

Board Nominees: 2020-2023

FRIENDS OF LAFITTE GREENWAY

First Term Nominees

1. Emily Bullock

Emily Bullock is a Principal with Spackman Mossop Michaels landscape architects. She has experience designing open space projects and leading community engagement efforts in dynamic and diverse communities across New Orleans, Detroit, Chattanooga, and many others, including a youth-inclusive design process with middle school students at Paul Habans Charter School in Algiers focused on stormwater management, and a bilingual neighborhood green infrastructure engagement plan in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Emily has enjoyed following the development of the Greenway since its early planning stages and looks forward to contributing to the momentum and continued success of the Greenway.

2. Misty Frye

Misty Frye is the happy and proud wife of Abiram Frye Sr., and their union is blessed with four children Abiram Jr., Abria, Abrian, and Abron. Misty Frye is currently the General Manager for the Historic Carver Theater. Under her leadership at the Historic Carver Theater, she has established many relationships within community and businesses as an initiative to revitalize this historical landmark. She has also implemented new programming under the Historic Carver Theater Foundation. Misty currently operates and manages a Permanent Supportive Housing Unit (PSH) for the New Orleans Family Justice Center. She is a Realtor with Frye & Melancon Realty. She comes with twelve years of experience and calls herself the "Real Estate Queen". She also shares ownership of Top Job Cleaning Services with her husband, which provides residential and commercial cleaning services. Their business motto is "Your Perception Is Our Reality". Misty's educational background consists of receiving Associates in Business Management, Bachelor's in Criminal Justice, and her Master's in Public Administration. She attends Holy Faith Temple Baptist Church "The Treme Church". Her favorite bible verse is Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

3. Debbie de la Houssaye

For over 25 years, Debbie de la Houssaye was Artistic Attaché in New Orleans for the Government of France, bringing visual and performing artists to New Orleans and facilitating exchanges for local artists in France. With degrees in Romance languages from LSU and UNO, she recently returned to LSU for a degree in social work, subsequently establishing and coordinating the Helpline at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Currently she works part-time in the field of social work, serves on the board of New Orleans Jazz Celebration, and volunteers for Compost Now through the NO Public Library. Debbie and her husband, Lake Douglas, were founding members of Friends of Lafitte Corridor and have actively supported the Greenway since its inception. She aspires to share her interest and expertise in gardening, biking, climate concerns, and the community at large.

4. Melissa Lee

Melissa, a resident of Mid-City, co-leads an integrated team of planners, designers and technical experts in the completion of community engagement, planning and facilitation activities at Concordia. As an experienced urban redevelopment professional and solutions-focused administrator with a comprehensive background in neighborhood economic development, community organizing, and urban planning, Melissa has shepherded socially innovative programs from inception to completion across multiple U.S. cities. Her previous work experience includes serving on executive teams to advance program strategy and project implementation related to Federal Disaster Community Development Block (D-CDBG) investment initiatives; the facilitation of walkable and bike-friendly neighborhoods through design; the development of a unified, City-lead neighborhood economic development investment strategy and agenda; and the Lower Manhattan Small Business and Workforce Retention Program aiding in the September 11th recovery. Melissa envisions equitable planning and development more than buzzwords. She is committed to making planning more responsive to the quality of life demands of all populations, developing new tools for understanding how social and economic conditions affect access across racial and socioeconomic disparities, and diversifying the involvement of those participating in planning processes.

5. Mike Leitzinger

Michael is a mechanical engineer and Mid City resident. Born and raised in Northern Virginia, Michael fell in love with and moved to New Orleans over a decade ago. He developed a passion for volunteerism from an early age. With the help of his wife Emily, Michael has spent the past 10 years giving back whenever and wherever possible. Michael works as the Manager of Mechanical Engineering department at Infinity Engineering Consultants, LLC. He oversees several engineers in the development and management of projects. When he isn't volunteering or working, Michael rides with the Krewe of the Rolling Elvi entertaining Parade goers during carnival season. Michael looks forward to supporting the Friends of Lafitte Greenway and promoting the great thing the Greenway has to offer.

6. Michael Ricks

Mr. Michael Ricks has served as District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration since 2004, first in Alabama and currently serving Louisiana since 2008. Prior to joining the SBA, Mr. Ricks served in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer, a Program Manager for Advanced Technology and Production Readiness projects for the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, DC, and as a Defense Acquisition Officer in early Program Concept Development for the Army Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Georgia as Chief of the Information Systems Division. As an active duty and reserve infantry officer, Mr. Ricks completed numerous overseas combat and hazardous duty deployments. He was medically retired from active service and is a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Mr. Ricks is a former small business entrepreneur and operated a consulting company in Florida which advised on software development, business processes, electronic manufacturing, and information systems technology. Mr. Ricks earned a bachelor's degree in Technology from the University of Houston. He also holds a graduate degree in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, California, as well as an MBA from Troy University in Alabama. Mr. Ricks was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, where much of his extended family still resides.

Second Term Nominees

7. Seth Levine

Seth is a business lawyer, with a degree in finance, and licensed Louisiana real estate broker with a decade of experience guiding clients through commercial transactions that are often complex and crucial to a company's success. A partner in the New Orleans office of Jones Walker LLP, Levine works with exploration and production, hospitality, real estate development, and manufacturing companies as well as national and local lenders. A member of the Energy, Environment & Natural Resources practice in the firm's New Orleans office, his practice involves a wide range of energy matters and he has extensive experience in project financing, land acquisitions, servitude acquisitions and all other real estate matters, including all aspects of real estate due diligence and title matters, hydrocarbon processing, handling and transportation agreements, master service contracts for offshore and onshore oilfield services and equipment, and energy infrastructure projects, including LNG facilities, pipelines, storage facilities and floating production systems. Seth has served on the board of Friends of Lafitte Greenway since 2017.

8. Demetric Mercadel

Demetric has served as a board member of Friends of Lafitte Greenway since 2017. Demetric has several passions, but her top three include family, community service and political activism. Demetric has more than 40 years of experience in the accounting, finance and planning fields with responsibilities ranging from basic operations, administrative accounting, preparing variance analysis reports and special projects. Demetric recently retired from Entergy New Orleans, LLC. In her public affairs role, she developed working relationships with the City of New Orleans and with the New Orleans delegation of the state legislators and supports strategic regulatory, energy efficiency and energy policy initiatives. Demetric is a proud New Orleanian—born and raised in the 7th Ward—who has worked with numerous community organizations such as past president of the board of directors of the French Market Corporation and of the Upper Pontalba Building Association, current president of the Corpus Christi-Epiphany Catholic Church Pastoral Council and completed the coordination and development of the Corpus Christi- Epiphany Neighborhood Community Center in the 7th Ward; board members of Significant Educators Charter School System; past president of the board of directors of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc.; former president and now vice-president of the board of directors of St. Augustine High School, currently serving as board secretary; former board member of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and much more.

9. Darby Shields

Darby is an avid biker and regular user of the Lafitte Greenway Bikeway. He is a member of the Friends of the Lafitte Greenway since 2015 and has supported many activities. Mr. Shields started an aerospace engineering company in 1982, sold the business and moved to New Orleans in 2015. He has served on boards for the Boys and Girls Club and the High Street Theater Foundation in California, with experience as President and Treasurer and raising funds for 501c organizations. He has a special interest in expanding the bike path to City Park and insuring safety on the cross streets. Darby has served on the board of Friends of Lafitte Greenway since 2017 where has performed as Secretary.

2019 Board of Directors

Continuing Board Service:

1. Kevin Centanni (Board Chair), Owner, Rosedale Restaurant
2. Foster Duncan, Operating Partner, Bernhard Capital Partners
3. Ellen Frischhertz, Board Member, Liberty's Kitchen
4. Susan Guidry, Former New Orleans City Councilmember, District 'A'
5. John Hopper, Fundraising & Nonprofit Professional
6. Stosh Kozlowski, Urban Planner, Benton Tree Service
7. Montgomery Lunn, Managing Partner, Atlas Greenway Partners
8. Nolan Marshall, III, Vice President of External Affairs, New Orleans Business Alliance
9. Larissa Muetzel (Treasurer), Quickbooks Pro Advisor
10. Philip Stelly, Public Information Officer, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office
11. Charles Stewart, Loan Officer, IBERIABANK
12. Leonetta Terrell, Local Organizing Ministry Member, St. Peter Claver Church

Seeking 2nd Board Term (Jan 2020):

13. Seth Levine, Business Lawyer & Partner, Jones Walker LLP
14. Demetric Mercadel, Public Affairs, Senior Customer Specialist, Entergy New Orleans LLC
15. Darby Shields (Secretary), Cycling Advocate

Completing Board Service:

16. Dawn J. Anuszkiewicz, CEO, Ochsner Baptist
17. Susannah Burley, Executive Director, Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL)
18. Antonia Keller, Vice President, Emeril Lagasse Foundation
19. Natalie Mitchell (Vice-Chair), Political Strategist
20. Andreanecia Morris, Executive Director, HousingNOLA
21. Kevin Stephens, Sr. MD, Senior Pastor, Christian Unity Baptist Church