

Area group trolling for movies at festival

Advocate business staff

The recently formed La. Capital Area Economic Development Allies will be traveling to the American Film Market held annually in Santa Monica, Calif.

The American Film Market, which meets Nov. 2-9, is a global marketplace where more than \$500 million in motion picture and television deals are closed annually.

More than 7,000 industry professionals meet in Santa Monica for eight days of deal-making, screenings, seminars, networking and hospitality.

LaCAEDA, Entergy and Community Coffee are sponsoring the AFM trip.

The AFM delegation consists of LaCAEDA board members and representatives from Entergy, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, the Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Emerald Bayou Studios.

Emerald Bayou Studios, owned by veteran industry professionals Linda Thurman and Marquetta Cheeks, is now developing a 40,000-square-foot soundstage in Pointe Coupee Parish, a release says.

Emerald Bayou Studios will kick off the expansion of film production in the nine parishes with a proposed slate of five movies.

An 11-acre site has been selected for the construction of the Louisiana Film Center back lot in East Feliciana Parish that will represent the French Quarter, small town America and other popular filming locales. Various sites within the nine parishes have been secured for additional production services.

LaCAEDA has conducted an extensive inventory of locations in the nine capital-area parishes it represents.

Producers can go to www.lacapfilm.com and take a locations tour through the parishes, which have various terrains, architectural styles, modern cityscapes, luxury accommodations, production facilities, trained crews and work force training.

Several movies have been shot in the parishes including the "Dukes of Hazzard," "All the King's Men," "Glory Road," "Eve's Bayou" and currently, "The Reaping."

An "Introduction to Film Production Jobs" is touring the region in preparation for on-the-job training programs.