EXHIBITION

Notre-Dame de Paris: The Augmented Exhibition

Through March 1, 2023
520 Royal Street
Free

Designed and produced by Histovery, in collaboration with the Public Institution in Charge of the Conservation and Restoration of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, and sponsored by L’Oréal. Presented in New Orleans by THNOC with the generous support of WWL-TV and the Consul General of France in New Orleans.

Grande Dame

An augmented-reality experience takes viewers through the life, near-death, and restoration of Notre-Dame Cathedral.

For nearly four years, Notre-Dame Cathedral—arguably the most famous church in the world—has been closed to visitors, following a devastating fire on April 15, 2019, that nearly collapsed the 850-year-old building. Repairs to the cathedral are under way, and it is expected to reopen partially in 2024, but in the meantime, a 360-degree augmented-reality exhibition on view at The Collection is taking visitors inside the famed landmark.

In Notre-Dame de Paris: The Augmented Exhibition, visitors will navigate the cathedral through the ages by using a HistoPad, an augmented-reality touchscreen tablet developed by the French technology firm Histovery. Histovery designed and produced the experience in collaboration with the Public Institution in Charge of the Conservation and Restoration of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, and with the sponsorship of L’Oréal.

Using the handheld HistoPad, visitors will observe builders and craftspeople laying the first stones for Notre-Dame in the Middle Ages; witness the coronation of Emperor Napoleon I in 1804; see the iconic spire designed by architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc being erected during the mid-19th-century restoration; look on as the Paris Fire Brigade battles the 2019 blaze; and watch current workers in action as they reconstruct this architectural masterpiece.
The Histopad experience is designed to appeal to visitors of all ages, regardless of their comfort level with technology. Visitors can choose among 13 language options—and a self-guided virtual treasure hunt invites users to find certain items embedded in the visuals. Vinyl replicas of the cathedral’s flooring, stained-glass transfers on the windows, audio of Notre-Dame’s organs and tolling bells, and a projection of one of the cathedral’s famed rose windows, which miraculously survived the fire, complete the multisensory experience.

After a well-received opening at the France Pavilion at the Expo 2020 Dubai, *Notre-Dame de Paris* was launched on an international tour. The Historic New Orleans Collection is the second site in the United States to host the installation, following a lauded run at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

“New Orleans is a city that understands the importance of buildings as places of history, while being all too aware of their fragile nature,” said THNOC President/CEO Daniel Hammer. “We are thrilled to bring this experience to the city and know that visitors will be awestruck by the cutting-edge technology and the way it communicates the history of one of the world’s most iconic buildings and what it takes to preserve it in the face of destruction.”

The exhibition’s emphasis on the restoration of the cathedral aligns with THNOC’s ongoing work to restore and maintain Vieux Carré buildings and steward them for future generations. As proud host of *Notre-Dame de Paris*, we pay tribute to our region’s French roots while embracing the promise of technological innovation to explore the many layers of history.

—THNOC STAFF
EVENT CALENDAR

For additional information, please email events@hnoc.org.

Joan of Arc Toast
The Caillot Circle, THNOC’s member organization for ages 21–45, will raise a glass to the Krewe de Jeanne d’Arc and the start of Carnival season with a Twelfth Night parade-viewing party.

Friday, January 6, 2023, 5–7 p.m.
Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street Free; open to Caillot Circle members only. To become a member, visit hnoc.org/support /caillot-circle or call Membership and Annual Giving Coordinator Lily Stanford at (504) 598-7155.

Williams Lecture
Take a tour through the many corners of musical life throughout New Orleans history. From the streets to the opera house, to dives and dance halls—all helped to shape the distinctive sounds of the city. Staff music researchers Dhani Adomaitis and Molly Reid Cleaver will join Curator/Historian Eric Seiferth in this exploration of THNOC’s musical holdings.

Saturday, January 14, 11 a.m.
Online over Zoom Free; open to THNOC members only. To register, visit my.hnoc.org.

Organ Recital
Support the ongoing maintenance of the historic Aeolian organ in THNOC’s Seignouret-Brulatour Building while listening to world-renowned organist Jens Korndörfer. Reception following.

Tuesday, March 14, 6 p.m.
Barbara S. Beckman Music Room, 520 Royal Street $50 admission; seating is extremely limited. To register, visit my.hnoc.org.

Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference
Williams scholars and dramaturgists convene at this annual meeting held in the French Quarter as part of the Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival.

Friday, March 24, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street Admission via tennesseewilliams.net/festival /events/

THNOC History Symposium
Known since 1996 as the Williams Research Center Symposium, this annual event returns in 2023 as the THNOC History Symposium, with the theme “Democracy in Louisiana.”

Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Hotel Monteleone, 214 Royal Street Admission ranges from $50 to $90. Registration opens March 1. To register, visit my.hnoc.org.

EXHIBITIONS

All are free unless otherwise noted.

CURRENT

Spanish New Orleans and the Caribbean / La Nueva Orleans y el Caribe españoles
Through January 22, 2023
520 Royal Street
French Quarter Life: People and Places of the Vieux Carré
Through February 2023
520 Royal Street

TOURS

Self-Guided Courtyard Tours and French Quarter Tours App
Learn about the architecture and history of the spaces, then take a self-guided tour using THNOC’s French Quarter Tours app.

533 Royal Street and 520 Royal Street
App available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play

EXHIBITIONS

American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith
June 17–October 8, 2023
520 Royal Street
A traveling exhibition developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibitions Service (SITES) with objects from the National Museum of American History as well as THNOC’s holdings

CONTINUING
French Quarter Galleries
520 Royal Street

GENERAL HOURS

520 Royal Street
Tricentennial Wing, French Quarter Galleries, Café Cour, and The Shop
Tuesday–Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

533 Royal Street
Williams Research Center
Tuesday–Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Appointments are encouraged. Please email reference@hnoc.org or call (504) 523-4862.

510 Chartres Street
Williams Research Center
Tuesday–Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Appointments are encouraged. Please email reference@hnoc.org or call (504) 523-4862.

410 Chartres Street
Williams Research Center
Tuesday–Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
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2023 Winter Quarterly Pel Hughes.indd   2 11/29/22   2:07 PM

Dauphine Street: 1963; acrylic on cardboard by Rolland Golden; gift of Rolland Horve Golden, given in memory of Edith Long, 1997.64

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UPCOMING

“Yet She Is Advancing”: New Orleans Women and the Right to Vote, 1878–1970
April 28–November 5, 2023
520 Royal Street

THNOC History Symposium
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Hotel Monteleone, 214 Royal Street
Admission ranges from $50 to $90. Registration opens March 1. To register, visit my.hnoc.org.

Orleans Parish Ballot box: between 1840 and 1890; walnut with wrought iron; partial gift of Romnie Leleux and James W. McLaughlin, 2009.0100

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