

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - September 11, 2020

1 message

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VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, September 11, 2020

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Pedestrianization Update: Councilmember Palmer

Today, Councilmember Kristin Palmer issued the [following statement](#):

"As a long-time advocate for safer, more equitable streets and public spaces, I have welcomed the Mayor's efforts to reimagine a French Quarter with reduced motor vehicle traffic and increased access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

I have been committed to bringing stakeholders together with the administration to ensure that the people most affected will have input throughout the ongoing design process. To that end, we have held weekly meetings with administration officials and French Quarter residential and business association leadership in providing feedback. Additionally, we have held Zoom meetings for residents and businesses with more than 300 participants. We continue to hold calls with specific constituencies to ensure that the administration has the most complete understanding of how constituents view the proposals.

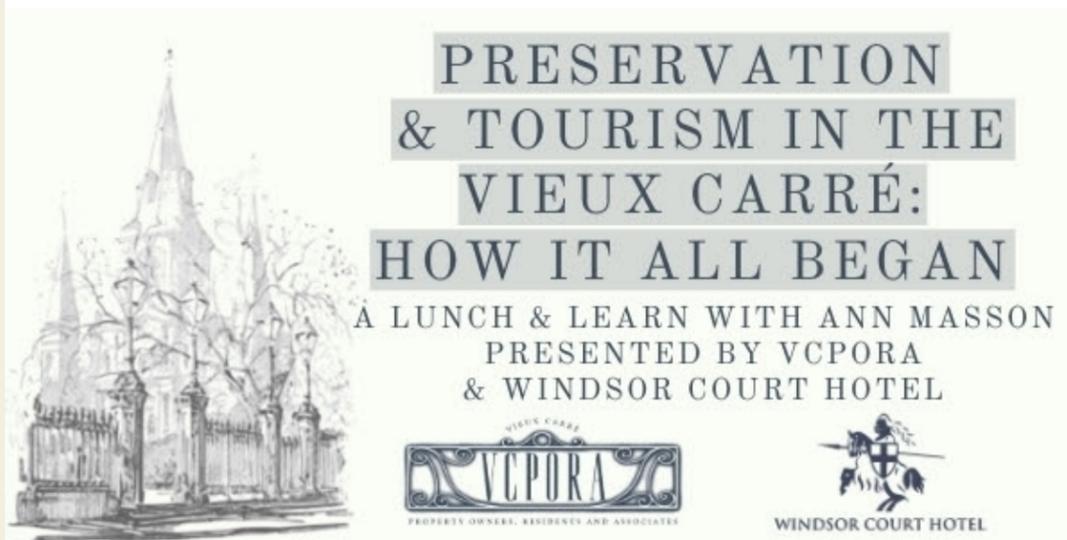
Due to continued input and research, I cannot support the Orleans Civic Spine project and have requested its removal from consideration of the French Quarter Pedestrianization Plan. While I support a safe connection between the Lafitte Greenway and the River, I do not think this is best accomplished on a residential street.

There are many aspects of the administration's initial proposal I welcome, including reducing the speed limit of interior streets to 15 mph, traffic calming measures on North Rampart to improve the connection between the Quarter and Armstrong Park, and the proposed one-block street closure

around French Market. I also believe that particular attention should be paid to activating the different alleyways in the Quarter as proof for how some of these concepts could be implemented and managed.

However, after studying the plans and hearing from residents and businesses owners, I think there are outstanding concerns around the maintenance of existing infrastructure and regulation of existing pedestrian malls that will need to be addressed for the community to feel confident that further efforts will work and be a benefit to the neighborhood and businesses.

I am encouraged by the fact that the administration has dedicated \$2 million in sidewalk repairs and hope that additional funding can be secured at the state level for similar projects. I look forward to the co-design process and will continue to advocate for a plan that improves residents' quality of lives while ensuring businesses can prosper."



VCPORA's Quarterly Lunch & Lunch

Windsor Court Hotel
Thursday, October 18
11:45 a.m.

[Buy your tickets now](#) and join VCPORA and Windsor Court Hotel for the first installment of our Quarterly Lunch and Learn series, **Preservation and Tourism in the Vieux Carre: How it All Began**, featuring Ann Masson, a celebrated architectural historian, author teacher, and longtime resident of the French Quarter. We will be observing CDC guidelines and keeping seating very limited for the safety of our guests. Lunch tickets for VCPORA members are \$40 or \$45 with wine. Lunch tickets for non-members are \$50 or \$55 with wine. All who recognize the unique significance of the French Quarter are invited to learn about historic building practices, significant events, and challenges specific to this unique historic neighborhood.

A century ago, the old neighborhood was in shambles. Buildings were failing, residents had moved away, and the area was declared "completely gone." The preservation movement was born of a desperation that brought together artists, writers, businesses, and "women of vision" in public and political campaigns to rejuvenate the Vieux Carre. Seeing the potential of visitors interested in history and the picturesque atmosphere, the burgeoning tourism community joined forces with preservationists. For decades, it was a good partnership. But things have changed, and now we wonder if tourism has become more devil than saint.



2020 Census

Deadline - September 30th!

Did you know that each person counted in the 2020 Census brings \$2,291 of federal funding back to our community? Help us reclaim federal funds by filling

out the Census today! Respond by mail, phone, or online at my2020census.gov. It's quick, easy, safe, secure, and confidential. Both American citizens and non-citizens should respond.

The results of the census are used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives; to redraw boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts; and to help determine the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal spending on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs. Due to a low response to the census in 2010, Louisiana lost a seat in Congress. Encourage a higher response in 2020. View updated response rates online [on the census website](#).

LEVERAGE 2.0

French Quarter Filming Notification

Tuesday, September 15
500 block of St. Louis, 400 block of Chartres
11:00 a.m.

Filming for Leverage 2.0 will affect traffic and parking along the 500 block of St. Louis and the 400 block of Chartres next Tuesday, September 15. No parking zones will be in effect from midnight until 8:00 p.m. and traffic will be rerouted from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please see our [Facebook post](#) for details.



#FQThenandNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on 812-14 Ursulines. Head over to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to check it out. This weekly series showcases historic pictures, current pictures, and fun facts about our favorite French Quarter locales. Follow #FQThenAndNow the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) so you don't miss any upcoming posts from this series.

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