

## **MACCNO STATEMENT: Stop Fear Mongering About Live Entertainment In New Orleans, Support Hotbed Music Hall**

Over the past several months, we've noticed a resurgence of fear mongering around live entertainment, resulting in hyperbolic claims about music venues being responsible for kidnappings, high crime rates, and the destruction of the 'historic neighborhood fabric'. While it is easy to initially dismiss many of the outlandish claims, when repeated often enough they can become effective propaganda and result in limitations on music and cultural activity in an effort to avoid political repercussions. Cultural policy matters, and good policy is not created in reaction to a few loudly complaining neighbors. Good policy and precedent is created carefully in consultation with experts and stakeholders—those that create and perpetuate our cultural traditions. We should treat live music and other cultural activity in New Orleans with as much care and intention as we treat the historic preservation of buildings. Those of us that participate in, love, and support the music and culture of the city need to consistently speak up in support of it, so that those who speak loudly to limit it don't successfully shut it down.

One way you can do so is by letting the City Council know you support the proposed Fallen Saint / Hotbed Music Hall on Magazine St. The venue, which will host an 'immersive live music/theater experience', will also revitalize a vacant warehouse in the shadow of the Pontchartrain Expressway. MaCCNO representatives have met with both the building owners and showrunners, and are confident they plan to address any issues that will arise in the neighborhood from the development of the project, as well as create a number of reliable employment opportunities for local musicians and theater workers. However, a small number of individuals have launched a well funded smear campaign against the project, trying to paint the developers as dishonest, and once again trying to portray live music as unavoidable blight on a neighborhood that must be stopped at all costs. It is important that this fear mongering does not work, as it could send a chilling effect on the development of live music venues and other cultural businesses throughout New Orleans.

Contact the City Council and tell them you support live music in New Orleans, and that you support the Fallen Saint/ Hotbed Music Hall at 1152 Magazine St. If you would like to address the Council in person, attend the Council meeting on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, at 11AM at City Hall, 1300 Perdido St.

You can read more about the Fallen Saint / Hotbed Music Hall here:

<http://uptownmessenger.com/2018/06/the-fallen-saint-immersive-theatre-production-plans-to-make-magazine-street-warehouse-its-venue/>

**Councilmember Williams**

jasonwilliams@nola.gov  
504-658-1070

**Councilmember Moreno**

morenocouncil@nola.gov  
504-658-1060

**Councilmember Giarrusso**

Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov  
504-658-1010

**Councilmember Banks**

Jay.Banks@nola.gov  
504-658-1020

**Councilmember Palmer**

Kristen.Palmer@nola.gov  
504-658-1030

**Councilmember Brossett**

jcbrossett@nola.gov  
504-658-1040

**Councilmember Nguyen**

Cyndi.Nguyen@nola.gov  
504-658-1050