

## **The New & Current Owners**

David Raymer is an artist, musician and multi-trade craftsman. Architecture was his passion from an early age. David & Lynda Raymer began purchasing and restoring historic homes and apartment buildings beginning in 1988. They own and manage Raymer Historic Apartments , which consists of various buildings within, what is now considered the Arts & Market Cultural District of downtown Lafayette. This new property, 635 Ferry Street was to be a new venture for the couple.

## **New Life to an Old Building**

David Raymer along with 4 other partners started a business called the Lafayette Renaissance Academy. The 4 original partners; Rena Brouwer , James Werner, Chris Kuchta, and Jai Sonde, each individual artists, opened the “Renaissance Academy” in May 2004. With a great deal of restoration work and much investment of time and money, the 5 partners worked for 3 1/2 years together. Jai Sonde chose



to leave the partnership but was replaced by C.J. Fang. The partnership stayed together for another year but was dissolved December of 2008. While it existed, the Lafayette Renaissance Academy offered artist galleries and a coffee shop on the first floor, private individual artist studios on the second floor and music education on the third floor of the building.

## **The Building Lives on...**

Because the Raymers purchased the building and still owned it after the Lafayette Renaissance Academy disbanded, they sought out artists and others to rent the building and use individual rooms as private artists studios and offices. Currently, Cheryl Kaldahl rents the 3 first floor front studios and offers galleries, music and art lessons, and professional framing services. Other artists currently in the building are Sandy Daniel, Kenneth Featherstone, & Irina Hinkel.