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April 30, 2006

To whom it may concern;

The Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee formed the Gulf Coast Relief Fund to respond to the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In November 2005, we participated in a meeting of several organizations doing community work in New Orleans. They all emphasized the difficulty of working in New Orleans, the complexities of working with evacuees and returnees, the losses that their own organizations had suffered and the overall lack of funding for community organization in the wake of the hurricanes.

In December 2005, The Gulf Coast Relief Fund supported a team to spend several weeks in New Orleans mapping the community organizations work there. The team spoke with organizations on the ground about the work they were doing, the challenges they faced and their needs for capacity building.

The organizational mapping done by the team shows that there is really very little funding going into these organizations which have lost personnel, equipment and records. We found the team's work very useful our own programmatic funding framework in New Orleans. By mid-January, we decided to continue to support a two person team, Jainey Bavishi and Rachel Wilch, on the ground for several months. Their objective was to continue to work with groups on the ground, chart out where groups on the ground needed new support and produce a series of three reports to share with other funders and groups working on New Orleans.. At the end of April, our conclusion is that there is still far too little funding and support for these groups, particularly in the face of the widespread institutional failure to respond to the needs of the most disadvantaged populations from the city.

We would like to share with you the two report that have been completed, the March report, *New Orleans' post Katrina Community organizing landscape; current efforts, unmet needs*; and the April Report *New Orleans' Post Katrina Community organizing landscape; From Action to Policy*. Both of these can also be found on the UUSC website [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) under *Katrina Relief* and on the Unitarian Universalist website [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) under Gulf Coast Relief Fund. We hope you will find this useful in your work; please let us know if you would like to receive the third and final report.

Sincerely,

Martha Thompson  
Program Manager for Rights in Humanitarian Crises

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*UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world*

*New Orleans' Post-Katrina Community Organizing  
Landscape:*

## **From Action to Policy**

Part Two in a Three Part Series

*Prepared for the UUA-UUSC and  
The funding community*

by Jainey Bavishi and Rachel Wilch

April, 2006

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We want to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Unitarian Universalist Association-Unitarian Universalist Service Committee that allowed an initially small project blossom into this more comprehensive series. We would like to recognize our local partner and primary community liaison, Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans, Inc. (NHS), who has supported our work from the very beginning, and continues to help us navigate the intricacies of New Orleans' complex organizing landscape. We also want to acknowledge Tony Pipa for his tireless editorial and advisory assistance. We would like to thank readers of the first report who have passed it on to other interested parties. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the organizers, advocates and residents who so generously offered their time, information and experiences, and who gave this series of reports their substance.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report functions as the second in a series of three reports on the status and needs of community organizing efforts in post-Katrina New Orleans. The first report, entitled “New Orleans’ Post-Katrina Organizing Landscape: Current Efforts, Unmet Needs,” provided a general overview of the types of groups currently involved in organizing and community initiatives in New Orleans, and the basic categories of need present across the board. To briefly summarize the findings, groups were divided into three types: those serving the needs of an individual community or neighborhood, those serving the entire city, and those working on the cultural and artistic dimensions to rebuilding. The needs of these organizations also fell into three broad categories: staffing, office and meeting spaces, and programming and outreach.

This report departs slightly from the previous organizational categories, shifting instead towards an exploration of the relationship between community-based action and policy. It attempts to highlight instances where city, state and federal policymakers are adopting official policy and protocols based upon the work of grassroots organizers. It centers on three particular areas: the neighborhood planning process, housing and education; the categories of needs remain the same as those in the last report. This report is not intended to replace the first report, but to build upon it, acting as an update/addendum. Some organizations featured in the first report are outlined again here for their particular relevance to the three areas of policy focus. New organizations, met with since the distribution of the first report are also included. We encourage recipients to read the two side by side: an electronic copy of the first report, “New Orleans’ Post-Katrina Community Organizing Landscape: Current Efforts, Unmet Needs” is available through the both the UUSC website online at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) and on the UUA website at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

Research for this series was funded by the Unitarian Universalist Association-Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; these reports are intended for both internal use within the UUA-UUSC, and for the information of the broader funding community. The UUA-UUSC encourages recipients of this report to pass it on to anyone else who might be interested.

## **UPDATE**

As this report goes to print, nearly eight months have passed since levee failures following Hurricane Katrina inundated New Orleans with floodwater. Although visiting politicians quip at the progress being made here and the specter of an upcoming mayoral election has prompted some visible improvements, life for most New Orleanians remains a waiting game. FEMA building elevation recommendations were released this week, but the impact of this information is unknown as the city has yet to revise building permits to reflect the changes. The neighborhood planning process to determine the rebuilding agenda for individual neighborhoods recommended by the Bring New Orleans Back Commission (BNOB) was slated to begin on February 20, but the city government has taken no steps towards initiating this process. While New Orleans residents wait in cities like Houston and Baton Rouge to hear the fate of their communities back home, the rental market in New Orleans continues to tighten with low vacancy rates and climbing rents. This uncertainty, combined with a maze of red tape from insurance companies and utility providers, an eviscerated public education system, non-existent public health facilities, crumbling city infrastructure and service provision, massive municipal layoffs and unknown environmental hazards make return to New Orleans impossible for many residents.

Reviving and repopulating this city requires not a silver bullet but a gradual, simultaneous rebuilding of all facets of New Orleans. What follows is a particular analysis of the neighborhood planning process, housing and education. These three areas of focus were chosen from the many components of the rebuilding process for their exemplification of the intersections of policy and actions on the part of organizers, advocates and residents. This report especially works to examine the cooption of community based methods, efforts and achievements, by governmental and policy actors struggling to craft a viable and economical rebuilding strategy. This report does not claim to provide a fully comprehensive perspective, but given limited time and space, the categories do offer a useful cross section of particular aspects of the rebuilding process.

## **Neighborhood Planning**

In January, 2006, the mayor-appointed Bring New Orleans Back (BNOB) redevelopment commission made recommendations to the city council about issues relating to urban planning. With regards to rebuilding neighborhoods, the BNOB commission suggested that the city sponsor a city-wide neighborhood planning process, through which residents help to create redevelopment plans for their neighborhoods. The process, initially scheduled to take place during a three month period between February 20 and May 20, in time to provide recommendations for the federal budget allocation process this summer. No other details were provided during the BNOB commission's presentation of their recommendations, nor are they available on the BNOB website, where citizens were directed to find more information. The information that was presented also lacked a clear statement of how the neighborhood plans would be used. At the time of the recommendations, it was suspected that one of the outcomes of the neighborhood planning process would be to determine whether or not neighborhoods will have a future at all.

Now more than two months after the city government was supposed to begin the process was supposed to have begun, funding has still not been secured for such an effort. In the meantime, rumors about the process have prompted communities to begin mobilizing out of fear that their neighborhoods will targeted for redevelopment as parks or wetlands. Some neighborhood groups such as the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association have engaged in their own neighborhood planning process. Other organizations such as ACORN are reaching out to neighborhoods that may not have the resources and connections to hire their own planners to engage residents in planning meetings and encourage them to give input on the future of their neighborhoods. The People's Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Committee is working to develop a "People's Plan," an all encompassing neighborhood plan in response to the Bring New Orleans Back Commission's recommendation. Meanwhile, the New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative is hoping to connect neighborhoods to existing neighborhood planning efforts. The explosion of grassroots neighborhood level planning activity has sparked a great deal of coalition building and information sharing between organizations across the city and within neighborhoods. At the same time, different communities within the same geographic areas are striving to preserve their own interests through separate plans. Eventually, these

disparate plans will have to be consolidated across racial and economic divisions within communities.

Following failed negotiations with FEMA for funds to facilitate the city-sponsored planning process, both public and private dollars have recently been committed to consolidate and support ongoing grassroots neighborhood level planning activities. The result is a process that favors neighborhoods with resources to hire experts, bring people back to the city, and engage in their own planning. This serves as an example of a grassroots movement now adopted as the city's official mechanism to gain resident input for neighborhood planning. Now more than ever, neighborhood groups and organizations working to support neighborhood planning are in need of resources as it is not likely that the city will provide adequate support for a participatory neighborhood planning process but will rather depend on neighborhoods to initiate their own processes. A list of neighborhood organizations can be found in the appendix of this report.

## **Housing**

New Orleans is currently facing a severe housing shortage as residents from damaged areas and an influx of construction and aid workers crowd into limited housing stock in the un-flooded 'sliver by the river'. This reorientation of housing and population in the city has driven rents up dramatically, leaving lower-income New Orleanians without the possibility of returning home. Official plans for rebuilding assistance focus on homeowners, rather than renters. This leaves not only the very poor, elderly and the disabled, but also the full sixty percent of New Orleanians who rent rather than own, without adequate support to rebuild their lives here.

Organizations and activists must be supported in advocating for this enormous segment of the population. UUA-UUSC has already shown a commitment to support affordable rental housing, low-income home ownership programs and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable renter populations. In its first round of grant making, UUA-UUSC funded the interfaith coalitions PICO and IAF-Jeremiah in their shifts towards affordable home building. UUA-UUSC also provided grants for Neighborhood Housing Services to hire a housing counselor to help prepare low-income renters for home ownership. Finally, UUA-UUSC provided a grant to C3/Hands Off Iberville, a public

housing advocacy and activism group, to support its work on behalf of the rights of displaced public housing residents.

Despite this generosity, the task of meeting needs and defending the rights of nearly two-thirds the city's population remains an enormous task. A recent study conducted by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center found that in post-Katrina New Orleans, African-American renters were racially discriminated against 77% of the time. And even in less overt situations, the lack of accessibility in available housing is serving to prevent disabled and elderly New Orleanians from returning. At a recent meeting Sharon Alexis and Zeenat Rasheed lamented the lack of accessibility, medical and transportation services, and dependable hurricane evacuation plan as major barriers for the return of elders and disabled residents. With support, Alexis and Rasheed hope that their organization, Katrina's House of Care will come to consist of an elderly/disabled residential care center located just north of the city in an area less vulnerable to storms, as well as a home-ownership training and support center for low-income families.

The myriad work around rental housing can be loosely organized into three categories. The first category consists of groups working on housing policy and advocacy, such as the New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative, ACORN, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, and C3/Hands off Iberville/NOHEAT. The second category consists of groups working on resident education and skill development; this category includes GNO Fair Housing Action Center, Neighborhood Housing Services, and Katrina's House of Care. The third category consists of groups working on the actual refurbishment or development of homes for re-habitation, rent or sale to low or moderate-income residents; this category includes Common Ground Collective, ACORN, Katrina's House of Care, Humanitas, and Neighborhood Housing Services.

### **Education and Youth Programs**

With only three public schools open in the city along with a mere sixteen other charter and alternative schools, the lack of space in publicly accessible, geographically proximate schools remains a major barrier preventing displaced families from returning home. A total of fifty-six school facilities are expected to open to meet the 2007 demand, but as the Board of Education

and FEMA struggle to accurately measure the demand for schools, the difficult question arises of what must come first in the recovery process, the community or the school? Currently, 107 of New Orleans's schools are under the control of the State of Louisiana's Recovery School District, a body that oversaw five Orleans Parish schools before Katrina because of low performance, and took over an additional 102 after the storm. The schools are slated to be under this Recovery School District for five years at which point administration of the schools will be reevaluated. Additionally, many auxiliary educational programs for children, such as after school centers and tutoring services, have lost public funding since the storm. These programs were important in supplementing public education and educators before Katrina and are even more critical now that children are experiencing interruptions in their schooling and loss of activities and peer groups.

As displaced families consider returning home at the end of the academic year, programs for children and youth will be extremely important in helping to provide safe spaces for young people to learn, play, interact, and express themselves while parents find time to work on their houses. Programs for children and youth can be grouped into four categories. The first category consists of organizations that are working to create spaces for youth to hang out, recognizing that most places in the city where young people previously spent time, such as malls and movie theaters, remain closed post-Katrina, such as the Vietnamese Initiative for Economic Training and the Douglass Coalition. In the second category, the Youth Inspirational Connection, Inc. and the Finding Our Folk Tour are working to involve young people in the production of cultural events in New Orleans and in evacuee cities, respectively, in order to provide them with leadership opportunities as well as relief from the day to day stress of living in the post-disaster world. The third include programs that are working to provide outlets for youth expressions while enriching their skills, such as Students at the Center and the Neighborhood Story Project. Finally, the Finding Our Folk Tour and A Studio in the Woods are also working to help young people understand the causes, experiences and effects of Katrina through structured curricula.

An outline of unmet organizational needs, as well as specific descriptions of each organization mentioned in the above categories can be found in the following section and the appendix, respectively.

## UNMET NEEDS

While organizational needs are many and varied, in general they can be organized into three broadly defined categories. Organizations interviewed all identified some combination of staffing, office and meeting space, and programming and outreach needs. The first UUA-UUSC report, available on the UUA-UUSC websites at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) and [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) provides a more thorough description of each category of unmet needs, and some analysis of why these particular needs have emerged in the wake of Katrina. Tables outlining the specific needs of the organizations discussed in this report can be found below.

### Staffing

Organization	Stipends for Neighborhood Watch and Graduate Interns	One or Two Full Time Organizers, Entry Level Staff Members	Three to Six Full Time Organizers, Entry Level Staff Members	Legal, Accounting, or Technical Support	Full Time Specialist, Experienced Organizer, Program Director
ACORN			x		
A Studio in the Woods		x			x
Douglass Community Coalition		x		x	
Finding Our Folk Tour		x			x
Holy Cross Neighborhood Association	x			x	
Humanitas					x
Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center		x			x
Neighborhood Housing Services				x	
Neighborhood Story Project					x
New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative					x
Katrina's House of Care	x				
People's Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Committee	x			x	
Vietnamese Initiative for Economic Training		x		x	

## Space

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Interim/Permanent Office Space</b>	<b>Community Space for Meetings, Information Center, and Activities</b>	<b>Funding for Renovations, Construction and Land Acquisition</b>
Douglass Community Coalition		x	
Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center	x		
Holy Cross Neighborhood Association		x	
Katrina's House of Care C3/Hands Off Iberville/New Orleans Housing Emergency Action Team (NOHEAT)	x		x
Vietnamese Initiative for Economic Training	x	x	

## Programming

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Outreach &amp; Marketing</b>	<b>Youth Programming/ Curriculum Development</b>	<b>Equipment &amp; Materials for House Gutting</b>	<b>Artistic/Cultural Programming</b>
ACORN			x	
A Studio in the Woods				x
Common Ground Finding Our Folk Tour		x	x	
Greater New Orleans Housing Action Center	x			
Students at the Center Youth Inspirational Connection, Inc.		x		
Vietnamese Initiative for Economic Training		x		x

## **CONCLUSION**

This report provides an exploration of the intersections between community action and policy, through examination of the following three areas of rebuilding: the neighborhood planning process, housing and education. As the landscape of rebuilding continues to shift, the relationships and activities of organizations will evolve as well. For the most accurate and up to date perspectives on the rebuilding process, and associated action and policy, we recommend contacting organizers directly. The contact information for most organizations is available online; for further questions about how to reach organizations or for help planning a trip to the Gulf Coast, please feel free to contact the authors of this report.

## APPENDIX

### I. DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATIONS' ACTIVITIES

**ACORN** is a nationwide grassroots membership organization working for social justice and equality. Since Katrina, ACORN's semi-autonomous New Orleans chapter has been involved in lobbying Washington for federal funding for rebuilding, anti-bulldozing and voting rights class action lawsuits on behalf of city residents, organizing residents to prepare for the neighborhood planning process, and wide scale pro-bono gutting of flooded houses.

**A Studio in the Woods**, located in Lower Coast Algiers, on the fringes of Orleans Parish, is a non-profit dedicated to preserving bottomland hardwood forest and providing within it a peaceful retreat where visual, literary and performing artists can work uninterrupted. Post-Katrina, the studio has expanded its existing artists' residency program to help New Orleans artists return to the city, healing themselves and their communities through artistic exploration. The studio is also working with an environmental educator and botanist to develop youth curriculum on the ecological effects of the storm.

**C3/Hands off Iberville and New Orleans Housing Emergency Action Team (NOHEAT)** form the nucleus of a public housing and tenant advocacy coalition that brings together public housing and rental tenants, activists and attorneys. Since Katrina, the coalition has been fighting for the reopening of New Orleans' public housing projects and for eviction protection for renters and FEMA hotel voucher recipients.

The **Common Ground Collective** emerged in the weeks following Katrina and now consists of more than forty full-time volunteer organizers working on a range of rebuilding issues. Common Ground has been particularly effective in its pro-bono gutting of flooded homes, and in providing legal defense of tenants' rights.

The **Douglass Community Coalition** came out of pre-Katrina efforts to improve Frederick Douglass High School in the Upper 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. After the storm the coalition broadened its focus, engaging on larger issues of educational policy, and working to bring a farmers' market, health clinic, teen recreation center, community center, housing, and improved schools to the community. The coalition includes dozens of partner organizations.

The **Finding our Folk Tour** is traveling between evacuee hubs across the nation to bring artists, musicians and activists to young New Orleanians in exile. The tour functions as an opportunity for New Orleans youth to tell their stories, reconnect with friends, and enjoy the artwork and music unique to their city. It offers youth the chance to stay connected to New Orleans, its people and its singular culture, while they wait for the chance to return.

The **Holy Cross Neighborhood Association** is a community group from the Holy Cross section of the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. The association was active both before and since the storm; it is currently working with professional planners to conduct a participatory neighborhood planning process. The association is exploring creative ways of protecting the historic neighborhood, and of bringing together geographically dispersed residents around planning and action.

**Humanitas** is a faith based non-profit operating in conjunction with the Mount Tabor Baptist Church in the Gentilly neighborhood in New Orleans. The organization has a long history advocating for the housing concerns of “low-wealth”, elderly and disabled New Orleanians, and is currently involved in developing affordable housing in Gentilly and throughout the city. Post-Katrina, the organization has provided housing for 51 families.

**Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center** was founded in 1994 through a Fair Housing Initiative grant from HUD. The center advocates for fair housing practices and renters’ rights through legal enforcement work and through landlord and tenant education outreach. Following Katrina, the massive shuffling of renters and rental properties has inundated GNOFHAC with complaints of unfair housing. The center has a policy of turning no one away, but lacks the capacity to deal with its current workload.

**Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS)** was founded to help move low and moderate income residents from renting to homeownership. Post-Katrina NHS’ focus has expanded to include partnering on nonprofit homebuilding and the development of a network of interconnected community centers offering a variety of social services including housing and homeownership counseling.

The **Neighborhood Story Project** is a community documentary program. Before the storm, the Neighborhood Story Project worked with public high school students to author their own stories, publishing the finished products as bound books. Despite funding shortages and upheaval in the public school system, the Neighborhood Story Project is back working on writing with local middle and high school students and other community members to make their stories heard.

**New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative** is a coalition of public, private, non-profit and community based organizations working with New Orleans’ neighborhoods to support and expand affordable housing. Before and since Katrina, NONDC has worked to provide technical assistance, policy advocacy and neighborhood based demonstrations for residents and organizations working to support neighborhoods.

**Katrina’s House of Care** is a new organization providing immediate, short-term emergency assistance to Katrina victims in need of help with returning to New Orleans and cleaning up and rebuilding their homes. The group, which has applied for expedited 501c3 status, also plans to provide long term housing and holistic support necessary to help the most vulnerable populations of New Orleans, including the elderly, the disabled, low-income individuals and families, and youth.

**Peoples’ Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Committee (PHRF)** is a broad-based coalition whose activities are spread across fourteen working groups and whose stated focus is the needs and perspectives of marginalized, poor, African-American survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Currently PHRF is engaged in developing affordable housing, opening a workers’ center, and developing a People’s Plan as a response to the city’s call for a neighborhood planning process.

**Students at the Center** worked before the storm with public high school students to produce original writing and film. A focus on helping young people tell their own stories has expanded post-Katrina to processing and creating narratives of the storm and evacuation. Students at the Center is back working with students in New Orleans, and is also traveling to evacuee hubs to hold periodic conferences of youth in exile.

The **Vietnamese Initiative for Economic Training (VIET)** is based out of the large Vietnamese community concentrated in New Orleans East. Prior to the storm, VIET was involved in a variety of advocacy and job training programs as well as offering an annual summer day camp for kids. In the wake of Katrina, VIET has broadened its focus to include advocacy and support in navigating the bureaucracies of insurance, taxes, FEMA aid packages and absentee voting. VIET has been extremely successful in mobilizing residents in this hard hit neighborhood; now the organization is trying to expand its tax and legal support programs, reopen its summer day camp and establish a recreation center for neighborhood youth.

**Youth Inspirational Connection, Inc.** was founded in 1975 to support youth organizing and involvement in the arts. Since the storm, YIC has been working to revive its annual youth-organized, youth-run music festival which was held every October for the last 16 years until Katrina. The festival, which typically employs and event planning staff of 30 high school students, and brings together over 4000 musicians, brings musical traditions from around the world to the people of New Orleans.

### **III. NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS**

The following list of neighborhood improvement groups and resident councils is a combination of neighborhood group listings predating Katrina, and those founded since the storm. This is a working list, bringing together the resources available to us at the time of publication. Because of its piecemeal nature, it is uncertain which groups are active at this time. Nevertheless, it provides a good starting point for funders interested in working within a particular neighborhood, and also a good sense of the wide scope of civic involvement both pre- and post-Katrina.

#### **West Bank**

Algiers Council of Neighborhood residents  
Algiers Neighborhood Improvement Association  
Algiers Point Association  
Algiers Riverview Association  
Aurora Civic Association  
Aurora Gardens Community Association  
Aurora Oaks, Hyman, Kabel Civic Organization  
Aurora West Civic Association  
Behrman Heights Association  
English Turn Civic Improvement Association  
English Turn Property Owners Association  
Tall Timbers Owners Association

**Uptown and Carrollton**

123 Walnut Street Association  
Audubon Area Zoning Association  
Audubon Boulevard Neighborhood Association  
Audubon Boulevard Neighborhood Association  
Audubon Riverside Neighborhood Association  
Audubon Street Neighborhood Association  
Baronne Street Neighborhood Association  
Broadmoor Improvement Association  
Calhoun-Palmer Neighborhood Association  
Carrollton Avenue Preservation Alliance  
Carrollton-Earhart-Monticello-Palmetto Neighborhood Association  
Citizens of Upper Broadmoor  
Council of Carrollton Residents' Associations  
Greater Carrollton Neighborhood Association  
Fontainbleau Improvement Association  
Holly Park Apartments  
Holly Park Civic Association  
Hollygrove Improvement Organization  
Jefferson City Improvement Association  
Maple Area Residents, Inc.  
Newcomb Boulevard Association  
Old Carrollton Neighborhood Association  
Palmer Park Residents, Inc.  
Palmetto-Dixon Neighborhood Association  
Soniata Square Association  
Uptown Neighborhood Improvement, Inc.  
Uptown Triangle Association  
Upper Audubon Association  
Upper Carrollton Residents Association  
State Street Driver Improvement Association  
State-Palmer-Calhoun Association of Neighborhoods  
Versailles Boulevard Commission

**Central City and Garden District**

Bienville-Conti-Tulane Neighborhood Collaborative  
Central City Renaissance Alliance  
Coliseum Square Association  
Garden District Association  
Irish Channel Neighborhood Association  
Jackson Avenue Foundation—Jackson Avenue Task Force  
Lower Garden District Coalition  
Treme District Civic Association  
Treme Neighborhood Association  
Faubourg Treme  
Esplanade Ridge/Treme Civic Association

Lafitte Resident Council  
Old Elysian Fields Neighborhood Coalition

**Marigny, Bywater, Desire, St. Claude and St. Rock**

Bywater Neighborhood Association  
Desire Area Resident Council/Desire Community Family Center  
Delachaise Neighborhood Association  
Faubourg Delachaise Neighborhood Association  
Faubourg Franklin Association  
Faubourg Lafayette Neighborhood Improvement Association  
Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association  
Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association  
Faubourg St. Roch Improvement association  
Historic Faubourg Lafayette Association  
History Faubourg St. Mary Corp.

**Vieux Carre**

Esplanade Preservation Association  
French Quarter Citizens for Preservation  
French Quarter North and South  
Vieux Carre Property Owners, Residents, & Associates, Inc.  
Upper Decatur Association  
St. Peter Street Neighborhood Improvement Association

**Gentilly**

Gentilly Heights East Neighborhood Association  
Gentilly Residents Neighborhood Association  
Gentilly Sugar Hill Residents Association  
Gentilly Terrace  
Gentilly Terrace and Garden Improvement Association  
Lower Gentilly Neighborhood Development Association  
Mirabeau Gardens Neighborhood Association  
Pontilly Association

**Lakeview**

City Park Neighborhood Association  
Lake Forest Estates Home Owners Association  
Lake Marina Towers Condominium Association  
Lake Oak Civic Association  
Lake Oaks Subdivision Improvement District  
Lake Vista Property Owners Association  
Lake Willow Homeowners Association  
Lakeshore Property Owners Association

**Lower Ninth and Holy Cross**

Holy Cross Neighborhood Association

Lower Ninth Ward Homeowners Association  
Lower Ninth Ward Neighborhood Council, Inc.  
Florida Boulevard Community Improvement Association

### **East End**

Eastover Residents Association  
Lake Catherine Neighborhood Association  
Venetian Isles Civic and Improvement Association  
Village de L'Est Improvement Association  
Huntington Park Homeowners Association  
Lake Bullard Homeowners Association  
Press Park Homeowners Association  
Seabrooke Neighborhood Association

### **Central Business and Warehouse Districts**

Riverfront Civic Association  
Downtown Neighborhoods Improvement Association  
Lafayette Square Association

## **III. AUTHORS' BIOS**

**Jainey Bavishi** is a first year Master's candidate at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT from Charlotte, NC, focusing on international development and regional planning. After graduating from Duke University in 2003 with an AB in Public Policy Studies and Cultural Anthropology, Jainey spent a year in the town of Cuttack in Orrissa, India, an area still recovering from a deadly super cyclone in 1999 that killed more than 10,000 people and left over 1.5 million homeless. Her work focused on creating advocacy materials for a movement to start daycare centers in communities below the poverty line through documenting the voices of poor working mothers. Jainey spent the last year working as a research assistant at the Fannie Mae Foundation. She researched lessons and best practices from domestic community revitalization work.

**Rachel Wilch** was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. She received a BA from Reed College in Portland, Oregon where she studied labor movement narratives through the lens of cultural anthropology. Her interests focus on economic justice and alternative approaches to affordable housing. She grew up in and later worked on establishing low-income mutual housing cooperatives. She is currently pursuing her MCP (Master's of City Planning) in the department of urban studies and planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is excited for the adventures and opportunities she is finding across the country, though she is eager to eventually set up shop back in the great Northwest.