



## ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

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December 15, 1995

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to recommend for your consideration Mr. Fruteland Jackson, a vibrant acoustic blues performer who is a member of the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge's Community Artists roster. We were fortunate that Mr. Jackson was able to visit an elementary, a middle and a high school during Baton Rouge Blues Week this year. Throughout these lecture-performances, I observed him to be a highly informative and dynamic teacher.

Mr. Jackson is not only a lecturer and performer, but is a storyteller, as well. With young children, he tells stories about characters who overcome great obstacles and explains that the blues is about learning that all people have difficult times and that there is someone else who went through what they are going through, whether it's a homework problem or something larger. At the elementary school that he visited, Mr. Jackson told students that the blues is not angry music but that it lets people tell about their happy and sad experiences.

His success in the classroom can be measured by the requests we have received for his return--to the middle and high schools, particularly--and by outstanding evaluations submitted from school principals.

The Arts Council is pleased that a jury of community professionals brought Mr. Jackson onto our roster. Through the jury process that is required before we accept artists to work in our Arts Education programs, artists are evaluated based on artistic credentials, experience, professional status, artistic ability and the ability to communicate. Mr. Jackson's records indicate he was solid in his knowledge as a lecturer-performer. He has proven an ability to adjust his presentation style age appropriately. His presentations also are entirely on target.

Mr. Jackson is a valued resource. I have no reservations about recommending him for work on other projects. Please contact me at 504/344-8558 should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Eiswirth  
Community Education Director