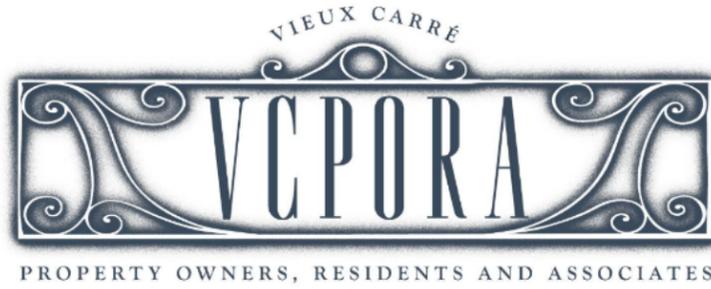


**VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, November 20, 2020**

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Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 6:53 PM



**VCPORA's Weekly Vieux  
 Friday, November 20, 2020**

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**Welcome to the New Board!**

VCPORA held its first virtual Annual Meeting this past Wednesday, where we elected our new board, reviewed VCPORA's accomplishments this year, and learned more about the VCPORA film project led by local resident and filmmaker Laura Cayouette. Details on the film will be included on our website soon for those who missed the meeting. In the meantime, welcome and congratulations to the 2020 - 2021 VCPORA board!

Amy Stelly, President  
 Mark Masor, Vice President  
 Jane Cooper, Vice President  
 Elizabeth Simpson, Interim Secretary  
 Lee Alexander, Treasurer  
 Eddie Bonin  
 Chuck Bracht  
 Sherry Cannon

Rylan Domingue  
 Lynette DuFrene  
 Andy Gallagher  
 Carol Gelderman  
 Travis Kenny  
 Kathryn Lemoine  
 Jill McGaughey  
 James Rolf  
 Julie Wiener



## VCPORA Holiday Party Canceled

When we started planning the VCPORA Holiday Party back in August, we were cautiously optimistic that we could throw a limited-capacity year-end event responsibly. In light of the recent [surge in cases](#), however, it does not seem that a safe event will still be possible by this December. We have therefore decided to cancel the VCPORA Holiday Party. We thank you for your patience and understanding, and hope that we can gather again later in 2021 when it is safe to do so.



Photo by Marta Lewis via The Lens

## Economic Development District Security Tax Update

The French Quarter Management District (FQMD) shared the following message today regarding the ongoing negotiations between Mayor Cantrell's office and Councilmember Kristin Palmer on how to spend the supplemental security sales tax renewal that is coming before voters on December 5. These negotiations, and a hoped-for compromise, have stalled, though early voting began today. This means that there is no Cooperative Endeavor Agreement in place to direct these sales tax revenues, therefore, they cannot effectively be spent. VCPORA has supported the sales tax renewal to be spent on the POST Certified NOPD officers that make up the [Supplemental Police Patrol Program](#), also known as the "French Quarter Tax Force," which is managed by the FQMD.

### **23 November 2020 Board of Commissioners Special Meeting Notice & Agenda**

On Monday, November 23rd, the French Quarter Management District (FQMD) will hold a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 2:30 pm [via teleconference](#) to hear from New Orleans City Council District "C" Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer speak on the renewal of the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQ EDD) sales tax on the December 5th ballot for voters within the FQMD boundaries.

The FQMD has worked closely with Councilmember Palmer to negotiate an agreement with the City's Administration for how to best provide POST Certified officers for the French Quarter. Though Councilmember Palmer worked to find a compromise with the Mayor's office, a previous verbal agreement which allocated 70% of sales tax revenues to the FQMD for its established Supplemental Police Patrol Program, which uses the POST Certified NOPD officers and the French Quarter Task Force App, and 30% to help start the

Mayor's Grounds Patrol French Quarter pilot program has not come to fruition. The Administration no longer recognizes this compromise. **With no Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, the revenues cannot be spent and there is no agreement at this time.**

With the departure of the Louisiana State Police Troop N at the end of the year and the economically necessary reduction of the FQMD's Supplemental Police Patrol Program, maximizing POST Certified patrols by New Orleans Police Department officers to supplement the existing complement of NOPD 8th District officers in the French Quarter is the stakeholders' priority as reflected in the [position letters](#) of the French Quarter Citizens, Vieux Carré Property Owners, Residents and Associates (VCPORA), North Rampart Main Street, French Quarter Business Association, the Louisiana Restaurant Association, and the Greater New Orleans Hotel & Lodging Association.

The agenda is available [here](#). All FQMD Board of Commissioners and Committee meetings are open to the public.



## Pedestrianization Update

On Monday, the Mayor's Neighborhood Engagement Office held a virtual design charrette to solicit feedback on the Pedestrianization plans for French Market Place. You can [view the presentation here](#).

The pilot will run through the rest of the year, closing the French Market Place to vehicular traffic each Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. until each Monday morning at 7:00 a.m. The pedestrian mall will feature public art, tables, chairs, and umbrellas available for public use. This effort is intended to allow for additional seating and patronage opportunities for the businesses and vendors along the corridor.

Attendees questioned the closure's impact on commercial and residential access to loading zones, the procedure for sanitation and garbage pick-up, and the possibility of bicycle and pedicab usage. Many also wondered if there would be certain operational hours for the use of this furniture. The charrette facilitators were unable to offer most responses, but do plan on using this information to refine the designs. It was noted that this effort, initially a response to COVID social distancing measures, may become a permanent fixture. We feel it is imperative that key measures of success must be met before discussions of permanence proceed.

Feedback on the [French Market Place Full Concept](#) can be shared in the [French Market Place Concept Survey](#), which will be accepted through Friday, December 4.



# GivingTuesday

December 1 is #GivingTuesday! Thanks to your support over the past year, we have been able to make headway on important advocacy issues like fast food proliferation, 5G design, and pedestrianization. But these issues remain, along with new ones on the horizon for 2021 like neighborhood security, formula retail, and riverfront access. This is why we ask you to give. Your generosity is critical to our success. Please consider donating today by visiting [the VCPORA website](#).



## Greenway Supernova

December 9 - 20

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

[3200 Lafitte Avenue](#)

The Friends of Lafitte Greenway is teaming up with NORD and LUNA Fete to host a free outdoor light-based art exhibit and fundraiser in December. This will be the first program featuring their newest open-air covered community space, the Greenway Plaza.

The exhibition will occur on Wednesdays - Sundays from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. between December 9 - 20. Masked visitors will be allowed to spread out at safe social distances and enjoy 10 public works of outdoor art. See the [Lafitte Greenway](#) website for more details.



## #FQThenAndNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on 910 Chartres. 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.



## Happy Thanksgiving!

Happy (early) Thanksgiving! We hope you [celebrate safely](#). In observance of this holiday next week, the VCPORA offices will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27.

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