

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - January 15, 2021

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VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, January 15, 2021

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#FQThenandNow



Photo by Brett Duke via [nola.com](https://www.nola.com)

FQ EDD Update

On Thursday, Jan 14, the City Council's French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) committee [met to consider the language](#) for an April 24 ballot measure that would reestablish the "Quarter for the Quarter" .245% sales tax for supplemental security services in the neighborhood. The original renewal failed on December 5 with 67% of voters [opposing an uncertain future](#) for the tax.

The following language was adopted:

Shall a .245% increase in the sales tax be levied within the boundaries of the French Quarter Economic Development District ("FQ EDD") (with the exception of such a levy on hotel rooms) to be collected on the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption and storage for use or the consumption of tangible personal property and sales of services within the boundaries of the FQ EDD for a period of five years, beginning May 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2026 (an estimated \$2 million reasonably expected at this time to be collected as a result of the levy per year) for the purpose of funding POST Certified supplemental police patrols and homeless assistance services, with the initial \$2 million collected in any year dedicated to supplemental police patrols and any additional revenue to be divided between additional patrols and public safety programs (including homeless assistance), and administered by the French Quarter Management District for fiscal and operational oversight of the FQ EDD Trust Fund and services provided by such fund and subject to quarterly budget and expenditure reports to

the City Council, to facilitate economic development within the FQ EDD?

VCPOPRA supports this ballot language and submitted the following comments into the record:

"The safety and well-being of our French Quarter community of residents, workers, business owners, and visitors is paramount to ensuring a positive quality of life and economic recovery in this important neighborhood. We endorse this ballot language as it prioritizes the use of collected tax revenues to fund POST-certified NOPD supplemental patrols within the district and homeless assistance services. Further, we find that the French Quarter Management District is best poised to continue administering these programs given their leadership representation by community stakeholders and past performance in managing the Supplemental Police Patrol Program."

During the meeting, an amendment to remove the language empowering administrative and operational oversight to the FQMD was introduced by District E Councilmember District Cyndi Nguyen. That amendment failed 4-2.

Now that the ballot language has been approved, the next steps are to create the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the FQMD, the FQEDD, and the Mayor that will specifically outline the roles and duties of each. We will continue providing updates on this important security measure for the French Quarter.



Moving New Orleans Bikes & Bike Share

Workers completed improvements to bicycle infrastructure along N Peters, Elysian Fields, and St. Claude Avenue earlier this week. The project, dubbed the [Marginy/French Quarter Transportation Network](#), is part of [Moving New Orleans Bikes](#), a campaign that aims to construct 75 miles of new low-stress bikeways as part of the City's efforts to improve roadway safety for all residents. The project now provides people on bicycles with a parking-protected travel lane on N Peters along the French Market heading toward the Marigny.

The completion of this construction comes as the City announces a partnership with a new local nonprofit organization, Blue Krewe of New Orleans, to revive the bike share program previously operated as Blue Bikes. (Blue Bikes operations were suspended last spring.) Incubated and supported with start-up funding from the Greater New Orleans Foundation, Blue Krewe has coordinated with Mayor Cantrell and the Office of Transportation to begin bike-share operations by September 1, 2021.

The initial CEA stipulates that Blue Krewe must provide 350 bikes, locks, and enough dedicated racks to hold at least 575 total bikes. Although details are still being finalized, there is also speculation that existing Blue Bikes racks will be utilized, e-bikes may return, and that fare types may differ. More information on Blue Krewe can be found in [this press release](#), [this Bike Easy blog post](#), and [this profile by the Lens](#). With a strong focus on equity, Blue Krewe also invites community input [via email](#).



Flood Resilience Lecture

Wednesday, January 20

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Zoom

Join VCPORA and VCC Foundation on January 20 for the first of two lectures exploring flood resilience lead by Dominique M. Hawkins. In our first session, learn about Louisiana's flood types, the National Flood Insurance Program, Flood Insurance Rate Maps, the increasing threat of flooding, and historic preservation as part of the Emergency Management Cycle. See our [Facebook event](#) for more details.

A current membership and RSVP are required for admission. Call VCPORA at (504) 581-7200 or email us at info@vcpora.org to check in on your membership status and reserve your spot! Newcomers can also become 2021 members on the [VCPORA website](#).



COVID-19 Vaccine Volunteers Needed

The City of New Orleans is seeking volunteers ages 18+ to distribute COVID-19 vaccines. Interested parties can [signup to help](#) through NOLA Ready Volunteer Corps or through the New Orleans Medical Reserve Corps (NOMRC). Volunteers will be assigned tasks based on their background. Especially needed are people who can speak Spanish, Vietnamese, and ASL. Volunteering at a COVID-19 vaccine site will not guarantee volunteers a COVID-19 vaccine. More information can be found on the [NOLA Ready website](#).



2021 Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation

Nominations are open for the Louisiana Landmarks Society 2021 [Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation](#). Individuals, companies, or organizations are encouraged to nominate projects completed in Orleans Parish in 2020 that represent "outstanding examples of restoration or rehabilitation of historic buildings, as well as new construction". The nomination form, along with the full list of criteria, can be found on the [Louisiana Landmarks Society website](#).



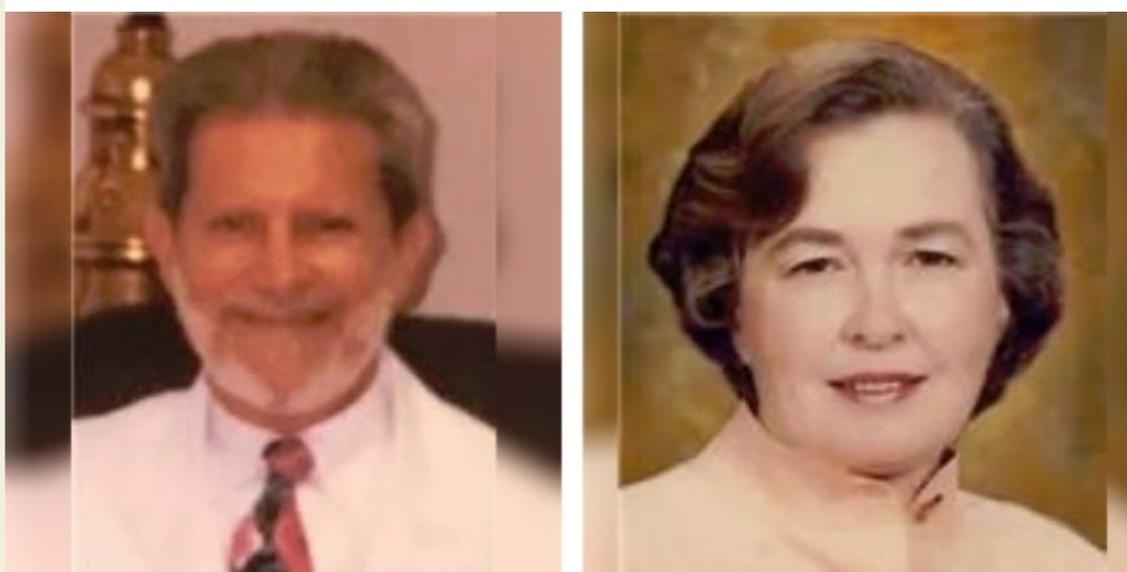
Filming in Congo Square

Crews will film portions of the television show "Queen of the South" in Congo Square this upcoming Tuesday, January 19 from approximately 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The production plans to simulate semi-automatic handheld gunfire during this time. There will also be parking restrictions and intermittent traffic control along N Rampart between St. Ann and St. Peter. See our [Facebook post](#) for additional details.



French Quarter Fest Returns in the Fall

In acknowledgment of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 [French Quarter Fest](#) has moved from its original April dates to September 30 - October 3, 2021. Organizers plan to implement a modified layout that adheres to CDC protocols and guidelines. They also hope to return French Quarter Festival to its traditional April time slot in 2022. See more in [this WWL article](#).



In Memoriam: Melvyn Kossover & Charlotte Furness

The French Quarter lost two beloved community members recently.

Melvyn F. Kossover, M.D. passed away on December 31, 2020 in New Orleans. Mel graduated from Tulane University undergraduate and Tulane University School of Medicine. He was in private practice until he retired in 2010. Mel and his wife of 54 years, Judy Kossover, have been very active members in the French Quarter community and longtime supporters of VCPORA. Read more [about Mel's life here](#).

Charlotte Furness passed away peacefully at home on December 17, 2020. She studied nursing at Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau, MO, before marrying Brian Furness and traveling to Venezuela, Italy, and Brazil as part of the Foreign Service. She and Brian moved to New Orleans, LA, and beginning in 2004, began co-managing/hosting The Gentry House Bed and Breakfast on St. Ann. Read more [about Charlotte's life here](#).

Both Mel and Charlotte will be greatly missed.



#FQThenAndNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on [327-29 Dauphine Street](#). 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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