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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

NOLA Holds 34th Annual French Quarter Festival April 6-9



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French Quarter Festival Takes Over NOLA April 6-9th



Rapidly rising artist Tank and The Bangas will take the Tropical Isle Hand Grenade Stage on Saturday, April 8, at 7:20 p.m. Photos by Zack Smith Photography.

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

Starting next Thursday, one of the largest Louisiana events, second behind Mardi Gras, will take place in the heart of New Orleans. This April 6-9th, The French Quarter Festival, Inc., will showcase its 34th Annual French Quarter Festival. The year 2017 marks the festival debut of New Orleans-grown Singer, Aaron Neville.

The Festival

The French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron is an annual event organized by the French Quarter Festivals, Inc. For the past 34 years, French Quarter Festival, Inc., uses its stages to promote the City of New Orleans through special events and activities unique to the City's culture.

The annual festival showcases over 1,700 artists and over 60 New Orleans restaurants.

"The French Quarter Festival is considered the local's fest," said Rebecca Sell, the Marketing and Publicity Manager for the French Quarter Festival, Inc.

"We can always expect large crowds with out-of-town audiences, and the fact that the festival is free. But we also feature 1700 Louisiana artist from every genre," she added.

"It's also a great food festival. It's a once and a lifetime opportunity to experience the best of New Orleans for free."

This year, the French Quarter festival will have 20 new acts, including Neville's Debut Performance.

"We expect Aaron Neville to draw a huge crowd. There has been a lot of excitement of social media, and the feedback we have received so far is overwhelming," Sell said.

"Last year we had 760,000 fans attending the festival. We're gearing up for a similar success in 2017," she added.

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

Cover photo of Aaron Neville courtesy of Monterey International. Artist photos by Kichea S. Burt.

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LOWEST PRICES OF THE SEASON SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 3/28-4/2/17. "Our lowest prices of the season" refers to our spring season: Feb. 1-April 30, 2017.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Musical Artist Ellis Marsalis is set to play at the Jackson Square Stage on Thursday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m. Photo by Cedric Ellsworth.

The French Quarter Festival has stages and vendors located throughout the French Quarter. The festival will kick off with five stages beginning on Thursday, April 6th, including the Jackson Square Stage, located at Jackson Square; The Abita Beer Stage, Tropical Isle Hand Grenade Stage, and the GE Digital Big River Stage, which are all located at Woldenberg Riverfront Park. And the Jack Daniel's Stage, which will be located at 600 Decatur Street this year.

Several other stages will be ac-

cessible at the French Market, Louisiana State Museum Old U.S. Mint, 225 Decatur Street, the 300, 600 and 700 blocks of Bourbon Street; the 400, 500, 700 and 1000 blocks of Royal Street; The 600 block and 726 St. Peter Street; 1116 Chartres Street and the Natchez Wharf at Toulouse.

A Zydeco and Cajun Showcase will be held at the Bienville Statue located at 400 Decatur Street (Decatur and Conti Street).

The French Quarter Festival, Inc. has released a free app down-

loadable from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store to keep up with scheduled performances.

The French Quarter Festival is free and open to the public.

Aaron Neville

Aaron Neville is a highly-acclaimed R&B Singer and Musician with rich Cajun and Creole influences. The artist, originally from New Orleans is also known in his musical act The Neville Brothers, which include his brothers Art, Charles and Cyril.



Music duo Love Evolution will perform on Thursday, April 6, at the French Quarter Festival on the Tropical Isle Stage.

Neville is known for his hits "Tell It Like It Is," and "Don't Take Away My Heaven," and his cover of "Everybody Plays the Fool," originally by the R&R Group, The Main Ingredients.

Neville will play at the Abita Beer Stage on Thursday, April 6th, beginning at 3:45 p.m.

"This is a long, overdue festival debut. Musical Artist Aaron Neville is synonymous with New Orleans. We are thrilled to have him perform, especially since he released his latest album 'Apache' last year,"

Sell said.

Neville's debut performance is sponsored by local company AOS Interior Environments.

Noted Performances

Other artist performances include Dr. Michael White, Ellis Marsalis, Rebirth Brass Band, Irma Thomas, John Boutte', Tank and the Bangas and Nayo Jones. Up-and-coming musical duo Love Evolution, sponsored by KMEZ Old School 102.9, will perform at the French Quarter Festival at the Topical Isle Stage at 2 p.m.

National News

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee to Black Press: Trump has Endangered America

Harry Colbert, Jr.
Insight News/NNPA Member

On a day that honored a stalwart of the Black Press and saw a liaison of the Trump Administration walk out on a breakfast with members of the Black Press, it was the words of Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) in a university library that rang the loudest.

Rep. Jackson Lee delivered remarks on March 23 in memory of Lenora "Doll" Carter, long-time publisher of the "Houston Forward Times," who was just enshrined in the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Gallery of Distinguished Publishers at Howard University's Founders Library. The enshrinement ceremony is one of the signature events of Black Press Week, an annual celebration in Washington, D.C., attended by NNPA members, partners, sponsors and Black Press contributors.



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) said that she has considered pursuing impeachment proceedings for President Donald Trump, during a ceremony honoring a Lenora "Doll" Carter, former Publisher of the Houston Forward Times. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA).

The NNPA is a trade group of more than 200 Black-owned media companies operating in 70 markets in the United States.

During her impromptu talk after

the enshrinement ceremony, Jackson Lee dropped a bombshell. In talking about the nation's current president, Jackson Lee minced no words.

"This is not a government, right now," said Jackson Lee in front of nearly 50 members of the Jackson Lee added: "I'm on the route of impeachment."

Jackson Lee said there are a litany of reasons that should disqualify President Donald Trump as president including his potential ties to Russia and its interference in November's election, but she also said America is unsafe under Trump.

"I'm concerned about our nation. I'm concerned about what happens when we get that call about North Korea in the middle of the night," said Jackson Lee. "You have in office an individual that is unread and unlearned."

Jackson Lee's statement rang loud, because she is also a member of the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees.

Some have expressed concerns that an impeachment of Trump would leave the nation under the

control of Vice President Mike Pence, who is seen as a staunch conservative with far right-wing views. Jackson Lee does not share in those concerns.

"At least he understands government," said the Texas representative. "And I'm focused on getting him (Pence) out in 2020, anyway."

Jackson Lee also remembered "Doll" Carter, fondly.

"Doll was larger than life," remarked Jackson Lee. Carter lived in Jackson Lee's district.

Carter, who died in 2010, also served as the treasurer of the NNPA. She was remembered as a powerful businesswoman and a loving friend.

Colleague and close friend Dorothy Leavell said Carter lived up to her nickname.

"I know why they called her 'Doll,'" said Leavell, "She was beautiful on the outside and she was beautiful on the inside, as well."

Study Shows Immigrants Have a Large Impact on New Orleans Economy

Data News Staff Edited Report

Last Tuesday, the City of New Orleans joined Think Tank New American Economy (NAE) to release a report documenting the economic impact of immigrants in the New Orleans metropolitan area. Accounting for seven percent of the overall population, the foreign-born of New Orleans make an outsized contribution to the local economy through their high rates of entrepreneurship, large tax contributions, and spending power.

“New Orleans is proud to be a welcoming City because we know that diversity is a strength,” said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. “This report underscores the invaluable contributions immigrants continue to make to our City and our economy. I am proud to stand with mayors from across the country in calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform to help strengthen local economies and communities.”

The report, *New Americans in Greater New Orleans*, finds:

- In 2014, foreign-born households contributed \$7.6 billion to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Greater New Orleans metro area.
- In 2014, immigrants in Greater New Orleans paid \$525 million in federal taxes and \$196 million in state and local taxes. They also held \$2 billion in remaining spending power.
- Foreign-born residents of Greater New Orleans also support federal social programs. In 2014, they contributed more than \$265 million to Social Security and al-



In 2014, immigrants in Greater New Orleans paid \$525 million in federal taxes and \$196 million in state and local taxes. They also held \$2 billion in remaining spending power. Photo by Martha Soukup via Flickr.

most \$77 million to Medicare.

- In 2014, immigrant-owned businesses in Greater New Orleans generated \$174 million in business income.
- Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, immigrants living in Greater New Orleans in 2014 helped create or preserve 4,285 local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.
- Foreign-born residents tend to have higher educational levels than U.S.-born citizens in the Greater New Orleans metro area. If the metro area retains one-half of its international students who graduate with bachelor's degrees

or higher, 458 local jobs will be created within six years, boosting the area's real GDP by \$114.6M within the next 30 years, and increasing its population by 3,668 people within the next 50 years.

- In 2014, 92.8 percent of the foreign-born had been in Greater New Orleans for more than a year. In fact, 59,582 immigrants, or 64 percent of the metro area's foreign-born population, have been in the country for more than 10 years.

“New Orleans serves as a great American City benefitting from the talent and hard work of immigrants,” said John Feinblatt, Chairman of New American Economy. “Immigrants not only help power local sectors like agriculture and construction, but also start businesses that create jobs both in the City and the state of Louisiana.”

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Fashion Week Season Seven Recap

Delaney George
Data News Weekly
Contributor

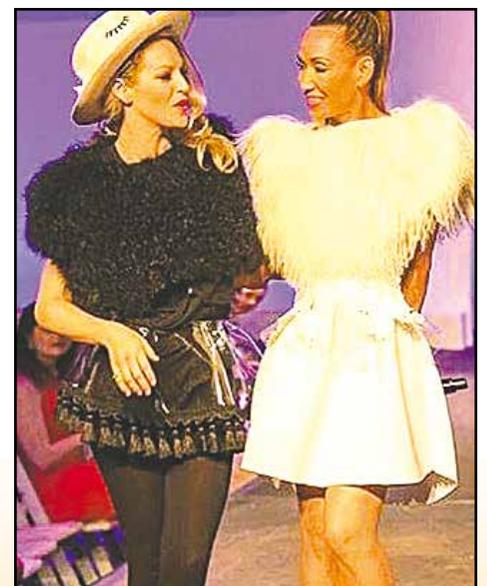
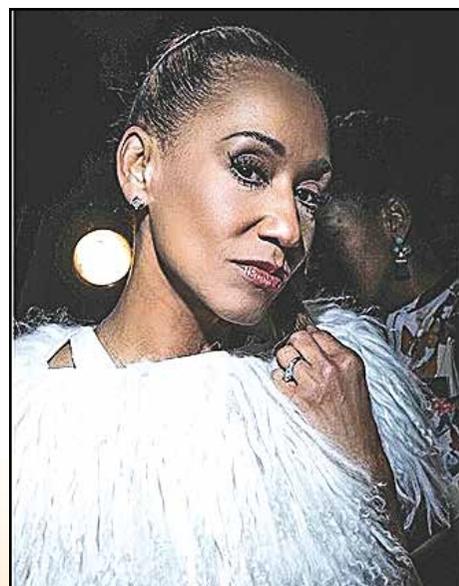
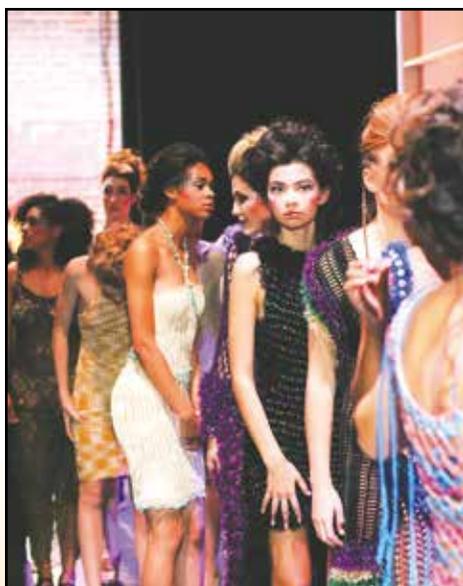
This past week, the well-known, seven-day fashion based event, New Orleans Fashion Week, debuted its seventh season of a fashion filled showcase. Like previous years, in the past, the showcase held three runway shows, after parties and, workshops, and more. Models strutted down the runway with style and poise for each of their designers. Crowds gazed at them in amazement, and designers blushed with pride and excitement at each finale.

In 2017, Season seven was held at the Civic Center, showcasing over 50 designers and over 100 models, hairstylists, make-up artists, and fashion-based staff. The shows consisted of live performances, and several local vendors such as Lily New Orleans and Launch Model Management, and more.

Fashion Week is also a time when artist can be recognized. This year at Fashion Week, Mimi Holaday, a local designer, won New Orleans Fashion Week's Traditional Top Design Award. Holaday has premiered her work in Fashion Week before but this season was her year to shine.

"I am completely honored and thankful for everyone who supported me, it's been an amazing couple of days. I was surrounded by so many talented designers and people who I was so excited to meet, who all worked so hard and it really paid off," said Holaday.

New Orleans Fashion Week concluded its week with a final runway show on Friday, March 24th Season eight is schedule to begin next year in March 2018. Photos by Delaney George.



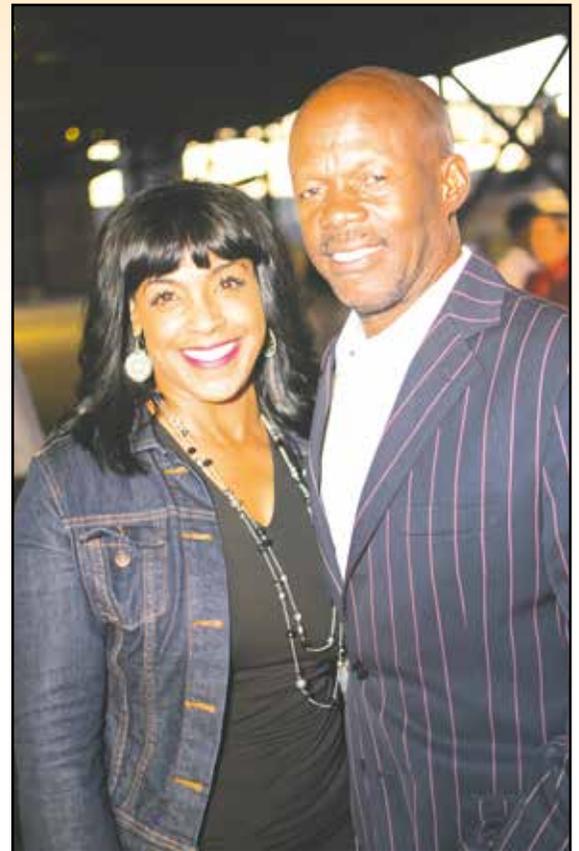
Spears Group Holds First-Ever Savor Event

Harvey Brown
Data News Weekly
Contributor

On Saturday, March 25th, The Spears Group, the New Orleans-based Public Relations Firm responsible for hosting Dinner En Blanc and the Fried Chicken Festival, held its first-ever Savor Event. Over 200 guests were in attendance at the limited-entry event.

Savor is a Luxury Dining Event designed for food enthusiasts and adventurist eaters. The location of the Savor Event is undisclosed until 24 hours before the Savor starts. Chefs Philip Lopez and Tariq Hanna participated in a one-time collaboration to provide an unmatched, six-course dining experience.

Three more Savor Events will be held throughout 2017 in New Orleans: June of 2017, September of 2017, and November of 2017. For more information about the Savor Events, visit Savornola.com



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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Trump's Budget Cuts Hurt the Same People that Voted for Him



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

If you happened to have voted for the man who now occupies the

White House, you may be feeling bamboozled, right about now. The man who said that he wanted to take care of the little people, those who were forgotten by the elites, now wants to cut programs that affect these working-class people, ranging from Legal Aid to Meals on Wheels to housing assistance to job training. He would cut the Environmental Protection Agency by more than 31 percent, leaving more than 3000 workers in the cold. Many of his other budget provisions will

call for federal reductions-in-force (RIFs), and these chaotic RIFs may cause instability in some government agencies, since workers can appeal their RIF, or bump other workers out of their jobs.

And he's not using a scalpel to make the cuts; he's using machetes and weed whackers. His budget makes his position on the culture wars clear. He would entirely eliminate federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the

Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and National Public Radio. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will get \$6.2 billion cut, and even though the Department of Education will get a 12 percent cut, \$1.4 billion dollars are slated to support private schools through school choice. HBCU programs have not been cut, but many of the programs they depend on, including work-study programs, have been cut. It's an ugly budget, but it's the budget

that Trump promised, a budget that "puts America first with a \$54 billion increase in defense spending and \$2.6 billion for the wall that Mexico is supposed to pay for.

We need to rail against this budget even as we tease out its odious details, but we also need to realize that it is too early to panic. Why? The United States Congress still has to pass this budget. Though Republicans control the House of

Commentary, Continued on page 9.

Mr. President, What If It Was Your Mama?



Austin R. Cooper
NNPA Newswire Columnist

During the summer before the election, then-presidential nominee Donald Trump, added this message to his speeches: "You're living in poverty; your schools are no good; you have no jobs; 58 percent of your youth is unemployed. What the hell do you have to lose?"

It was an attempt to appeal to Black voters.

Needless to say, this was an unusual way of trying to expand his political base among a constituency that had not shown much support for the GOP in recent years.

President Trump is perhaps the first political candidate to knowingly insult the very ones to whom he was appealing for votes. What also made these appeals to African-Americans outside of the norm, and even bizarre, is that they were often made before predominantly, White audiences.

After reviewing the president's first budget proposal, titled "America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again," his

question of "What the hell do you have to lose?" can now be more broadly posed beyond African-Americans. Based on his fiscal priorities, many Americans, including a significant number of those who voted for him, stand to lose a great deal. Unfortunately for some, Hell might seem like a better alternative than trying to survive under some of the president's proposed cuts.

Take, for example, the "Meals on Wheels" Program. The president's budget identified steep cuts in numerous domestic programs. It calls for the elimination of a key program that Meals on Wheels groups depend on: a \$3 billion program—community development block grants (CDBG)—that began under the Ford administration to combat poverty by giving states and cities greater flexibility in how to combat poverty.

Therefore, pain and hardship will be felt if Congress enacts the cuts. Meals on Wheels delivers food to individuals at home who are unable to purchase or prepare their own meals. The name is often used generically to refer to home-delivered meal programs, not all of which are actually named "Meals on Wheels."

Research has shown that home-delivered meal programs significantly improve diet quality, increase nutrient intakes and improve the quality of life among recipients. The program also reduces government expenditures by reducing the



Austin Cooper says that, based on President Trump's fiscal priorities, many Americans, including a significant number of those who voted for him, stand to lose a great deal. Photo via CVCOA.

need of recipients to use hospitals, nursing homes or other expensive community-based services.

Mick Mulvaney, the new director of the Office of Management and Budget recently stated, "We can't spend money on programs just because they sound good...to take the federal money and give it to the states and say, 'Look we want to give you money for programs that don't work.'"

Try telling someone, who is no longer experiencing hunger pains due to Meals on Wheels, that the program does not work.

President Trump is blessed to have never gone hungry a day in his life. However, I wish that he

would visit with 56-year-old Linda Preast in Macon, Georgia.

During a recent interview on "CBS Evening News," Ms. Preast was asked if she was surprised by the spending cuts to Meals on Wheels being proposed by the president. She replied, "Yeah, because I was told—I was under the [impression] that he was going to help us." The reporter then asked, "What would you tell him to convince him not to cut the program?" Ms. Preast responded, "What if it was your mama?"

Ms. Preast, who is White, poor and confined to a wheelchair due to a stroke, signed up for Meals on Wheels two years ago. Last No-

vember, she, like a majority of Macon residents, voted for President Trump.

According to Robert A. Caro, the author of "The Passage of Power: The Years of Lyndon Johnson," the President Johnson loved the phrase "War on Poverty." From personal knowledge, he knew that the causes of poverty stem from a "lack of education and training, in a lack of medical care and housing, in a lack of decent communities in which to live." These were, to President Johnson, real-life foes. Poverty in America is Democratic, Republican, independent and nonvoting.

It is my hope that the 45th president will learn from his predecessor and find the compassion to use the bully pulpit to alleviate, and not compound, the pain currently being experienced by so many Americans, many who supported the president as well as many who did not.

So, Mr. President, what if it was your mama?

Austin R. Cooper, Jr., serves as President of Cooper Strategic Affairs, Inc., which provides legislative, political and communications counsel in Washington, D.C., for governmental, nonprofit and for profit organizations. Austin has worked for three Members of Congress, the Turner Broadcasting System (TBS), former NYC Mayor David Dinkins and former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young. You can follow Austin on Twitter @acooper62.

Landrieu Responds to the Department of Homeland Security Immigration, Customs Enforcement's "Uncooperative" Claims

Data News Staff Edited Report

On Tuesday, March 21, Mayor Mitch Landrieu released the following statement on the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Report naming the City of New Orleans uncooperative:

"First and foremost, the NOPD does now and will continue to follow federal laws and focus on arresting people who commit crime, regardless of their immigration status.

The NOPD's Policy on Immigration complies with federal law and makes New Orleans safer because individuals are more likely to report crime, and victims and witnesses can testify without fear of being questioned about their immigration status. That's why the NOPD will continue to focus on arresting those who commit violent crimes,



Last Tuesday, the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement's deemed New Orleans uncooperative with immigration detention. Mayor Mitch Landrieu responded, and said the City is focusing on detaining criminals only.

not enforcing Civil Immigration Laws. The Department of Justice, the Federal Consent Decree Monitor and the Federal judge overseeing the consent decree have approved our immigration policy, and it has served us well. Going back to September of 2015, officials at ICE were consulted in the drafting of NOPD's Immigration Policy. This agency, which is responsible for enforcing Federal Immigration Laws, never expressed any concern with the NOPD's Policy.

We are focused on fighting crime, and we will not move officers off the street to join President Trump's deportation force.

Lastly, the Trump Administration should be aware that the City of New Orleans and the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office are separate legal entities run by independently elected leaders."

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

Representatives and the Senate. I can't believe they have all lost their minds. There are physicians among those elected Republicans who must surely understand the value of the medical research "45" has threatened to cut. There are educators, who understand the importance of summer Pell grants. There must be a handful of Republicans who will fight the cuts of the EPA and the cessation of other climate change research. These are the Republicans who need to step up, and they are the ones who must be lobbied.

There will be lots of moaning and groaning, teeth-gnashing and horror about this budget, but there should also be resistance. There will be hearings, and those who resist ought to be attending those hearings. Members of Congress will be visiting their districts, and resisters need to be there to confront them about this budget. The proposed White House budget is nothing, but a request. It is not a fait accompli, and it won't be unless we roll over and accept this madness.

Our 45th President exhibits an unusual inability to understand our governmental system of checks and balances. He seems to think that he can unilaterally declare a policy change. He wants to get rid of the Environmental Protection Agency. Does everyone? He wants to put more money into private schools. Are there members of Congress who would resist? It is time for Republicans of conscience (are there any) to step up and say that it's not okay to stop Meals on Wheels. It's not okay to damage our environment. It's not okay to cut off funds for medical research. All of us need to speak up!

People have marched, and both women and immigrants have stayed home to express their resistance. The presentation of this warped budget offers another opportunity for resistance, and the very future of our nature depends on this resistance. It is unfathomable that these Bible-thumping Republicans will turn their back on children, the elderly, and those who desperately need job training to contribute to the economy. The key to altering this budget process is resistance.

Julianne Malveaux is an Author, Economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her podcast, "It's Personal with Dr. J" is available on iTunes. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available to order at www.juliannemalveaux.com at Amazon.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

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Delaney's Armoire

More than just High Heels and Flashing Lights New Orleans Fashion Week



Delaney George
Fashion Columnist

There was a time where cities like New York and Los Angeles dominated the fashion week events in the United States. But one woman decided to use her fashion talents to create a new and cultured fashion week to New Orleans.

New Orleans Fashion Week began in 2011 as a platform to showcase southern artist's talents and the genuine culture of New Orleans. Unlike other fashion weeks around the nation, New Orleans Fashion Week aims to highlight and advance the careers and talents of the models, makeup artists, designers and hair stylists who participate each year. The seven-day event comes once a year in March, and consists of several parties, over 50 runway shows and many seminars.

Tracee Dundas, Creator and Director of the of the New Orleans Fashion Week, has worked in fashion for over 20 years. The inspiration for the event started shortly after Hurricane Katrina. Using her fashion connects and talents, Dundas created a new event to highlight Fashion across the Gulf Coast.

"We are a creative, and very cultured City, and we need to give our Nola Designers a platform to



Creator of Nola Fashion Week, Tracee Dundas strikes a pose in her spring season dress.

showcase their art because it is art. Fashion is not just clothing, it's the makeup, the walk, the hair, it's about all of the little details," said Dundas.

Over time, Fashion Week impacted the lives and careers of several New Orleanians, Dundas said. Over the last seven seasons, New Orleans Fashion Week organizers jumpstarted model gigs, and exposure for designers, makeup artist and hair stylist.

Local Runway and Print Model Mignon Blanc modeled in Fashion Week over the past four season. Blanc said she owes her career to

New Orleans Fashion Week.

"I have booked many gigs since starting in fashion week and just working closely with Ms. Tracee, actually, my current modeling job is actually one I received after being noticed on the runway at fashion week" said Blanc.

With so much talent, culture, and entertainment in one week, a lot goes into producing such a big showcase and keeping it up. Kayla St. Blanc, a seven-year Production Assistant and Designer said that after all the hard work, and planning is done, to see the affect the show has on the audience makes

it all worth it.

"We all work really hard, and I love to see the growth of the show each year, it really comes to life after all of our hard work. It is a rewarding feeling to be able to work with amazing people, especially Ms. Tracee. I believe in her vision of bringing high fashion to New Orleans and this is the most professional high fashion production I have ever been a part of" said St. Blanc.

Kori James, Local Model and regular fashion week attendee said that the experience of fashion week is like no other, from the

guests to the vendors and display of culture.

"This fashion week is authentically ours, authentically New Orleans. So many creative people in one room and I've always loved how although its high fashion they keep that New Orleans essence and not try to mimic other fashion capitals" said James.

For more information on New Orleans Fashion Week visit www.neworleansfashionweek.com or visit @nolafashionweek on Instagram.



Dundas and her Fashion Week Production Team gets dolled up to take on another fashion filled day.

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The Curly Corner

Do the Twist!

4 Reasons to Wear Two Strand Twists on Natural Hair

Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

Two strand twists are a fairly easy style to wear on natural hair. They require few products and are perfect for non-braiders like me. I also don't consider myself the best natural hair stylist but two strand twists require the least amount of effort for the most amount of style. Twists are gaining incredible popularity in the natural hair world as an alternative to wearing your hair out and down. They can be somewhat time-consuming but after you're done, you have a style that you can wear for a week or more with little day to day effort. I usually wear my simple two strand twists two ways: up in a ponytail or down towards my shoulders. If you're contemplating on whether or not you'd like to get some kinky twists of your own, here are 5 reasons why you should do so.



Twisted tresses for beauty.

1. Protective Styling - Two strand twists are the perfect protective style needed to keep your hair safe from breakage and split ends while you go along with day to day wear.

2. Curls by the Pound! - Two strand twists temporarily give your natural hair the appearance of loose spiral curls on tightly curled textures when untwisted. These gorgeous curls can be worn day and night with just a little spritz of your favorite curl cream to bring them back to life each day.

3. Easy Styling - Two strand twists do not require a lot of styling every morning and can be worn down or up without much effort. This is perfect for anyone from the busy working mom to college students.

4. Protects Against Dryness - Two strand twists help to protect your ends which are the weakest part of your hair from dryness. Dryness can cause your ends to become brittle and break off, therefore harming your growth retention.

Happy Growing!

Follow me on Instagram @see-yourcurls

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