

# Lorraine LeMon

## The gift of speaking that led to Art2Heart

Photo and Story by Parastoo Nikravesh

1. Lorraine LeMon started as a motivational speaker visiting around 20 to 30 schools a year to teach kids how art, music and theater can guide them to make better choices. She decided to make a permanent organization for her teaching and began Art2Heart in 2003 in Kerrville. Starting the nonprofit has given her the chance to watch the kids grow and sometimes return to volunteer for Art2Heart as adults.
2. Her nonprofit, Art2Heart, has three different programs: Art After Dark, Leadership Academy and Summer Arts Camp. Art2Heart is in the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center.
3. LeMon is a self-proclaimed queen of acronyms and one her main acronyms for Art2Heart and motivational speaking is CRAVE: Commitment, Responsibility, Accountability, Vision and living by Example.
4. LeMon grew up in inner city Detroit, Michigan, and moved to Texas in 1995 and to the Kerrville area in 1999.
5. LeMon's passion for entertainment started young as she grew up in her grandpa's juke joint singing and dancing for guests as a little girl. She says that is when she knew entertaining others was her gift to give back to the world.
6. LeMon and her husband love to travel. She has visited around 17 countries including Mozambique, South Africa, Barbados, Costa Rica and many more.
7. Always pushing her kids in Art2Heart to achieve their dreams and continue their schooling, Lorraine herself was motivated by the kids to finish her bachelor's degree. She now has a master's and is looking to get her PhD in reading and literacy.
8. LeMon says understanding how someone wants to learn is a vital first step in getting them to truly comprehend what they're learning.
9. Not only does LeMon work with Art2Heart, but she also started her own musical group, Lady LeMon's Boyeez, to give young musicians a chance to perform on the platform she has worked hard to create here.
10. Blues and soul are her favorite genres of music. She hasn't learned any instruments yet, but she has her eyes on the harmonica.
11. LeMon has five kids and 15 grandchildren.
12. Although she has a deep passion for singing and dancing, LeMon feels that speaking is her greatest gift. Her motivational speaking took her to schools, but she also has served as a motivational speaking for other groups covering topics such as reaching goals.



13. LeMon is currently working on writing two books including one she plans to title "Juke Joint Girl" which is inspired by her own childhood.

14. After any show, LeMon and her husband always go to the beach. No matter what time of day. They pack the car and head

to the ocean to rejuvenate. Popular beach destinations for them are Rockport and North Padre Island.

15. LeMon began a short show called 60 Seconds Can Change Your Life at a local radio station. She is planning on taking some of the shows and creating new ones to start her podcast, Living Life by Design.

**" I teach the kids you're born now because every human being comes to the planet specifically designed for his or her time and they come packaged with something — a gift. Whether they ever sing on Broadway or dance it doesn't matter, Art2Heart teaches them to unpack that gift ... and in the process find out who they are."**

– LORRAINE LEMON