



# 2023 Annual Report

## Letter from the Executive Director:

When Old Algiers Main Street Corporation was founded in 1996, there were no crystal balls nor psychics to tell us how much the overall community (Algiers Point, McDonogh and Whitney neighborhoods) would change in the next quarter century. Old Algiers Main Street Corporation spent several years trying to make a difference without many resources. We engaged in activities that the board felt were good for the community, and we engaged in opposition to others that we knew were bad. We had some successes, but they were hard-won.

Pre-Katrina, OAMSC created Old Algiers RiverFest™, a two-day festival that celebrated the rich history of jazz in Old Algiers, while we lamented the loss of so many historical structures and musical artists. After 10 years, the festival ended primarily because there was not an affordable venue to continue to expand the offerings of the growing free event. We hoped that the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival would take it over, but that was futile in the end.

In 2019, we celebrated the Algiers Tricentennial, commemorating the role that Algiers played in the founding and early development of New Orleans. Our efforts included lectures, entertainment, small gatherings of ancestors and the placement of a UNESCO Site of Memory marker to memorialize Algiers as the point of disembarkation for enslaved Africans from the early 1700s until 1830, when the transatlantic slave trade was outlawed.


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## We are dedicated to creating an equitable future for everyone who lives and/or works in Old Algiers.

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, OAMSC had the opportunity to work with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to develop a plan for economic equity in the historic Old Algiers community. This became #EquityRising, which is driven by a commitment to inclusive and equitable economic opportunities including job training, small business support and recruitment and housing.

#EquityRising is our primary focus at this time, as we have developed workforce training programs, initiated training and support for entrepreneurs and small businesses and have begun exploring opportunities to create affordable housing in the Old Algiers community. We will move forward from here.



Valerie Robinson  
Executive Director



### MISSION STATEMENT

Old Algiers Main Street Corporation is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of the history of Old Algiers and its equitable economic vitality now and in the future.

### 2024 OAMSC BOARD

Kevin Kellup  
*President*

Erik Paskewich  
*Vice President*

Eurydice Bush-Harrison  
*Secretary*

Karri Maggio  
*Treasurer*

### At-Large Members

Lore' Coleman

Cynthia Bryan

Kelsey Foster

Jason Hill

Leann Logdson

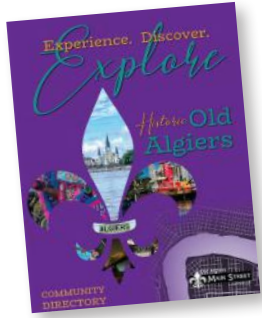
Stephen Mosgrove

Kimberly Novod

Sunni Patterson

Greg Ravy

# 2023 Accomplishments



The 2023 Community Directory of Old Algiers businesses, identifying more than 150 businesses in the community. Although there is a print version, the full version can be accessed via [www.aldalgiersmainstreet.org](http://www.aldalgiersmainstreet.org), [www.neworleansonline.com](http://www.neworleansonline.com) or [www.staylocal.org](http://www.staylocal.org)

Old Algiers Community Survey for residents and businesses was created and distributed (findings available at [www.aldalgiersmainstreet.org](http://www.aldalgiersmainstreet.org))



- A new Business Support program includes trainings and access to a variety of resources
- Membership categories were revised to provide additional services to business members of Old Algiers Main Street Corporation

## #EQUITYRISING

A Project of Old Algiers Main Street Corporation

Completed the eighth cohort of Certified Nursing Assistant training resulting a total of 47 graduates who reside in the 70114 zip code

- **92 percent** successfully completed the state certification examination
- **85 percent** are employed in the health care industry or continued their education toward other certifications, including LPN

Implemented new workforce program to train residents for film production jobs

- Partnerships include International Association of Theatre Stage Entertainment, Local 478 and L.B. Landry High School (Algiers Charter)
- Funding is provided by Louisiana Economic Development Entertainment Development Fund
- **7 students** successfully completed the coursework and are prepared for on-set jobs in the grip/electric or costume departments

Home Grown Holidays created a buzz with its activities in December, in cooperation with New Orleans Business Alliance and local businesses.

- Saturday strolling carolers
- Holiday Art Market
- Santa with a Brass Band
- Billboard, paid advertising, social media and features and listings in visitor publications

Planning began for the Newton Street streetscape project, which will include wayfinding signage and landscaping paid for by a Louisiana Legislature Appropriation initiated by Rep. Delisha Boyd



# Work Continues Under Main Street Four-Point Approach

As an accredited member of Main Street America, Old Algiers Main Street Corporation operates under the Four Point Approach.

This requires OAMSC to operate under four main areas of focus: Economic Development, Membership, Design and Promotion. This structure allows the board to cross-populate committees that work independently and together. The following are reports submitted by each committee:



## Design Committee

The Design Committee is responsible for monitoring activities related to the built environment, including issues that require City Planning Commission and/or Historic District Landmarks Commission approval, reporting blighted properties and ensuring that projects are in compliance with the City's Master Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.

During 2023, OAMSC led an effort to stop a conditional use permit that would have allowed a self-storage and moving van rental facility at the corner of Newton Street and Whitney Avenue. OAMSC works closely with residents of Old Algiers as well as developers to ensure appropriate development in the community.



## Organization/Membership Committee

The Membership Committee increased its outreach efforts by attending various community events and offering support to those that align with their mission. The number of new members reached a new level by the end of 2023, with a 15% increase. Plans were made for Business membership offerings to be enhanced effective February 1, 2024.

Additionally, OAMSC has engaged residents and businesses in planning programs and expanding volunteer opportunities.



Levee wall art by Charles Gillam

## Economic Vitality Committee

The major success of Economic Vitality Committee work in 2023 was the #EquityRising program, which provides equitable economic opportunities for Old Algiers residents by way of free workforce training in careers with significant opportunity for advancement. Through this program, OAMSC provides workforce training for residents 18-40 years old to attain skills and certifications in two main areas: healthcare and film.

In 2023, seven individuals obtained Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification and job placement through #EquityRising, and an additional seven individuals completed film workforce training in grip/electric and costumes. A total of 47 students have completed the CNA program with more classes in 2024. An additional three cohorts of the film production training program are planned for 2024, as well.

Additionally, OAMSC launched its business workshop series in late 2023 to serve entrepreneurs of Old Algiers in topics most relevant to their needs. Expanded plans are being implemented in 2024.



*Graduates of #EquityRising workforce training in film production.*

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## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

Old Algiers Main Street Corporation is committed to removing barriers to full community participation in the creation of a place of shared prosperity.

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## Promotion/Arts & Culture Committee

Social media was widely expanded in 2023 with support of the Promotions/Arts and Culture Committee, whose members assisted in updating and upgrading the OAMSC website and supported the Holiday Art Market as part of the Home Grown Holidays. At the board retreat in August, the committee agreed to assist with building out a project that will further enhance the awareness of the history and culture of Old Algiers. This committee also worked to develop an expanded mission statement and its first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement.



# Community Developments in 2023



Nighthawk Napoletana Pizza



14 Parishes Jamaican Restaurant



The Little House Wine Bar



The Vault Restaurant



MKM Catering

New places to eat and imbibe topped the list of developments in 2023. These new businesses were initiated by various entities outside of OAMSC:

## 5 new restaurants/bars

- Nighthawk Napoletana Pizza
- 14 Parishes
- The Little House
- The Vault
- MKM Catering

## 1 coffee shop re-opened after sale

- Congregation

## 10 residential building permits issued

## 4 commercial building permits issued

## 1 new hotel/apartments/retail development in planning stages at Teche Street and Red Allen Way



Congregation Coffee Roasters (re-opened with new owners)

## 2023 Annual Meeting Was a Success!



Board members Loré Coleman, Eurydice Bush-Harrison, Cynthia Bryan, Greg Ravy, Karri Maggio, Alan Delery, President Kevin Kellup, Stephen Mosgrove, Erik Paskewich and Leann Logsdon

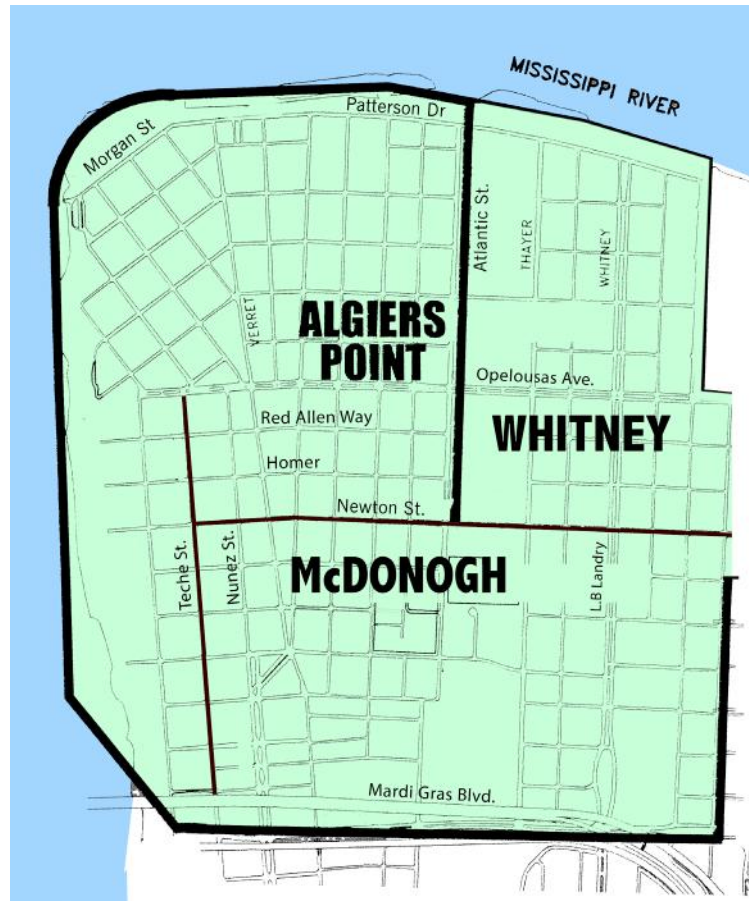
So many elements of the OAMSC Annual Meeting and Holiday Party were special in 2023, not the least of which was the venue. The event was held atop the former LP&L Building on Delaronde Street across from the Algiers ferry terminal. Few people had the opportunity to see the view before the December 9 event.

It was made special also because of the announcement of the newest OAMSC partnership with Tulane University School of Professional Advancement. Those in the 70114 zip code are now offered a 20 percent discount on tuition for classes offered in the John Lewis Public Service Center. More information will be available on the Tulane website [www.tulane.edu/sopa](http://www.tulane.edu/sopa).

Thank you goes to Matt Wilson for use of the building, and to those who renewed their membership and new members, as well as the volunteers who assisted with the event.

## Volunteers Welcome!

OAMSC is charged with creating awareness of the Old Algiers creative industries and helping them thrive in Old Algiers. There are always opportunities to help plan and manage events, which include the 2024 "Make It in Old Algiers" festival that showcases local music, food and art. Email [info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org](mailto:info@oldalgiersmainstreet.org) to volunteer.



## Join the OAMSC Team!

With your support, OAMSC can continue to offer programs that benefit the businesses and communities of Old Algiers. For as little as \$25 a year become a member today and join us as we revitalize Old Algiers!

### Member Benefits:

- Programs and services to enhance business and the community
- Bi-weekly newsletter with info and articles of interest to the community
- Access to resources that help enhance the business climate in the neighborhood
- Invitations to special events and annual membership meeting
- A voice in the decisions that affect all of Old Algiers
- An opportunity to serve on committees and task forces

Mail this form with your check to: OAMSC, P.O. Box 740181, NOLA 70174

Or pay online at [www.oldalgiersmainstreet.org](http://www.oldalgiersmainstreet.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \$25 \$50 \$100\* Other\_\_\_\_\_

\* Business membership of \$100 includes exclusive benefits.

OAMSC is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Tax ID 721334761.

Do you want to learn more, join a committee or be a board member?  
Visit [www.aldalgiersmainstreet.org](http://www.aldalgiersmainstreet.org) or email [info@aldalgiersmainstreet.org](mailto:info@aldalgiersmainstreet.org)

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**Thanks to our generous 2023 partners**



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