

BLAKE PONTCHARTRAIN™Questions for Blake: askblake@gambitweekly.com**Hey Blake,**

Is there one spot where a person can find the locations of all the painted utility boxes in the city?

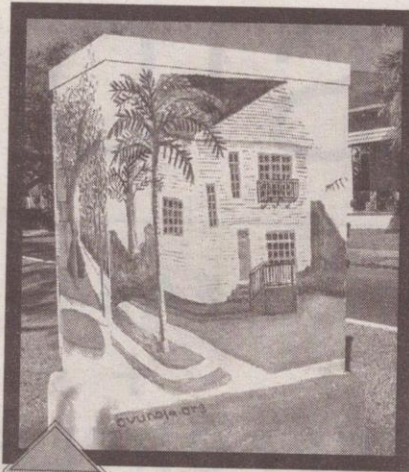
Phylliss Deckerman

Dear Phylliss,

I pride myself on not only being a source of historical knowledge about our fair city, but also helping make that information even more accessible. Your question to Ol' Blake about the "New Orleans Street Gallery" art project, the praises of which we've sung in these pages, prompted the organizers to post their list online.

First, some background: As we told you in July, the utility box art project is the brainchild of Jeannie Paddison Tidy, who started a similar art project in San Diego, California. She brought the idea to New Orleans in 2006, at a time when our city needed all the help it could get after Hurricane Katrina. Her project has since turned more than three dozen gray utility boxes into public works of art.

The endeavor falls under the auspices of Community Visions Unlimited, the Arts Council of New Orleans and local neighborhood groups. Volunteers help clean and prime the utility boxes, then artists submit designs they would like to paint on them. If an artist's design is selected, he or she is given paint for the project



Artist Anthonyka Ferdinand painted this utility box on the neutral ground at the corner of Fontainebleau Drive and Nashville Avenue.

PHOTO BY KANDACE POWER GRAVES

and a small cash stipend.

More than a dozen boxes have been finished in Lakeview. Another 16 are in the Mid-City and Carrollton areas and five more are Uptown and in the university section.

The list you asked about is now posted at www.cvunola.org and www.bestofnew-orleans.com.