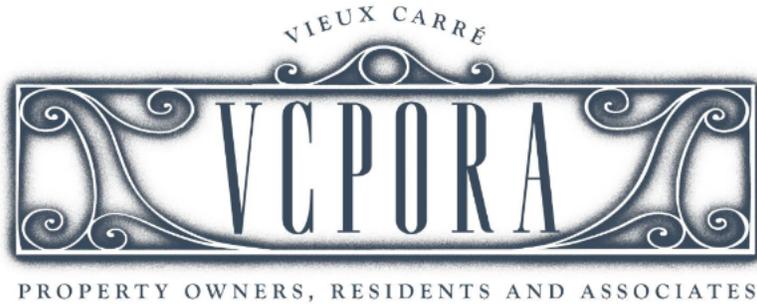

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, May 20, 2022

1 message

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

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 3:16 PM

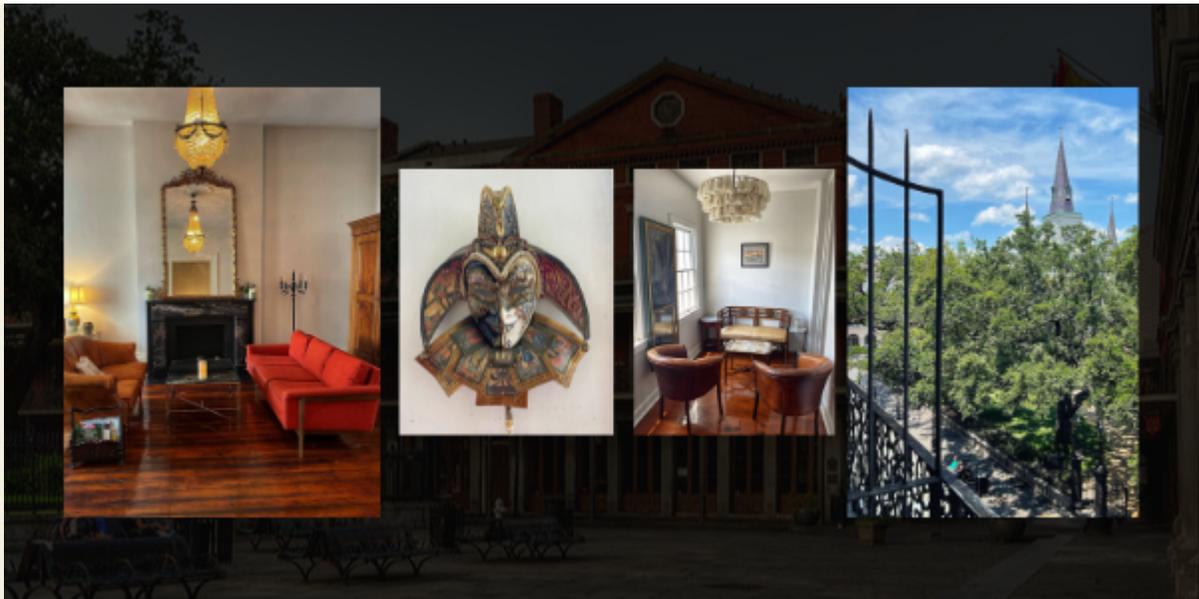


VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, May 20, 2022

In this Issue:

At Home in the Vieux Carré - TONIGHT!
Mother's Day Concert & Picnic - Thank you!
Advocacy Updates:

- [901 Bourbon](#)
- Outdoor Live Entertainment Study
- Parklets



At Home in the Vieux Carré - TONIGHT!

When: May 20, 2022; 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Where: [512 St. Peter Street Apt. C](#)

Hosted by: Mr. Collin Rhodes

We're back!! Join us TONIGHT **Friday, May 20, 2022** on **the third floor** of the **Upper Pontalba** for our second At Home in the Vieux Carré of the season!

Our gracious host is opening his home in what is often referred to as the "the oldest apartment building in the U.S." Built in 1849-1851 by the **Baroness Micaela Almonester de Pontalba**, the Upper Pontalba originally stood as a collection of sixteen individual four-story row houses, facing its sister, the Lower Pontalba across the Place d'Armes, or what is now Jackson Square. Through several major interior renovations, the individual row houses were interconnected, and the upper floors were converted into 50 individual apartments while the ground floor was divided into 14 commercial units. Read more [here](#).

Come gaze off the balcony at Jackson Square while enjoying refreshments and specialty cocktails. Collin is planning some delicious treats for the event too!

Our [At Home in the Vieux Carré](#) series is a great way to meet your neighbors and get an inside peak at a gorgeous French Quarter home.

Admission is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members and **FREE for those who sign up or renew their membership that night.**

Please note - this home is on the third floor, without an elevator. We apologize for the reduced accessibility of the venue.



Mother's Day Concert & Picnic Thank you!

Our 23rd annual **Mothers Day Concert & Picnic** was a huge success!

Over 350 of you came to enjoy the **New Leviathan Oriental Foxtrot Orchestra** and the weather was perfect!

We want to thank our presenting sponsor, **Gulf Coast Bank & Trust Company** for their generous support and send a special thank to all those who helped make this possible:

Mamie Gasperecz, Ken Caron, Wayne Wilkinson, Jill McGaughey, Carol Gniady, Karley Frankic, Mark Masor, Mindy Roussel, Kathryn Lemnoine, Carolyn Goodwin, Elizabeth Simpson, Stephany Havens, and Ernesto!



Advocacy Update

901 Bourbon

Vieux Carre Commission

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 1300 Perdido Street

This agenda item was postponed from the May 18 meeting. Currently being considered by the Vieux Carré Commission is [901 Bourbon Street](#). Café Lafitte in Exile is a bar in the residentially-zoned section of Bourbon Street and is applying for a roof for its wrap-around gallery. No doubt a gallery roof would be good for business, but neighbors are concerned about the additional noise and safety concerns this addition may cause as well as how an approval such as this would set a bad precedent for the architecture of the French Quarter.

A similar application was denied in 1995 by the Vieux Carre Commission, which has asked the applicant to explore and provide updated plans for sound mitigation. VCPORA consulted an independent sound specialist to evaluate the potential effects a gallery roof might have on the sound level on the block. It was concluded that: "The effects described above (roof reflections, added people, doors opening, and raised voices) are cumulative, so the total increase in community noise from the bar (voices and music) is expected to be up to 8 dBA. **This would be perceived as about a 75% increase in the sound level.**"

Please plan to join us on Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022 at 1 p.m. in the City Council chambers to oppose this application.

If you cannot appear in person, you may send comments to the VCC via vcc@nola.gov.



(Advocacy Update Cont.)

Outdoor Live Entertainment Study

City Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 1300 Perdido Street

The City Planning Commission will be reviewing changes to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to allow for a major increase in the number of Outdoor Live Entertainment permits that can be issued to various businesses citywide. Currently, these special event permits are available for up to 8 per year, for 3 consecutive days. The staff has recommended allowing them for 2 to 3 times a week, or 104 to 156 days a year! With only a 15-foot buffer between residential districts.

Review the basic changes [here](#) and the preliminary CPC staff report [here](#).

We submitted our comments to the CPC in advance of the meeting but have continuously stressed that, without an enforceable sound ordinance in place, there is no way that the city can effectively mitigate conflicts between businesses and residents. Please read the letter we signed onto in conjunction with other concerned neighborhoods, and **plan to attend the City Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 24.**

We Don't Want More of The Same Mistakes

Do we want good government, or do we want more of the same? It's time that we pursued what works for the City of New Orleans, not another policy that has failed so miserably before.

With no enforceable noise ordinance or enforcement staff in place, The City Planning Commission study recommends expanding outdoor Live Entertainment City wide up to 156 days a year.

We love our musicians and our music in New Orleans! Nowhere more so than America's most historic neighborhood – the French Quarter, the Faubourg Marigny, and Treme. That is why it is so vitally important that we protect the residents and the visitors to our City, by having a proper means to allow our great talent to be heard.

To do this we need an enforceable sound ordinance created with input of all stakeholders. This should be of utmost importance if we are going to: 1) allow our musicians to perform, 2) give our visitors a safe opportunity to hear the great music we offer, 3) strengthen our neighborhoods by protecting our residential quality of life, and 4) ensure the health and safety of our artists. While considering the Outdoor Live Entertainment Study that was done over the last 2 years, during COVID, the ‘lack of an enforceable sound ordinance’ runs throughout the report, and presents an obvious first step. With the collaboration of all stakeholders, an enforceable sound ordinance needs to be in place to help guide us as we plan a better way for people to enjoy the music of New Orleans. To allow permits and licenses to be issued and prevail, without first having the proper rules and enforcement in place that these very ‘permits’ depend on, is only inviting controversy and echoes the sound of bad management of previous administrations.

We ask for common sense and good government to prevail.

To do this we need an enforcement mechanism, with the budget that ensures this planned sound ordinance will be enforced. This is another issue the City MUST address prior to issuing any type of permits, music or otherwise. We have a major problem in New Orleans with enforcement.

Without enforcement – there are no rules.

Let's work together and develop an ‘enforceable sound ordinance’ with the appropriate structure that works for the neighborhoods, the musicians, and the visitors to New Orleans so that we can go forward with good governance and continue to present our great music to the world.

Glade Bilby II, President, French Quarter Citizens, Co-Chair, SOS Coalition

Erin Holmes, VCPORA, Executive Director

Allen Johnson, President, Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association

Sandra Stokes, Chair of Advocacy for the Louisiana Landmarks Society

Michael Duplantier, President, Lafayette Square Association

Richard Bienvenu, Welcome One Associates LLC

Julie Jones, Neighbors First for Bywater



(Advocacy Update Cont.)

Parklets

Check out this [Letter to the Editor](#) on parklets from our president, Nathan Chapman.

Read more about our position [here](#).

The City Council will likely consider the parklet legislation in June. Please send your comments to:

helena.moreno@nola.gov
JP.Morrell@nola.gov
Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov
Lesli.Harris@nola.gov
Freddie.King@nola.gov
eugene.green@nola.gov
Oliver.Thomas@nola.gov

View the CPC staff report and public comments [here](#).



Helpful Resources

Safety

The NOPD 8th District *Non-Emergency* Line **(504) 658-6080**.
Watch the weekly NOPD 8th District MAX Meetings [here](#).
Download the French Quarter Task Force "Blue Light Patrol" App [here](#).

Quality of Life

See a public works issue or have quality of life complaints regarding construction, sanitation, illegal business operations, sound, and all other factors? **You can report these by dialing 311 or by submitting violations [here](#)**. It is **imperative** that we *continuously* report quality of life issues so as to provide further support in future cases and it will furthermore help to keep the reports on the authorities' radar.

Filming in the French Quarter

Questions and concerns regarding filming in the Vieux Carré can be sent to:

Carroll Morton
Director, Film New Orleans
(504) 658-4341 (office)
(504) 240-9504 (mobile)
cgmorton@nola.gov

Isabella Renner
Production Manager
(504) 658-4355 (office)
(504) 295-7734 (mobile)
isabella.renner@nola.gov

5G in the French Quarter

For information regarding 5G installation in the Vieux Carré, please see our website [here](#).

Questions and concerns regarding 5G can be sent to:

mayorcantrell@nola.gov
Jonathan.Rhodes@nola.gov
bdblock@nola.gov
erinholmes@vcpora.org

Vieux Carré Resources

Apply for a permit or find an existing permit [here](#).
Find Vieux Carré Commission Design Guidelines [here](#).
VCC and VCCAC meeting schedules and past meeting materials can be found [here](#).
City Council and additional City Council Committee meeting schedules can be found [here](#).

Historic Research Tools



VCPORA is a nonprofit organization that advocates for the preservation and protection of the Vieux Carré as an international historic treasure, a major cultural and economic asset, and a living residential neighborhood that is valued and respected by all.

Your generosity **today** helps preservationists and advocates create strategic and powerful campaigns to defend and elevate the French Quarter and surrounding neighborhoods **tomorrow!**

Donate

VCPORA | [816 N. Rampart St. | New Orleans, LA 70116](#)
504-581-7200 | www.vcpora.org



Do not want to receive email updates? [Unsubscribe here](#)