



*City of New Orleans  
Vieux Carré Commission*

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*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

**Marc H. Morial**  
Mayor

**Marc J. Cooper**

**Director**

**COMMISSIONERS**

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Julie D. Brown, A.I.A. · C. Spencer Smith, A.I.A. · Carol B. Wise · Stephen N. Chesnut · Barbara A. Waiters*

## **Top 25 Accomplishments of the Vieux Carré Commission, City of New Orleans, during the Administration of Mayor Marc H. Morial**

### 1. Staff Increased

Enlarged the Vieux Carré Commission staff from 7 to 9 by doubling the number of Building Inspectors [from 1 to 2] and the number of Information Processor Operators [from 1 to 2].

### 2. Computer Equipment Updated

Eliminated 5 desk top computers, none of which had a mouse or color monitor. Increased from 5 to 9 the number of desktop computers, providing both computers and digital cameras to the inspection department for the first time.

### 3. Professional Staff Continuing Education

Secured public/private funds to allow professional staff to attend, on a rotating basis, **the National Preservation Conferences** in Boston, Washington, D.C., Providence, Chicago, and Savannah (sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation).

### 4. Capital Projects Completed

Issued the final permits for and supervised the construction of **Bienville Place Park**. This was accomplished with City Capital Improvement funds [apprx. \$496,000 city bond funds] and transformed the site of an unattractive gas station/parking lot. Spearheaded a City Capital Improvement project [apprx. \$360,000 city bond funds] to restore the historic and original design hip roof with Vermont slate and all new copper gutters and downspouts for the 8th District Station NOPD and offices of the Vieux Carré Commission located at 334 Royal Street [originally the **Bank of Louisiana building, constructed 1826**]. Worked closely with the French Market Corporation to create the **Joan of Arc "Place de France"** pocket park.

5. Streamlined Permit Process

The VCC transitioned from manually issued permits to computer generated Vieux Carré Commission permits and improved turnaround time on most permits.

6. First VCC Web Site

The VCC has used volunteer web author to create first ever Vieux Carré Commission web site, one of the first in city government. This reduces the number of public calls for information.

7. Removing Asbestos

As the result of a powerful hail storm in January 2000, the VCC facilitated the permitting and replacement of hundreds of asbestos roofs with natural slate and acceptable slate substitutes.

8. Private Donations for New Equipment

Solicited private donations of 4 new computers and printers, a color scanner, 2 digital cameras, 5 file cabinets, and other miscellaneous equipment. Also carpeted hall, elevator lobby, and offices for departmental secretary, architect, historian, and building inspectors using private donations, as well.

9. New Legislation for Enforcement

Pushed new legislation through City Council allowing Vieux Carré Commission to pursue historic preservation enforcement in the city's **Administration Adjudication** process, located and administered in the Health Department.

10. Cultural Heritage Enrichment

Assisted Mayor Morial's **Sidney Bechet Centennial Advisory Committee** to promote greater appreciation and recognition for a native New Orleanian jazz giant. This event generated world-wide recognition in 1997.

11. Special Events Coordination

Successfully helped to coordinate special events impacting the French Quarter such as Disney's "**Hunchback of Notre Dame**" World Premiere and **Superbowls XXXI & XXXVI**.

12. Filming in the French Quarter

Worked closely with **Mayor's Advisory Board for Film & Television** to successfully coordinate shooting of numerous major movie productions and commercials in the French

Quarter while minimizing the impacts on residents and businesses.

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13. Formosan Termite Public Awareness

Cooperated with **New Orleans Mosquito and Termite Control Board** [NOMTCB] to monitor and treat our building [334 Royal Street - 8th District Police Station] for protection from future damage by Formosan Termites. Worked closely with the NOMTCB and the **U.S. Department of Agriculture** to enhance public awareness of the “**Operation Full Stop**” pilot program targeted in the heart of the French Quarter in an effort to bring Formosan Termites under control. Employed staff to rebuild tongue and groove flooring at top stair landing destroyed by Formosan termites in Vieux Carré Commission /8th District NOPD building, thereby avoiding outside contract or burdening Property Management Department.

14. American Institute of Architects Exhibit

Produced French Quarter Photo Exhibit from VCC archives which were matched with contemporary shots of Vieux Carré buildings for the 1997 **American Institute of Architects National Conference**, in honor of the 60th Anniversary of the Vieux Carré Commission [1936 - 1996]. The contemporary photos were commissioned by community photographers, developed, printed, mounted, and framed at no public expense.

15. Award-Winning Holiday Decorations

Cooperated with **Greater New Orleans Tourism Marketing Board** to facilitate award-winning Holiday Decorations each December for the 1826 historic Bank of Louisiana Building [334 Royal Street - Vieux Carré Commission / 8th District Station NOPD].

16. Web Based Vieux Carré Map

Secured private grant of \$5,000 from the **Goldring Family Foundation** for non-profit **VCC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, LTD** to computerize the Vieux Carré map of historical ratings. This will be placed on the VCC web site in the near future.

17. Civil Service Changes

Worked with **Civil Service Commission** to create new job classification “Principal Architectural Historian” to provide greater opportunities for advancement of VCC and HDLC Architectural Historians.

18. Public Relations and International Visitors

Established close relationship with the **Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau** and the **Council for International Visitors** to provide special treatment of visiting officials, journalists, educators, etc. who are interested in the history of the Nation’s

second oldest historic preservation board.

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19. Work with New Orleans Public Schools

VCC Director and staff have served as mentors to numerous students of the New Orleans Public Schools “**World of Work Academy.**”

20. Protecting Our Archives

Have begun an in-house project to archivally protect vintage photographs in our files. Work with **New Orleans Public Library** to transfer all deaccessioned materials.

21. University Education in Preservation

Have given lectures to **Tulane** and **UNO** students of Historic Preservation, Preservation Law, and Urban Planning. Interviewed by numerous graduate students working on their theses.

22. Volunteers to Assist the VCC

Worked with **VIGOR** [Volunteers in Government of Responsibility] to engage volunteers to assist the VCC consistently throughout the last administration.

23. Helping Protect Jackson Square

Issued permits for vehicular access to the **Jackson Square Pedestrian Mall** using very restrictive criteria to assure minimal disruption of this most historic and sensitive area.

24. Vieux Carré Geographic Information System [GIS]

Purchased major computer hardware and software to begin development of a **Vieux Carré Geographic Information System** [GIS]. Ordered digital Sanborn Map data for the French Quarter to fold into the system.

25. New Department Vehicle

Acquired a new automobile [**1999 Crown Victoria**] for the Vieux Carré Commission.

**Awards for Marc J. Cooper, Director Vieux Carré Commission**

1995 New Orleans Magazine

“People to Watch”

1999 Young Leadership Council

“Role Model”

1999 French Minister of Culture/Communication  
Letters”

“Chevalier in the Order of Arts &