

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - January 22, 2021

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CPC Public Hearing to Consider OLE Study

The City Planning Commission is holding a [public hearing](#) on January 26 at 1:30 pm to consider the recently commissioned [Outdoor Live Entertainment Study](#). The Commission may choose specific recommendations to endorse the study, defer the agenda item to a later date for additional consideration, or forward to the City Council with or without modifications. Once the City Council receives the study, they may take as long as needed to read and consider their options as they are under no legal obligation or timeline to act upon it. If the Council passes a motion to implement any text changes to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance based on the study, an additional round of public hearings, both with the City Planning Commission and City Council, would be triggered.

This hearing follows a [formal request](#) by the City Council in January 2020 for the City Planning Commission to study Outdoor Live Entertainment regulations in the [Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance](#) (CZO) and City Code to determine if modifications are warranted. This motion followed a [controversial ban](#) on outdoor entertainment that arose during a 2019 Safety & Permits interpretation of live entertainment in the CZO.

The study, released in December 2020, analyzes New Orleans' existing infrastructure – including permitted venues, zoning and overlay districts,

temporary permitting structures, both citywide and by neighborhood along with similarly situated cities' regulations for comparison and best practices.

Some of the **temporary** recommendations from the study include:

- An easing of special event permits in response to COVID restrictions on indoor live entertainment for a suggested one year period of time. The study recommends increasing the number of special event permits per venue from 12 per year to 2-3 per week, which would be available through issuance of a single permit for up to all days of the year when entertainment would be planned
- Including standardized hours of operation: **12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Saturday, and 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sunday.**
- Require a rear yard buffer equivalent to the required rear yard, or a minimum of 15 ft. whichever is greater
- Documentation of repeated violations may result in revocation of a temporary permit. Complaints of violations must be verified by City officials.

However, the study does go further in considering long-term or **permanent** changes to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance including amendments to the governing definitions of *Outdoor Amusement Facilities*, *Reception Facilities*, *Public Markets*, *Cultural Facilities*, and *Live Entertainment - Secondary Use*.

VCPORA is working with other neighborhood organizations and City departments to develop recommendations based on the study for sound management in the French Quarter and other residential areas. It is vital to support our local economy during these difficult and restricted times but outdoor live entertainment must be effectively regulated to assure peaceful cohabitation with all neighbors. Further, the City needs to approach any temporary easing of restrictions with a sunset date and a process for evaluation.

Public comments can be submitted until the end of the Commission's 30-minute recess built in to gather "in person" comments. Read VCPORA's [public comment here](#). You can submit your comments to cpcinfo@nola.gov. The meeting can also be viewed on the [City's Youtube channel](#).



Hard Rock Hotel Update

Over a year after a partial collapse left three workers dead and dozens injured, the Hard Rock Hotel at [1031 Canal Street](#) may finally be [demolished in its entirety soon](#). A developer representative estimates that the structure will be down in "three to four weeks" and notes that the demolition process has incurred "no damage to any surrounding buildings." The representative also stated that there are no further plans for the site at this time. VCPORA will provide updates regarding this site as we receive details.



City Hall Relocation Meeting

Thursday, January 28

6:00 p.m.

[WebEx Dial-In](#)

Please join representatives from the City of New Orleans next week for a status update regarding the relocation of City Hall to the Municipal Auditorium in Armstrong Park. To access the meeting via the online WebEx portal and to ensure that you receive a copy of the presentation, please [register online](#). Questions can be submitted in advance to allison.cormier@nola.gov or (504) 248-9859.



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](#).



Photo by Jake Clapp via [NOLA.com](#)

CDC Extended Eviction Moratorium

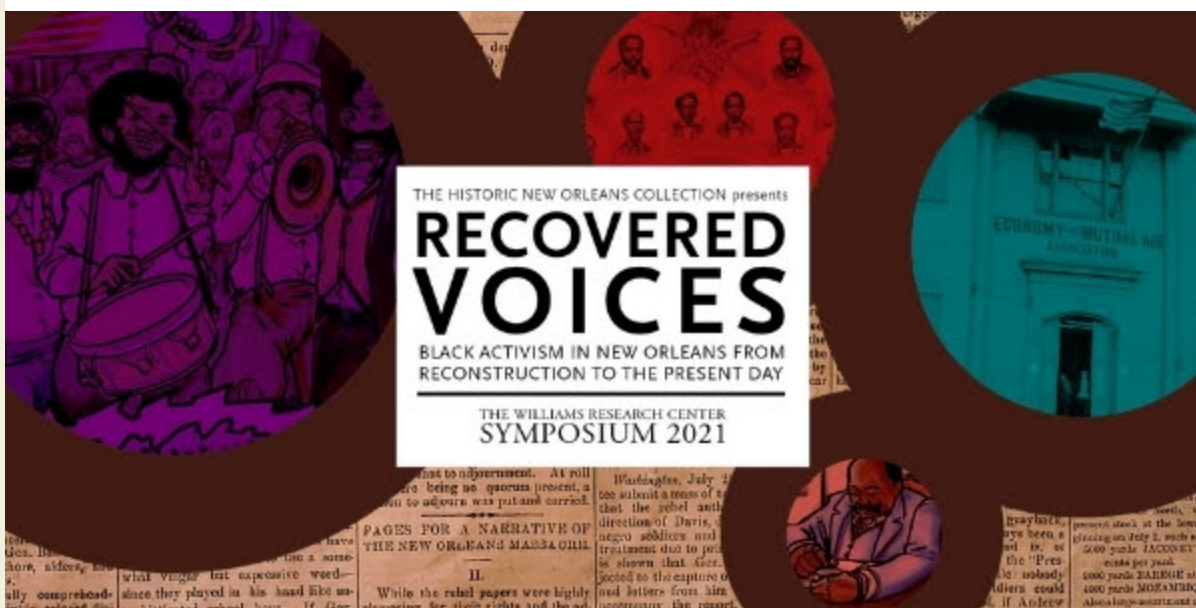
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has extended their [residential eviction moratorium](#) through March 31, 2021 to keep people safe and in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. To be eligible for the eviction protection, each adult member of the household must print and complete [this form](#) affirming specific criteria and submit it to their property manager, landlord, or owner.

Unless the CDC order is extended, changed, or ended, the order prevents tenants from being evicted or removed from where they are living until April. Tenants are still required to pay rent and follow all the other terms of their lease and rules of the place where they live. Tenants may also still be evicted for reasons other than not paying rent or making a housing payment.



Hurricane Zeta Recovery Resources

Disaster Unemployment Assistance is now available to certain workers who lost income as a direct result of Hurricane Zeta. If the hurricane damaged or destroyed your workplace, damaged or destroyed your workplace transportation, prevented you from starting a new job, or caused an injury preventing you from work, you may be entitled to financial assistance. See [the NOLA Ready website](#) for details and for additional qualifications.



THNOC 2021 Symposium

March 5 - 7

Zoom

This week, The Historic New Orleans Collection announced the theme for their 2021 Symposium: "Recovered Voices: Black Activism in New Orleans from Reconstruction to the Present Day". The annual event will take place virtually this year to celebrate the voices of historic black activists as profiled by modern authors, who will be leading some of the sessions. Head over to [The Historic New Orleans Collection website](#) for details.



First 100 Days Webinar

Thursday, January 28

3:00 p.m.

Zoom

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is hosting a webinar to discuss how the first 100 Days of the Biden Administration and the 117th Congress will intersect with historic preservation policies. Join preservation partners, congressional staff, and the National Trust's government relations team for a presentation on these policy issues and how advocates can strategize for 2021 and beyond. Register for this webinar on [the National Trust website](#).



Preservation Podcasts

Twiddling your thumbs indoors? The National Trust for Historic Preservation has compiled a list of preservation podcasts to help pass the time. Fans of architecture, history, or urban planning can head on over to [the National Trust for Historic Preservation website](#) to see the list, including shows produced by National Trust Historic Sites - such as James Madison's Montpelier, President Lincoln's Cottage, and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.



#FQThenAndNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on [539 Toulouse 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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