

A letter from our President, Olivia Stewart:

At Oxbow Rum Distillery, we take pride in our ancestral land, cane farm and sugar mill that provide us with our beautiful ingredients. However, we did not do it alone. The foundation of rum and sugarcane in the Americas was built by enslaved Africans and their descendants. Louisiana, and our family's farm, are no exception.

Our brand is all about transparency of what's in the bottle, and we should tell our story with the same intent. While it can feel uncomfortable to openly discuss the darker parts of this history, I've found it gets easier and more healing with practice. Talking through it allows us to have a better understanding of the effects on modern society, and compassion for the marginalized communities it continues to implicate.

I see it as both a privilege and a responsibility to produce a beautiful product that honors the land and people, past and present, who have made it possible.

Additionally, Alma, Oxbow and our family members are proud supporters of the below organizations that support underserved BIPOC communities in our region. Curated with care and intention, we aim to use our privilege as a tool to help others.

Thank you for listening, Olivia Stewart



All donations are gifted through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation's (BRAF) Donor Advised Fund. For more information, please email hello@braf.org.

Baton Rouge Food Bank (<u>www.brfoodbank</u>) Funding provided for Pointe Coupee Parish (PCP).

Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center (www.batonrougecac.org) PCP based services for abused children and their families.

BREADA (www.breada.org) Big River Economic and Agricultural Development **Centre for Arts** (wwww.centreforthearts.org) Minority scholarships for PCP arts programs.

Earnest Gaines Literary Award (www.earnestjgainesaward.org) Annual grant for newly published African American writers in honor of PCP resident Earnest Gaines. Founding Fathers 4 Youth (www.foundingfathers4youth.godaddysites.com) Black run non-profit that awards scholarships in local PCP public schools and organizes the youth baseball program for the town of New Roads.

Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church Funding provided for major church building upgrades.

Louisiana Bucket Brigade (www.labucketbrigade.org) Environmental justice group that addresses negative impacts on vulnerable communities by the petrochemical industry.

Mississippi Votes (msvotes.org) Empowers young people through civic engagement and

educates communities on voting rights through grassroots organizing.

Pointe Coupee Health Services Foundation (pchhh.org) Homebound health and hospice.

Pointe Coupee Library (pointe-coupée.lib.la.us.org)

Pointe Coupee Parish School Board New playground for Rougon Elementary, PCP. **The Promise of Justice initiative** (www.promiseofjustice.org) A New Orleans based criminal justice organization.

Teach for America IGNITE tutoring program for 3 PCP public schools.

Turning Tables (www.turningtablesnola.org) A New Orleans based leadership and career

advancement training program for BIPOC members of the hospitality industry. River Road African American Museum and Gallery (www. riverroadaam.org) museum Dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting information about enslaved communities in South Louisiana.

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corporation (www.slls.org) Annual funding to expand its legal services into Pointe Coupee for struggling families and vulnerable people.