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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron is April 11-14 2019 event brings musical and culinary debuts plus a new stage!**

(January 29, 2019) New Orleans, LA - The non-profit French Quarter Festivals, Inc. (FQFI) proudly announces details about the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron. The free festival takes place **April 11-14, 2019**. Billed as the world's largest showcase of Louisiana music, food, and culture, French Quarter Festival will bring regional cuisine from more than 60 local restaurants, 1,700+ Louisiana musicians on 23 stages, and special events that showcase New Orleans' diverse, unique culture.

"Our mission is to promote New Orleans' culture and heritage, and this year we have more ways to achieve it," said Emily Madero, President & CEO of FQFI. "Our Chevron Evening Concert Series will showcase more genres with artists like George Porter, Jr., and a new stage on the Moonwalk will expand riverfront entertainment. If you're looking for a VIP experience, our membership program, Fest Family, now includes single day options and gives attendees a way to directly support our free event!"

Here is what to expect in 2019:

### **More than 1,700 Artists on 23 Stages Galactic, George Porter, Jr., and a new Riverfront Stage Expanded Chevron Evening Concert Series Brings More Headliners**

French Quarter Festival is consistently voted 'local favorite' while attracting a tremendous out-of-town audience. The appeal is the authenticity: attendees experience a broad range of Louisiana artists from several genres. In 2019 the free festival will feature music from more than 250 acts on 23 stages throughout the historic French Quarter, including 42 new acts. Those making debuts include Galactic, Big 6 Brass Band, Keith Burnstein's Kettle Black, Lil' Glenn & Backatown, and Magnolia Sisters. In addition, musicians whose performances were cancelled due to inclement weather during the 2018 event were rebooked whenever possible.

Returning favorites include John Boutté, Erica Falls, Little Freddie King, Amanda Shaw, Bill Summers & Jazalsa, Irma Thomas, Water Seed, and hundreds more. Attendees can experience Louisiana legends in the streets of the Quarter each night of festival, thanks to the expanded Chevron Evening Concert Series. The Chevron Stage, a longtime Cajun/Zydeco destination, will feature more genres nightly, in addition their Cajun/Zydeco lineup; the Evening Concert Series includes Jon Cleary, George Porter, Jr. & the Runnin' Parners, Flow Tribe, and Rockin' Dopsie. In Jackson Square, the **Hilton Stage** returns with an all-star lineup of New Orleans' most respected artists and culture-bearers including Ellis Marsalis, John Boutté, Leroy Jones, Shannon Powell, Robin Barnes, and James Andrews. The riverfront **Abita Beer Stage** brings four days of music including Rebirth Brass Band, The Iguanas, and Walter "Wolfman" Washington and the Roadmasters. The **GE Stage** returns with every genre from Funk to Gospel; artists include Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band, Corey Henry & the Treme Funktet, and Paul Sanchez and the Rolling Road Show. Artists on the **Jack Daniel's Stage** include Brass-A-Holics, Lena Prima, and Rory Danger & the Danger Dangers. At the **Tropical Isle Stage**, the lineup includes a Sunday morning Gospel performance from Betty Winn and One-A-Chord. At the Jazz Museum at the Mint, brass bands will be featured Friday-Sunday on the **Louisiana Fish Fry Stage**, and the **WWL-TV Stage** brings three days of music from crowd favorites like Benny Grunch and the Bunch, Creole String Beans, and Margie Perez.

A new venue, the **Pan-American Life Insurance Group Stage** will bring music to the newly renovated Moonwalk on Saturday and Sunday. Artists include Helen Gillet & Wazozo, Jason Marsalis 21st Century Trad Band, and Tom McDermott and His Jazz Hellions.

French Quarter Festival also welcomes additional new stage sponsors **Hancock Whitney, Dorignac's Food Center, and Dow Chemical**. A complete lineup can be found at [frenchquarterfest.org](http://frenchquarterfest.org).

## **More Ways to VIP!** ***Fest Family Experience Offers New Perks***

In 2018, FQFI gave fans seeking a special way to enjoy French Quarter Festival or entertain guests a new VIP option: the NOLA.com Fest Family Experience. This year, the program will offer four-day weekend passes for \$375 or single day passes for \$99. Fest Family members will enjoy two **elevated viewing stands near the riverfront Abita Beer Stage and GE Stage, a hospitality lounge at the the Jack Daniel's Stage, private bars and/or option to redeem complimentary beverages at all festival beverage locations, catered "fest bites", chair massages, phone charging stations, meet and greets with special guests, air-conditioned restrooms, memorabilia, exclusive programming, Satchmo SummerFest tickets, and more.** The VIP benefits will be available all four days of the event. A limited number of memberships are available and help fund the free, local event. Become a member and support the fest at [frenchquarterfest.org](http://frenchquarterfest.org).

## **Annual Gala Fundraiser** ***An Evening with Nicholas Payton at The Fillmore New Orleans***

French Quarter Fest kicks off the celebration nearly a month early, on March 22, 2019, with its annual gala fundraiser at New Orleans' dazzling new venue, The Fillmore New Orleans. The hip, state-of-the-art venue, decked out with signature Fillmore nostalgia alongside aesthetic nods to NOLA, will open its doors to FQFI a month after its mid-Feb grand opening. All gala guests will experience a night with *Grammy*-winning trumpeter Nicholas Payton, full open bar, dinner, and a silent auction. Widely considered one of the greatest artists of our time, Payton began his career at the age of ten. His latest project, *Afro Caribbean Mixtape*, fuses the traditions of New Orleans with modern jazz, hip-hop, mixtape, and spoken-word. A Tribe Called Gumbolia will also bring Mardi Gras Indian drumming to the event. Honorary co-chairs are Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Chevron's Gulf of Mexico Vice President Mark Hatfield, and Irma Thomas.

The gala serves as a fundraiser for the non-profit French Quarter Festivals, Inc. and provides fans with a direct way to support the organization. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased online at [fqfi.org](http://fqfi.org). Gala tickets are \$150 or fans can upgrade their experience by purchasing VIP Patron tickets for \$250. In addition to single tickets, tables are available for local businesses and team leaders who want a way to support the free French Quarter Festival and provide employees or important clients with an unforgettable VIP experience.

## **Ayo Scott is Official Poster Artist** ***Irma Thomas to be Featured***

Ayo Scott has been selected as the 2019 French Quarter Festivals, Inc. artist; he will paint both the French Quarter Festival and Satchmo SummerFest posters. A native New Orleanian, Scott graduated from Xavier University in 2003 and attended graduate school at The Institute of Design in Chicago. Immediately after Hurricane Katrina, he returned home to help the city rebuild. During that time, he started NOYO Designs Inc. and began to evolve from commercial graphic design work to making his own art. "It is my profound honor to be chosen as the official poster artist for this year's French Quarter Festival and have the chance to pay tribute to a musical legacy," said Scott.

The 2019 poster features a portrait of Soul Queen of New Orleans and regular Festival headliner, Irma Thomas. In the background are the Mississippi River and a glimpse of the Woldenberg Park sculpture, Ocean Song, a nod to the artist's father, John T Scott, and tie in to the event as the sculpture is prominently featured on the festival grounds. "French Quarter Fest has done a lot to keep local and regional artists' careers alive, and I am honored to be on this year's poster," said Irma Thomas.



## **Festival Focus on Access and Sustainability** *Recycling, Reusable Cups, and ADA Info to be Available*

Festival organizers are thrilled to announce a program that will allow attendees to recycle plastics and cans at French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron. Clearly marked receptacles donated by Pepsi will be placed throughout the grounds and entry-points, and reusable souvenir cups will be available for purchase at festival beverage booths. This initiative is part of FQFI's goal to reduce waste and contribute to a sustainable future. "French Quarter Festivals, Inc. is striving to be a Louisiana leader in waste reduction; it's important to our long-term success and aligns with our mission to instill increased pride in our community," said Emily Madero, President & CEO of FQFI. "Last year we introduced recycling at Satchmo SummerFest and diverted 1.4 tons of waste from landfills. We are thrilled to expand that effort at French Quarter Festival." The organization is currently seeking a sponsor for the program and welcomes businesses who share FQFI's vision for a greener New Orleans to join the initiative.

The 2019 French Quarter Festival will also focus on improved access to make the event more inclusive. A new partnership with KultureCity will bring a Sensory Inclusive Program to the event, designed to help guests with sensory needs like autism, PTSD, and more. The center will be staffed with professionals and work in tandem with the new ADA Info Booth and Services sponsored by Aetna Better Health of Louisiana. By implementing these new programs, FQFI aims to help ensure an enjoyable and safe festival experience for all.

## **Culinary Lineup includes 60+ Restaurants** *New Vendors and Iconic Dishes*

New Orleans is arguably the country's culinary capital, with recipes that define its diverse culture and heritage. French Quarter Festival's Culinary Lineup, sponsored by Broussard's Restaurant and Courtyard, offers attendees the opportunity to sample the most famous, can't-miss dishes in the city. The culinary lineup includes decadent traditional options like Cochon de Lait Po-boys, Crabmeat-stuffed Chargrilled Oysters, and Baked Alaska, as well as contemporary and fresh healthy choices. This year FQFI welcomes culinary debuts Café Maspero, Landry's Seafood, Messina's at the Terminal, Morrow's, New Orleans School of Cooking, Sweet Handkraft, and We Dat's Chicken and Shrimp. In addition to the debuts, returning favorites include Antoine's, Café Dauphine, Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse, GW Fins, and Tujague's. Abita Beer returns as a major sponsor of the festival; this year the local brewing company brings favorites including Amber, The Boot (a Louisiana exclusive), Strawberry, and Purple Haze. Other beverage debuts include Sonoma-Cutrer Rosé, Korbel Brut Rosé, and Jack Daniel's Tennessee Rye. Bubby will also return as a non-alcoholic option with new flavors. The complete culinary lineup is available at frenchquarterfest.org.

## **Special Events, Programs, and Festival Extras** *Celebrating Louisiana Culture*

- **French Quarter Festival Second-Line Kickoff Parade** will take place Thursday, April 11 at 10 a.m. The parade departs from the 100 block of Bourbon Street and makes its way to Jackson Square.
- **The Jones Walker Let Them Talk Stage** will return to French Quarter Festival featuring conversations with festival artists at the Jazz Museum at the Mint, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Auditorium on Saturday and Sunday at festival (April 13 and 14).
- **Dance Lessons, Dancing at Dusk, and a children's area, the Chevron Children's STEM Zone**, are beloved special events that all return for the 2019 French Quarter Festival.

## **Sponsors Help To Keep** **French Quarter Fest a True Community Event** *Chevron returns as Presenting Sponsor of French Quarter Festival* *and Satchmo SummerFest*

French Quarter Festivals, Inc. is proud of its 36 year history of providing high-quality community events that are accessible to all. In order to keep the festival free and open to the public, the organization relies heavily on the contributions of sponsors and partners as well as beverage and merchandise sales. Festival organizers welcome the return of **Chevron as Presenting Sponsor of both French Quarter Festival and Satchmo SummerFest.** "Chevron is committed to the communities in which we live and work which is why we are excited to return as presenting sponsor of the 36th annual French Quarter Festival," said Leah Brown Public Affairs Manager,

Chevron Gulf of Mexico. "Chevron invests in local arts and culture to inspire people and fuel the social and economic vitality of New Orleans and Louisiana. We're looking forward to once again celebrating our area's special music, cuisine and community."

Additional sponsors include: Abita Brewing Company, Aetna Better Health of Louisiana, Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc., Badine Land Limited, Bayou Rum, Brown-Forman, The Berger Company, Blue Bikes, Broussard's Restaurant and Courtyard, Bond Moroch, Bubby, Crescent Crown Distributing, Cumulus New Orleans, Data News Weekly, The Derbes Foundation, Dorignac's Food Center, Dow Chemical, DownBeat Magazine, The Fillmore New Orleans, French Market Corporation, French Market Cold Brew, Friend of Fest, Finlandia, GE, Hancock Whitney, The Helis Foundation, Hilton, House of Blues, I.T.S. Fire Alarm Security, Jack Daniel's, Jones Walker, KKAY, Korbel, KREWE, Landry's Seafood House, Laurel Outdoors, LeafFilter, Louisiana Cookin', Louisiana Division of the Arts, Louisiana Fish Fry, Louisiana Lottery Corporation, Louisiana State Museum, Luzianne Iced Tea, McLoughlin Family Foundation, National Park Service, New Orleans Public Belt, New Orleans School of Cooking, New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, NOLA Media Group, OffBeat Magazine, Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, Pepsi, Pan American Life Insurance Group, Park First, Pat O'Brien's, Patrick Gros, Port of New Orleans, Porter Lyons, The Plant Gallery, Reily Foods, Renaissance Publishing, Republic National Distributing Company, Royal Sonesta, Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, Sonoma-Cutrer, Steamboat NATCHEZ, Taste of the South, Tequila Herradura, The Vinyl District, Touro, Tropical Isle, Westin New Orleans Canal Place, WHERE Magazine, Where Y'at Magazine, Windsor Court Hotel, WWL-TV, WWNO 89.9 FM, WRNO 99.5, WYLD, and Zapp's Potato Chips.

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**French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron** is produced by French Quarter Festivals, Inc., (FQFI) the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, which also produces **Satchmo SummerFest presented by Chevron** in August and **Christmas New Orleans Style** in December. FQFI's mission is to promote the Vieux Carré and the City of New Orleans through high quality special events and activities that showcase the culture and heritage of this unique city, contribute to the economic well-being of the community, and instill increased pride in the people of New Orleans. For more information about French Quarter Festivals, Inc. or any of these events, call (504) 522-5730 or visit [www.fqfi.org](http://www.fqfi.org).