NEW ORLEANS – On Thursday, March 23, more than 3,000 charity-minded taco and tequila lovers gathered at Riverwalk’s Spanish Plaza for the inaugural Top Taco Festival presented by Paddlewheeler Creole Queen. The inaugural culinary and cocktail competition, which featured 40 of New Orleans’ top chefs and mixologists, raised more than $20,000 to support One Heart NOLA’s work to raise awareness and funds for the city’s foster children.

Event judges and attendees voted on favorites in four categories:

**JUDGES’ CHOICE**

**TRADITIONAL TACO**
1st Place – Taqueria Chilangos
2nd Place – Canal Street Bistro
3rd Place – Felipe’s Taqueria

**CREATIVE TACO**
1st Place – Blue Oak BBQ
2nd Place – Kingfish
3rd Place – La Casita

**TRADITIONAL MARGARITA**
1st Place – Mizado
2nd Place – Johnny Sanchez
3rd Place – Carreta’s

**CREATIVE TEQUILA COCKTAIL**
1st Place – Mizado
2nd Place – Del Fuego
3rd Place – Butcher

**PEOPLE’S CHOICE**

**TRADITIONAL TACO**
1st Place – Taqueria Chilangos
2nd Place – Tequila House
3rd Place – Felipe’s Taqueria

**CREATIVE TACO**
1st Place – Johnny Sanchez
2nd Place – The Rum House
3rd Place – Velvet Cactus

**TRADITIONAL MARGARITA**
1st Place – Johnny Sanchez
2nd Place – Mizado
3rd Place – Nacho Mama’s

**CREATIVE TEQUILA COCKTAIL**
1st Place – Tequila House
2nd Place – Masquerade
3rd Place – Barcadia

**ULTIMATE TOP TACO**
Tequeria Chilangos

Guests also enjoyed a silent auction and live entertainment by Muevelo, Los Poboytcos and Otra. This year’s after party took place at a stone’s throw away at Barcadia, where chefs and participants enjoyed libations into the wee hours.