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New Orleans

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Artists for Change

The New Orleans Hip Hop Experience Tour



Front Left: Local Rap/Bounce Legend 5th Ward Weebie and Artists For Change Founder Dorian Francis (Front Right) pictured with some of the performers from the Artists for Change: The New Orleans Hip-Hop Experience Tour.

By Edwin Buggage

The New Orleans Hip Hop Experience (NOEX) founded by Dorian Francis, is an event where “Artists for Change” is partnering with “Keep Ya Head Up”, (501(c)(3) non-profit orga-

nization) to help continue to rebuild the City by placing focus on encouraging the youth of New Orleans. “Keep Ya Head Up’s” mission is to decrease recidivism for youth offenders. “Artist for Change” is a group of local artist that aspires to educate and inspire through music, art, educa-

tion, and mentoring. The Ultimate New Orleans Experience is a by-product of these two organizations’ passion, vision, and collaboration.

“This project is an extension of my work with young people,” remarks Francis who runs four after school programs throughout the City of

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New Orleans. "We plan to go to various schools to showcase the untapped talent that is throughout this City. In addition to having emerging artists we have enlisted local rap/bounce legend "5th Ward Weebie", who has been a part of this scene for quite some time and is an artist that I feel can be an ambassador for this project because in the past years he's evolved into more than just a recording artist and is rooted in community service and uplift; also I feel he can serve as a mentor to the younger artist giving them the benefit of his many years in the recording industry."

The "Artist for Change" 1st Annual New Orleans Hip Hop Experience Tour kicks off at the 2013 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival on May 4, 2013 and will take place on the Congo Square Stage, followed by an array of performances at schools and summer camps in New Orleans. Their mission is to attempt to capture the ears, hearts, minds, and rhythmic passion of its audience, and they will do so with a fusion of rap, hip hop, R&B, local bounce, and instrumental mastery. NOEX will offer a platform that will allow artists and students to showcase their talent and skills. The series of events during New Orleans Hip Hop Experience offers an incredible insight on NOLA's musical and educational experience. It also celebrates the unique cultures of our City and Louisiana by showcasing local New Orleans grass roots artist coming together to raise awareness, and to encourage and inspire the youth of NOLA, all while giving the audience a taste of unique hip hop and musical diversity.

"I am pleased that Jazzfest has given us a platform to launch this and give it this level of visibility," says Francis who works as a consultant with Jazzfest and the Essence Music Festival. "After this tour we are looking to expand and bring this into other markets, because I see that a lot of people love our City and what it has to offer in the arts, and I want to bring our unique culture to people around the country and eventually around the globe."

The Ultimate New Orleans Experience is the culminating event tentatively taking place in the summer of 2013. This amazing event will be totally free to



Pictured above is Dorian Francis, Founder of Artists for Change: The New Orleans Hip-Hop Experience.

the public. It will have a host of live entertainment, youth activities, public addresses from community leaders, and New Orleans cuisine. These activities will allow NOEX to serve as pioneers of presenting music as an art, hip hop as a culture, and tourism as the forefront of economic and youth development.

Francis goals for his brainchild extends beyond it being simply tied to a music event, but believes it can have a social impact that can create a shift in the tide of thinking about the youth of New Orleans, "What we are trying to do is more than simply do another music festival, this is about

bringing people together through music and to make this City a better place for all of our people in addition to showing the world another face of the young people of New Orleans. One that is focused on showing the best of what the City has to offer and that more resources need to be prioritized into investing into the next generation so they can reach their full potential. And if we can do that, then our whole City can benefit from it, and the Ultimate New Orleans Experience as I envision it is more than just a music event, it can be part of the solution to some of the problems that plague our City."

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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

2013 Jazz Fest Highlights

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

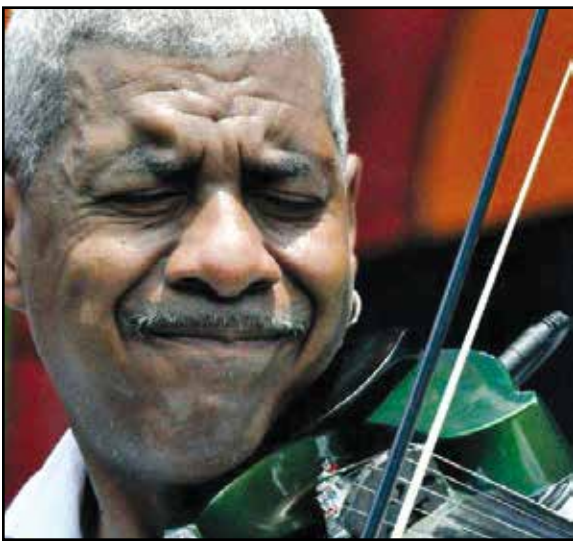
The 2013 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival began last weekend, featuring local, regional and national talent and drawing fans from around the world. The Jazz Fest continues this weekend at the Fairgrounds, and Data will be there too!



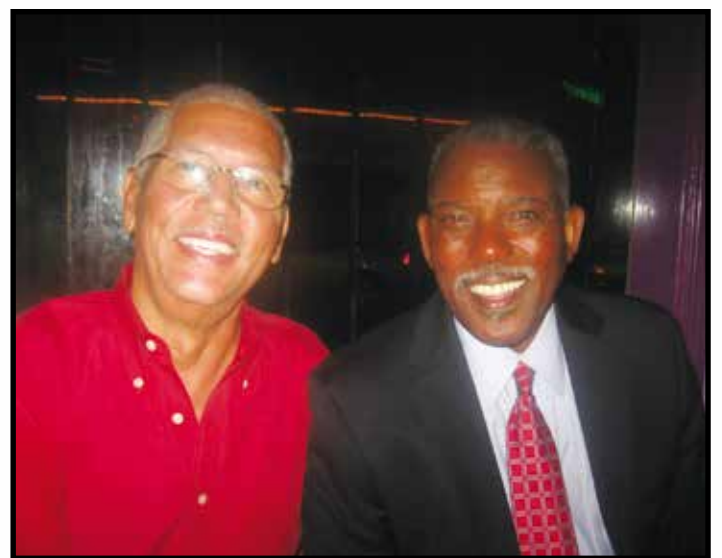
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Business is Good!



Walmart Breaks Ground on Store in New Orleans East

Location to provide fresh food and jobs to residents of New Orleans East

Walmart broke ground on a new store in the former Lakeland Medical Center site at the Southwest corner of I-10 and Bullard Avenue on Monday, April 29. Once completed, the new store will provide jobs and access to fresh food to the New Orleans East community. The state-of-the-art store is expected to open in mid-2014.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by representatives of Walmart, City of New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, U.S. Representative Cedric Richmond, members of the New Orleans City Council, neighborhood leaders and representatives of the New Orleans Business Alliance.

"Walmart's investment in New Orleans East shows how far our city has come," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "This project will transform a site that's been undeveloped for seven long years, bring much needed retail to this area, create new jobs and local tax dollars and serve as a spark for continued development in the area."

"As the world's largest grocer, Walmart is uniquely positioned to make a difference for American families by making the food we sell healthier, more affordable and more accessible, and we plan to do just that here in New Orleans East," said John Mims, Walmart market manager. "At Walmart we understand that our customers take stretching their budgets seriously, that's why we're committed to everyday low prices. We look forward to contin-

ued opportunities to demonstrate our commitment to New Orleans and its development."

Walmart is making a multimillion dollar investment in New Orleans East that will bring an estimated 300 jobs, offering eligible associates a comprehensive benefits package that includes health insurance coverage options, store-performance based bonus incentives, 401 (k) matching contributions up to 6 percent and discounts on general merchandise and fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Lakeland Medical Center site at the intersection of I-10 and Bullard Avenue has remained undeveloped since Hurricane Katrina. Soon residents in New Orleans East and nearby neighborhoods will enjoy access to one-stop, low priced shopping with features such as a full line

of fresh foods and a wide assortment of products and services, missing in the area since 2005. "Walmart made a commitment to invest in the city of New Orleans and for that I commend the corporation," said U.S. Representative Cedric Richmond. "As companies like Walmart show their belief in the city, others will follow, bringing a resurgence of economic development to an area of the city that has been underserved since Hurricane Katrina."

"A new Walmart in New Orleans East is a great victory for the District," said District E Councilmember James Austin Gray II. "This new store will provide residents with access to fresh food and create a more vibrant community. And most importantly, this new store will act as

an anchor and magnet for future economic development."

"We are excited to welcome Wal-Mart to New Orleans East. This project fills a retail void in this area, brings quality jobs to local residents and provides new tax revenue for the City," said New Orleans Business Alliance Chairman Henry Coaxum. "As a New Orleans East resident, it's gratifying to see retailers returning to the area."

Walmart currently employs more than 35,300 associates at over 100 retail locations in Louisiana. Additionally, through more than 855 Louisiana suppliers, Walmart supports nearly 27,512 jobs throughout the state of Louisiana. Walmart is also opening a new store in the Gentilly area in late 2014, with a groundbreaking anticipated in summer 2013.

Xu's Jackson Will Offer Skills Camp For Area Boys In June

Brandon Bass of the Boston Celtics, DJ Augustin of the Indiana Pacers, Mo Williams of the Utah Jazz and Al-Faruoq Aminu of the New Orleans Pelicans will be among the featured guest coaches for the inaugural Coach Dannton Jackson Basketball Skills Academy in June.



XU Coach Dannton Jackson

Jackson — winner of 226 games and four regular-season conference championships as head coach of the Xavier University of Louisiana men's program for the past 10 seasons — will conduct the camp June 10-13 at XU's new Convocation Center.

The camp is for New Orleans-area boys age 7-16. Campers will learn skills to develop footwork and their fundamentals. They'll receive daily prizes, evaluation, autographs and a certificate of participation. Campers will be divided into age groups and

compete in 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 games and a skills contest.

Price of the camp is \$195. Visit www.djhoops.com to register online or to download a PDF registration form which can be filled out and mailed. Call (504) 521-7849 for more information.

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Beyond the Call of Duty and Service

Two Sailors Honored for Contributing to A Global Force For Good

Navy Counselor 1st Class Latonya Robinson and OC (Officer Candidate) Nicole Ancar are two of seven United States Navy Sailors being featured in the U.S. Navy campaign, "Honoring Navy Achievement." Honoring Navy Achievement recognizes Navy personnel both past and present who have gone beyond the call of duty and service to have a positive impact in the communities where they serve.

Houston native Navy Counselor 1st Class Robinson has been in the Navy for 20 years and serves as a Navy District Trainer at Naval Recruiting District (NRD) New Orleans. A mother of two children, Robinson has focused her energy and enthusiasm on volunteerism, including Race for the Cure and the Wounded Warrior's Project. In addition to her career in the Navy, Robinson also competes in beauty pageants and, in 2012, won Miss New Orleans. Robinson states, "The Navy really taught me that I could be anything I wanted to be as long as I believed in myself... I would have never gotten that opportunity if I didn't believe in myself."



Officer Candidate Nicole Ancar

Birmingham, Ala., native, OC Ancar is a student in the Seaman to Admiral-21 Program, Nurse Corps Option, at Tulane University. She joined the Navy in 1997. Ancar's dream was to become a nurse, and she quickly discovered that being in the Navy would allow her to achieve that dream. A single mother and student, Ancar always finds the time to pay it forward, with volunteer work at her



Navy Counselor 1st Class Latonya Robinson

church and previous efforts with Habitat for Humanity and Second Harvest Food Bank. Ancar states, "Being in the Navy and learning so many new things has given me the confidence to believe that I can do anything I can imagine."

Capt. Horatio Fernandez, Diversity Director at Navy Recruiting Command states, "Last year, visitors to the Facebook page of 'Beyond the Call' nominated

other deserving individuals in the Navy whose efforts both on duty and in the community warranted recognition. Because we want to know more about our sailors from people who know and admire their efforts, we invite you to share your stories of Navy achievers by uploading a story and photo on the Facebook page."

Neighborhood Development Foundation to Host 18th Annual House Party Fundraiser

Join New Orleans Neighborhood Development Foundation (NDF) on Saturday, May 18th as they host their 18th Annual House Party Fundraiser at First NBC Bank located at 210 Baronne Street. The festive event begins with a Patron Party followed by a fun filled gala. The evening features food, fun, dancing and a silent and live auction. House Party provides the critical financial support that has enabled NDF to provide financial literacy and homeownership advocacy, advising, and education in the responsibilities of homeownership that has resulted in over 3,000 families becoming homeowners without a known default.

New Orleans Jazz Fest Park & Ride @ St. Aug

Are you heading to Jazz Fest? Support the efforts of the Cornerstone Club of St. Augustine by using the Park & Ride at the Fairgrounds. Parking is available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a shuttle to and from the Fairgrounds. The fee for the day is \$25 with discounts for parking multiple days. This initiative helps support the work of the Cornerstone Club Scholarships and St. Augustine High School. Parking lot will be supervised during Jazz Fest hours.

Go to: www.purpleknights.com for pre-sale parking tickets, or for more information, call (504) 940-5980 or (504) 952-0950.

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