

Sports & Entertainment

NFL and New Orleans Host Committee announce official Super Bowl LIX events initiatives for fans

Super Bowl Opening Night, Super Bowl Experience, Soulful Celebration, NFL Honors and More Return for Week-Long Celebration in New Orleans



NEW ORLEANS — The National Football League and Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation announced the extensive roster of official events and activations for Super Bowl LIX, including fan experiences, community-driven initiatives and more.

“We couldn’t be more excited to return to the heart of New Orleans with Super Bowl LIX,” said Peter O’Reilly, NFL executive vice president, club business, major events, and international. “Hosting the Super

Bowl for the 11th time, this city’s vibrant culture and deep-rooted connection to football make it the perfect global stage for our biggest event of the year, and we’re thrilled to work with all of our local partners to bring an unmatched experience to fans both here and around the world.”

“New Orleans is known for its rich history, legendary culture and iconic venues. The Host Committee and the city are proud to put our most symbolic and well-known landmarks on display for the hundreds of thousands of traveling fans and

members of the media ahead of Super Bowl LIX,” said **Jay Cicero**, President and CEO for the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation and Super Bowl LIX Host Committee. “We’ve been working closely with our partners at these venues to create a unique experience for all fans, visitors, and locals.”

Super Bowl LIX events and venues include:

Super Bowl Media Center Powered by Verizon at Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Sunday, Feb. 2 – Monday, Feb. 10, 2025

The Super Bowl Media Center powered by Verizon is the central hub for official press conferences and media activity throughout Super Bowl Week. It will serve as the base for thou-

sands of credentialed journalists, inclusive of everything from broadcast and digital to radio, print, and social media, and be a center point for representatives from future Super Bowl and Draft host cities, league partners, and sponsors throughout Super Bowl Week. Opening Sunday, Feb. 2, the Media Center will remain accessible to media 24/7 and will close Monday, Feb. 10, following the MVP and Super Bowl hand-off press conferences.

Super Bowl Opening Night Fueled by Gatorade at Caesars Superdome Monday, Feb. 3, 2025

Fans are invited to the Caesars Superdome ahead of Super Bowl LIX for an exciting evening celebrating the AFC and NFC champions as they arrive in New

Orleans. The event will give fans a sneak peek of the iconic Super Bowl imagery at Caesars Superdome prior to gameday and offer an exciting opportunity to hear directly from Super Bowl players and coaches during their only public appearance before the big game. Super Bowl Opening Night promises a thrilling experience with family-friendly activities, including photo opportunities, exclusive NFL Shop merchandise, and more.

Tickets for Super Bowl Opening Night are \$20 and will be available in December.

Fans can download the NFL OnePass app for the most up-to-date information and register their interest in purchasing event tickets once on-sale by visiting NFL.com/SuperBowlLocal.

PJ named to AAC first Player of Week for the 2024-25 season



PJ Haggerty

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Redshirt sophomore PJ Haggerty has been named the American Athletic Conference’s first Player of the Week for the 2024-25 season.

Haggerty, a 6-3 guard out of Crosby, Texas, had a breakout week in his debut with the Tigers averaging 27.0 points per game while adding in 4.5 rebounds, 4.0 assists and shooting .500 from the field over two games.

The 2024 Kyle Macy National Freshman of the Year led the team with a game-high 25 points, 22 coming in the second half, in the season opener over Missouri while going 10-11 from the charity stripe and adding in six rebounds and five assists. He followed that up with a 29-point performance in the come from behind win at UNLV on Saturday.

Memphis (2-0) is back in action on Friday, Nov. 15 against Ohio. Tip-off at FedExForum is slated for 7 p.m. on ESPN+.

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Lee Greenwood sets record with No. 1 rock hit at age 82 with rock rendition of ‘God Bless the U.S.A.’ with Drew Jacobs topping Billboard chart

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - In a powerful collaboration, **Lee Greenwood** and viral country-rock sensation **Drew Jacobs** have taken “God Bless The U.S.A.” to the top of the Billboard Rock Chart with a groundbreaking new rendition celebrating the song’s 40th anniversary. This rock-infused version showcases Greenwood’s legendary vocals alongside Jacobs, who is known for his Billboard-charting transformations of country hits like “The Thunder Rolls” and “God’s Country.” The release has resonated strongly with both long-time fans and a new generation, cementing the song’s enduring relevance as a patriotic anthem.



Originally written by Greenwood in 1983, “God Bless The U.S.A.” has been a cultural staple used in ceremonies, military events, and celebrations across America. Greenwood rarely

This release also makes history, as Greenwood, at age 82, becomes the oldest country artist to score a No. 1 hit on the Billboard Rock Chart.

records the song with others, but this collaboration marks a unique “passing of the baton.” Greenwood shared, “This rock-version is not something that I would have done on my own, so I’m excited for fans and fellow patriots

to hear it and share it.”

This release also makes history, as Greenwood, at age 82, becomes the oldest country artist to score a No. 1 hit on the Billboard Rock Chart. The milestone underscores the song’s universal appeal and Greenwood’s lasting impact on American music.

Jacobs, whose debut album charted No. 1 on iTunes Country, continues to captivate audiences worldwide with his genre-blending style. The new rendition of “God Bless The U.S.A.,” available now on all streaming platforms, is poised to become a playlist favorite for a new gener-

Memphis & Shelby County Film Commission welcomes Porretta Music Festival, a historic mecca for international Memphis Sound

MEMPHIS, TN - Porretta, Italy, a picturesque Italian town in Emilia Romagna, in the district of Bologna, has become a mecca for Memphis musicians in the last 37 years!

Thanks to Porretta Music Festival Founder and Artistic Director **Graziano Uliani**, Memphis Soul and R & B music luminaries such as **Isaac Hayes**, **Rufus Thomas**, and **Carla Thomas** have performed on the festival stage in

the aptly named Rufus Thomas Park!

Once again, Porretta has opened its arms to Memphis, welcoming yet another cultural exchange: The Porretta -Memphis Shelby County Film Exchange! The Memphis & Shelby County Film and Television Commission/Foundation has the honor to facilitate the Exchange. **Luca Elmi**, director of the ac-

claimed Porretta Film Festival December 7-15, 2024, invited local filmmakers earlier this month to submit a total of six short films.

Through the power of social media, The Commission/Foundation received 26 eligible entries in only seven days!

Judges from the **University of Memphis** film faculty and **Le-**

moyne-Owen College announced the six winning filmmakers and films:

- Kevin Brooks** - “What Were You Meant For?”
- Noah Glenn** - “The Devil Will Run”
- Laura Jean Hocking** - “Green Ribbon”
- Brandon Russell** - “What Life Is”
- Caleb Suggs** - “Love Shake”
- Kyle Taubken** - “Soul Man”

The six winners will each receive a gift certificate for dinner for two at Memphis’ **Ciao Bella Italian Bar and Grill**—a long-time favorite with Memphis and Midsouth diners.

Thanks to a special grant from the **Dr. O’Farrell Shoemaker Family** designated for Commission representation at The Porretta Film Festival, **The Memphis & Shelby County**

Film and Television Commission/Foundation will be represented at the Porretta Film Festival by Board Chairman **Gale Jones Carson** and Vice-Chairman **Alicia George**. *Splendido!*

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 30th Annual Black History edition in February 2025.

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