

LAFAYETTE INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Through the efforts of the Lafayette International Center, the City and Parish of Lafayette are moving forward with a solid commitment to the development of international trade, tourism, and the cultural economy. The Lafayette International Center's mission is to facilitate global awareness and engagement in our community and region.



Dave Domingue Director of International Trade and Development

Dave Domingue was born in Lafayette into a bilingual family, and his interest in French has always served him well. While still in high school, Dave was selected as the only singer from Louisiana in a performing group touring Europe and was charged by then-Mayor Ray Bertrand to represent Lafayette.

Such a prospect came naturally to him, having grown up in a family where his parents were fiercely proud of Lafayette and committed to improving the quality of life for Lafayette residents. Long before Cajun culture became a nationwide fad, out-of-town trips for conventions and professional activities found them bragging about Lafayette's merits and accomplishments. They were part of Lafayette's first sister-city visit to Poitiers, France, and later to our sister city of Longueuil, Quebec, Canada.

Years later, Dave was called into service as an unofficial translator and logistics coordinator for La Compagnie Louisianaise, a local folklore performing group, during a month-long tour of France. This led, on his return, to his being asked to join the staff of the Lafayette International Center, which had helped organize the tour. He has been a member of the staff since that time, for over thirty years, after working in management in the private sector for thirteen years.

In May 2020, Dave was appointed as Director of the International Center, the division of Lafayette Consolidated Government charged with expanding the local economy by means of encouraging export sales and inbound international tourism. The International Center works toward that end in concert with other local, state and national organizations, and was honored in 2011 by the U.S. Department of Commerce with the President's "E" Award for excellence in export assistance and promotion. Dave was later instrumental in securing the President's E-Star Award for continued outstanding performance—one of only five organizations in the nation to receive the 2017 award, one of only two to receive it for export service, the only municipal honoree, and the only Louisiana honoree.

Since it began operating in 1990, the International Center can account for bringing over \$205 million into the Lafayette economy, a return on investment of over \$22 for every dollar of funding received.

Dave graduated with honors from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now UL), followed by graduate studies at Loyola University. Outside of work, Dave stays active in a number of civic and church organizations, is a well-respected musician, and currently serves on the boards of La Fondation Louisiane, the Greater Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association, and 232-HELP.