

VIEUX CARRÉ COMMISSION FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Master crafts apprenticeship program to be launched at Spirit of the Vieux Carré Celebrations

WHO

Honorary Chairs: Louellen & Darryl Berger
Gala Chairs: Elie & Daniela Khoury, Sydney Anderson, and Juli Miller Hart
Host Organization: Vieux Carré Commission Foundation (Foundation)
Honorees: Founder, S. Stewart Farnet
St. Louis Cathedral Rector, Very Rev. Philip G. Landry
Master Craftsmen, Jeffrey M. Poree (plasterer) & Darryl Reeves (blacksmith)

WHAT

Celebrate the past, present and future of the Foundation at the Spirit of the Vieux Carré Celebrations with the launch of new programming educating the craftsmen and caretakers who will carry the cultural heritage of the beloved French Quarter and City into the future.

Major sponsors are invited to the VIP Sponsor Party; patrons are invited to the Patron Party, and all ticketholders are invited to celebrate at the Gala. VIP Sponsor Party catered by Windsor Court Hotel; champagne & wine provided by Veuve Clicquot; musical performances by the Tim Laughlin Trio and the Vegas Cola Band. Gala cuisine by Antoine's, Dickie Brennan & Company, Galatoire's, and other esteemed French Quarter restaurateurs; wine by Martin Wine Cellar; music by Sunpie & the Louisiana Sunspots.

WHEN

VIP Sponsor Party: Thursday, Oct. 4 | 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Patron Party: Saturday, Oct. 13 | 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Gala: Saturday, Oct. 13 | 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

WHERE

VIP Sponsor Party: the newly renovated home of Elie & Daniela Khoury in the French Quarter
Patron Party: Old Ursuline Convent and St. Mary's Church, 1100 Chartres St.
Gala: Old Ursuline Convent and Grounds, 1100 Chartres St.

WHY

Funds raised will support the mission and programs of the Foundation, particularly its new education and engagement plan:

- In honor of the master craftsmen who have built and taken care of our homes and buildings these past three hundred years, we will invest in a workforce development program that trains a new generation of artisans for the future.
- In service to the property owners and keepers of our French Quarter architecture, we will provide hands-on demonstrations and resources that teach the nuts-and-bolts of architectural preservation.
- In recognition of the local, statewide, nationwide, and international importance of our Vieux Carré Historic District, we will educate the wider public about its economic and cultural significance.
- In homage to the many generations of preservationists who preceded us, and in the hopes of future generations of the same, we will work with schoolchildren to foster a continuing love for the neighborhood of the Vieux Carré.

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Toast the visionaries of our past, the keepers of our present, and the forgers of our future:

- **Founder, S. Stewart Farnet:** Mr. Farnet is emblematic of the French Quarter's deep roots in architecture; his great-great-grandfather was one of the master builders of the Pontalba Buildings. A life-long resident of New Orleans, he earned his Bachelor of Science in architecture from Tulane University in 1955, then served two years in the Air Force, then started practicing as an architect in the French Quarter. Mr. Farnet served on the Vieux Carré Commission from 1966 to 1974, including a term as Chair of the Architectural Committee. A Vieux Carré visionary, he was one of the original founders of the Foundation in 1986 when the organization was first chartered to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vieux Carré Commission. Mr. Farnet has served both the commission and the preservation of the Vieux Carré ever since.
- **St. Louis Cathedral Rector, Very Rev. Philip G. Landry:** The Very Rev. Landry will be honored on behalf of the Archdiocese of New Orleans because of its commitment to education and the incredible stewardship of its historic buildings and artifacts over the past 300 years. As the Rector of St. Louis Cathedral, the Chair of the Catholic Cultural Heritage Center, and the current resident of the Old Ursuline Convent, Father Landry is the keeper of some of the most significant architecture and artifacts in New Orleans. The site of the Patron Party and Gala, the Old Ursuline Convent was completed in approximately 1752 and is renowned as the oldest building in the Mississippi Valley and the only surviving building from the French colonial period in the United States.
- **Master Craftsmen, Jeffrey M. Poree & Darryl Reeves:** Mr. Poree is a fifth-generation plasterer and owner of Jeff Poree Plastering. The Poree family is legendary for their exceptional skills in ornamental exterior and interior plaster, artistic molds and specialty finishes, including old world Venetian and exotic finishes. Jeff Poree Plastering can restore almost any mold by working from fragments, photographs or drawings. Mr. Poree is the plasterer of record for many of the region's most important restorations of historic sites, including the historic New Orleans Collection's Williams Research Center and the Peristyle in City Park. Mr. Reeves is a third-generation metal worker and owner of Andrew's Welding and Blacksmith Shop. Regarded as a natural, Reeves is well known for his creative contemporary steel and brass staircase railings and furniture, and is revered for his historic restorations of antique iron work at historic sites. His public commissions include the restoration of the ornate fence at the Presbytère on Jackson Square, fabrication of a new identical fence (using old techniques) for its sister building, The Cabildo, and the disassembly and reconstruction of the massive gate at the Chalmette National Cemetery. Mr. Poree and Mr. Reeves work in concert with the New Orleans Master Crafts Guild to train apprentices to become the next generation of master artisans.

HOW

VIP Party tickets start at \$2,500; Patron Party tickets start at \$250; Gala tickets start at \$75. Call 504.342.4760 or visit vccfoundation.org for details or tickets.

The Vieux Carré Commission Foundation (Foundation) was organized to support and further the cause and constitutional charge of the Vieux Carré Commission: to preserve and to protect not only the French Quarter's invaluable historic architectural heritage, but also its "tout ensemble", or the sum total effect of its architecture on its quaint and distinctive character and ambiance. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (Federal Tax ID#90-0424605); contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law.

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