



MEDIA CONTACT

Public Information

publicinfo@gonzalesla.com

CITY OF GONZALES RECOGNIZED BY LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT

Gonzales, La. – August 5, 2024 – The City of Gonzales was awarded the Louisiana Municipal Association’s (LMA) Community Achievement Award. The award is presented each year at the LMA Annual Convention to municipalities with outstanding progress in municipal services and projects within their communities.

The City of Gonzales was recognized for the development of the Price LeBlanc PACE Center – a state-of-the-art, 25,000-square-foot facility designed to offer an unparalleled space for premier events, conferences, and performances.

“The Price LeBlanc PACE Center is a testament to our commitment to identifying needs within our community and working efficiently to get the job done for our residents. When the Louisiana Development Ready Communities strategic plan—guided by residents, businesses, and stakeholders—identified this project as a high priority, our local leadership worked together to ensure the project was supported, funded, and could make it across the finish line,” said Ryland Percy, interim mayor of the City of Gonzales. “We are extremely proud of this recognition from the Louisiana Municipal Association, and we are thankful for the opportunity to highlight this valuable resource within our community.”

The Price LeBlanc PACE Center is the direct result of the City’s Strategic Economic Development Plan, which ranked the addition of the PACE Center as the highest priority community project based on participant feedback gathered through surveys of residents, businesses, and meetings held with leaders representing local business, industry, civic, and governmental organizations.

The implementation effort – led by former mayor Barney Arceneaux, Mayor Pro-Tempore Kirk Boudreaux, councilmen Johnny Berthelot, Tyler Turner, Harold Stewart, and Tim Riley, Chief Engineer Jackie Baumann, Chief Administrative Officer Scot Byrd, and former councilmen Neal Bourque and David Guitreau – engaged the state legislature to present a local hotel/motel occupancy tax to voters in 2019; the tax provided the necessary funding to begin project construction.

Over the project lifespan, local leadership worked diligently with both the Louisiana Legislature and service providers, including Domain Architecture and Stuart & Company General Contractors, to ensure the project

was completed both on-time and in-budget despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain issues, and inflation.

The facility is also supported by local partners, including the LeBlanc family, who donated \$1.5 million to the center in honor of longtime community benefactor Price LeBlanc, and other industry sponsors including Westlake Chemical, Methanex, and REV.

The Price LeBlanc PACE Center celebrated its grand opening in January 2024 and is currently booking a wide range of conferences and events. Visit priceleblanpacecenter.com for more information on the facility.

###