

SEVENTH WARD SPEAKS

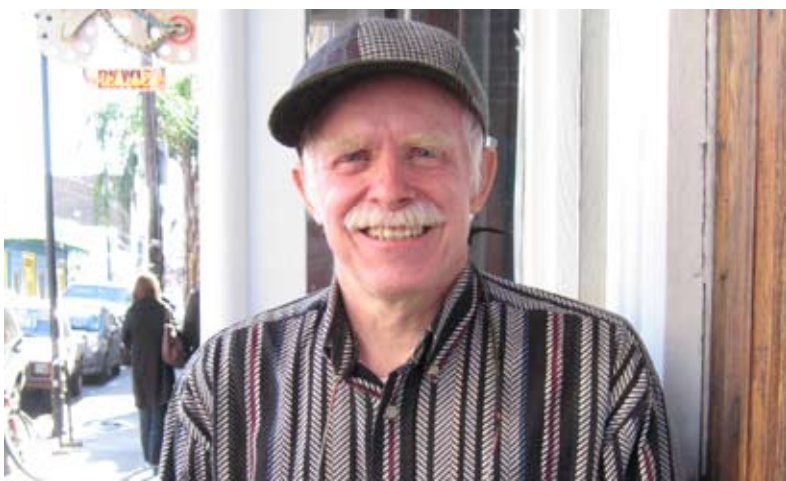
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I LOVE THE FEEL OF THESE LITTLE NEIGHBORHOODS with all the wonderful architecture. I like seeing these old houses repaired and restored because you can't replace them. But I have mixed feelings about the property being worth something because what that probably means is: *There goes the neighborhood.* One of the things I like now is there's a street culture. People hang on the street. My house was walking distance from some of the places I was working. The same people would be sitting on their stoops everytime I went to my gig. I felt like they were the lookouts for the neighborhood.

It takes a certain critical mass to keep something like the language or a musical culture going. And if you lose that critical mass, gradually it becomes more like a Smithsonian deal, rather than a real culture. New Orleans is not known for being scholarly about music. And why should it be? It's who you are—it's like being scholarly about your own language. Music is just what people speak here. It's their language.



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For more information about the Porch call, 504-312-2701 or 713-504-6267.