



# **Mardi Gras 2021**

**"Not cancelled, Just Different"**

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**City of New Orleans**  
**Mayor's Mardi Gras Advisory Council**

November 5, 2020

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# Mardi Gras 2021

## *Announcements – Cancellations*

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- Oshun & NOMTOC have already publicly announced plans to not parade in 2021
- New Orleans remains in contact with other gulf coast cities that shall also be announcing suspensions of parades in 2021

### Other Carnival Cancellations

- St. John the Baptist Parish and Slidell krewes of Perseus & Slidellians cancelled parades in 2021 (announced 10/16)
- Washington Mardi Gras (January 2021) has cancelled all activities
- Brazil has cancelled carnival for first time
  - <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/national-international/rio-cancels-2021-carnival-for-first-time-in-a-century/2369759/>
- Trinidad has cancelled:
  - (Trinidad Express) THE decision is final — Carnival 2021 is off. Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley made this announcement yesterday during the Ministry of Finance's Spotlight on Budget 2021 forum, held at Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain.
- Aruba has cancelled carnival
  - <https://www.visitaruba.com/things-to-do/carnival/>
- Venice, Italy has not made a decision yet for Carnival 2021

# Mardi Gras 2021 Challenges

*Provide the expected high-quality experience for both locals and visitors with the following challenges*

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- COVID-19 Guidelines prohibit large gatherings of people
  - Safest settings are structured and monitored: seated, timed, ticketed small events
    - Least safe settings are unstructured crowds of strangers, intermingling of households
  - Enforcement of crowds is resource intensive
  
- COVID-19 infections are on the rise throughout US
  - Avoid spectacles that will draw crowds from hot spot areas
  
- Lack of adequate financial resources to support Mardi Gras
  - All City employees are on furlough through 2021

# Mardi Gras Preparation & Expenditures Timeline

<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>
<p><i>Sanitation begins crew recruitment</i></p> <p><i>Vendor permit applications due</i></p>	<p>Parks &amp; Parkways would begin trimming trees along parade routes (plus Hurricane Zeta clean up)</p>	<p>Property Management begins building viewing stands</p> <p>Sanitation workers onboarded</p>	<p>Supplies procured</p>	<p>Public Safety Overtime</p>
		<p>Krewe decision deadlines</p>	<p>Coronation balls begin</p>	

# 2021 Mardi Gras

## Anticipated Expenditures

(based on 2019 and 2020 figures)

NOTE: The City begins to incur costs to prepare for Mardi Gras in November (see previous slide for details)

NOTE: Cost savings of 2020 furlough = \$6m

Public Safety	
NOPD	\$4,771,478
NOEMS	\$373,289
NOFD	\$179,583
NOHSEP	\$59,191
RTCC	\$19,241
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$5,402,782</i>
Departments	
Sanitation	\$1,762,854
Parks & Parkways	\$41,355
Property Management	\$133,630
Mayor	\$135,201
DPW	\$67,009
NOHD	\$8,257
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$2,148,306</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,551,088</b>

# 2021 Direct Revenues

*Permitting, Licenses, Vendor Sales Tax*

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Permits, parade, vendor reviewing stands	\$48,782
Occupational Licenses	\$30,951
Vendor Sales Tax*	\$96,447
Safety & Permits, stands and misc.	\$353,820
<b>Total Direct Revenue</b>	<b>\$530,000</b>
<b>Total Indirect Revenue</b>	<b>\$8.7m**</b>
*This does not include Hotel, Food, Alcohol and all other sales tax collected	
**Difference between March / April 2020 collections	

# Alternatives

*Exploring ideas to honor traditions – safely and responsibly*

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Not cancelled – just different

Observe religious, cultural, and social traditions in new ways

Creative outlet

Compliant with public health guidelines



# Alternatives

*Exploring ideas to honor traditions – safely and responsibly*

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Parades – modify to address public health (crowds) and financial constraints (cost)

Balls - Coronation balls may proceed if compliant City and State guidelines for gatherings (currently limiting outdoor gatherings at 100 people)

- Other creative ideas – Televised event Mayor toasts parked floats w/royalty only? Krewe & Restaurant pairings? Park floats and allow timed groups of people to walk by? Den & MGW tours with costumed tour guides and bag of throws. Virtual Kings Day

# Next Steps – Meeting timelines

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- *[October 28]: Scenario Planning (rescheduled due to TS Zeta)*
- *Week of October 26: informal outreach to krewes, walking groups and other stakeholders; MMGAC pulse survey due*
- *November 2: MMGAC – Health subcommittee meeting scheduled (led by Dr. Davis)*
- **November 5: Full MMGAC meeting** ←
- **Week of November 16:** Finalize criteria for alternative recommendations
- **December 5<sup>th</sup>:** Proposed deadline for krewes to submit alternative recommendations based on health guidelines, budget, boundaries, and protocols
- **December 6<sup>th</sup>:** Full implementation begins

# Follow Ups & Action Items

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1. List of all "traditions" and events
  - King's Day, den tours, krewe brunches, throws showcases, streetcar rides, etc (MMGAC)
2. Set parameters for modifications and new ideas (CNO)
3. Brainstorm ideas for modifications or other events that fit within these parameters (All)
4. Socialize ideas with other stakeholders
  - Smaller krewes, MG Indians, walking groups, regional leadership
5. Submission of alternative recommendations (Dec 5)
6. Final decisions; public announcement (Dec 6)