

# SEVENTH WARD SPEAKS

I GREW UP IN NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA. WE WERE RAISED with the Cajun background, but I lost the French connection with speaking the language. When we were at home, it was all my grandparents and parents spoke. But when you went to school, you could not speak it—they would correct you.

I feel like I lost culture. I lost a part of me. And I'm scared that here in New Orleans we're going to see the same thing if we don't do something about it. When I moved into this neighborhood, I was just amazed that I was in an area where the jazz musicians, the artists, and Mardi Gras Indians live.

Right now I'm working with real estate to try to put people from here back into homes here. I'm working with people. If they want a house, I try to get them into a house. I feel like we need to step up to preserve our way of life or we may lose things that make people of America who they are.



## Larry Poirrier

REALTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BAYOU  
BOARD OF REALTORS

MEMBER OF THE MARDI GRAS  
ASSOCIATION, HOUMA LA

FORMER CAPTAIN AND KING OF  
KREWE OF UNICORN, LAFAYETTE LA

SPOKESMAN FOR ACADIANA CARES



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For more information about the Porch, call 504-312-2701 or 713-504-6267.