



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kick Off April 14-15

History on Display at Algiers Ferry Terminal

NEW ORLEANS – Old Algiers history soon will be on display as the Old Algiers Main Street Corporation mounts a photographic exhibit in the Algiers Ferry Terminal. As part of the kick-off on April 14-15, costumed historical characters will offer tidbits of Algiers history before people embark on the ferry to French Quarter Festival.

“Every year, the area within a half-mile of the ferry is filled with vehicles carrying passengers who park and ride the Algiers-Canal Street Ferry to Woldenberg Park and the French Quarter,” said OAMSC President Karri Maggio. “We want to make sure they see and hear a little of our history and culture and possibly visit a local business on their way to or from the festival.”

Working in conjunction with Transdev, the company that operates the ferries, OAMSC will install **Points of View: Images of Historic Algiers**, which is expected to remain through 2019, the Tricentennial of the founding of Algiers. **During Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15, from 12 noon to 3 p.m., professional actors will depict prominent characters from the last three centuries:** founder Jean-Baptiste LeMoyne Sieur de Bienville, 18th century; philanthropist and plantation owner who freed his slaves upon his death, John McDonogh, 19th century; and famous blues musician Memphis Minnie, 20th century.

Bienville was granted what is present-day Algiers by Louis XIV of France and established the King’s Plantation. It was also where enslaved Africans disembarked and were held until they were taken to the city’s auction sites to be sold. Later, the land closest to the French Quarter (today’s Old Algiers) was sold and subdivided, with large swaths used for the maritime and railroad industries, and other parcels developed as residential and commercial properties to serve the population. Algiers was incorporated into the City of New Orleans in 1857.

“The exhibit depicts the people and places that had a part in creating the rich history and culture of Old Algiers. It’s an opportunity to appreciate and celebrate that,” Maggio said.

The April 14-15 program is partially funded by a grant from the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Engagement and donations from Frames Inc. and private individuals.

Old Algiers Main Street Corporation is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of the historically commercial corridors of Old Algiers. It is a designated Louisiana Main Street program, and the program area enjoys Louisiana Cultural District status, which provides state historic tax credits to those who rehabilitate properties within its boundaries.

For more information, visit www.oldalgiersmainstreet.org and follow on Facebook.

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