
VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, December 16, 2022

1 message

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VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, December 16, 2022

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VCPORA Office Closed for the Holidays

As we quickly approach the holiday season, we wanted to take a moment to remind everybody that **the VCPORA office will be closed from December 24, 2022 - January 1, 2023.** Staff will return on January 2, 2023.

The Board and Staff at VCPORA would like to wish you all **happy holidays!**

Thank you so much for your generous support and enthusiasm for protecting the French Quarter throughout 2022.



440 Bourbon Street - President's Message

One Positive Step for 440 Bourbon Street.

VCPOA and, more importantly, the French Quarter saw a positive step last week regarding the proposed renovation application for the historic building housing a bar at [440 Bourbon Street](#).

You may recall that preservationists from across the city and even the country vehemently objected when the New Orleans City Council voted 5-1 to overturn the Vieux Carré Commission's denial of an application for an inappropriate gallery on the building's entresol level.

The applicant now has a second VCC appeal before the City Council for a different aspect of the project.

In this case, the applicant wants to expand the brown-rated (brown rating means the building is of no historical or architectural importance) portion of the building's rear, facing St. Louis Street. The expanded area would be used for bar operations, but also for short-term rentals, which are allowed only in the French Quarter in the entertainment district zone (VCE) portion of Bourbon Street.

As was the case in the first appeal, the applicant's architect turned in only sketches and not architectural plans with sufficient detail for the citizen-members of the VCC Architectural Committee to make a decision. Unlike with the gallery application, in which the VCC voted to deny, in this case the VCC committee only deferred until it receives actual plans.

The applicant is now appealing the deferral. It is unprecedented for an applicant to appeal a deferral— instead of providing the requested information, after which an approval or denial is typically given.

VCPOA urged our District C and at-large City Councilmembers to encourage the applicant to finish going through the normal VCC process. After positive conversations with Councilmembers Freddie King III and Helena Moreno, a small meeting was hosted at City Hall by Mr. King, including the applicant, VCPOA representatives, and VCC Director Bryan Block.

After the discussion, the applicant did agree to go back to the VCC with architectural plans, in the hope of obtaining an approval there.

An advisor to the applicant, Chris Young, stressed that they would keep their appeal before the Council, in case they were not satisfied with the results of the VCC process. That said, the architect did say that he would try to compromise in the hope of obtaining approval.

To be clear, none of this would affect the earlier process involving the gallery for the front façade, but this is a step in the right direction for the rest of the project.

VCPOA wishes to thank the applicant, and especially Councilmembers King III and Moreno for their efforts to try to get the remaining part of this applicant's process back on the proper track.

Nathan Chapman,



Update: Madame John's Legacy

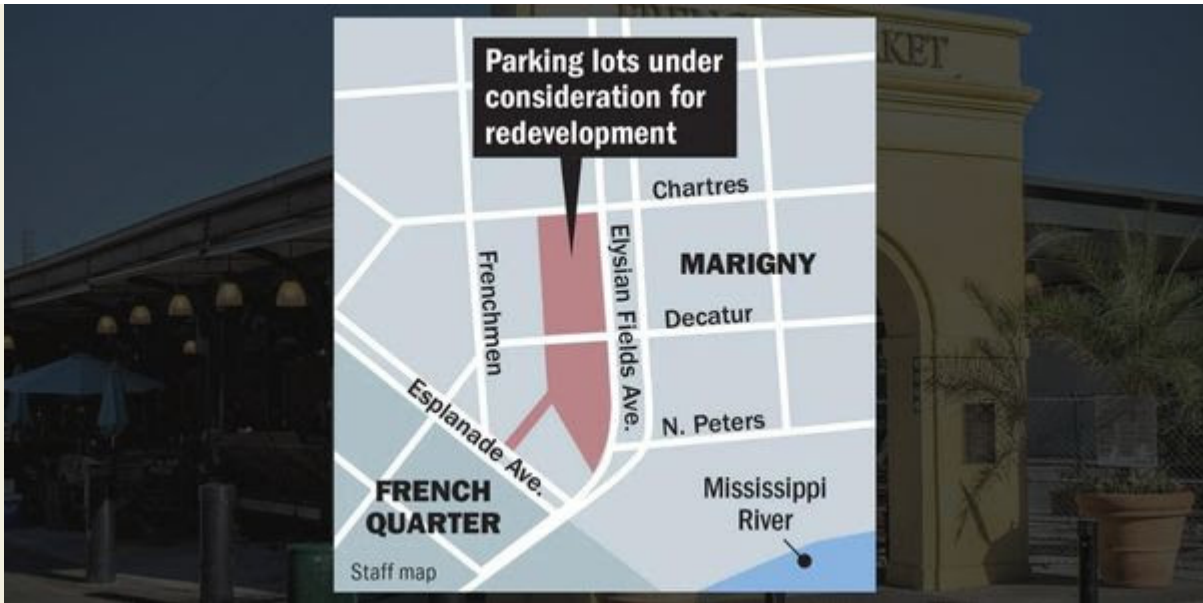
Last month, we [reported on](#) the ongoing work at Madame John's Legacy, [632 Dumaine Street](#), a National Historic Landmark owned by the State and [managed by the Louisiana State Museum](#) since the mid-20th century.

Built in 1788, just after the major fire of that year, it remains one of the best, if only, surviving examples of French Colonial architecture built during Spanish rule. According to a 1995 Times Picayune article, Dr. Eugene Cizek is quoted as saying, *"Of all the historic houses in New Orleans, this is the only one we have that really explains first-generation urban Creole architecture. It's important; this was the typical French Quarter house before the fire of 1788. It's the only example we have of what the Quarter looked like in the 18th century."*

Over the course of several VCC public hearings and a meeting organized by the Louisiana State Museum Foundation, local preservationists have continuously expressed their concerns, calling for a clear methodology for the restoration plan, a Historic Structures Report with analysis by a technical preservation expert, and advice from the State Historic Preservation Office.

On Monday, December 12, the Louisiana State Museum (LSM) convened to discuss the status of the work. Members from preservation organizations across the city attended to convince the board of the significant structures' needs. Read our coalition letter [here](#).

We are very happy to announce that the LSM voted to allocate \$50,000 to engage a historic preservation and technical expert to review the scope of work and current conditions. We are very thankful that the LSM has recognized the extreme care needed for this irreplaceable piece of Louisiana heritage.



French Market Co. Parking Lots

The [French Market Corporation](#) is looking to turn two surface parking lots at Elysian Fields Avenue and Decatur Street (see above) into a mixed-use, multi-level development that could house a parking garage with ground-floor retail tenants, a music venue, affordable housing units and community resources.

The public agency will solicit proposals in early 2023 from developers interested in partnering on the project.

Learn more [here](#).

District C Community Meetings

Topic:

**Police Superintendent
Replacement
Suggestions**

**Monday
December 19, 2022**

5:30 p.m.

**Charbonnet Funeral Home
1615 St. Phillip St, New Orleans, 70116**



Councilman Freddie King III

District C Community Meeting

The District C office of Councilmember Freddie King III recognizes the hard work and dedication that Chief Ferguson gave to the city of New Orleans and wish him a happy retirement.

With the retirement of Chief Ferguson, Councilmember King II believes it is only right to hear directly from the residents of District C about who should hold the title of “Top Cop” in our city. His office has called two community meetings, one on the East bank, and another on the West Bank to hear directly from the people of this district.

Join us on **Monday, December 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.** in the **Charbonnet Funeral Home (1615 St. Phillip Street)** to learn more.



Holiday At Home in the Vieux Carré Recap Thank you!

Thank you to everybody who joined us last Friday for our holiday extravaganza [At Home in the Vieux Carré at 600 Ursulines Avenue!](#)

There were bubbles, mermaids in the (heated) pool, a mermaid on stilts, multiple burlesque performances, and elves serving up glasses of champagne! Don't forget the tasty treats compliments of [Croissant D'Or](#).

A special thanks to our host, James Douglas Hislop, for opening his lovely home and hosting such a fabulous holiday party!

Missed the chance to see this gorgeous property? Don't fret because James Douglas Hislop's house is on the map for the [Patio Planters Holiday Home Tour](#) on Sunday, December 18, 2022.

Read more [here](#).



Events Happening This Weekend

Patio Planters Holiday Home Tour

Sunday, December 18, 2022

12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Savor the holiday spirit as [Patio Planters of the Vieux Carré](#) presents **French Quarter residences dressed for the season on December 18, 2022**. This December fundraiser is a prelude to the highly anticipated Caroling in Jackson Square later in the evening. The [self-guided walking tour](#) includes interesting architectural styles and home furnishings, as well as a variety of collections of Christmas decorations.

French Quarter residents will open their homes for the **self-guided walking tour** between **12:00 PM and 4:00 PM**. Online tickets are \$30 each (children 12 and under are free.) Tickets purchased the day of the event in person are \$35 each, cash only.

Pickup of tickets purchased online and day-of tour ticket purchases will take place in the alcove of The Cabildo (701 Chartres) from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 18th. *Please note: There is a limited number of tickets to minimize disruption in the homes.*

Learn more [here](#).



(Events Happening This Weekend Cont.)

Caroling in Jackson Square

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Jackson Squarer

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Patio Planters of the Vieux Carré are pleased to bring the beloved **Caroling in Jackson Square** back **Sunday, December 18 from 7 - 8 p.m.**

The free community sing along, a French Quarter tradition since 1946, will gather thousands of visitors and locals alike together for a festive hour of holiday merriment, with carols led by local dignitaries and clergy, along with other special guests.

Gates open at 6:30 p.m. with Patio Planters volunteers stationed there to distribute complimentary song books and candles to participants in the non-denominational community celebration.

Caroling in Jackson Square may be viewed virtually on [Nola.com](https://www.nola.com) or via live streaming on the Patio Planters [website](#) where songbooks are also available. The event will also be available for viewing after Dec. 18 on WLAE via Cox Ch. 1014, Spectrum Ch. 711, Satellite Ch. 32, AT&T U-Verse Ch. 1032, and Over the Air Ch. 32.1.

Read more [here](#).



Amazon Smile

As you gear up for the holiday shopping, please consider using Amazon Smile this year! When you make a purchase through Amazon Smile, Amazon donates back to charitable organizations, including VCPORA.

Use the link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-2078940> and Amazon will take you directly to Amazon Smile in support of VCPORA.

Thank you so much for your continued support of VCPORA and the French Quarter!



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, or reporting directly to City's sanitation service provider, KBS/Empire via phone at 504-835-5551, or emailing 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 Commission Foundation

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

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
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

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



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



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