

YMCA of the Capital Area

The YMCA was organized in Baton Rouge. The preliminary committee set out to raise \$50,000 for the first YMCA building.



1917

A six-day building campaign was launched to raise \$100,000 for a four-story, fireproof building with indoor pool and gymnasium. This group succeeded, raising \$125,000.

1923

The Fourth Street Branch was completed and opened in April 1. After construction was complete, the entire cost came out to be \$125,000. The city had a population of 26,000 people.



1925



During the Great Depression, the YMCA operated on a budget of \$19,000.

1925-1941

1945



The Baranco-Clark YMCA was created and the Y's operating budget increased from \$10,000 to \$52,000 a year.

Camp Singing Waters, composed of 73 acres off Highway 190 near Holden was purchased on July 2 for \$40,500.



1953

1956



The Baranco-Clark YMCA and Central YMCA were obtained for \$1,200,000 which was raised by the Capital Funds Campaign.

1958

The first Baranco-Clark YMCA building on East Boulevard opened.



1963

The Central YMCA (now the A.C. Lewis YMCA) building on 350 South Foster Drive opened. The YMCA on Fourth Street, formerly Church Street, moved to the Central YMCA building.



Fourth Street building sold to B.B. Taylor for \$150,000.



1964

The Lamar YMCA (now the Charles W. Lamar Jr. YMCA) was organized with the help of Judge Eugene McGehee.

1967



The total YMCA operating budget was \$355,870. At the time, the YMCA had 14,235 registered members and 2,134 non-registered members.

1971

The Central YMCA handball courts were built by four YMCA members with their bank note being paid out by handball dues. The jogging track and the eleven foot frontage on Foster Drive was purchased from the Church of the Way Presbyterian.

1974

Parents of the swim team helped raise funds to build a new outdoor pool at the Central YMCA for \$49,470. The parents paid the loan by contributing \$50 per year per family to the YMCA.

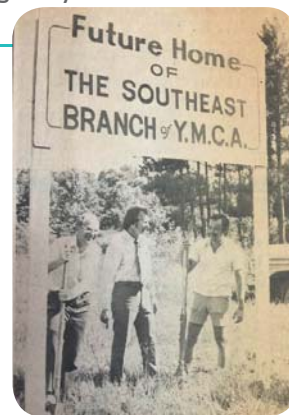


1975

The Southeast YMCA was organized and 10 acres of land on Old Hammond Highway was secured for \$200,000.

1977

The Southeast YMCA (now the C. B. Pennington Jr. YMCA) received its Branch Charter.



1978

The first phase of the C. B. Pennington Jr. YMCA construction was completed and dedicated with the opening of their new outdoor pool on June 1st.



1980

The C. B. Pennington Jr. YMCA received an additional \$200,000 to complete the second phase of construction from the Pennington Family. Membership was up to 12,000 units.

1981



The A. C. Lewis Branch (Central Branch) remodeled with a budget of \$1,000,000. Metro offices move to the A. C. Lewis YMCA.



1983

Fire damage occurred in September at the A.C. Lewis YMCA.



The A.C. Lewis YMCA renovated the facility after the fire and reopened in June. The rebuilding cost was \$1,113,000.



1984

First sessions of summer camp started June 2 with 760-768 campers daily at six locations. 202 of those campers were on scholarship, \$25 sponsored a child for one week of camp.

1986

The Black Achievers Program began at Baranco Clark YMCA and 100 achievers were honored.



1991



Paula G. Manship YMCA opened and the Ribbon Cutting was held in September.

1997

In April, Bob Jacobs became the CEO of the YMCA of the Capital Area.



The Daniel B. Heard Highland Club for teens opened at Paula G. Manship YMCA.

1998

The YMCA Cornerstone Club unveiled the Endowment Program.

1999

A partnership with general health systems helped the Y acquire the former heart and fitness center now the Southside YMCA.



In 2001 the Lamar Dixon YMCA opened in Gonzales as a result of a generous gift from Mary Lee and Bill Dixon. The branch later closed in 2008.



2001

The Charles W. Lamar Jr. YMCA at Capitol Park opened on January 29th.



The Lamar Tennis Center, a twenty court complex, opened on the Paula G. Manship YMCA campus.



2003

Dow Chemical provided a \$1,000,000 grant toward the construction of the Dow Westside YMCA built in Addis and opened in 2006.

2004



In September, the Dow Westside YMCA opened.



2006

The renovations to Baranco Clark YMCA, A.C. Lewis YMCA and C.B. Pennington, Jr. YMCA are completed.

2008



Richard Preis donated the land for the Howell Place YMCA valued at \$900,000 and the YMCA raised \$1.9 million for the new building.



A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the future site of the Howell Place YMCA.

2009

The Howell Place YMCA receives a generous donation from ExxonMobil corporation and on December 15th the Howell Place YMCA opens its doors as the ExxonMobil YMCA.



2010

A ground breaking ceremony is held for the future home of the Americana YMCA within the Americana Development in Zachary.



2012

The Americana YMCA opened on August 12. It is a 26,000 square foot facility that resides on 5.25 acres of land.



2013

In August, tragedy struck for our community and for the Y when the C. B. Pennington Jr. YMCA flooded during the great flood, and received 3 ½ feet of water causing millions of dollars in damage.

2016



The YMCA of the Capital Area celebrates 100 years in the community.



2017

Christian Engle is announced as the YMCA of the Capital Area's new CEO/President.

