

# LANDMARKS' PRÉSERVATION



THE JOURNAL OF THE LOUISIANA LANDMARKS SOCIETY

## New Orleans' most endangered sites 2020

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Jenny Dyer, Editor

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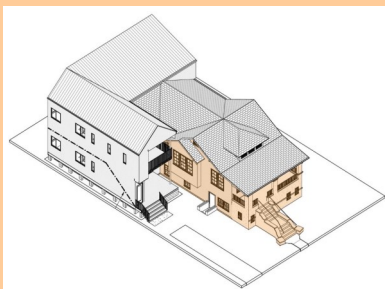
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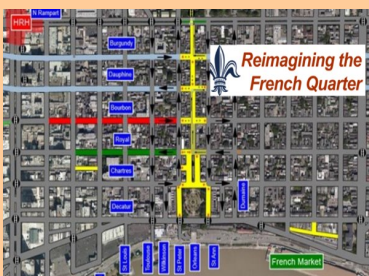
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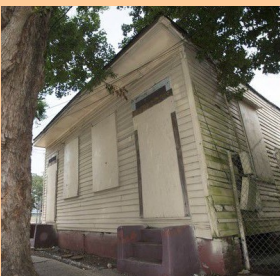
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## Louisiana Landmarks Society

*President's Remarks, November 2020*

After a too-long slumber, the Pitot House lawn and gardens were alive with "masked" members and visitors on Thursday October 15, for our first **Vino On The Bayou** of 2020. During the event, Harnett Kane recipient Lyn Tomlinson inspired her audience with remembrances of tough but happy times fighting the good fight for historic preservation. It was the kind of gathering that reminded everyone of how important (and occasionally fun) is our work to preserve the Pitot House and continue Landmarks' preservation advocacy programs.

As noted elsewhere in this publication, our dedicated House Committee has been working continually to manage house repairs and installations (paid with generous grants from the New Orleans Town Gardeners and Garden Study Club). The committee also organized a well-attended garden clean-up day on a glorious, breezy fall morning where volunteers happily weeded, pruned, raked, watered, and installed plants in the parterre gardens.

Our 2020 New Orleans Nine Selections, which we introduce in this newsletter, address not only issues with individual properties, but also citywide challenges to the residential stability of too many neighborhoods. We urge you to read them carefully and add your voices to address these challenges where you are able. Every voice counts—and has its effect.

A festive Vino On The Bayou is planned for late November, so we hope to see you there.

Sally Reeves

*Sally Reeves*

President



## An Evening on the Bayou: Louisiana Landmarks Society Hosted Vino on the Bayou This October

Louisiana Landmarks Society is deeply grateful to all of our friends and members who attended the recent Vino on the Bayou. Despite the rain, it was a lovely event that far exceeded our expectations. Music was provided by John Rankin and Harry Hardin with wine and light refreshments provided by Louisiana Landmarks' Board. We were so pleased to see such a show of loyalty and generosity during such a challenging year. We look forward to more relaxing evenings on the bayou with our community.



*For more information on our Vino on the Bayou member socials or to become a member of Louisiana Landmarks Society please visit our website at [www.louisianalandmarks.org](http://www.louisianalandmarks.org)*

## Louisiana Landmarks Society named its 2020 New Orleans' Nine Most Endangered Sites for the Fifteenth year

Louisiana Landmarks Society named its New Orleans' Nine Most Endangered Sites for the fifteenth year this Fall. The list this year is a selection of endangered sites that spans the history and geography of the city, from the iconic University Area Neighborhood to the historic streets of the Vieux Carre. These and seven other sites beg for preservation so they can continue to serve the New Orleans community.

Committee members included Landmarks President, Sally Reeves, Advocacy Chair, Sandra Stokes, Board Members Michael Duplantier, Jim Logan, Nathan Lott and Keith Hardie along with community members Teddy Pierre and Peter Trapolin. Mr. Hardie nominated the **University Area** explaining that "A new scheme of real estate development, dubbed 'doubles to dormitories' or 'D2D,' not unlike short term rentals, threatens the area with a loss of vernacular architecture and the tout ensemble, displacement of long time residents, loss of affordable housing, serious shortages of on-street parking, and stress to infrastructure."

The remaining threatened sites encompass a diverse spectrum of historic assets. Threatened by Demolition by Neglect are the **French Benevolent Society Tomb** in Lafayette Cemetery No. 2; the **Holy Cross Administration Building** in Holy Cross; and the c.1860 **cottage** at 2315-17 St. Andrew Street along with **Saint Alphonsus Church/Art and Cultural Center** at 2030 Constance Street and The **Buddy Bolden Home**. The remaining buildings of **B.W. Cooper Housing Project** are threatened with disuse and a waste of resources for underserved populations while the **Use and Purpose of Historic Vieux Carré Streets** threatens the viable use of the French Quarter as a mixed-use neighborhood.

Finally, in recent years, New Orleans' Safety and Permits/Enforcement department has encountered obstacles such as underfunding and lack of capacity to carry out duties while developers and property owners take advantage of the reduced services, threatening the safety of citizens and workforce, the residents' quality of life, and the structural integrity of our buildings. This places **City Code Enforcement by Safety and Permits** on the list for 2020.

## Lyn Tomlinson Honored with Louisiana Landmarks Society's Harnett T. Kane Preservation Award



Lyn Tomlinson was honored with Louisiana Landmarks Society's Harnett T. Kane Preservation Award on October 15th at the most recent Vino on the Bayou Member Social. The award is Louisiana Landmarks Society's highest honor and was created and endowed by LLS founding member Harnett T. Kane in 1965. It recognizes an individual or organization for significant lifetime contributions to historic preservation, locally or regionally.

Presenter of the award was James R. Logan, III, a former award recipient and 1st Vice President of Louisiana Landmarks Society. Lyn was honored by the award and deeply grateful stating, "I can't begin to tell you what this award means to me. Being out of the loop for so many years I was overwhelmed to know that so many people remembered me fondly."

## Pitot House Improvements

House and Garden Committee Co-chairs  
Isabelle Dissard-Cooper and Ren  Fransen



The Pitot House is not open at this time, but the House and Garden Committee has been active. The co-chairs are relatively new to the Board and this committee. Prior to joining the committee, co-chair Isabelle was busy pricing out faux and real horse-hair fabric and upholstery for the upstairs Federal sofa. She also procured pricing on additional exterior lighting. The rear gallery needs repairing and repainting, but a long-term roof leak needed to be addressed. Pricing from two roofing contractors varied widely. One was so expensive that it brought on a discussion about repair versus replacement.

We obtained prices to replace the roof with the same material that is currently in use and for replacement with slate. Isabelle delved into research to determine what would have been used for the original roof. Was the original roofing material wooden shakes or slate? Since the Pitot House is not in the urban part of the old city, it may not have been required to have a slate or tile roof as was demanded after the December 1794 fire.

It was decided that expert advice was needed. Architects Chuck Berg, Robby Cangelosi, and Peter Trapolin were asked to serve on a pro-bono committee to advise the House and Garden Committee on the best long-term roofing solution. All agreed and a date and time was set. However, 2020 intervened with a hurricane aimed at New Orleans and the meeting was postponed. A new meeting date/time was set and only Robby Cangelosi of Koch and Wilson was able to participate. He reviewed the pricing and advised that architectural specifications and oversight of the installation of the roof was needed.

Robby was instrumental in having Roof Technology come out to look at the roof to determine the extent of the leaks and the amount of damage to the underlayment. Once again, an approaching hurricane delayed the final inspection, but Roof Technology generously repaired the leaks. The damage was small holes probably caused by falling bullets.

Robby researched the condition of shake wooden roofs that have been installed on other historic houses and found that the longevity and maintenance is not worth its installation on the Pitot House. We will need a major fundraiser to pay for a new slate roof and an architectural consultant to provide us with the necessary specifications and oversight of its installation.



All the storms forced the decision to obtain pricing and an arborist to trim the Magnolia trees away for the roof and do some other necessary pruning in the garden.

Other items deemed necessary are security cameras to put "eyes" on the total house envelope. These will be police evidence quality resolution cameras which may be monitored with the use of smart phones. This will provide 24-hour surveillance of the exterior of the house.

## The Butterfly Nursery at the Pitot House: Welcoming Baby Monarchs

Jenny Dyer



President Sally Reeves recently introduced the staff to a hidden treasure in the Pitot House garden in the form of “butterfly weed” (*Asclepius tuberosa*). Upon closer inspection of the butterfly weed growing in the parterre bed, Sally was able to point out the eggs and caterpillars populating the leaves of our butterfly weed. In no time, those eggs and caterpillars will become the lovely Monarch butterflies the we love to see flying around the camellias and roses of the garden. Sally has recently begun nurturing these tiny beginnings of butterflies in her own garden and took one of ours home to raise. Sally affectionately named him “Mr. Pitot”.

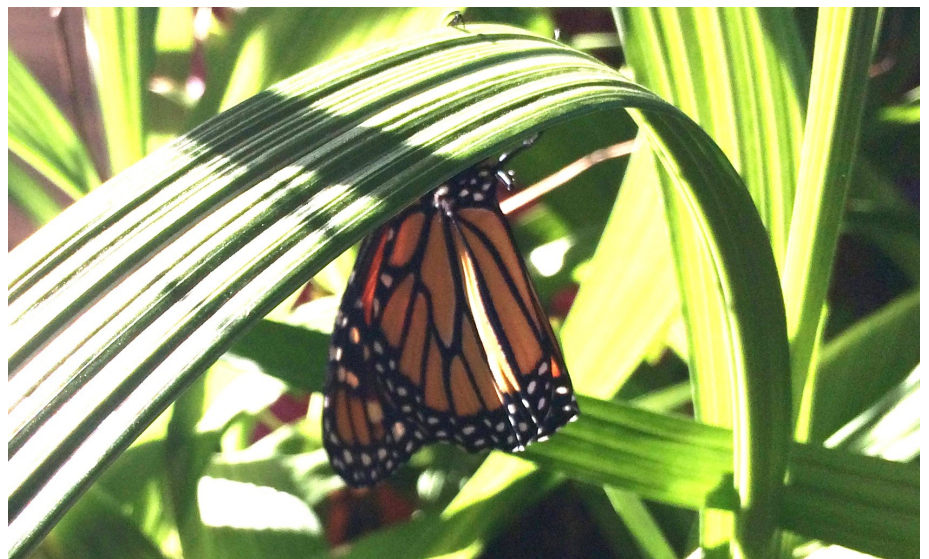
Identified as the 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association, butterfly weed is known for its ability to support insects and birds and serves as the primary caterpillar food for Monarch butterflies. Despite its name, when you see how powerfully it attracts pollinators, you will never again think of it as a weed.

One can hardly discuss butterfly weed without also discussing its chief consumer. Egg-laying Monarch butterflies prefer to lay eggs on the newer growth of the butterfly weed plant and will secrete about 700 eggs during a two to five week period. Depending on temperature, the egg stage lasts three to eight days. Caterpillars, also called larvae, emerge from the eggs and become voracious eaters of the butterfly weed.



With their yellow, white, and black bands, the Monarch caterpillars are easily recognizable. During this nine to fourteen day stage, the caterpillars molt as they outgrow their skin. They encase themselves in a cocoon for approximately fifteen days (the pupa stage). The pupa looks like a green gumdrop with a gold necklace around it. It turns black just before the butterfly hatches. They hang for two to six hours after hatching eventually flying away as the majestic black, orange and white butterfly that we are so taken with.

We are so enamored with our hidden butterfly nursery and are thrilled to share it with our visitors and members. Enjoy the photographs of this phenomenon of nature.



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Louisiana Landmarks Society is a 501( c )3 non-profit preservation advocacy organization

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