



Dana M. LaFonta

June 14, 2021

Dana M. LaFonta, a stalwart presence in the arts community for more than 20 years, passed away peacefully at her home in New Orleans on Monday, June 14, 2021, at age 51. She was born Sept. 30, 1969, to George and Joanne LaFonta, and was educated at Cabrini High School and Tulane University, where she received degrees in both art and biology. Her original aim had been to become a medical illustrator, but God's calling on her life took her more deeply into the arts and arts administration. In addition to being a prolific painter and sculptress, Ms. LaFonta worked as Deputy Director of Cultural Affairs for St. Tammany Parish Government for some time before being hired by the Lt. Governor's Office of Cultural Affairs to head its Artist Services and Percent for Art Programs, a position from which she retired in 2017. Known almost as much for her disposition as for her work in the arts, Ms. LaFonta was gracious to all people; she never had an unkind word to speak of anyone, and always had a smile to offer. In addition to her parents, she is survived by brothers, Juan LaFonta and Miguel LaFonta; uncles, Vernell Bagneris and Larry Bagneris and aunt, Dr. Gina Bagneris, along with countless cousins, friends and associates who loved and admired her.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 3368 Esplanade Avenue on Monday, June 21, 2012 at 11:00 am. Visitation will begin at 9:00 am. Burial will be private. Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the guestbook and share condolences with the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 21. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Rosary Catholic Church
3368 Esplanade Avenue
New Orleans, LA

Service

JUN 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Rosary Catholic Church
3368 Esplanade Avenue
New Orleans, LA

Tribute Wall

KS

“ On behalf of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart Alumni Association and Brother Martin High School, I offer our prayers and condolences. We will say a Mass in her memory.

Father of all, we pray to you for Dana, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

*Kenny Spellman '84
Brother Martin High School*

Kenny Spellman - June 22, 2021 at 04:28 PM

NN

“ Extending our deepest condolences to the family. God will take care of you.
Phillip and Nathalie Jones



Nathalie Nelson-Jones - June 22, 2021 at 03:27 PM

CW

“ I'm so sorry to hear about your loss! You have my deepest condolences. God bless your family during this time. I'll keep you in my prayers.

Chareese Williams

Chareese Williams - June 22, 2021 at 02:37 PM

DH

“ *Deepest sympathy and condolences to the LaFonta and Bagneris family.*

— *Dr. Brenda Garibaldi Hatfield, PhD*

Dr. Brenda Garibaldi Hatfield, PhD - June 19, 2021 at 03:31 PM

PL

“ *I can't begin to tell you how sorry that I am about the lost of your BEAUTIFUL daughter. I will always remember her as the BEAUTIFUL angel that she was. Michele and Pete*

Pete Lafonta - June 19, 2021 at 01:53 PM

SC

“ *I got to know Dana while serving on St. Tammany Parish's Commission on Cultural Affairs. She was always upbeat, smiling, and a joy to be around. After she moved on to Baton Rouge, we kept in touch during the years. But one special conversation we had always took place on September 30th because we shared the same birthday. I will miss her. She was an incredible woman who was extremely passionate about the arts. She is probably running the "Holy Art's Program" in Heaven.*

Stephen B. Cefalu

Stephen Cefalu - June 19, 2021 at 11:52 AM