Join our Board!

Call for board members: 2022-2025 Term
Help ensure that the Greenway is a safe, active, and vibrant public space.

To apply for a board member position:
Please submit a letter-of-interest and resume or equivalent to the Nominating Committee at apply@lafittegreenway.org by Friday, December 10, 2021.

About Friends of Lafitte Greenway:
Friends of Lafitte Greenway was formed in early 2006 by New Orleans community members who saw an opportunity to rethink their community’s landscape to enhance livability, environmental sustainability, open space equity, health, and revitalization. The organization built a network of diverse constituents who shared its vision of preserving the continuous open space in the former Lafitte rail corridor, and developing a Greenway that encourages active living, stimulates economic development, and links adjacent neighborhoods, cultural amenities, historic sites, and public spaces.

The Lafitte Greenway opened in November 2015 as a 2.6 mile pedestrian and bike path and linear park, connecting neighborhoods from Armstrong Park to City Park. The backbone of the New Orleans bike network, the Greenway saw over 400,000 uses in 2020.

Friends of Lafitte Greenway (Friends) is the City of New Orleans and the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission's (NORD's) official partner, working together to program, develop, and steward the Greenway. Friends is a community-driven organization, guided by a Board of Directors, members, volunteers, and staff.

Mission:
To build, program, and promote the Lafitte Greenway as a great public space.

Vision:
A healthy and vibrant public space that connects people to nature, their destinations, and each other.

Values:
Accountability ∙ Equity ∙ Sustainability ∙ Collaboration ∙ Joy

During your 3-year tenure the organization has big plans to implement our Strategic Plan, including the following key initiatives:

● Grow the Greenway's role as a highly-used, community-oriented public space through expanded arts, cultural, and recreational programs and excellent design and capital development.
● Ensure that the Greenway is a well maintained ecosystem that is thriving, attractive and sustainable through stewardship, maintenance, and environmental education
● Expand the Greenway’s role as a transportation connector that safely links neighborhoods and locations along the Greenway through design, development, and education.
● Increase individual giving, corporate, philanthropic support, and earned income opportunities to power our impact.
● Strengthen community engagement and communications.

We ask that you are willing to work as a team and openly share ideas. Additionally, we seek candidates with any or all of the following attributes:

● Knowledge and connections to the communities along the Lafitte Greenway.
● Racially diverse applicants.
● Leader in the local business community.
● Background in economic development and infrastructure planning.
● Commitment to helping Friends achieve its fundraising goals through network development and personal giving.
● Access to diverse political and community networks.
● Ability to serve as an active, engaged board member for one 3-year term.
● Prior participation with Friends of Lafitte Greenway as a member or volunteer is appreciated.

Availability: Our board members serve on alternate rotating terms. This 3-year term begins in January 2022. After the first 3-year term, board members may be invited to renew for a second 3-year term.

Commitment Details: As a volunteer working board, board members commit approximately 4-10 hours per month on tasks including:

● Attending board meetings (7 per year)
● Participation on at least one committee (committees include: Fund Development, Planning & Design, Arts Activation, Event Planning, Finance, and Streets Team).
● Participation in occasional events such as the Greenway Supernova, tours, and happy hours.
● Other responsibilities include bringing your networking resources, fundraising support, and becoming a champion of our shared cause.

Fundraising Support: A chief responsibility of our board members is to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the organization. The organization has a culture of fundraising that begins with board leadership. Board members have set a collective commitment (together as a board) to annually raise a minimum of $100,000 in total through a combination of personal donations and other fundraising support, such as recruiting donations, connecting staff to personal and professional networks, supporting grant opportunities, and assisting with donor cultivation.

Benefits: We are an all-volunteer, unpaid board. Benefits of joining the board of directors include: giving back to the community while gaining excellent experience working hand-in-hand with a committed team, being a part of shaping the future of a world-class Greenway, becoming familiar with current urban planning issues in New Orleans, and networking with local civic leaders.
Seats Available: Friends of Lafitte Greenway is seeking to fill vacant board seats for the 2022-2025 board term. New board members will be elected by the organization's membership at the January 26, 2022, 5:30 PM Annual Membership Meeting.

Other Ways to Get Involved: Friends of Lafitte Greenway’s work is driven by our committees, composed of community volunteers, board members, and staff. Joining our committees as a volunteer is a great way to support the organization, and is often a path to board membership. Please consider volunteering on one of our committees, whether or not joining the board is right for you. Join or renew your membership at lafittegreenway.org/membership. Contact info@lafittegreenway.org for information about getting involved.

Inclusivity: Friends of Lafitte Greenway is committed to community engagement and strives to include a diversity of voices in the process of programming and planning for improvements on the Greenway. We are looking for board members representing a broad range of backgrounds and communities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic partner status, marital status, physical or mental disability, or AIDS- or HIV-status.

Please Share! Do you know somebody passionate about the Lafitte Greenway who would be a good candidate? Send them this announcement. We are looking for board members and committee members representing a broad range of backgrounds and communities.

Current Board Members: New board members will bolster an accomplished and passionate group of leaders, working to build a healthier, more vibrant New Orleans community. Our current board members include:

1. Kevin P. Centanni (Board Chair), Property Owner, Rosedale Restaurant
2. Montgomery “Monty” Lunn, (Vice-Chair) Managing Partner, Atlas Greenway Partners
3. Laura Doody, (Treasurer) Assistant Vice President, Ochsner Health
4. Darby Shields (Secretary), Cycling Advocate
5. Essence Banks, President, Heart & Hands Foundation, Four Season New Orleans
6. Emily Bullock, Principal, Spackman Mossop Michaels Landscape Architects
7. Andy Dale, Management & Business Development Officer, IBERIABANK and First Horizon
8. Debbie de la Houssaye, New Orleans Jazz Celebration
9. Misty Frye, General Manager, Historic Carver Theater
10. Susan Guidry, former New Orleans City Councilmember
11. Vann Joines, Principal, JOIN Development
12. Brian Knighten, Owner, Broad Theater and The Broadside
13. Melissa Lee, Senior Project Manager, Concordia Architecture
14. Mike Leitzinger - Mechanical Engineer, Infinity Engineering Consultants, LLC
15. Sally Lindsay, Director of Business Development, Shibusa Systems
16. Michael Ricks, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration
17. Philip Stelly, Public Information Officer, Orleans Parish Sheriff’s Office
18. Leonetta Terrell, Local Organizing Ministry Member, St. Peter Claver Church
19. Reed Wiley, Commercial Associate Broker, Latter and Blum