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**VCPORA's Weekly Vieux: Saturday, June 25, 2022**

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Sat, Jun 25, 2022 at 8:25 AM



**VCPORA's Weekly Vieux**  
**Saturday, June 25, 2022**

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## A Message from VCPORA President: Two Successes for French Quarter at City Council This Week

VCPORA sends its appreciation to District C City Councilmember Freddie King III, At-Large Councilmembers Helena Moreno and JP Morrell, and the entire New Orleans City Council as the body took not one, but two, strong stands for protecting the city's landmark French Quarter this week.

This represented the first time that this slate of VCPORA Board of Directors had issues work their way through all of the city's processes and reach the City Council for a vote. It also represented the first time newly elected Freddie King III would be involved in French Quarter issues since taking office in January.

So, both the new City Council and the new VCPORA Board are off to good starts.



## Parklets Prohibition in French Quarter

You have probably noticed the barricades tables, chairs, sometimes tents, placed in the French Quarter streets to help restaurants and bars during the Covid crisis. They called them “parklets” in a program designed to be temporary, but the city administration proposed making permanent.

VCPORA advocated that French Quarter parklets should cease after the Covid crisis. They were creating problems of noise and litter, as well as concerns of safety since they are literally in the street. They also took up parking spaces, which is a precious commodity in the French Quarter, and created accessibility issues, with wait staff and customers conversing back and forth across the sidewalk.

VCPORA also strongly urged the City Council to not permit the erection of structures in the streets that would obscure our world-famous architecture.

In its vote Thursday, the City Council agreed. Parklets **will not be allowed in the entire French Quarter**. Additionally, where they are allowed in the city, they will not be permitted on any residentially zoned blocks, something that VCPORA advocated

for along with other neighborhood organizations. Finally, there will be a limit of one parklet per blockface where they are allowed.

CMs King and Moreno authored the amendment that created the prohibition in the Quarter.



## 841 Bourbon Street

If that wasn't enough good news this week, also at City Council Thursday, Councilmember Freddie King III, with the support of his fellow Councilmembers, upheld a City Planning Commission ruling regarding [841 Bourbon](#), the site of the former Washing Well at Dumaine and Bourbon.

This portion of Bourbon Street is zoned residential, so any businesses, such as the Washing Well, are called a "non-conforming use." That means that should the business cease operation for a certain period of time, the zoning would revert back to residential. That was the ruling of the City Planning Commission, but the building owners appealed to the City Council for a reversal.

VCPORA Executive Director Erin Holmes and I urged the Council to deny the appeal, noting that the French Quarter had many examples of former commercial buildings that later reverted to residential. To allow the rezoning request would be a "spot zone" and would set a dangerous precedent that would erode the residential fabric of much of the French Quarter over time.

Councilman King said he supported the original denial of the City Planning Commission. Thursday represented a strong debut by this Council and especially by Freddie King III. If you see him, please thank him!



## One Final Acknowledgment

Also, we would like to particularly acknowledge the role of VCPORA Board Member Carol Gelderman. In a VCPORA strategy meeting over a year ago, at one point the committee was not sure it could be successful getting parklets banned from the commercial parts of the French Quarter, thinking that, at best, we could try to prohibit them in the residential areas. Carol spoke up to say they were wrong for all of the Quarter, and we needed to make sure they were banned from the whole Quarter.

Carol, you were right. Thank you for reminding us never to be afraid to stand up for what is right, because we only accomplish big goals when we set big goals.

Thank you to Carol and everyone in the French Quarter community who supported us on both of these issues.

Nathan Chapman  
VCPORA President



# Storm Ready from the Vieux Carré Commission Foundation

The best time to prepare for a hurricane is before hurricane season, but we know that hurricanes aren't the only storms in our region. Additionally, being the caretaker of a historic property in the Vieux Carré Historic District adds a layer of complexity.

The Vieux Carré Commission Foundation wants to help make it as easy for you as possible to be ready. Together with the Vieux Carré Commission, they have created [an easy-to-read flyer](#) to help you both prepare before the storm arrives as well as guide you through the steps for caring for your property after the storm leaves.

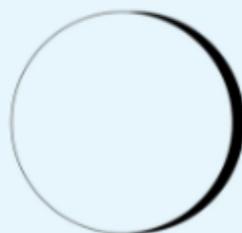
You can find more information as well as the flyer [here](#).

NOUS FOUNDATION

FT. BEAUREGARD-KEYES HOUSE

JUNE 26, 2022

## L'ANNIVERSAIRE.



## Nous Foundation Gala

When: **June 26th, 2022** from **6:00-8:30 p.m.**

Where: [1113 Chartres Street](#)

"The fleeting time invites us to it." Our friends at the [Nous Foundation](#), have announced their upcoming gala on **June 26th** from **6:00-8:30 p.m.** at the [Beauregard-Keyes House](#). They will be unveiling their 2022-2023 season, along with making several major announcements (notably the launch of exciting programs with prestigious institutions such as Fulbright). There will be headline performances by [Daniel Lelchuk](#) (assistant principal cellist at the [Louisiana Philharmonic](#)) and [Givonna Joseph](#) ([Opéra Créole](#)), celebrating Louisiana music written by French-speaking composers. There will also be a deliciously catered buffet and a selection of wine and champagne.

Purchase your tickets [here](#).

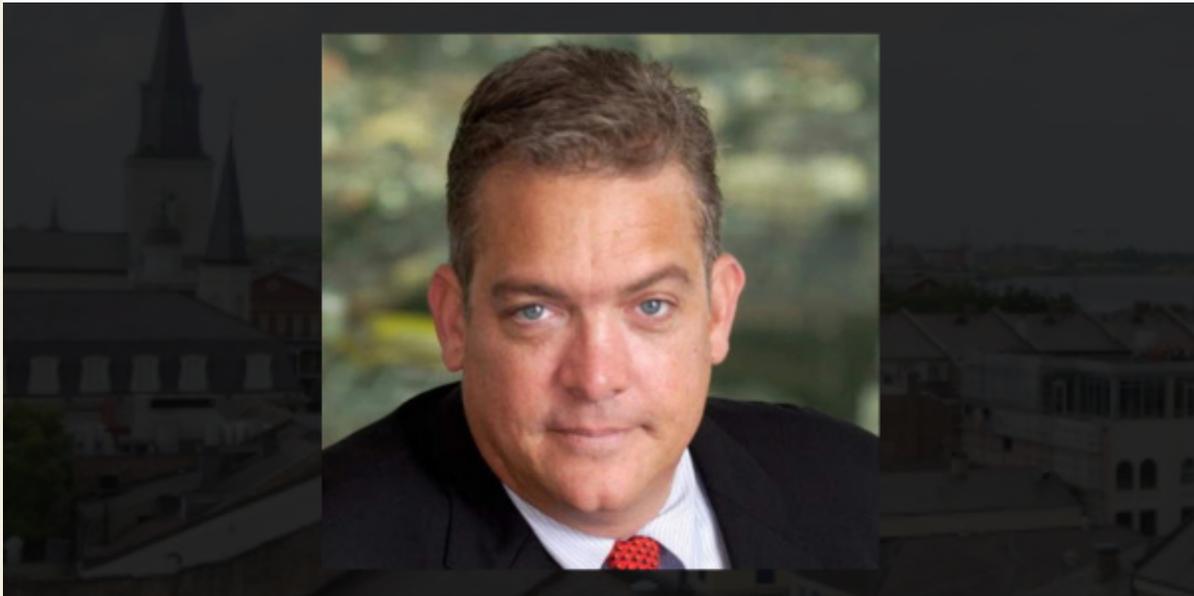


## 4th Fest in Crescent Park

We are happy to share that [4<sup>th</sup> Fest in Crescent Park](#) will take place this year. The event will take place **Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>** from **5:30 p.m. -9:30 p.m.** and will feature live music, food and beverage booths, and the Go 4<sup>th</sup> on the River fireworks display.

There will be entry guidelines to ensure public safety.

Click [here](#) for more information.



## Our Condolences – Stuart Smith

It is with sadness that the Board of VCPORA notes the passing of Stuart Smith, a pioneering environmental attorney and French Quarter homeowner.

Mr. Smith's full obituary can be read [here](#).

In 2011, Stuart received VCPORA's Eugenie Schwartz-Grace Gage Historic Preservation Award for his lifetime contribution as an advocate for the French Quarter. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his long-time partner, Barry Cooper, and his mother, Judy Smith.



## VCPORA's Documentary Project

### *Wasted: Overtourism and the French Quarter*

VCPORA, in partnership with filmmaker [Laura Cayouette](#), is producing a feature-length documentary film depicting the phenomenon of overtourism in the French Quarter leading up to the Coronavirus pandemic and exploring strategies to help shape a more sustainable path beyond the economic fallout.

***To finish this project, we need your help!***

To get Laura and her crew back into the editing and post-production room, we need funding. Thanks to a generous donation from VCPORA board member, **Dr. Travis Kenny**, your dollars will be matched, **1 for 1**, this summer. *That means your donation will count for double*, so please give now!

Please visit [our website](#) for more information on the film, including "[shorts](#)" or [5-minute concept clips](#), the people we have interviewed, our film team, and history of the project.

**Donate Now!**



## 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.

### Keep the Quarter Clean

The French Quarter Management District (FQMD) has launched its [Keep the Quarter Clean](#) Campaign, a public service message lead by their Livability Committee to highlight city sanitation laws and sanitation services contracted for citizens.

[View their handy sanitation services flier.](#)

The Keep the Quarter Clean campaign will build awareness by issuing window decals, car magnets and partnering with civic-minded non-profit partners to share the message through social media. We invite everyone to share this important information and submit their observations to Keep the Quarter Clean!

Sanitation opportunities can be reported by contacting the [nola311.org/service-request](http://nola311.org/service-request), or reporting directly to City's sanitation service provider, KBS/Empire via phone at 504-835-5551, or emailing [FQsanitation@kbs-services.com](mailto:FQsanitation@kbs-services.com).

Pick up your **free** decals and magnets at FQMD offices at [400 North Peters, Suite 206, NOLA 70130](#).

### Storm Ready from the Vieux Carré Foundation Commission

The Vieux Carré Commission Foundation wants to help make it as easy for you as possible to be ready. Together with the Vieux Carré Commission, they have created [an easy-to-read flyer](#) to help you both prepare before the storm arrives as well as guide you through the steps for caring for your property after the storm leaves.

You can find more information as well as the flyer [here](#).

### 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](mailto:cgmorton@nola.gov)

Isabella Renner  
Production Manager  
(504) 658-4355 (office)  
(504) 295-7734 (mobile)  
[isabella.renner@nola.gov](mailto: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](mailto:mayorcantrell@nola.gov)  
[Jonathan.Rhodes@nola.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Rhodes@nola.gov)  
[bdblock@nola.gov](mailto:bdblock@nola.gov)  
[erinholmes@vcpora.org](mailto: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

[Vieux Carré Virtual Library](#)  
[The Collins C. Diboll Vieux Carré Digital Survey](#)  
[Louisiana Digital Library](#)



**VCPOA 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

VCPOA | [816 N. Rampart St.](#) | New Orleans, LA 70116  
504-581-7200 | [www.vcpoara.org](http://www.vcpoara.org)





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