OldInsuranceMaps.net

2024 - Present

OldInsuranceMaps.net is a crowdsourcing site for creating and viewing georeferenced mosaics of historical fire insurance maps, based on the digital Sanborn map collection at the Library of Congress.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/>

Findagrave.com

Contributor:

Add undocumented cemeteries to the database, add memorials within cemeteries, transcribe headstones, and photograph memorials

October 2024 - Present

Hospice Gala 2023 - Wine Glass Auction Artist

Crime Stoppers Annual Fundraiser 2023 - Wine Glass Auction Artist

Tri-Parish Rape Victims Hotline Amite, La;

2002 - 2012 - Rape Crisis Hotline Counselor