

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

NEW ORLEANS FASHION WEEK

FETE RETURNS



INFUSED WITH FASHION, BEAUTY
& NOLA CULTURE

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New Orleans Fashion Week Fete Returns

Infused with Fashion, Beauty & NOLA Culture

By Tracee Dundas
Data News Weekly Fashion Editor
@fashionablyyoursnola

New Orleans Fashion Week (NOFW) returns for its 10th season, bringing together the talents of amazing designers from the Gulf Coast Region. The weeklong fete embraces New Orleans culture, and all things fashion, beauty, and creative. The much-anticipated fashion event of the year kicked off September 19th, with a themed party “Pink is the New Black” hosted at Virgin Hotels and included a Barbie-Inspired Fashion presentation by Bambi Deville Vintage. “It is an honor to receive recognition from the City of New Orleans and Embrace the Culture that fashion is an important contributor to the city’s culture and should be celebrated in conjunction with the city’s legendary cuisine, music, art, and film,” said Tracee Dundas, NOFW Founder/Creative Director.

Only having to pause due to the Pandemic, NOFW has consistently grown since its inception in 2011 by establishing the standard for regional fashion and designers. The renowned event unites fashion professionals with a series of runway shows, presentations, pop-up boutiques, networking opportunities and social experiences. The schedule of events encourages economic growth by creating opportunities for greater sustainability in the fashion community.

Making its fashion week debut with NOFW will be D’Amelio Footwear, a shoe line founded by the D’Amelio Family [Charli, Dixie, Heidi, and Marc] who rose to fame through their social media presence to create a cross-platform global brand. The D’Amelio’s have strategically grown its family brand to include a reality show on Hulu, beauty products, and an authentic, accessible, chic footwear line. D’Amelio Footwear, along with a list of other amazing designers will showcase their collection on September 23rd at the Historic Gallier Hall. Earlier that same day Indigo Boutique at Canal Place will host



Steven Putt, Director of Marketing PR, Saks, Tracee Dundas, Founder of New Orleans Fashion Week and Terry Davis, Media Executive. Photo Credit – John Merrit - @johnmerritphotos

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher		Production
Edwin Buggage	Tracee Dundas	Pubinator.com
Editor	Fleur De Lis	Editorial and
Sharonda Green		Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	DNW Staff Writer	datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur		@gmail.com
Accounting	John Merrit	Distribution
		by Terrence Lee

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The Ashé Rooftop Festival

on October 7 and 8, 2023, is Unique in its Invitation to
 “Experience the African Diaspora in the Sky.”

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS, LA – Ashé Cultural Arts Center is celebrating 25 years with an event that is the first of its kind: a festival across various rooftops in Downtown New Orleans. In a city renowned for its festivals and culture connected to African roots. The Ashé Rooftop Festival on October 7th and 8th, 2023, is unique in its invitation to “experience the African Diaspora in the sky.” This has been the focus of the premier Black Cultural Arts Organization “celebrating the people, places, and philosophies of the African Diaspora” since its founding in 1998. Tickets for the festival are on sale now.

In taking on new heights both literally and figuratively, The Ashé Rooftop Festival will incorporate various themes like wellness, social justice, art, Black literature and feature headlining and live performances from Tank and the Bangas, Mac Phipps, Teedra Moses, Gbl Wrng, Sissy Nobby, Casa Samba, The Maroons, Watotos of Kumbuka, Water Seed, Casmè, Kings of Brass, Legatron Prime, Twerk NOLA, DJ FTK, DC Paul, Sha'condria “iCON” Sibley, Mykia Jovan, VICJCOM, Mecca Notes, Glory Chorale Community, Sistahs Makin' A Change + Afroxtica Showgirls on the main unASHÉmed Rooftop. Local and national artists will be announced across the additional rooftops.





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a Meet and Greet with Heidi D'Amelio. The matriarch of the family is a Louisiana native, former model with local agency ABOUTFACES, and longtime friend of Tracee Dundas. "Watching Heidi evolve over the years from model to mother now returning to the limelight as a social media and television sensation has been an incredible journey to witness and be a part of," said Dundas.

Other Fashion Week Highlights included a guided tour on September 20th of Fashioning America: Grit to Glamour with Mel Buchanan, Curator of Decorative Arts & Design at New Orleans Museum of Art. The exhibit celebrates local designers as well with a mural installation showing the impact that fashion continues to have on the Gulf Coast Region. And on Saturday, September 23rd, NOFW in partnership with the Lakeside Mall will host Strut & Stretch, an opportunity to raise awareness and support Dress for Success New Orleans, a non-profit organization that empowers women to achieve economic independence.

The weeklong fashion fete ends with a wrap party hosted by House of Blues. For full NOFW details visit www.neworleansfashionweek.com



Negris LeBrum



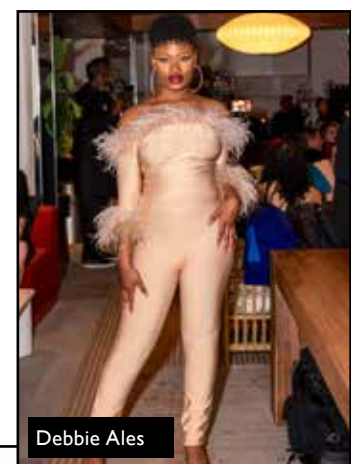
D'Amelio Footwear



Adriana Moore



Clinton Downing



Debbie Ales



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MM Veleria Stevens



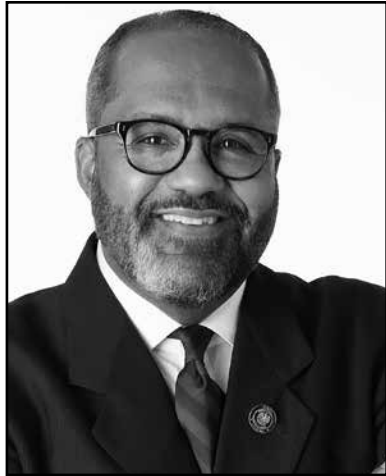
Willie Austin

City of New Orleans and Partners Awarded Federal Grant for Tree Plantings and Workforce Development

Data News Staff Edited Report

The City of New Orleans today announced it was awarded \$8 million from the Urban and Community Forestry Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forestry Service to plant trees in underserved areas of the city and expand urban forestry workforce training.

"Expanding our citywide tree canopy provides incredible environmental and public safety benefits for a city like New Orleans which exists on the frontlines of this global climate crisis," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "This award is in direct alignment with our updated Climate Action Plan, which includes a goal of planting 40,000 trees by 2030. These additional trees will aid in reducing street flooding and helping combat the ongoing extreme heat while providing fresh air and increased natural beauty throughout our neighborhoods. This important work will also result in additional training and good-paying jobs as we continue to grow our 'green economy.' Thank you to the USDA, our many dedicated local partners



Congressman Troy Carter helped create legislation to help secure \$8 million dollars in federal funding from the USDA to plant trees in underserved areas and to expand forestry workforce development.



who were a part of this grant process, and to Congressman Carter who helped shepherd the legislation that made this federal funding possible."

New Orleans faces an array of environmental challenges, including increasingly stronger hurricanes and rainfall events, soil subsidence, coastal erosion, and extreme heat. Some areas of the city are considered "heat islands" due to lack of greenspace and can be nearly nine degrees hotter than other areas. These neighborhoods are often

less affluent and historically home to people of color. A recent study showed that the City's tree canopy currently covers just 18.5 percent of the community, down from nearly 30 percent prior to Katrina in 2005. This canopy coverage is much lower than comparable southern cities, including Memphis, Tenn. (37 percent), Austin, Texas (38 percent) and Atlanta (47 percent).

With this funding, the City of New Orleans and community partners will plant and maintain trees in historically disadvantaged neigh-

borhoods across the city. These plantings will help meet the goals of the New Orleans Reforestation Plan and Climate Action Plan of 40,000 new trees planted and at least 10 percent canopy coverage in every neighborhood by the end of the decade. The funding will also allow for workforce development organizations to expand their programming to meet the growing demand for forestry professionals needed to grow and maintain the City's tree canopy.

Tree plantings continue to be a

focus on the Department of Parks and Parkways and the Cantrell Administration. This year, the city celebrated the planting of 1,165 trees citywide, financed through \$975,000 of City Bond Funding. Additionally, the city recently accepted grant applications for up to \$200,000 in awards to be made to local nonprofits for neighborhood tree plantings.

Partners in the project include Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL), NOLA Tree Project, Water Wise Gulf South, Audubon Delta, Groundwork New Orleans, Louisiana Green Corps, Thrive New Orleans, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

"I'm excited to share the exciting news that New Orleans has secured an \$8 million Urban Community Forestry Grant through the Inflation Reduction Act which I championed in Congress. This grant will fuel the NOCTURNL Project, which aims to boost the City's tree canopy, combat environmental challenges, and engage underserved communities. With only 19 percent tree canopy coverage, this

Commentary, Continued on page 7.

State & Local News

Here We Go: The Saints are Undefeated at 2-0!



The Saints' Defense continues to play well leading the Black and Gold to an undefeated record and tied for 1st place in the NFC South.

Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Contributor

Once again, this is Fleur De Lis, giving you everything 5-0-4.

One word describes their latest win, Defense. The New Orleans Saints continued to be defensive dominant in Monday's 20-17 win over division rival the Carolina Panthers. Led by Cam Jordan and

company, they shut down their offense recording four sacks and putting teams on notice that putting points on the scoreboard against them is not an easy task.

The Black and Gold have gone

10 consecutive games allowing fewer than 20 points, which is the longest streak in the Saints' history. New Orleans didn't allow a touchdown in 2023 until 1:16 remaining in the game. While the

streak is impressive, what is most important is that they are now 2-0 and in a three-way tie for the lead in the NFC South.

Next Up Green Bay...Saints Go All the Way!!!

FDA Approves Updated COVID-19 Vaccines Amid Rising Cases and Hospitalizations

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved updated COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech in response to the surge in cases and hospitalizations. Both manufacturers have reported that their vaccines demonstrate effectiveness against the currently dominant EG.5 strain in the United States.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, an independent expert group advising the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will now assess the safety and efficacy of these updated vaccines and provide recommendations for their deployment. Following approval by the CDC Director, the vaccines will be available for administration.

The advisory group plans to convene immediately, suggesting that the vaccines may soon be accessible at select pharmacies and healthcare facilities.

Health authorities have emphasized the urgency of vaccination once the shots become available. The new release coincides with a late summer surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations and growing concerns over the potential impact of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus, in the upcoming fall and winter seasons.

Dr. Peter Marks, Director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, underlined the importance of vaccination in protecting against severe COVID-19 consequences.

"The public can be assured that these updated vaccines have met



the agency's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality. We very much encourage those who are eligible to consider getting vaccinated," Marks stated in a news release.

Dr. Dan Barouch, Director of the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, noted that despite an increase in infection rates and hospitalizations, the rates of severe disease, hospitalizations, and death are still significantly lower than in previous years.

Albert Bourla, CEO of Pfizer, highlighted the significance of this decision, especially with COVID-19 cases on the rise again. He said that nearly all individuals aged six months or older in the U.S. are eligible for this season's COVID-19 vaccine, even if they have not been previously vaccinated.

The updated vaccines are approved for individuals 12 and older, with emergency use authorization for those aged six months to 11 years. The bivalent Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized for use in the United States.

According to the FDA, babies and young children from six months to four years who have not been vaccinated can receive three doses of the updated Pfizer/BioNTech shot or two doses of the updated Moderna booster.

Those who have been previously vaccinated will follow specific dosage guidelines. For those five and older, a single dose of the updated vaccines is recommended at least two months after their last COVID-19 shot, irrespective of previous vaccination.

Stéphane Bancel, CEO of Mod-

erna, emphasized the critical role of updated vaccines in protecting the population during the peak respiratory virus season. "COVID-19 remains a leading cause of death in the U.S. and poses a significant threat to vulnerable populations, particularly as we enter peak respiratory virus season," Bancel stated.

The mRNA vaccines have been adjusted to combat the XBB.1.5 Omicron subvariant of the coronavirus and related strains.

The FDA anticipates that COVID-19 vaccine compositions may need annual updates, similar to seasonal influenza vaccines.

Dr. Ugur Sahin, CEO and Co-Founder of BioNTech, stated, "Our goal is to provide people worldwide with COVID-19 vaccines that are adapted to circulating virus variants or sub-lineages."

The updated vaccines, administered in a single dose, are expected to be available at no cost to those in need.

Novavax's updated COVID-19 vaccine has not yet received FDA authorization but is currently under review for individuals aged 12 and older.

Under the Affordable Care Act, most insurance plans cover the total cost of vaccines, eliminating co-pays for insured individuals. The uninsured or underinsured can access the vaccine at no cost through the CDC's Bridge Access Program, a temporary initiative set to conclude by December 2024.

Officials noted that this is the first instance of vaccines being provided through the commercial market. According to CNN, during a Pfizer investor call in October, officials estimated a potential list price of \$110 to \$130 per single dose for adults.

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Commentary, Continued from page 6.

initiative will educate Louisianians about the benefits of green space, plant thousands of trees, and create job opportunities by training a green infrastructure workforce. We are taking a significant step toward a greener, more resilient future," said Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (LA-02).

Mayor Cantrell's Federal Infrastructure Task Force crafted the City's proposal. The city created the multi-departmental Federal Infrastructure Task Force in January 2022 to analyze infrastructure needs within the city and secure funding from new federal infrastructure and climate funding programs.

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