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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron Celebrates 40th Anniversary, April 13-16

50+ Music Debuts, 60 Culinary Experiences, Fireworks, a Parade, and more!

*Check out the [FQF '23 Digital Press Kit](#) with Current Lineup &
Livestream our Press Conference at 10am on January 31 on [Facebook](#) or on [WWL-TV](#)*

New Orleans (Jan 31, 2023)—The non-profit French Quarter Festivals, Inc. (FQFI) is proud to announce the 40th anniversary of French Quarter Festival. [French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron](#), the largest free festival and showcase of Louisiana music, food, and culture, takes place **April 13-16** across venues and stages throughout the French Quarter neighborhood. This year's festival invites locals and visitors to join an unforgettable culinary adventure featuring regional cuisine from more than 60 local restaurants, dance to the beat of 270+ performances from talented musicians on 20 stages, including more than 50 debut acts, and enjoy special events and activities that celebrate this unique city. The four-day festival will operate from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. each day of the event.

What began as an open call to local musicians to perform on six stages on Royal Street and Bourbon Street, has expanded into a celebrated annual event that welcomes over 825,000 people and is a critical economic driver for the city of New Orleans. To celebrate this milestone year, festival organizers are planning a special opening day lineup which will kick off with a festive parade featuring brass bands and festival mascots and will culminate with a fireworks display over the Mississippi River following the performance by the one and only Irma Thomas, Soul Queen of New Orleans. "It is an honor to be a part of such a wonderful organization that has stood the test of time," said **Emily Madero, President & CEO of FQFI**. "FQFI is proud to say we have stayed committed to our mission for four decades, providing a platform for local artists, chefs, and restaurants to showcase their talents. And for our fans, we are even more excited to offer an authentic and memorable experience April 13-16, we invite the whole family to help us make history for our 40th-year milestone."

Festival organizers welcome the return of **Chevron** as **Presenting Sponsor of the Festival**. “Chevron is proud to once again serve as the presenting sponsor of French Quarter Festival and looks forward to celebrating the event’s 40th anniversary,” **said Chevron Gulf of Mexico Public Affairs Manager Leah Brown**. “Over the last four decades, the festival has made countless positive contributions to the community as it showcases Louisiana’s unique music, culture, and cuisine. We thank the French Quarter Festival team for our long-standing partnership and congratulate them on achieving this significant milestone!”

“Continuing the amazing comeback year we had in 2022, I am excited for the return of this year’s landmark 40th Anniversary of French Quarter Festival, which continues to be the largest showcase of Louisiana music in the world,” **said New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell**. “I have always been committed to celebrating and enhancing the rich culture of New Orleans and will ensure that we continue to support our local culture-bearers who have helped make New Orleans a world-class city. This official kick-off to the New Orleans Festival Season is just on the heels of what we expect to be a wonderful Carnival Season. I look forward to celebrating our wonderful traditions, rich heritage, and unique culture that resonate with people across the globe.”

More than 270 Performances on 20 Stages

50+ debuts including The Soul Rebels ft. Big Freedia, Ani DiFranco, and Samantha Fish

The talent and sounds of hundreds of musicians, representing more than 30 varieties of music, will be heard throughout the French Quarter neighborhood for four glorious days. In 2023, festival organizers will curate 270+ acts, including more than 50 debuts, across 20 stages throughout the historic French Quarter.



Artists making their debut include **Ani DiFranco, Flagboy Giz and the Wild Tchoupitoulas, Iceman Special, Dee1, Los Güiros, Jason Neville Funky Soul Band, GRAMMY® Award-winning Michael Doucet & Lacher Prise, LeTrainiump**, and more. FQFI is also excited to announce a special featured performance by **the Soul Rebels Ft. GRAMMY® nominated Big Freedia**. Big Freedia received a 2023 GRAMMY® nomination for collaborations with Beyoncé for Album of the Year and returns to television this summer with Big Freedia: Queen of Bounce on Fuse TV. Returning favorites include **Tank and the Bangas, John Boutté, Sweet Crude, Robin Barnes and the Fiyabirds, Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band**, 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 2023 with **Rockin' Dopsie Jr. & the Zydeco Twisters, Big Chief Monk Boudreaux and the Golden Eagles, Louisiana's LeRoux, and Erica Falls** at the **Chevron Stage** in the Jax Brewery Lot.

The **GE Stage** housed in Jackson Square returns with an all-star lineup of New Orleans' most respected artists and culture-bearers including **Delfeayo Marsalis & the Uptown Jazz Orchestra, Charmaine Neville, and James Andrews**. The riverfront **Abita Beer Stage** brings four days of music including **Shamar Allen, and Flow Tribe**. Artists on the **Jack Daniel's Stage** on Canal Plaza include **Rebirth Brass Band**, the debut of **Grace Gibson**, and the return of the hip-hop set **Gumbeaux Juice**. At the **Tropical Isle Hand Grenade Stage**, the lineup features acts such as **Lisa Amos the Honey Island Swamp Band, and The Pan-American Life Insurance Group Stage**

helps to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Fest by adding an additional day of music to the stage on Friday, where you can hear from great talents like **Papo y Son Mandao** and more.

At the New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint, brass bands will be featured Friday-Sunday on the **Louisiana Fish Fry Stage**, and the **WWL-TV Esplanade in the Shade Stage** outdoors brings three days of music from crowd favorites like **Joy Clark** and **Bon Bon Vivant**. Fans can also relax and enjoy entertainment inside the museum on the third floor at the **Songwriter Stage**.

The festival brings more New Orleans Jazz to the French Quarter neighborhood with the **French Market Traditional Jazz Stage** and **Dutch Alley Stage** located in the French Market District, the **Café Beignet Stage at Musical Legends Park**, and **Jazz Playhouse at the Royal Sonesta New Orleans**, both at 300 Bourbon and multiple street stages along Bourbon and Royal Streets.

The complete schedule will be released in early March. The festival app will be updated in preparation for the March release. ****Find the music lineup at frenchquarterfest.org.****

Culinary Lineup includes 60+ Vendors

Some come for the food, and stay for the music! Undoubtedly, the Fest's long list of menu items has been creating its own fans for 40 years. The four-day event is home to 60 vendors, across six food sites. The 2023 French Quarter Festival Culinary Lineup, sponsored by **Broussard's Restaurant & Courtyard**, returns with no shortage of flavor serving up New Orleans' classics and modern dishes from local restaurants and chefs.

This year's lineup includes decadent options like the Shrimp and Alligator Sausage Cheesecake and Slow Roasted Duck Po-Boy from **Jacques-Imo's**, **Crabby Jack's** Rabbit Jambalaya, Crawfish Enchiladas with Green Chili Meat Sauce from **Voleo's** and Mexican Style Street Corn and the award-winning Fried Chicken Sandwich from **Southerns**.

FQFI welcomes **Boulevard**, serving up the Boulevard Oysters with Crispy Gulf Oysters, Cream Spinach, and Crystal Aioli in their debut year. Other returning favorites include **Addis Nola**, **Walker's Southern Style BBQ**, **Patton's**, **Morrow's**, and **Ajun Cajun**. **Vaucresson's Sausage Co.**, which has been a part of the French Quarter Festival journey since 1984 also returns to the lineup.

Abita Beer returns as a major sponsor of the festival; the local brewing company brings favorites like Amber, Jockamo Juicy IPA, Hard Sweet Tea, and the debut of Beeracuda. A varied menu of spirits and mixed cocktails, wine, and champagne can also be found at beverage booths around the festival ground that include **Jack Daniel's**, **El Jimador Tequila**, **Finlandia Vodka**, **Sonoma-Cutrer Wines**, **Korbel California Champagne**, and new festival additions **Fords Gin** and **Diplomático Rum**.

With family in mind, a wide range of non-alcoholic beverages for fans of all ages is also offered throughout the Fest including **Pepsi** products and their all-new **Starry**. Those in need of a pick me up to keep on festin' can grab a **French Market Coffee** and relax in their patio cafe in JAX Brewery Lot. The complete Culinary Lineup is available at frenchquarterfest.org.



The Official 40th Anniversary French Quarter Festival Poster

The French Quarter Festival's 40th-anniversary official poster features a celebratory scene in honor of four decades of music, food, and fun in the historic French Quarter. Created by the team at Tilt Studio, the poster invokes the festive atmosphere of a community gathered to honor and enjoy New Orleans' cultural traditions. With stylistic nods to our 1980s roots and a few 'easter eggs' that discerning long-time fans might notice, the poster references our history while recognizing that it is the people who make French Quarter Festival so special.

[The poster will be available for pre-order beginning Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 10 am.](#)

Upgrade the FQF Experience!

Fans can experience French Quarter Festival 2023 in style by becoming members of the **NOLA.com Fest Family Experience!** Members will enjoy elevated viewing stands near the riverfront **Abita Beer Stage**, and hospitality lounges at the **Chevron Stage** and **Jack Daniel's Stage**. Members will also enjoy private bars with 3 complimentary drinks per day (and the option to redeem at all festival beverage locations), air-conditioned restrooms, exclusive programming, and more! **This year, the program will offer four-day weekend passes for \$429 or single-day passes for \$129.** A limited number of memberships are available and help to fund the free, local event. Fans can become members and support the fest by [purchasing your passes](#) today.



Leading the Way to Sustainability

Organizers set out to reduce waste by 80%

Festival organizers continue efforts to be a leader in sustainable festival production in the Gulf South. FQFI, in partnership with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), launched the [Geauxing Green](#) program in 2021 with hopes for a cleaner, healthier, and happier festival season in Louisiana.

The initiative focuses on marine debris prevention by allowing only reusable, recyclable, and compostable food and drink products at the festival. In addition, attendees will be greeted by Green Team Crew, who will be on hand throughout the festival grounds to guide the public in using recycling and composting stations.

Now, after successfully implementing the program across three events, the FQFI team prepares for the 2nd French Quarter Festival where they will partner with trusted sustainability organizations in the community to ensure all products are properly sorted and re-purposed.

Special Events, Programs, and Festival Extras



- **40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS;** Join us for exciting additions to this year's fest to celebrate our milestone
 - **French Quarter Festival Kickoff Parade** will take place **Thursday, April 13 at 10 a.m.** The parade departs from the **200 block of Bourbon Street** and makes its way to Jackson Square.
 - Opening day of Fest will close with a bang as the legendary **Irma Thomas, Soul Queen of New Orleans** closes out the Chevron Stage and **fireworks light up the night's sky on Thursday**, thanks to support from **New Orleans & Company**.
 - FQFI is excited to once again partner with **JAMNOLA** to showcase our visual arts and culture. Stay tuned for details on the 2023 festival art installation with a special nod to FQF's 40th anniversary.
- **FESTIVAL FUN FOR EVERYONE;** Our entire festival is family-friendly, but we have special zones throughout our footprint designed just for our youngest fans and musicians!
 - **The Chevron Children's STEM Zone** will return to entertain and educate people of all ages Saturday and Sunday.
 - **The New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park Kids Stage** operates Saturday and Sunday with entertainment that will have everyone moving to the beat.
 - **Ernie's Schoolhouse Stage located at the Homer A. Plessy Community School** features an array of up-and-coming musicians of middle and high school age from independent programs and school-associated ensembles. This initiative started in 2018, continues FQFI's commitment to investing in the next generation of New Orleans' culture bearers. Youth inclined to musical performance are provided opportunities to showcase their talents at a major music festival while learning about engaging in the live production aspect of the music industry.
- **Free dance lessons sponsored by the French Market Corporation** will occur at both the **Chevron Stage** and the **French Market Traditional Jazz Stage** throughout the festival.

**Sponsors & YOU Help To Keep French Quarter Fest a
FREE Community Event**

French Quarter Festivals, Inc. is proud of its 40-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. We also recognize and appreciate our festival family who contribute to our success by purchasing [merchandise](#) and [upgraded festival experiences](#), becoming a [musician sponsor](#), and [donating](#) directly to our organization throughout the year.

French Quarter Fest Sponsors Include: [Chevron](#), [Abita Brewing Company](#), [AOS Interior Environments](#), [Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program](#), [The Berger Company](#), [Blue Bikes](#), [Broussard's Restaurant & Courtyard](#), [Brown-Forman](#), [Café Beignet](#), [Clarion Herald](#), [Super Chevy Dealers](#), [Crescent Crown Distributing](#), [The Derbes Foundation](#), [Diplomatico Rum](#), [Downbeat Magazine](#), [El Jimador Tequila](#), [Finlandia Vodka](#), [Ford's Gin](#), [French Market Coffee](#), [French Market Corporation](#), [Friend Of Fest](#), [Funny Bird](#), [GE](#), [Hancock Whitney](#), [Harrah's New Orleans](#), [House Of Blues](#), [The Helis Foundation](#), [I.T.S Fire Alarm Security](#), [Jack Daniel's](#), [Land of Dreams](#), [JAMNOLA](#), [Jones Walker](#), [Keesler Federal Credit Union](#), [Korbel California Champagne](#), [Landry's Seafood House](#), [LeafFilter](#), [Louisiana Cookin'](#), [Louisiana Division Of The Arts](#), [Louisiana Fish Fry](#), [Louisiana Lottery Corporation](#), [Louisiana Travel](#), [McLoughlin Family Foundation](#), [Morris Bart, LLC.](#), [Music Performance Trust Fund](#), [National Endowment For The Arts](#), [New Orleans & Company](#), [New Orleans Jazz Museum At The Old U.S. Mint](#), [New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park](#), [New Orleans Steamboat Company](#), [New Orleans Public Belt](#), [New Orleans Tourism And Culture Fund](#), [Offbeat Magazine](#), [Omni Royal Orleans](#), [Pan-American Life Insurance Group](#), [Park First](#), [Pepsi](#), [The Plant Gallery](#), [Port Of New Orleans](#), [Renaissance Publishing](#), [Republic National Distributing Company](#), [Royal Sonesta New Orleans](#), [Sal Borelli](#), [Sonoma-Cutrer](#), [Starry](#), [Telemundo 42 New Orleans](#), [Times-Picayune-Nola.Com-Gambit](#), [Touro](#), [Tropical Isle](#), [The Westin New Orleans](#), [WGSO 990AM](#), [Where Y'at Magazine](#), [Windsor Court Hotel](#), [WWNO 89.9FM](#), [WWOZ 90.7FM](#), [WWL-TV](#), [Zapp's Potato Chips](#)

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 2022 French Quarter Festival generated an economic impact of nearly \$250M. For more information about French Quarter Festivals, Inc. or any of these events, call (504) 522-5730 or visit <http://www.fqfi.org>.