# Honoring our Past Inspiring our Future

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## Purpose

Because the Algiers story is often left out of the New Orleans historical narrative, Algiers will celebrate its founding in 1719. We want to tell the story of Algiers - from the early 1700s when it was the King's Plantation, to the Battle of New Orleans in 1814 to the jazz music of the early 1900s, to the diverse communities that comprise Algiers today. The celebration is designed to create positive awareness of Algiers, educate and entertain locals and visitors through cultural activities, and create legacy projects that will remain for posterity.

As we honor our past, we will inspire our future through economic, educational and cultural programs and advocate for appropriate development and opportunities for economic security in communities throughout Algiers.







## 1719

The settlement of Algiers was founded by Bienville after he was granted the land on the west bank of the Mississippi River by French King Louis XIV. It served as the King's Plantation, which provided food and supplies to Nouvelle Orleans



## 1815

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS/WAR OF 1812

Andrew Jackson's troops and a rag-tag local militia fought the British to save the City of New Orleans. The West Brank troops were not successful; however, the East Bank contingent were victorious.





# John McDonogh

John McDonogh, one of the wealthiest men in America, lived on Mt. Plaisir plantation in Old Algiers. The home disappeared into the Mississippi River in the days before levees protected the area.

Even before his death in 1850, he established Freetown for his freed slaves, many of whom remained on the land. Today, the area is known as McDonoghville, which straddles Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

McDonogh's fortune endowed public schools in Baltimore and New Orleans.

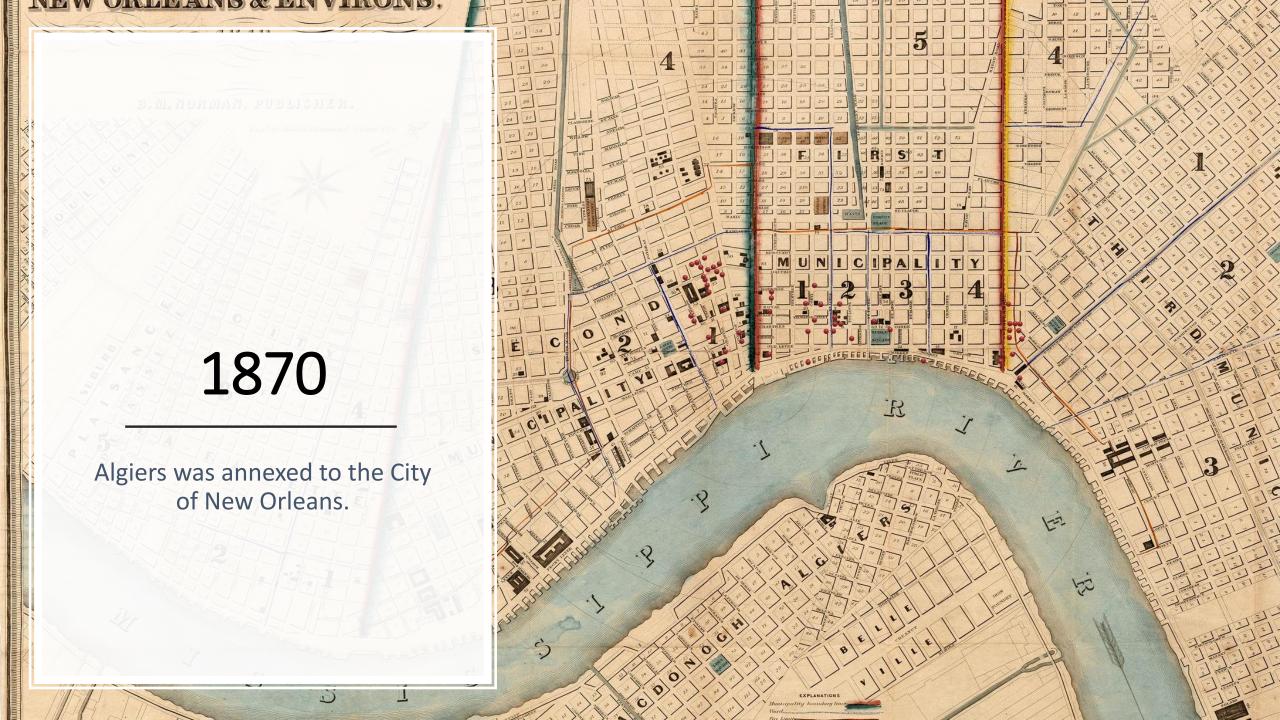


#### 1850s-1970s

The railroad was a primary employer in Algiers beginning in 1852. The employed many people who lived in the area and raised their families nearby.

When Southern Pacific Railroad left Algiers in the 1970s, it led to the further decline of the community.





### 1900-1960s

Algiers was home to many early jazz musicians, including band leader Henry "Red" Allen, drummer Bill Matthews, Peter Bocage, physician and band leader L.B. Landry and clarinetist George Lewis. Later, bluesman Eddie Bo (Bocage) and R&B artist Clarence "Frogman" Henry gained fame. Henry still resides in Old Algiers.





#### 1890s....

Since the U.S. Naval Station opened at the end of the 19th century, Algiers has enjoyed a military presence. The "Navy Base" closed in 2004, and the land was donated to the Algiers Development District for redevelopment as Federal City.

The Marine Reserves Headquarters and the U.S. Coast Guard are housed on the Federal City site.

Also notable in the 1890s was the Fire of 1895 that destroyed many of the homes in what is now Algiers Point.



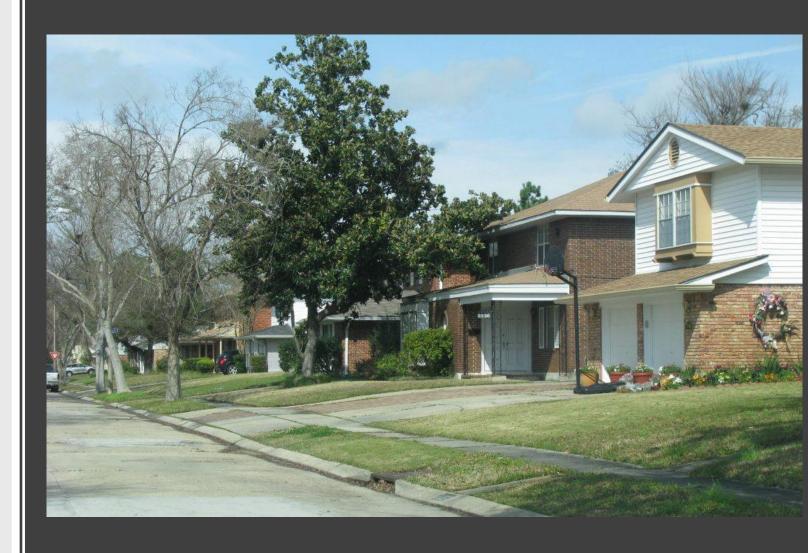
#### 1950s-1980s

Old Algiers began a slow decline after suburban Algiers developed as residential and commercial activities expanded along Gen. Meyer and Gen de Gaulle.

The oil industry provided many jobs and sustained the growth of commerce.

Algiers Point National Historic District was established in 1975, creating opportunities for renovation within those boundaries

With the decline of the oil industry, retail and restaurants left Algiers for more sustainable locations.



# Algiers Today

Historic properties are being renovated and blight is being cleared.

Two libraries, including one of only two remaining Carnegiefunded libraries are in Algiers.

The ferry terminal will be revitalized, and new ferry boats are coming

New retail, restaurants and services, such as health care, are growing.

Arts and culture remain important components of lifestyle and the creative industries are vital to the economy.







### Tricentennial Year

Zulu Flag-Raising in Old Algiers with King George Rainey

Slave Marker Dedication on Riverfront at Old Algiers

Revitalization of the Jazz Walk of Fame (Algiers Point Association)

Refreshing the mural at the levee steps to the levee (Friends of the Ferry)

Historic exhibits/lectures at the New Orleans Jazz
Museum and other locations

Research tours for amateur historians

Walking tours/virtual tours

New Orleans Historical App (Old Algiers Main Street Corporation with UNO's Midlo Center)

**Our Story, Your Story** Oral History Project (Old Algiers Main Street Corporation with UNO's Midlo Center

**University of New Orleans** 



#### **Partners**

Algiers Council of Neighborhood Presidents Algiers Development District Algiers Economic Development Foundation **Algiers Historical Society Algiers Point Association** Algiers Riverview Association Friends of the Ferry JUGS Social Aid Club/NOMTOC Office of Lt. Governor's Office **New Orleans Tourism Marketing** Corporation New Orleans Jazz Museum Old Algiers Main Street Corporation Pride of Algiers Masonic Lodge University of New Orleans, Midlo Center

