



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Make It in Old Algiers” Showcases Talent and Creativity

NEW ORLEANS - Just over the river in Old Algiers, musicians, chefs, artists and artisans are “making” something all the time. The first **Make It in Old Algiers** Festival, to be presented by Old Algiers Main Street Corporation on **April 9**, will celebrate the creativity of the community with a showcase of primarily local talent.

“We are proud of the cultural and artistic assets in our community,” said OAMSC President Valerie Robinson, who also manages the state-designated Cultural District in Old Algiers. “There are hundreds of small businesses and creative individuals that make handmade products in Old Algiers – some for fun and some who support themselves through their inspired artistry. While we have invited people from all over the city to participate, this is an opportunity for us to remind everyone that Old Algiers is a great place for creatives to live and work.”

Thanks to a partnership with Elan Academy, a local charter school, the event will be in the rear of the elementary school located at 709 Park Boulevard, just off Mardi Gras Boulevard. Patrons will enter through the back gate on Lawrence Street.

Starting at 12 noon, vendors will be ready to serve food and sell their wares. Menu items include New Orleans staples such as catfish courtbouillon, gumbo and banana pudding. A variety of handmade products, from paintings to jewelry to wax creations to textiles, will be available from eight vendors, who will offer items ranging from paintings to oyster décor to wax creations and textile products.

A special feature of the event is the **Praline Contest**, initiated as a tribute to the many pecan groves and backyard trees that were once part of the Old Algiers landscape. Many were removed when housing was demolished to accommodate the former Fischer Housing Development and the first span of the Mississippi River Bridge, now the Crescent City Connection. Entrants will be accepted until March 25 to compete for cash prizes.

On the stage, performers will include the Elan Academy Choir and the All Saints Church choir, as well as Old Algiers residents including jazz vocalist Anais St. John and Cuban performer Vic Jcomes, as well as Titos Sompas and Mbongi Village, an African drumming group, and The Tin Men, a New Orleans favorite featuring “Washboard Chaz” Leary, Alex McMurray and Matt Perrine. (Schedule to come).

Admission is free to the public, and all ages are welcome.

A “Make It in Algiers” booth will allow kids to be creative and have fun, and cultural activities will inform guests about history of the Old Algiers community. For more information, visit <https://oldalgiersmainstreet.org> or email info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org.

Sponsors and partners include New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, Southern Eagle, Bergeron Pecans and Elan Academy.

Old Algiers Main Street Corporation, an accredited National Main Street program, is dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of the historically commercial corridors of Old Algiers. Its most significant projects include the Algiers Tricentennial in 2019 and its current #EquityRising program that contributes to more equitable economic development.

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Media contact: Valerie Robinson, 504.421-6692; robinsonetal@gmail.com