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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron Brings Live Music, Arts, Culture to New Orleans' Oldest Neighborhood April 16-19

Largest Free Festival Featuring Louisiana Music & Culture to Showcase 1700+ Musicians

New Orleans (Feb 4, 2020)—The non-profit French Quarter Festivals, Inc. (FQFI) is excited to announce details of the 37th Annual [French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron](#). The largest free festival and showcase of Louisiana music, food, and culture, French Quarter Festival takes place **April 16–19** across venues and stages in the French Quarter neighborhood. This year's festival will bring regional cuisine from more than 60 local restaurants, 1,700+ Louisiana musicians on 25 stages, and special events that celebrate New Orleans' diverse, unique culture. The festival will operate from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. each day of the event.

“As a nonprofit committed to celebrating New Orleans' musical heritage we're proud to welcome our community and guests to the French Quarter,” said Emily Madero, President & CEO of FQFI. “Part of what makes French Quarter Fest so special is that there are no fences or fees -- we produce this festival in a public neighborhood open for all to enjoy. There's really no other festival like it, especially in a city full of celebrations.”

More than 300 Performances on 25 Stages

Over 30 debuts including Loose Cattle, Rickie Lee Jones, and Givers

In 2019, French Quarter Festival was once again voted a '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 2020, festival organizers have curated more than 300 acts across 25 stages throughout the historic French Quarter. Artists range from legends like Little Freddie King to emerging artists such as the Trombone Shorty Foundation Brass Band, and the lineup includes over 30 new acts. Artists making their debut include Loose Cattle (led by Tony Award®-winner Michael Cerveris), Rickie Lee Jones, Givers, and Gumbeaux Juice Feat. Ray Wimley & the Harbinger Project, Erika Flowers, & DJ Nesby Phips + more.

Returning favorites include Tank and the Bangas, John Boutté, Amanda Shaw, Bill Summers & Jazalsa, Chubby Carrier, and hundreds more. Attendees can experience Louisiana legends in the streets of the Quarter each night of festival, thanks to the **Chevron Evening Concert Series**, which returns in 2020 with Irma Thomas, Hot 8 Brass Band, Big Sam's Funky Nation, and Rockin' Dopsie, Jr. In Jackson Square, the **Hilton Stage** returns with an all-star lineup of New Orleans' most respected artists and culture-bearers including Ellis Marsalis, Leroy Jones, Shannon Powell, Robin Barnes, and James Andrews. The riverfront **Abita Beer Stage** brings four days of music including Sweet Crude, Rebirth Brass Band, and Walter "Wolfman" Washington and the Roadmasters. The **GE Stage** returns with every genre from Americana to Latin; artists include Bon Bon Vivant, Cole Williams Band, Flow Tribe, and debut FERMÍN & Merengue4-FOUR. Artists on the **Jack Daniel's Stage** include Alfred Banks, Erica Falls, and Valerie Sassyfras. At the **Tropical Isle Hand Grenade Stage**, the lineup includes a Sunday morning Gospel performance from debut Zulu Gospel Choir. At the Jazz Museum at the Mint, brass bands will be featured Friday-Sunday on the **Louisiana Fish Fry Stage**, and the **WWL-TV Esplanade in the Shade Stage** brings three days of music from crowd favorites like Tin Men and Sarah Quintana. The festival brings more music to the French Quarter neighborhood with the **Café Beignet Stage at Musical Legends Park** at 300 Bourbon and an additional evening set at the **French Market Corporation Traditional Jazz Stage**.

Festival organizers will also debut the **Louisiana History and Culture Stage at Le Petit Theatre** which will showcase local historians and culture-bearers on Saturday and Sunday of the event. The debut stage is a collaboration with partners that include Historic New Orleans Collection, New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Mint, Backstreet Cultural Museum, and the New Orleans African-American

Museum. Internationally known public radio program “American Routes” will interview festival artists at the Jazz Museum at the Mint’s 3rd Floor Auditorium on Saturday and Sunday at festival. The **Broussard’s Interview Stage with American Routes**, hosted by Nick Spitzer, will allow fans to participate in the tapings, which will be repurposed for multiple episodes of “American Routes” that will air throughout the year.

The complete schedule will be released late March. The festival app, developed by GE, has been updated in preparation for the March release; app users can download the most recent update now. ****Find the music lineup at frenchquarterfest.org.****

Molly McGuire is Official Poster Artist

Artist Molly McGuire, known professionally as [Magwire](#), is the 2020 French Quarter Festivals, Inc. artist, painting both the French Quarter Festival and Satchmo SummerFest posters. Molly found herself drawn to New Orleans after spending 20 years on the road performing with a rock band. Inspired by carnival and amusement park culture, Molly centers her art on creating circus-style banners. “The food, people, architecture, history, and diverse culture of New Orleans instill an overwhelming sense of inspiration that I really do not feel anywhere else. The themes of my paintings are based on local legends, southern culture, folklore and mythology. New Orleans provides me with an abundance of ideas - I am never at a loss for subject matter,” said McGuire.

Annual Gala Fundraiser March 6

A Prelude to Fest with Rebirth Brass Band & Sweet Crude at The Fillmore New Orleans

French Quarter Fest kicks off the 2020 festival season on Friday, March 6, 2020, with its annual gala fundraiser at New Orleans’ state-of-the-art entertainment venue, The Fillmore New Orleans. Evan Christopher and David Torkanowsky will perform at the 7 p.m. patron party that precedes the gala. Gala guests will experience a night with New Orleans’ bilingual pop band [Sweet Crude](#) and Grammy-winning [Rebirth Brass Band](#). Sweet Crude’s unique style of French and English lyrics are punctuated with pop-rock tunes from the six-piece band, and no band exemplifies the essence and soul of New Orleans like Rebirth Brass Band. The gala will feature a full open bar, dinner, and a silent auction. The night’s entertainment is a prelude to the full suite of Louisiana music at the festival.

2020 honorees include musician Walter “Wolfman” Washington, OffBeat Magazine publisher Jan Ramsey, and Vance Vaucresson of Vaucresson’s Sausage. French Quarter Festivals, Inc. will also honor the late Earl Bernhardt and Tropical Isle for years of support and commitment to the French Quarter community.

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 <http://frenchquarterfest.org/gala/>. Gala tickets are \$155 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.

New Partnership with Trombone Shorty Foundation

Festival to Support Youth Education

FQFI is passionate about supporting young musical artists and music business education. In 2018, the organization unveiled a new initiative, Ernie’s Schoolhouse Stage, to give young artists the opportunity to perform at French Quarter Festival; the stage continues to be a festival focal point. In 2020, FQFI is proud to introduce a new initiative focused on providing hands-on professional experience for young people interested in the music industry. The festival will be providing apprenticeships through the Music Forward Foundation and the Trombone Shorty Foundation. The Trombone Shorty Foundation strives to instill an understanding of the importance of New Orleans musical culture in the next generation of local musicians- empowering them to play it forward. The Trombone Shorty Foundation Band will debut at French Quarter Festival 2020 on the Ernie’s Schoolhouse Stage and behind the scenes, students will assist production crews and learn skills that will help pursue industry careers.

Culinary Lineup includes 60+ Vendors

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, recently earned recognition as one of America’s top

food festivals by Yelp. The lineup offers attendees the opportunity to sample the most famous, can't-miss dishes in the city. The 2020 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 Tommy's Cuisine with a Meatball Parmigiana Sandwich, Fried Calamari with Lemon Aioli, and Chocolate Chip Cannoli and Maggie's Back Porch Café, bringing Grilled Chicken Livers and introducing Barbecue Rib Tips. Other returning favorites include Antoine's, Café Dauphine, Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse, GW Fins – debuting Gulf Fish Tacos-, and Tujague's. Abita Beer returns as a major sponsor of the festival; this year the local brewing company brings favorites including Amber, Light, and Strawberry. A Dole Lemonade booth will debut near the Chevron Children's STEM Zone at the Natchez Wharf, and the new Tequila Herradura Margarita Bar, an outdoor cantina, will debut near the Jack Daniel's Stage in the JAX Brewery parking lot. Other beverage debuts include Jack Daniel's Tennessee Apple and Lime Bubly. The complete culinary lineup is available at frenchquarterfest.org.

Special Events, Programs, and Festival Extras

- **French Quarter Festival Second-Line Kickoff Parade** will take place Thursday, April 16 at 10 a.m. The parade departs from the 100 block of Bourbon Street and makes its way to Jackson Square.
- **Free dance lessons sponsored by the French Market Corporation, Dancing at Dusk, and a children's area, the Chevron Children's STEM Zone**, are beloved special events that all return for the 2020 festival.
- **Harrah's New Orleans** will host the official French Quarter Festival after-party with the Stooges Brass Band on Friday, April 17.

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 37-year history of providing high-quality community events that welcome locals and guests. 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**. "Our commitment to French Quarter Festival is an opportunity for Chevron to further invest in the arts, culture and economic development of Louisiana" said Leah Brown Public Affairs Manager, Chevron Gulf of Mexico. "The hope is that this investment will continue to inspire residents and visitors to celebrate diversity, support education, and volunteer – fueling Louisiana's social and economic vitality."

Additional sponsors include: Abita Brewing Company, Academy Sports+Outdoors, Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc., Advocate-Times Picayune, Badine Land Limited, Bayou Rum, Sal Borelli, Brown-Forman, The Berger Company, Broussard's Restaurant & Courtyard, Bond Moroch, Café Beignet, Chevrolet, Clarion Herald, Crescent Crown Distributing, Cumulus New Orleans, Data News Weekly, The Derbes Foundation, Dorignac's Food Center, Double Dealer, DownBeat Magazine, The Fillmore New Orleans, The Finance Authority of New Orleans, French Market Corporation, French Market Cold Brew, Friend of Fest, Finlandia, GE, Gootee Construction, Inc. Hancock Whitney, Harrah's New Orleans, The Helis Foundation, Hilton, House of Blues, I.T.S. Fire Alarm Security, Jack Daniel's, Jazz Museum at the Mint, Jones Walker, Robert and Vinita Karatsu, Andrew and Rebecca Kelly, Korbel, KREWE, LeafFilter, Louisiana Cookin', Louisiana Division of the Arts, Louisiana Fish Fry, Louisiana Lottery Corporation, Luzianne Iced Tea, McLoughlin Family Foundation, Morris Bart, LLC., Mr. Joseph Smith & Family, Music Performance Trust Fund, New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, New Orleans Marriott and Sheraton New Orleans Hotels, New Orleans Public Belt, New Orleans School of Cooking, NOLA Counts! Be in that Number, OffBeat Magazine, Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, Pepsi, Pan-American Life Insurance Group, Park First, Pat O'Brien's, Patrick Gros, Port of New Orleans, The Plant Gallery, Reily Foods, Renaissance Publishing, Republic National Distributing Company, RiverBeats, Royal Sonesta New Orleans, Smoke-Free NOLA, Sonoma-Cutrer, Sound Management Group, Steamboat NATCHEZ, Taste of the South, Tequila Herradura, Touro, The Vinyl District, Tropical Isle, Westin New Orleans Canal Place, Where Traveler, Where Y'at Magazine, Windsor Court Hotel, WGSO, WWOZ, WWL-TV, WWL-AM, WWNO, YPO Orange County, Zapp's Potato Chips, and 64 Parishes.

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 **Holidays 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. The 2019 French Quarter Festival generated an economic impact of nearly \$200M. For more information about French Quarter Festivals, Inc. or any of these events, call (504) 522-5730 or visit <http://www.fqfi.org>.