

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - March 12, 2021

1 message

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VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Monday, March 12, 2021

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#FQThenandNow



Pedestrianization Charrette Review

On Monday, the City held its second design charrette to gather feedback on the "Slow Quarter" concept in the Mayor's [Reimagining the French Quarter proposal](#). [See the full presentation here.](#)

Here is a basic overview of the proposed changes and feedback received:

Reverse travel direction on 700 block of Burgundy and 600 block of Dauphine to reduce cut-through traffic

Feedback: This concept drew the most criticism during the meeting for many felt that instead of reducing cut-through traffic, it would have the opposite effect of increasing congestion as vehicles must navigate around the closures. Many noted that these are the only two streets that they can currently use, and are absolutely necessary for French Quarter residents to maneuver their neighborhood. Many questioned the true problem this was attempting to address.

Alternate on-street parking to the opposite of the street every other block for traffic calming, intersection sight line improvements, and turning improvements.

While the presenters pointed that the swapping of parking lanes would provide a clearer line of sight for turning and crossing vehicles, it was noted that clearing the illegally parked vehicles near intersections would also provide this effect, as would more stop signs. Many pointed out that this would be dangerous for cyclists who typically avoid riding along parked cars to avoid getting “doored” when people exit their vehicles. This plan would push cyclists to weave from side to side, thus increasing the chance for a collision with an automobile or pedestrian. Others pointed out that this would reduce the overall sight lines down each street.

French Quarter gateway treatments (15) that could include raised crosswalks, bollards or planters, road narrowing and increased signage for reduced speeds within the interior.

There was a general consensus that entrance signage can be used to prevent oversized vehicles and limit other heavy vehicles. Many said that the delivery and garbage vehicles are too heavy and often damage not only the streets and sidewalks, but also the adjacent historic structures through vibrations. Any raised crosswalk or physical component added to a street would exacerbate this issue. Others pointed to these treatments as separating the neighborhood from its larger New Orleans context, as if it were a gated community. Some were concerned about the introduction of planters because of a perceived use as waste receptacles and the maintenance required for both vegetation and damages.

Other comments and suggestions:

- Many expressed their frustration with the process and questioned why the City had not reached out directly to the residents for assistance in creating improvements within the neighborhood.
- Basic enforcement was a common theme of all participants. If the city is going to implement any permanent changes, it must have the resources to manage and enforce the new rules.
- A more holistic approach to reducing vehicles is needed, rather than making the street grid unnavigable. This includes equitable transit that effectively gets people to the French Quarter without the need for a personal automobile and also alternatives for those who must drive, such as perimeter lots.
- A consistent set of bike lanes is necessary for the neighborhood.
- While the City Council has already approved the reduction to 15 miles per hour on the interior streets, others felt that the current speeds on N. Rampart and Esplanade, both at 35 mph, needed to be reduced also.
- Including stops signs at all intersections would reduce speed in a cost-effective way. Further, traffic cameras would provide both enforcement and city revenue.
- Nearly all agreed that reducing the size and weight of delivery and garbage vehicles was an absolute necessity and pointed to smaller, eco-friendly vehicles that are used in other historic districts, both nationally and internationally.

What do you think? The City is asking for your feedback on the charrette and proposed concepts by March 31, at 5:00 p.m.

- [Questions and Comments form](#) (use this for additional comments not provided in the survey questions)
- [Slow Quarter Concept Survey](#)

[Slow Quarter Concept Elements \(Remix\)](#)



Mass Vaccinations at the Convention Center

Governor John Bel Edwards [expanded COVID-19 vaccine eligibility](#) this week to people 16 years of age and older with [certain health conditions](#). To keep up with demand, The City of New Orleans also launched a mass vaccination site at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Hall J this week. The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is providing [free shuttle service](#) to the Convention Center Hall from Duncan Plaza, the West Bank RTA Park and Ride, and the New Orleans East Walmart. Complimentary parking for individuals driving to the Convention Center will be available in Parking Lot F, directly across from Hall J. New Orleans Emergency Medical Services continue to administer vaccine in the homes of residents who are homebound.

Those who are currently eligible to receive a vaccine in Louisiana should register for an appointment by calling (504) 290-5200 or by going to [the LCMC website](#). Residents can also visit [the Louisiana Department of Health website](#) to see alternative vaccine locations. Appointments are required. Louisianians who are not currently eligible can register for the vaccine waitlist on the [NOLA Ready website](#) or by calling (504) 658-2299.



New Orleans Enters Modified Phase 3

Starting today, New Orleans enters a [modified phase 3](#). Retail stores, restaurants, salons, tattoo parlors, movie theaters, museums, and offices in Orleans Parish will be allowed to increase to 75% capacity with social distancing and masking still required. Bars, breweries, gyms, fitness centers, and conference venues will be able to operate up to 50% capacity, again with social distancing and masking required. Concert and music halls with fixed, permanent seating will be allowed to increase to 75% capacity with a maximum of 250 people.

These changes are aligned with the State of Louisiana's Phase Three guidelines. Indoor live entertainment will be allowed, but venues are encouraged to [read the guidelines](#) due to the specificity of some of the restrictions. Under the State rules,

restaurants that host indoor live entertainment are required to decrease their capacity to 50% rather than the 75% allowed without live entertainment. All venues hosting live entertainment in New Orleans must obtain a [Special Event Permit](#) from the Department of Safety and Permits.



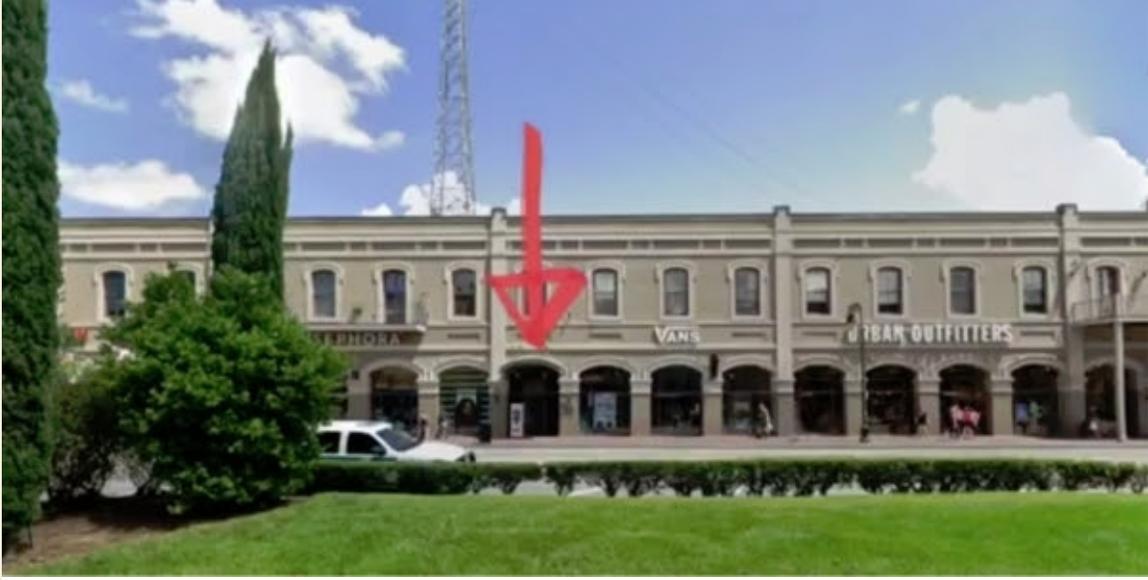
French Quarter Home Makes National Register of Historic Places

The Burgundy Street home of longtime VCPORA supporters John Reed & Jon Kemp was [successfully approved](#) for the Register of Historic Places this week. The building had served as the Médard Nelson home and school from 1887 to 1933, a private school for African Americans and whites that defied Jim Crow laws.

Their application illustrated the building's significance: "Médard Nelson conducted his school at a time and in a place when political, social, and legal forces were arrayed against and hostile to the education of African-Americans, and during which defiance of Jim Crow and segregation courted danger and death. Médard Nelson's school is the only identified extant African-American private school building from post-Reconstruction New Orleans, and the only school known to have admitted both black and white students.

"The school's uniqueness, and Médard Nelson's success in sustaining it, reflects the racial oppression in the post-Reconstruction south but just as importantly the resilience and accomplishment of one man who fought to maintain the dignity and promote the equality of Black Americans. Nelson is a pre-eminent figure in the African-American history of New Orleans; the home and school where he taught and lived is a landmark not only to his accomplishment, but also to the determination and survival of Creole tradition and culture in segregated post-Reconstruction New Orleans."

John and Jon also remarked of their home: "[We feel like] we don't really own our home. We are simply its stewards - caretakers - for the time allotted to us. Our obligation is to give it care and love, to accept it on its own terms rather than bend it to a modern will, to give it the respect its age deserves, and to pass it along hopefully as good, if not better, than we found it."



VCC Temporarily Returns to French Quarter

Due to the efforts of the [VCC Foundation](#), the [Vieux Carré Commission](#) will temporarily occupy a French Quarter office at [400 N. Peters Street, Suite 206C](#) on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., by appointment only. During these hours, you will be able to meet with someone in-person to ask questions, drop off an application, and receive issued permits.

All COVID protocols will be strictly followed. Masks must be worn, and social distancing must be followed. Please email vcc@nola.gov for an appointment or for general inquiries and application submittal. If you know the [staff member](#) you wish to speak with, please email them directly for an appointment. Some restrictions will apply for these services. See [this press release](#) for additional details.



**REGISTER TODAY
FOR
NEIGHBORHOOD
LEADERS'
ROUNDTABLE**

**The Neighborhood
Leaders'
Roundtable is a
quarterly
opportunity for
residents to engage
with city
leadership.**

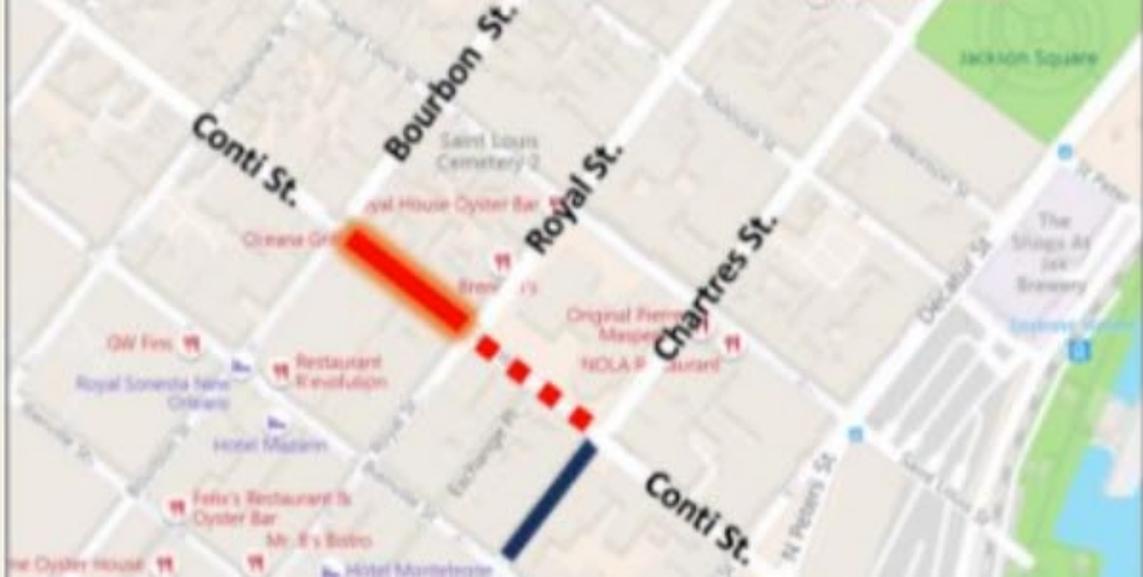
Neighborhood Leader's Roundtable

March 23

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

[WebEx](#)

The first 2021 Neighborhood Leaders' Roundtable takes place this month. Virtually join NOPD Superintendent Shaun Ferguson, NOFD Chief Roman Nelson, EMS Director Dr. Emily Nichols, and Commissione Tenisha Stevens of the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination to discuss public safety. [Registration is free](#) but required.



Conti Road Work

The Department of Public Works and Sewerage and Water Board will begin [restoring the 700 block of Conti](#) at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 15. The block is expected to remain closed to vehicular traffic through June 2021. All businesses will remain open and accessible throughout construction.

Meanwhile, the 600 block of Conti Street will be intermittently closed to vehicular traffic daily. The 300 block of Chartres Street will be closed to vehicular traffic daily and reopen to vehicular traffic each night. At some point during the project, the intersection of Royal and Conti streets will be closed to accommodate utility upgrades. A traffic advisory will be sent ahead of that closure.

The entire project is anticipated to run through winter 2021, approximately four months per block. Questions about this project or RoadworkNOLA's Capital Improvement Program should be directed to (504) 658-7623 or roadwork@nola.gov.



St. Joseph's Day Alter

Wednesday, March 17 - Friday, March 19

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[1113 Chartres](#)

The historic Beaugard-Keyes House will revive its [St. Joseph's Day altar](#) next week. Join in marking this sacred Sicilian tradition, which has been celebrated in the French Quarter since Sicilian immigrants began arriving to the city in the late 19th century. To contribute to the BK House St. Joseph Altar, contact Chris at chris@bkhouse.org. All financial donations made will be given to Covenant House New Orleans. Space will be limited inside the building. Masks and social-distancing are required.



Italia! An Evening with the Electric Yat Quartet

March 21

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

[1113 Chartres](#)

The Beauregard-Keyes House will also celebrate the Sicilian history of the neighborhood with [Italia!](#), a limited-capacity outdoor presentation of Italian classics by New Orleans' own Electric Yat Quartet. The program will include performances of works by Vivaldi, Puccini, Morricone, and many more. Guests will be asked to remain socially distanced and are required to wear a mask. Tickets are now available on [EventBrite](#).



#FQThenAndNow

VCPORA and the [VCC Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on [1241 Decatur 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 [VCC Foundation](#) so you don't miss any upcoming posts from this series.

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