There's even a rumor floating around that Janis Joplin wanted to buy the place. Who knows?

What we do know is that the cover of the first Doobie Brothers record was photographed on the Chateau grounds and that The Doobies would frequently mention the venue in early interviews. There are also plenty of hand-drawn flyers and tickets that Amy Long, NUMU's history curator, has dredged up.

"It was kind of like this little hideaway where they could do whatever they want," Long says of the bands and party animals who would convene at the Chateau Liberté. "The police kind of ignored the place—lots of sex, drugs and rock & roll. I've heard some crazy stories that probably won't go into the exhibit."

On a recent afternoon, Long is sifting through the ephemera she's collected for the show on the lower floor of NUMU. This is where the show will have its run—along with a companion exhibit titled "Faces of Resistance: Through the Lens of Ilka Hartmann," which collects photographs Hartmann took of social justice crusaders, such as Cesar Chavez, the Black Panthers and the Indians of All Tribes group, who occupied Alcatraz from November 1969 until June 1971.

The umbrella title for the floor is called 'After the Lovin', Long says, explaining that both exhibits are meant to pay homage to the Summer of Love, 50 years ago.

The Chateau Liberté shut down in 1979 and fell into disrepair. It sat vacant for about a decade and was badly hobbled by the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. The property was purchased by a local real estate agent named George Rabe in 1996, and he has since largely restored the grounds—including a painting of the Zig-Zag rolling papers man on the floor of the swimming pool.

The exhibition opens July 14, but the official launch party is scheduled for Aug. 3 at 6pm. Long says several former employees and notable patrons are set to show up for the celebration. One former bartender is flying in from Washington state for the gathering.