

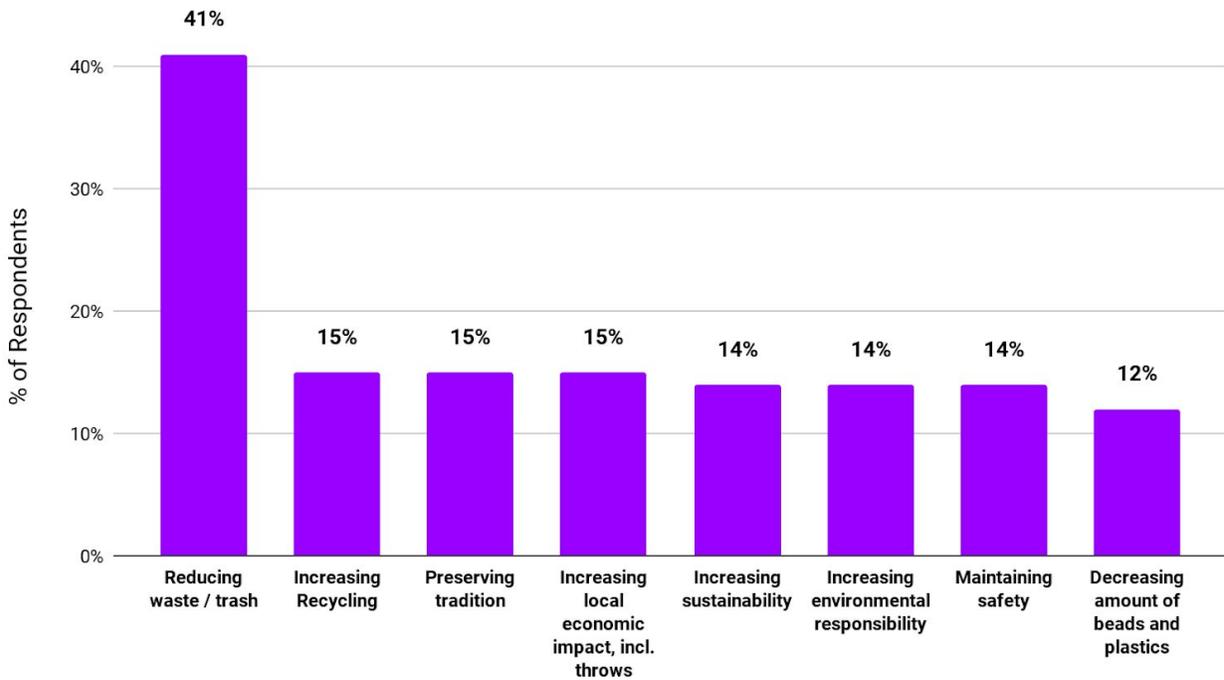
# 2018 FUTURE OF

# MARDI GRAS FORUM

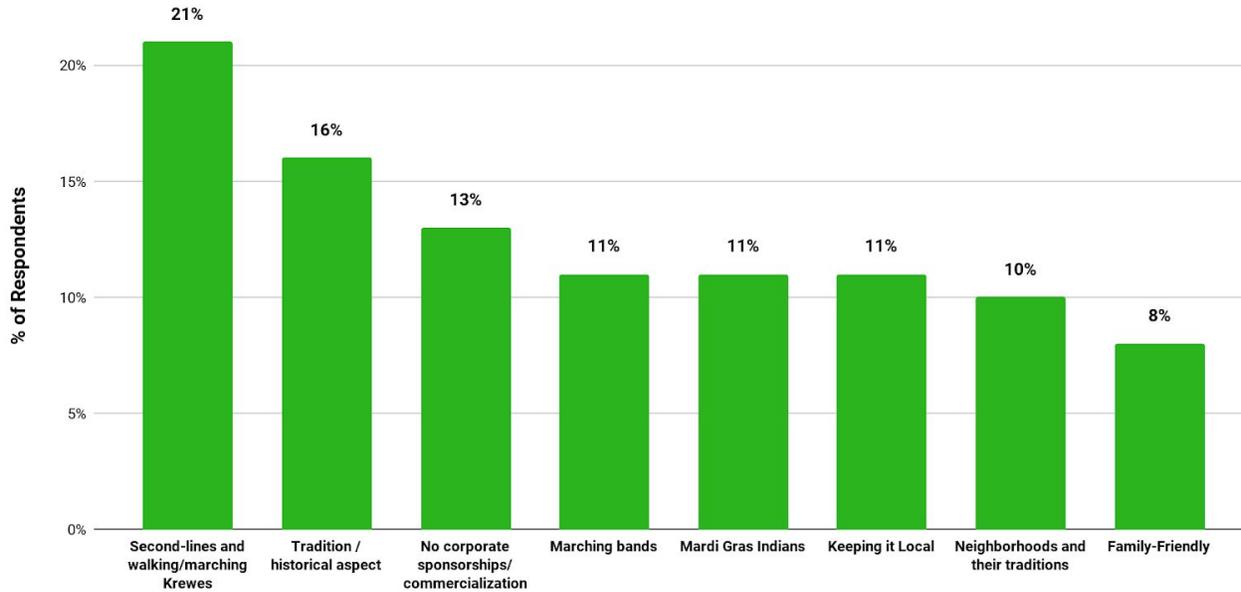
On Wednesday, September 12, 2018, over 300 community members attended the *Future of Mardi Gras* forum. Attendees were asked to fill out a brief survey about their current participation and future vision for Carnival, and 76 did so. After a panel discussion, attendees also participated in 4 roundtable discussion groups where they explored questions about the Mardi Gras civics, tradition, community, and waste.

The following document summarizes the results of the 76 collected surveys:

## What issues do you consider most important when thinking about the future of Mardi Gras?

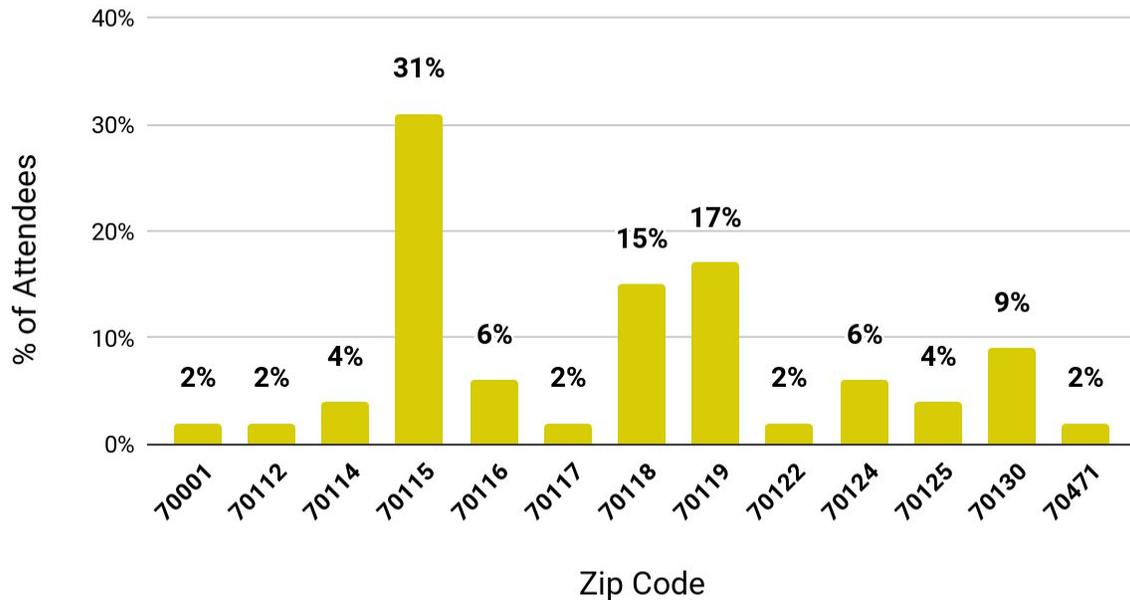


## When you envision the future of Mardi Gras, is there anything you would like to see protected, maintained or preserved?

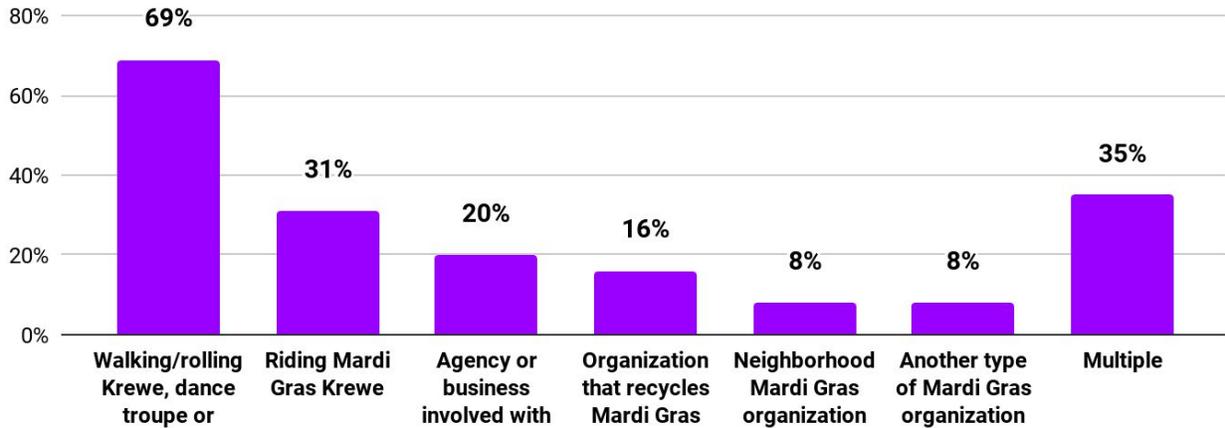


Survey respondents came from all parts of New Orleans, and they participate in Mardi Gras in diverse ways.

## % Forum Attendees per Zip Code



## % of Respondents who are a Member of:



Here are some groups present at the event:

<b>A walking/rolling Krewe, dance troupe or marching club</b>	<b>A riding Mardi Gras Krewe</b>	<b>An agency or business involved with Mardi Gras</b>	<b>An organization that recycles Mardi Gras throws</b>
Box of Wine	Boheme	Atlas Handmade Beads	ARC
Babydolls	Freret	Arts Council New Orleans	Freret
Chewbacchus	Iris	Bayou Throws	Jefferson Feed
Disco Amigos	Krewe of Boo	King Cake Hub	Krewe of King James
Joan of Arc	Krewe of King Arthur	Mardi Gras World	NOLA Trashmob
Krewe du Vieux	Muses	New Orleans Costume Center	Port of New Orleans
Krewe of King James	Nyx	Throw Me Something Green	Rotary Club of Mid-City
Krewe of Oak	Orpheus	Carnival costume makers	YLC Recycles
Laissez Boys	Pygmalion		St. Michael Special School
Red Beans	St. Patrick's		
Skin n Bonez	Tucks		
Society of St. Anne			

## Roundtable Discussions

1. Crafting in Community
2. Mardi Gras Civics
3. Waste Reduction
4. Neighborhood Traditions

### Crafting in Community

- A. As a spectator, what brings you out to watch a parade?
  - Bands
  - Float design and satire
  - Signature throws
  - Costumes
  - Walking Krewes
  - Socializing
  - Family fun
- B. How can money spent on imported throws be spent on local throws instead?
  - Create moments of interaction instead
  - Krewe partnerships and commitments
- C. How do you explain the rising number and popularity of local marching Krewes?
  - Fun
  - Community-oriented
  - Diverse
  - Financially accessible

### Mardi Gras Civics

- A. Who should be responsible for providing recycling services at a parade?
  - The City, funded by charging fees from Krewes
  - Krewes, on their own
  - Paraders
- B. What would a public awareness campaign look like against Mardi Gras waste?
  - 610 Stompers tripping on beads and trash
  - Signage on floats
  - Visually show the lifecycle of beads
- C. How can grassroots policy promote and guide a better Mardi Gras experience?
  - Reduce permit fees for Krewes that meet environmental standards set by the City
  - Charge Krewes by the weight of their plastic throws

## **Waste Reduction**

- A. How can parade goers and parade throwers prevent waste?
  - More recycling cans
  - Incentivize recycling
  - Demand Krewe's throw less
  - PSAs
  - "Throw Back" Floats
  - Local throws
- B. How should the success of Mardi Gras be measured?
  - In tons of recycling
  - In sales and patrons at local businesses
  - By how clean it is
- C. When someone mentions "excess" as a quality of Mardi Gras, what do they mean?
  - Over stimulation
  - Too many beads and plastics
  - Drinking and debauchery
- D. What do you do with your throws and waste when you leave the parade?
  - Reuse throws
  - Display them
  - Recycle or trash them

## **Neighborhood Traditions**

- A. What explains the growing popularity of neighborhood groups among visitors?
  - A unique and authentic experience
- B. How do we protect neighborhood groups and ensure their viability?
  - Fund them
  - Join them
  - Recruit for them
- C. How can tourist money make its way to these groups who are marketed to visitors?
  - Dedicate % of tourist tax to cultural organizations
  - Super krewe's use % of fees as grants to social aid & pleasure clubs
  - Offer honorary memberships
- D. What can be done to support and grow indigenous cultural expressions?
  - Fund them!