

GODA Interim Executive Director's Report January 2026

LaDDC

2025 GOLD Awards and Inclusive Art Contest

This past December, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) hosted its annual awards ceremonies for the Governor's Outstanding Leadership Disability (GOLD) Awards and the Inclusive Art Contest that had the theme of "Creativity meets Advocacy".

As is the case every year, these ceremonies provide opportunities to highlight the best and brightest of the statewide disability community. We were fortunate enough to once again host these events at the historic Louisiana Old State Capitol building.

In total, we recognized 43 outstanding artists for the inclusive art contest and 13 individuals and organizations took home GOLD Awards.

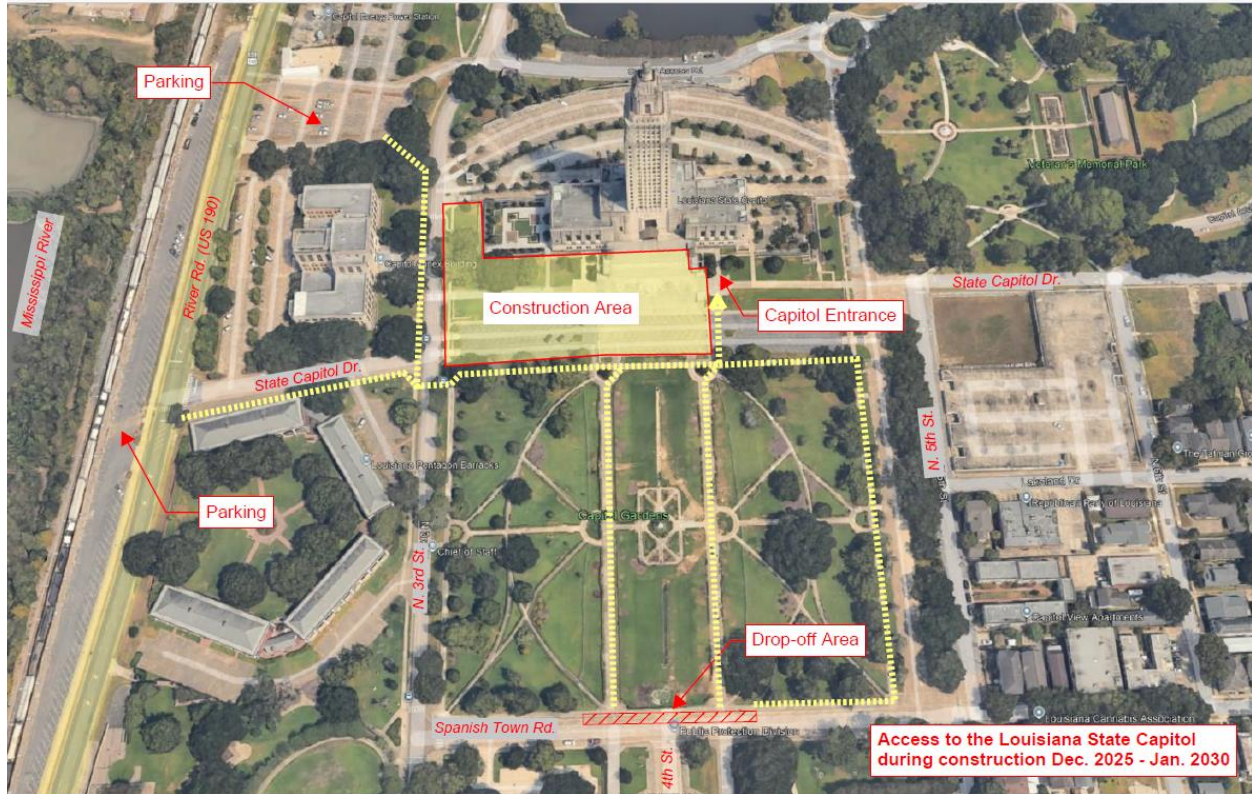
State Capitol Construction Update

The Louisiana State Capitol will be under construction through 2030.

Throughout the construction period, the staff remain committed to visitor accessibility.

The East Breezeway is now serving as the public Capitol Entrance during construction.

The East Breezeway entrance is located on the east side of the building and has an automatic door opener via a button that will remain operational for those who need it.



Please review the above map and plan your trip accordingly.

Any additional questions, contact:
email disability.affairs@la.gov
or call 225-219-7553

2026 GACDA Meeting Dates

The Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs (GACDA) will meet quarterly in 2026 on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Wednesday, August 19, 2026
Wednesday, November 18, 2026

All meetings:

- Begin at 9:00 AM
- Are open to the public
- Have a virtual option
- Have interpreters upon request
- Starting in 2026 ASL interpreters for the GACDA meeting will be made available by request only. Those who need accommodation can request the service via email or by phone. All accommodation requests should include your name and the meeting date you are requesting the interpreting service.

Any additional questions, contact:
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Statewide Web Accessibility Update

GODA continues to work with state DOA and State ADA Coordinator Rikki David to ensure web accessibility metrics and benchmarks are met in accordance with PPM Number 74—Web Accessibility Compliance.

2026 Legislative Session Update

The Legislative session is set to convene at noon on Monday, March 9, 2026 - Final Adjournment no later than 6:00 pm on Monday, June 1, 2026. GODA will work with the Landry Administration, advocates, state agency partners, and nonprofit organizations to move the statewide disability community forward.

2026 Disability Awareness Day

Preliminary meetings are being held to plan the 2026 Disability Awareness Day at the capital. Last year's inaugural event saw 300 people with a disability, representatives from more than 20 statewide organizations, and dozens of legislators and stakeholders met to discuss topics and issues that matter to them as well as discussing potential legislative action.

It is the hope of GODA that this event will become an annual affair and grow exponentially. Further event updates to follow.

DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Vendor List

**Louisiana
Rehabilitation
Services**

**McNeese
Prime**

**Louisiana
Developmental
Disabilities Council**

**Families Helping
Families of
Louisiana**

**The Arc of
Louisiana/
People First of
Louisiana**

**Statewide
Independent
Living Council**

**Louisiana Speech-
Language-Hearing
Association (LSHA)**

**Lighthouse
Louisiana**

**Louisiana
Department of
Veterans Affairs**

**Train Unique –
Adaptive Fitness**

**Special School
District – Louisiana
School for the Deaf
and Visually
Impaired**

**LSU Health – New
Orleans Human
Development
Center**

**Brain Injury
Association of
Louisiana/ United
Spinal Association of
Louisiana**

DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Agenda

 Location: State Capitol Rotunda + State Capitol Museum

8:30–9:00 AM

Capitol Museum Doors Open /
Registration / Light Networking

9:15 AM

Opening Remarks + Welcome Speakers

9:45–10:45 AM

Fireside Chat with Secretary Bruce Greenstein &
Mark Raymond, Jr.

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Lunch + Networking

12:00–4:00 PM

Advocacy Activities in Rotunda