In New Orleans,Street musicians are an integral part of the Quarter both on the street and in the restaurants and clubs. Street musicians and clubs alike are often at odds with each other, meanwhile, the clubs are being sued and many can’t afford to even offer live music. My band plays on the streets part-time now. We’ve had many run-ins with the police, local businesses, and residents. I think a lot of this happens because my bandmates are black. I have instruments instead of guns. It isn’t necessarily their fault - I’m just grateful they aren’t shooting at me.

There is a generational shift happening right now in the streets - we are honoring 300 years of history! A lot of these young bands have been inspired by the brass band community. Younger bands have not appreciated by outsiders. People need to give and take by all stakeholders we should be able to peacefully co-exist and prosper in this unique part of New Orleans. I’m a community organizer and a lifelong advocate that groups like the Mardi Gras Indians, Social Aid & Pleasure Clubs, Brass Bands, and Street Musicians all need to find a place in the Quarter.

The French Quarter has always been a home for all types of street entertainment and performance. However, in recent years, the City Council has initiated moves to license street musicians to stay legal and keep it below 80 dB. A 2010 ordinance limits street musicians to playing until 8 pm curfew and in the French Market, Marigny, and the French Quarter. This new noise ordinance is called the ‘Code of Etiquette’ which is such an interesting factory that I heard about stockade at the last minute to find it.

New Orleans Street Performers is a non-profit organization that operates under the auspices of the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Economy. It is dedicated to preserving New Orleans’ historic and unique music culture. It was established in 1975 to license street musicians and has been active in the Quarter for over 20 years.

New Orleans Street Performers has recently initiated an advocacy campaign to address the noise ordinances in the Quarter. The campaign is led by a broad-based coalition working to bridge the gap between the needs of the community through collective self-representation advocating in the cultural community and legal/government policy in New Orleans. The Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO), is a broad-based coalition working to bridge the gap between the needs of the community through collective self-representation advocating in the cultural community and legal/government policy in New Orleans. MaCCNO is dedicated to preserving New Orleans’ historic and unique music culture.

In 1956 a Noise ordinance was implemented to dictate quiet zones. Through a series of amendments and changes the ordinance is struggling to keep New Orleans’ music lively and vibrant. However, the ordinance is struggling to preserve New Orleans’ historic and unique music culture. In 2013, the City Council passed an Ordinance limiting noise from 9 pm to 10 pm.

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**SPECIAL AREAS AND REGULATIONS**

**PERFORMING IN THE FRENCH MARKET**

The French Market Corporation is a public benefits corporation that returns a portion of its revenues each year to the city. It operates a six-block area from the historic market at North Peters Street to the Upper Pontalba building at Jackson Square.

**REGISTRATION BADGES**

In order to perform in the French Market (private property, not including sidewalks and public rights of way), one must obtain a registration badge from the French Market Marketing Office located at 1000 N. Peters St., Room 3. Registration badges are free of charge with a current ID or passport.

- No amplification allowed
- Cannot play for 24 hours in same location
- Must move if asked so by law enforcement.
- Registration badges are to be displayed at all times.
- Maximum 4 people per location at one time (other than large group designated locations).
- Venues bands permitted on Domilais Plaza and Washington Artillery Park.*

*Washington Artillery Park Amphitheater requires prior booking + $150/hr fee [see Frenchmarket.org/permissions]

**SOUND LEVELS BY RECEIVING LAND USE**

If someone complains about the sound level of your performance, the decibel measurement needs to be taken from the property of the person who complained and not from the source of the sound.

- The maximum sound level that cannot be exceeded at any given time.
- Lmax is the maximum sound level that cannot be exceeded at any given time.
- L10 is the sound level experienced 10% of the time or any period not exceeding 1 hour.
- L50 is the sound level experienced 50% of the time or any period not exceeding 1 hour.
- L90 is the sound level experienced 90% of the time or any period not exceeding 1 hour.
- L90 is the sound level experienced 90% of the time or any period not exceeding 1 hour.
- Lmax is the maximum sound level that cannot be exceeded at any given time.

**PARKS AND ENTRANCE**

- Canal St.
- Bourbon St.
- Royal St.
- Chartres St.
- Dauphine St.

**PERMIT OFFICE**

- 3rd floor
- Permit Office
- Jackson Square
- Mardi Gras Museum
- Historic Market at North Peters Street to the Upper Pontalba.

**SEC. 66-202**

- Lmax is the maximum sound level that cannot be exceeded at any given time.

**SECT. 146-494**

- No one "owns" a spot, it is however acceptable to ask another performer how long they plan on staying at a spot, without being obtrusive or rude.

**DON'T GET BURNED BY THE FIRE CODE!**

- Do not let your crowd block any doorway or operable windows whether open, closed, or locked at any time.

**NEW ORLEANS STREET PERFORMERS CODE OF ETIQUETTE**

The New Orleans street performers community is self-regulated and thus has developed an unwritten set of rules in order to keep its vibrant living community of artists, performers, residents, visitors and business owners enjoyable.

- You have a duty to preserve the heritage of New Orleans music and culture.
- Do not block doorways of any businesses or residence and audience should do the same. Pedestrian traffic should not be obstructed in any way.
- No one "owns" a spot, it is however acceptable to ask another performer how long they plan on staying at a spot, without being obtrusive or rude.
- Set up at reasonable distance from other performers as not to overlap.
- On busy days, share spaces and alternate with others performers so as to give everyone the opportunity to perform.
- Play instruments with moderation, and take breaks to let yourselves and other performers breathe.
- Do not perform outside of houses of worship during services as not to interfere with them.
- Respect fire lines and emergency vehicle lanes.
- If disputes arise, solve them reasonably amongst yourselves and without getting police authorities involved.
- Welcome new performers and teach them these rules.
- Clean up your space after a performance.
- Respect the right of others to live, work, visit and perform in the city.