

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Saturday, February 27, 2021

1 message

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

Economic Development District Update

As of February 21, the French Quarter Management District (FQMD) has exhausted its funds to continue the Supplemental Police Patrol Program (aka the French Quarter Task Force, or Blue Light Patrol). Leading up to the failed French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) December ballot, the FQMD announced that it had sufficient funds to cover the Task Force until the second week of March, but significant and unexpected increases in vendor invoices and NOPD oversight costs depleted the funds a few weeks before the target date. Last week, the Administration identified \$327,000 of unspent "Quarter for the Quarter" (French Quarter Economic Development District - FQEDD) funds that were earmarked for the Louisiana State Troopers' Troop N, which was dissolved in December. Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer, acting in her capacity as oversight of the FQEDD, has signed an agreement with the Administration releasing the unspent balance to be used for the blue-light patrols for the next three months. The app-based patrol service will resume Sunday, February 27. In this new arrangement, the FQMD will not be administering the patrols.

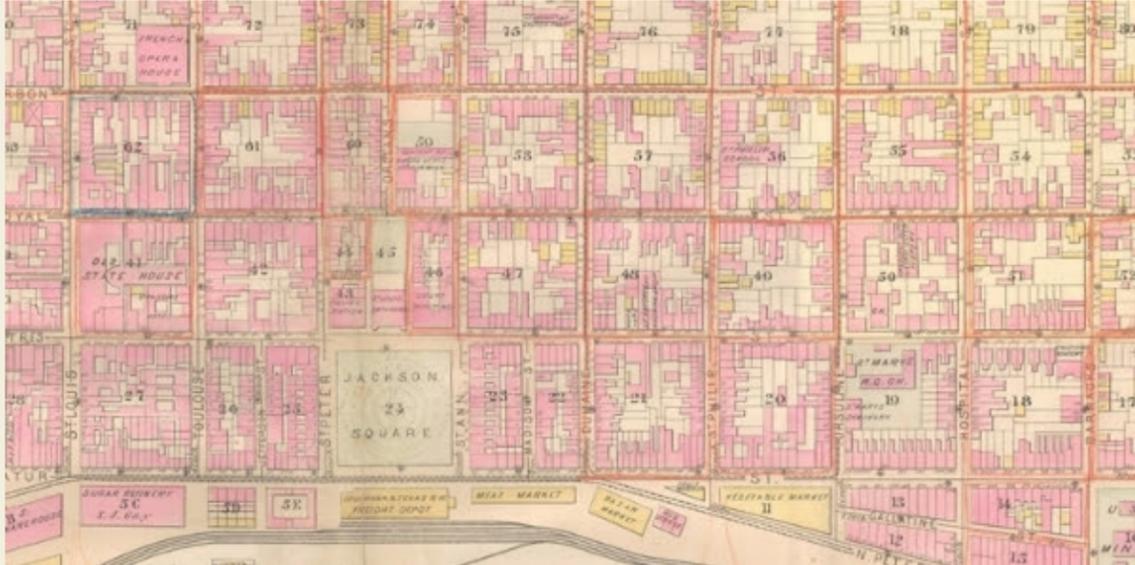
VCPORA continues to support the .245% FQEDD security tax on the April 24th ballot that would direct these funds to POST-certified, NOPD patrols administered through the FQMD.

Read the following two press releases by Mayor Cantrell and the FQMD Board of Commissioners regarding the security funding.

Feb. 21, 2021: [MAYOR CANTRELL ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING FRENCH QUARTER SECURITY FUNDING](#)

Feb. 21, 2021: Mayor Attempts to Withhold Tax Funds Collected for Supplemental French Quarter Security Programming - [French Quarter Management District Calls for Continuation of the French Quarter Supplemental Police Patrol Until the April Vote](#)

Also, [here is the updated FQMD EDD work plan](#) for the security patrols if the April 24 ballot measure passes.



Governor Nicholls Street Renaming Update

This week, the advisory [New Orleans Street Renaming Commission](#) submitted their [final report of recommendations](#) to City Council. The Commission advised that Governor Nicholls Street, named after Confederate Army general and "separate but equal" proponent Francis T. Nicholls, be renamed for NAACP civil rights attorney and desegregation activist Lolis Edward Elie, who lived on this street in the Tremé.

As a reminder, the boards of VCPORA and French Quarter Citizens have endorsed that Governor Nicholls Street return to its original name Hospital Street. Our call for feedback also showed overwhelming support for a return to Hospital Street. The Historic Faubourg Tremé Association (HFTA) has endorsed the name Bayou Road, the original name of the stretch between Rampart and Claiborne before the area was developed. See [this report](#) for more historical context.

City Council could choose to rename Governor Nicholls for one historical name in Tremé and another in the Quarter with Rampart Street as the dividing boundary, similar to how street names change at Canal. Additionally, the stretch of Governor Nicholls between N. Claiborne and Broad Street could take the name of Lolis Edward Elie, satisfying all three recommendations. Multiple City Council and City Planning Commission meetings will follow before City Council will vote on the recommendations. We will keep you updated on this issue as it moves forward.



New Orleans Moves into Modified Phase 2

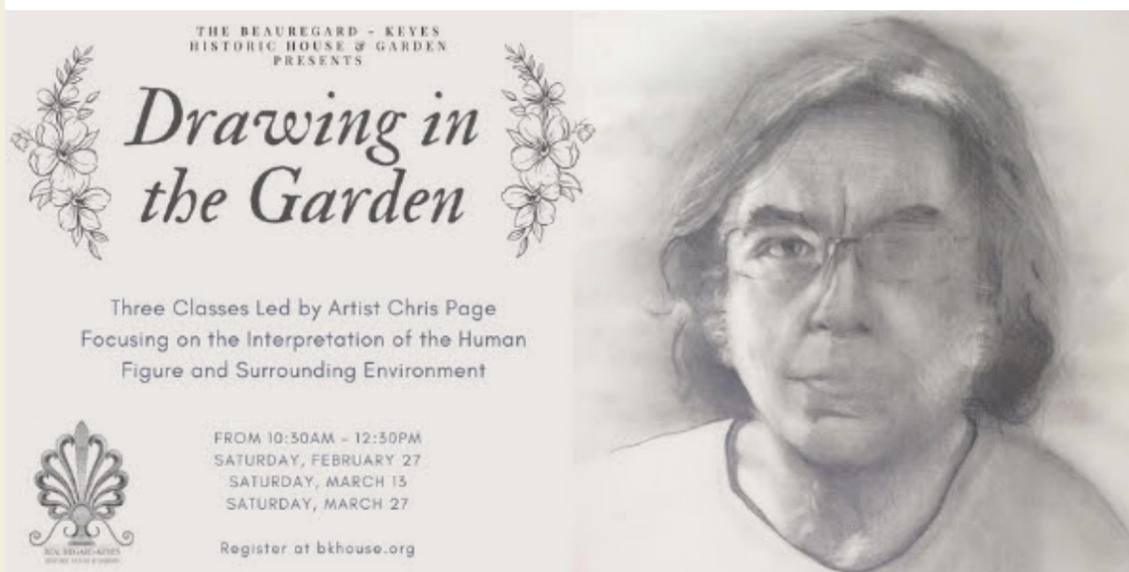
The City of New Orleans will ease its [restrictions on reopening guidelines](#) today. Legal gathering size will increase to 75 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Tables at restaurants, bars, breweries, libraries, offices, and other businesses can now accommodate parties of 15. Social distancing and masking guidelines remain the same. To read more about guidelines, visit [the NOLA Ready website](#).

Additionally, COVID vaccine eligibility has expanded to include residents 55 years or older, teachers, and other personnel. Potential recipients must [contact a participating pharmacy](#) and make an appointment. Walk-ups will not be accepted. See [the Louisiana Department of Health website](#) for full eligibility requirements. Potential recipients are also encouraged to visit [the NOLA Ready website](#) or call 311 to register for the Citywide Vaccine Waitlist.



NOLA Ready Special Needs Registry

Do you use life support systems, have mobility limitations, have hearing or seeing impairments, have mental health disabilities, or live with service animals? Sign up for the [NOLA Ready Special Needs Registry](#) so that the City of New Orleans knows who might need extra help during an emergency. For more information on how to prepare for emergencies, please visit the [NOLA Ready website](#) or call 311.



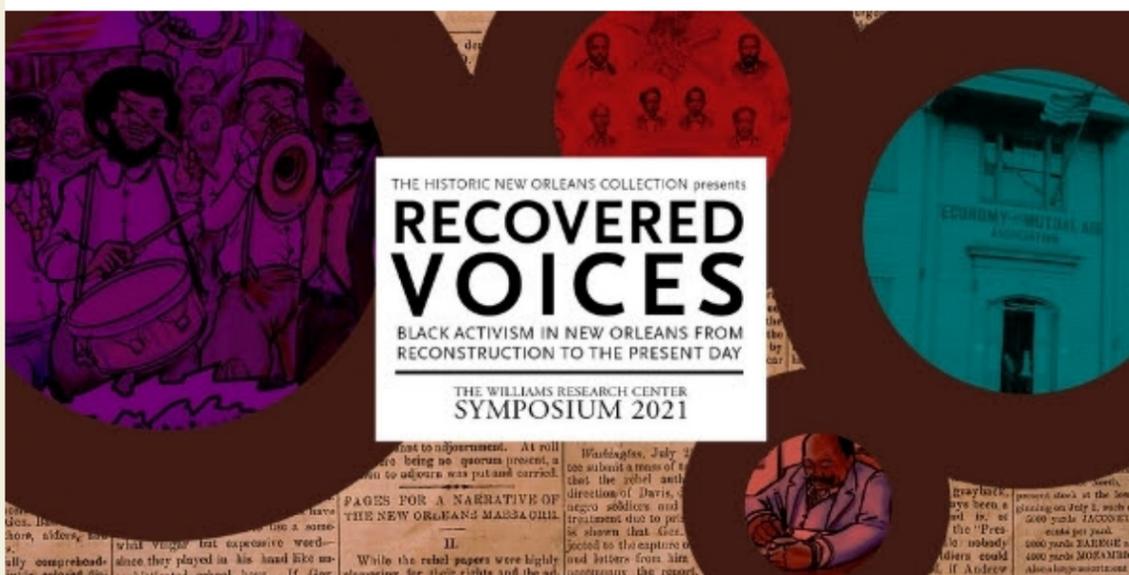
Drawing in the Garden with Artist Chris Page

March 13 & 27

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1113 Chartres

Looking for an outdoor activity in the historic French Quarter? Join representational artist Chris Page in the picturesque [Beauregard-Keyes House](#) garden for an [instructional drawing class](#) focusing on the interpretation of the human figure and surrounding environment. Working from a costumed model, students in this class will learn the basics of interpreting the human figure, from gesture, to line, to shape. Class sizes will be kept small with social distancing in place. All participants must wear a face mask. Registration is now open for classes next month, so head over to [EventBrite](#) to claim your spot.



THNOC 2021 Symposium

March 5 - 7

Zoom

The Historic New Orleans Collection will host their 2021 Symposium: "Recovered Voices: Black Activism in New Orleans from Reconstruction to the Present Day" starting next Friday. 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 symposium sessions. Head over to [The Historic New Orleans Collection website](#) for details.



#FQThenAndNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on 1319 Decatur 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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