



FRIENDS OF CITY PARK'S

HISTORICAL *Musical Train* TOUR



Paul Soniat (Music Writer & Lyrics) was the founding Director of the New Orleans Botanical Garden in 1982 and still holds that position today. He has established the Volunteer and Education Programs, strengthened the plant collections, created a master plan assessing the physical and educational needs of the garden, and worked with the New Orleans Botanical Garden Foundation to raise the funds needed to implement the master plan. Since 1982 he has increased the operation from a staff of two and operational revenue of less than \$10,000 to a staff of 14 and operational revenue of \$1 million. He was born at the old Touro Hospital in New Orleans and his family has been in New Orleans since 1727 where he grew up and later lived on the street bearing his family name. Paul is a self-taught piano player, and has released three CDs, absorbing the sights, sounds, and flavor of New Orleans. His first CD, titled "Born in New

Orleans", was released in April 2005. His second CD, "Below the Waterline", was released shortly after Hurricane Katrina. His third CD, "Suddenly" was released in 2012. Paul, being an employee at City Park for over 35 years has a unique insight and perspective regarding the Park, and makes him a perfect fit for writing the music and lyrics for this exciting project.