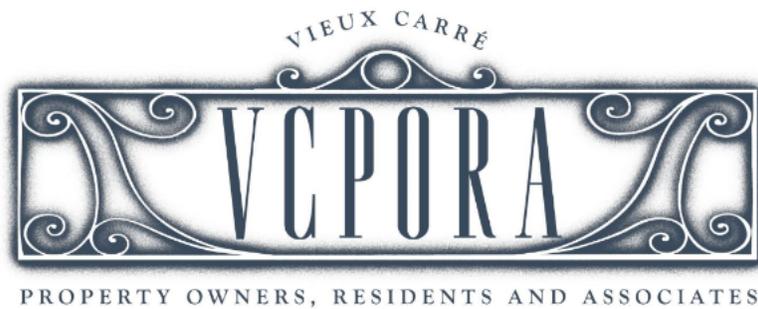


VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, May 28, 2021

1 message

VCPORA <info@vcpora.org>
Reply-To: info@vcpora.org
To: "Mr. Jack Greenwood" <info@vcpora.org>

Fri, May 28, 2021 at 5:36 PM



VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, May 28, 2021

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VCPORA Opposes City Hall Relocation

In a series of recent virtual and in-person meetings, Tremé community stakeholders gathered in opposition to [the Mayor's plan to relocate City Hall](#) to the Morris F.X. Jeff, Sr.

Municipal Auditorium.

A new City Hall has been a priority for both the current and previous administrations, with Mayor Cantrell pushing the idea forward when she announced in 2018 her goal to move City Hall into a renovated Municipal Auditorium and build out Armstrong Park for support uses. A few meetings were held in early 2020, but the pandemic largely halted the process for public engagement. The City moved forward despite this by hiring consultants for a facility programmatic study and Municipal Auditorium Site analysis.

In a 700-page [Request for Qualifications bid document](#) released in April, the City announced they were seeking to retain full architectural design services for the renovation and adaptive re-use of the Municipal Auditorium, the development of a Master Plan for Armstrong Park, and the implementation of Community Engagement Coordination.

Three separate concepts contemplate new construction and additions to the overall park footprint. These include a new 6 - 7 story Civil District Courthouse, parking for up to 2,600 cars through a mixture of surface lots and parking garages ranging from 7 - 12 stories in height, and an addition to the existing auditorium between 7 and 9 stories tall. See the highlights of this document in this [presentation](#) provided by Claiborne Avenue Alliance.



Tremé residents and cultural leaders are very concerned that the City has fast-tracked the timeline in order to capture the \$36 million of FEMA money set aside for the renovation of the Auditorium. The full project is estimated around \$155 - \$171 million.

VCPORA shares the community opposition to this plan and feels that relocating the center of city government to a park and cultural icon nestled between two dense urban neighborhoods is unacceptable. This move would further compound decades of damage to Tremé created by poor planning decisions, eminent domain, and displacement. It would increase traffic on already congested, narrow residential streets and degrade the neighborhood fabric. Lastly, it is a costly project for an overburdened tax base and the current City Hall is more easily accessible for citizens.

Instead, the community wants the Auditorium to be renovated and returned to its intended purpose - as a cultural center and landmark. VCPORA stands with the following entities in their expressed opposition to move City Hall to Armstrong Park:

Greater Tremé Consortium
Unity 4 Nola Culture
Claiborne Avenue Alliance
Ole & Nu Style Fellas
Tremé Sidewalk Steppers
N.O. Culture Preservation Committee
Justice & Beyond

A [change.org petition](#) against the City of New Orleans' proposed move to Armstrong Park has collected more than 9,400 signatures. We join our neighbors in asking the Mayor to stop, and rethink the relocation of City Hall. A pop-up fundraiser for these efforts will be held this weekend. See details below.

MAYOR



Rethink City Hall's Relocation
To Tremé

PoP Up At
Tuba Fats Square
Saturday, May 29, 2021
5 pm-7 pm
St. Phillip & N. Robertson Streets
-A Little Music for a Long Weekend-
Music, Food and Advocacy

Featuring:
The Jackson Square ★ All Star Brass Band

Sponsored by:
Greater Tremé Consortium, Inc.
N. O. Culture Preservation Committee
Ole & Nu Style Fellas
Treme Sidewalk Steppers
Justice & Beyond
Unity 4NOLACulture

sign the petition



Sanitation Survey

VCPOA is looking for [your feedback](#) on current French Quarter sanitation services offered by the [Department of Sanitation](#). These services include mechanical street sweeping and flushing, pressure washing of sidewalks and designated areas, public litter can collection, litter removal, and special event clean-up.

The seven-year contract for the current sanitation provider, Empire Services, expires in December 2021. This survey will assist VCPOA to best advocate for their membership for the new City sanitation contract Request For Proposals (RFP) process.



COVID-19 Restrictions Update

Effective today, The City of New Orleans has removed the time limit for alcohol sales, permitted gyms to open at 100% capacity, and allowed maskless indoor and outdoor gatherings under certain conditions. Additionally, the COVID-related ban on second lines and parades has been removed and will be replaced by the traditional event permitting processes within the Department of Safety and Permits. Visit the [NOLA Ready website](#) for more information on the new guidelines.

As a reminder, the City of New Orleans is also offering vaccines at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. 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 interested in receiving 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.

Anybody ages 18+ looking to volunteer with the vaccination effort can [sign-up 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. More information can be found on the [NOLA Ready website](#).



At Home in the Vieux Carré

Friday, June 18, 2021

840 St. Philip

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to all who attended our first 2021 At Home in the Vieux Carré happy hour last Friday! It was so good to see everybody again. Special thanks to Marie-Françoise Crouch for hosting and [The Doussan Team](#) for sponsoring. If you missed this event, don't worry.



THE
DOUSSAN
TEAM



Our next *At Home in the Vieux Carré* happy hour will be at the 1898 double shotgun of Jeffrey Morgan and Jason Waguespack. Join us for specialty cocktails and wine. Admission is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members, and free to those who join or renew their memberships that night. Check [our website](#) or [follow our Facebook](#) for updates.

We are also accepting volunteers to help staff this event. Not on our volunteer list yet? Email info@vcpora.org or fill out the [volunteer form](#) on our website to get involved with all the latest VCPORA advocacy, events, and programming opportunities.

Please note that in keeping with the City of New Orleans [Phase 3 reopening restrictions](#), this event will be limited capacity and masks will be required when not actively drinking.



VCPORA Seeks New Executive Assistant

VCPORA is looking for a new Executive Assistant to help protect and preserve the Vieux Carré. The full job description can be found on [our website here](#). The deadline to apply is Friday, June 11. To apply, please send resume and any other materials electronically to: Ms. Erin Holmes, Executive Director, VCPORA at info@vcpora.org.



Courtyard Calligraphy

Saturday, May 29

1113 Chartres

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

Join Patti Adams for the first of three [Courtyard Calligraphy](#) classes in the Beauregard-Keyes courtyard. The class will cover correct body posture, position, and placement of the pen, as well as the use of the proper tools. All levels of students are welcome to join this class, including those just beginning their study of calligraphy.

Class sizes will be kept small with social distancing in place. All participants must wear a face mask. The registration fee does not include materials. Students will receive a supply list after registering with items necessary for the course. These supplies will last for all class sessions.



The Built Environment of New Orleans

Saturday, May 29

1113 Chartres

4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us for the second installment in the [The Built Environment of New Orleans](#) lecture series with Master Plasterer Jeff Porée, who will showcase how to plaster, as well as lecture on the craft.

Space for this event is limited and attendees must [register in advance on Eventbrite](#). Guests will be asked to remain socially distanced and are required to wear a mask. The lecture will also be live-streamed to the Beauregard-Keyes House [Facebook page](#).

This event marks the second in a lecture series collaboration by [the Beauregard-Keyes House](#) and VCPORA celebrating the craftsmanship and artistry of the master builders responsible for the architecture of New Orleans. Be on the lookout for additional installments highlighting trades such as ironwork, masonry, and carpentry.



Patio Planters Secret Garden Tour

Saturday, May 29

French Quarter

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Patio Planters of the Vieux Carré Secret Garden Tour will open eight gardens and courtyards for viewing on a self-guided walking tour tomorrow. [Buy a ticket online](#) to see how designers and residents take advantage of small spaces, adorned with greenery and flora to provide cool hideaways suited to the New Orleans climate in styles of early Spanish and French architecture.

Locations of featured gardens and courtyards will be specified on a map given to participants when tickets are picked up. The event is rain or shine. See the [Patio Planters of the Vieux Carré website](#) for more information.



Termite Informational Session

Tuesday, June 1

[Zoom](#)

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans is hosting an [informational session](#)

with Ed Freytag of the New Orleans Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control Board, to discuss termite infestation. Attendees will learn the difference between wood rot versus termite damage and when to call a professional. This online program is free to the public, but participants must [register in advance](#).



#FQThenAndNow

VCPORA and the [VCC Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on [526 Governor Nicholls](#). Head over to our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to check it out. This weekly series showcases historic pictures, current pictures, and fun facts about our favorite French Quarter locales. Follow #FQThenAndNow and the [VCC Foundation](#) so you don't miss any upcoming posts from this series.

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