Chapter Eleven
( Years Later)

Rewriting the Story of an American City
One Chapter at a Time
Resetting the Odds of our Great American City

The American-Canadian urbanist author Jane Jacobs known for defending the vibrancy and diversity of city life against urban planners once said “what makes a city desirable is its quirkiness, variety, density and self-regulating community” I believe New Orleans has embodied the spirit of Ms. Jacobs these past 11 years with every plan, vision and revision that has been made.

I am so elated and filled with hope surrounding the possibilities of what the next chapter for this great American resilient city will be. These last few years, New Orleans has flexed her muscles in showing the power of local communities to drive their own long-term future. Whether it’s sustainability in the economy, environment, or community development the city of New Orleans and its residents have formed and shaped a model for other city’s that will enable them to quickly adapt to challenges and rebuild itself for any challenge it faces. There’s something going on out there in the world. We’ve been in the middle of it for a while. It’s the end of the industrial age in America and the West and the beginning of something else. Some call it the age of globalization, others the information age. Who know what history will judge. But the point is that we are in a transition period from one era to another. It’s a period of uncertainty. We don’t know what the future will hold but we must be positioned to learn from each other when our “reset” moment button is pressed.

Little did many of us know that not far in time or space would the “reset” moment button be pressed and we would experience another disaster that would propel us into a place of remembrance. This August only 14 days from the solemn anniversary day of that would forever change the lives of New Orleans an un-named stromed flooded the streets of Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes. Like the days and nights of yester-years many of our friends and family’s found themselves again in a place of desperation. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers were not only with our fellow Louisianian’s but the actions to “pay it forward” was exhibited. Whether it was water and supply donation drives by NPN members The Greater New Orleans 100 Black Men or Urban League of Greater New Orleans as a community and city we showed up on the front lines.

As a network we are choosing to explore and share in this issue of the Trumpet Magazine the need to address the issue of resilience for not only New Orleans but other surrounding Gulf Coast areas like Baton Rouge. Our members and partners have invested in topics that question how we engage in the “Changing the Tides of Our Coastal Communities,” and providing promising practices from what has been learned in the Lower 9th ward community. Although there is pride in the improvement of our transit system we are still formulating the needs and actions of communities regarding our local and regional transit. Thanks to the emergence of NPN’s partner RideNOLA and the development of their sweet guide “State of Transit” residents are engaged and informed with more insight on open and accessible data. One of our greatest prides in the recent years is the lessons and growth that New Orleans has taken in housing and thanks to the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance and Housing NOLA there is a tangible vision for how affordable, equitable and vibrant housing should be provided to all.

With all this good stuff happening in NOLA one would think that after 11 years we have become a UTOPIA! Not so fast we are still learning and THINK504, our political pundit is charging us to evaluate how the history and politics of the South has led to our inequitable outcomes.

Lastly, it is great sorrow that we had to bid farewell to Mr. Victor Gordon, the founding board member and former chair of Neighborhoods Partnership Network. His commitment and spirit will be greatly missed but had forced me and others in the civic ecosystem to question from where the next generation of civic leaders will emerge.

I invite you to engage, respond and connect to our network as we are writing a chapter each day by the deeds and the words that we say. SOMEONE is watching faithful and true, is their gospel TRUTH according to you.
The Trumpet Editorial Board

David Baker
Louisiana Weekly
Rachel Graham
Neighborhood Development Foundation (NDF) consultant
Christy Chapman
Author
Kevin Griffin Clark
2k Photo NOLA & Graphics
Matt Hendricks
Ride NOLA
Linedda McIver
AARP Louisiana

Julia Ramsey
Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN)
Gretchen Zalkind
NOLA Timebank
Keith Holt
Bike Easy
Ashley Thomas
Total Community Action (TCA)
Ethan Ashley
Urban League of Greater New Orleans
Geoffrey Brien
Louisiana Public Health Institute/ TFL

The Trumpet

Contents

6 Linking Coastal Communities for Success
9 Share Your Voice & Shape Transit With Ride New Orleanas
10 Six Solid Part-Time Job Options
15 New Orleans is Sinking, But What Can We Do About It?
18 The Politics of Race in Louisiana And Across The South

4 Homegrown Choreographer/Dancer Returns To Nola With Takin It To The Roots

12 New Orleans Neighborhood Recovery Rates

16 HousingNOLA, An Equitable Roadmap for All of New Orleans

19 Remembering Mr. Victor Gordon, Sr.

NEIGHBORHOODS PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

3321 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119
504.940.2207 • FX 504.940.2208
thetrumpet@npnnola.com
www.npnnola.com
Hold on to your hats, and get your second-line umbrellas ready for the New Orleans premiere of Takin It to the Roots, a new, exhilarating dance performance work by Michelle N. Gibson. Displaced by Hurricane Katrina, Gibson is homegrown. Although she is now living in Dallas, she hails from the Algiers and Uptown areas of New Orleans. So it comes as no surprise that Takin It to the Roots is steeped in her New Orleans African American experience.

Choreographed and performed by Gibson, her “communal ritual” falls within the style that she describes as “Second Line Aesthetic.” And of course, when the music strikes up, no one can sit still in their seats. The show ends with a full-blown second line, led by the Free Agents Brass Band, with the audience literally dancing in the streets.

Gibson, no stranger to Ashé, has choreographed and starred in one of the Center’s signature works, The Origin of Life on Earth. Further, she has held master classes, workshops, and served as artist-in-residence on behalf of the Center.

During her current NPN residency, Gibson will work on movement with youth, senior citizens, and the community. A master class is in the works for professional dancers.

Tickets Are Available Now At

Ashé Cultural Arts Center and online at http://bit.ly/TakinItToTheRoots2016: $25 general admission; $20 for students and groups of 10 or more.

For group purchases and more information, visit www.ashecac.org or call (504) 569-9070.

Ashé Cultural Arts Center is an NPN Partner of the National Performance Network (NPN). This project is made possible in part by support from the NPN Performance Residency Program. Major contributors of NPN include the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), the MetLife Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

To schedule an interview or for photos, contact Viola T. Johnson Blunt at (504) 569-9070, or via email atviolatjohnson@gmail.com
The Trumpet is New Orleans’ only community newspaper written by neighborhood residents for neighborhoods about New Orleans neighborhoods.

Email thetrumpet@npnnola to advertise.
SED’s mission is to stimulate civic engagement and restorative rebuilding, repopulate, sustain natural systems, assist community leadership and preserve resources in Greater New Orleans. We advocate for coastal resiliency, the restoration of Lower 9’s wetlands natural defense system and the reconnection of residents to our waterways and bayous.

In order to achieve greater coalition and effective solutions to our environmental challenges, CSED will engage with underserve coastal communities who are directly affected by the coastal land loss affecting Southeast Louisiana. However, there are significant issues persistent to bringing more collaborative solutions and awareness among coastal communities surrounding the Greater New Orleans area.

The specific challenges and problems that persist are:

1) Lack of strong cohesiveness among Communities and jurisdictions relative to approaches to address coastal/wetland restoration;
2) A need for more persuasive neighborhood/community-based advocacy to advance coastal/wetland restoration; and,
3) A need for significant partnership associations designed to help create a “big picture” change that could help connect our many coastal communities as they increase their ability to be at the table instead of on the table as coastal and environmental decisions are being considered. Our project will provide additional staff and technical resources to build the knowledge among residents including those in other parishes besides Orleans.

And, layered on top the needs expressed above, there still remains a need for enhanced engagement between the various coastal communities along with state officials and agencies that are essentially charged with implementing the state’s coastal master plan for coastal and wetland restoration. This linkage and applicable tools will create relevant partnerships and cohesiveness among neighborhoods and communities regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

Strategies used to fulfill this project will include:

1) Deepening knowledge of communities
2) Helping government agencies engage
3) Starting the conversation

We will implement the above strategies by engaging residents, community leaders, oystermen and fishermen with relevant state agency representatives in several meetings and listening sessions. These meetings and listening sessions will be designed as small and intimate gatherings as compared to larger group meetings, in order to have more of a conversation on critical and sensitive restoration concepts. We recognize that not all individuals will agree and share the exact same ideas relative to addressing coastal restoration. But, we intend to help all parties understand that inaction is not a good option.

And, through various convenings, we expect to help demystify aspects of restoration projects to help residents and others recognize the critical role they serve in saving the Louisiana coast. This overall approach builds on the CSED’s successes in bringing together diverse voices and opinions to attain common ground in engaging and informing Lower 9th Ward residents and others on the importance of ecosystem/wetland restoration.

CSED will create and launch a regional coastal residential and community coalition that will engage Lower 9th Ward and other surrounding area constituents, communities and organizations in a restoration and ecosystems project designed to protect, enlighten, and enhance targeted species, landscape and water systems for the betterment of the Lower 9th Ward community and neighborhoods. The restoration of Bayou Bienvenue is an important part of the rebuilding of these communities because it can provide opportunities for fishing, canoeing, and other activities for the Greater New Orleans residents. CSED will manage and facilitate activities described below in collaboration with other community groups. By using these opportunities and engagements, CSED will link together communities and organizations in surrounding and neighboring areas regardless of parish boundaries.
A Note From Charles Rice, Jr.
President and CEO, Entergy New Orleans, Inc.

Entergy New Orleans and its employees have been serving this city for some 100 years. A city in which we live and work. A city we’re proud to call home. A city that has come together to make tremendous progress over the last decade and is poised for the future.

In an effort to build a better New Orleans today and tomorrow, we’re pursuing a number of strategies to ensure that we can continue to provide safe, reliable power to our customers at the lowest reasonable cost.

We’ve taken a number of steps in recent months as part of that commitment including successfully completing our electric power transmission system upgrade; acquiring the modern, highly efficient, 495-megawatt Union Power Station unit near El Dorado, Arkansas; seeking permission to build a new combustion turbine plant that will provide a local source of power in the city when needed most; and completing construction of our New Orleans Solar Power Plant that includes state-of-the-art battery storage.

We’ve also issued a request for proposals for additional renewable energy; are studying a number of other options to enhance the electrical infrastructure in the city; and have recently proposed restructuring Entergy New Orleans by moving it under a utility holding company that is a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation. We have offered $25 million in customer benefits over the next five years if that request is approved.

Subject to New Orleans City Council and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval, this restructuring will be a seamless transition and customers will only see it as a name change from Entergy New Orleans, Inc. to Entergy New Orleans, LLC. There will be no adverse effects on our customers or our employees – we will remain in the city and will continue to be part of Entergy Corporation.

It is not at all unusual for companies to be organized in a state other than where they operate or even have their headquarters. For instance, many corporations – including Entergy Corporation – are organized under the laws of Delaware, even though they maintain no operations in that state.

This is an internal reorganization that makes good business sense. It provides potential strategic benefits, financial benefits and is a more efficient way to structure our company. Again, we’re proud to be a part of this city. We remain committed to our customers and to pursuing strategies that make sense for all stakeholders.
Disaster Recovery Law Clinic at Southern University Law Center

Southern University Law Center is hosting a free law clinic that is open to the public for disaster impacted residents.

The Clinic is Open at

2 Roosevelt Steptoe Drive
Baton Rouge, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Extended hours will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

Low-income residents and those financially impacted by the flooding can seek assistance from law students working under the supervision of SULC clinical faculty, volunteer attorneys and organizations.

Clients can receive help registering with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other governmental aid groups as well as receive counseling on their legal rights.

Individuals seeking assistance from the disaster should call the law clinic at 225-771-3333 or go to the clinic.
Share Your Voice & Shape Transit With Ride New Orleans

Ride New Orleans is a local non-profit fighting to improve our region’s public transit system. Our vision is a world class, multi-modal transportation system that promotes a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable New Orleans region. We enhance the quality of life in the New Orleans region by promoting safe, convenient, and affordable transportation options.

- On August 29, Ride is releasing our third annual State of Transit in New Orleans report. We’ve found that while our transit system has improved over the last years, we still don’t have a system that provides reliable access to jobs, school, and other life necessities for transit riders. While the average New Orleanian can reach 89 percent of the region’s jobs in 30 minutes or less with a car, if that same person relies on transit she can only reach 11 percent of those jobs. This situation has got to change if we want to be a fair and equitable region and provide access to opportunity to ALL of our residents. We’ve plotted a vision forward to achieve the transit service we need and would love your thoughts. Check out our report at rideneworleans.org

- Our grassroots community organizing arm is the transit rider-led Coalition for Quality Transit (CQT). Working with the CQT and talking to a lot of riders about what they want to see, we’re focused on ten community priorities to improve transit. These priorities include more frequent and faster transit service, reliable real-time tracking, safe and easy access to school, increased late night, early morning and weekend service, and seamless regional travel options. The CQT meet every third Saturday at 10 AM to plan campaigns around making these priorities a transit reality. The meeting takes place at 300 N. Broad in the 2nd floor conference room (above the Whole Foods).

- We’re working to bring a diverse group of community members and organizing into the RTA’s strategic transit planning process that will take place this fall. If done right, the plan will guide transit decisions and investments for the next few decades. But the process will be a failure if we don’t have extensive resident participation.

Please join with us and help us make sure thousands of transit riders voices are heard.

To get involved call 504-249-8419 or email Ride New Orleans at info@rideneworleans.org
6 Solid Part-Time Job Options

Options for Workers to Fit All Skills and Schedules

By Kerry Hannon

What type of part-time job could best fit your employment needs?

There are plenty of reasons why a part-time job is appealing. Even people who have saved for retirement see continuing to work in some fashion as a financial safety net. It helps stave off dipping into retirement accounts and makes it easier to delay Social Security benefits. There are also psychological and health reasons to consider, including staying engaged with a social network and feeling relevant. If working on your own terms appeals to you, here are six varieties of part-time work to consider.

1. Self-employment and consulting work

Tap your expertise and skill set to launch a part-time gig as a consultant. These are typically short-term projects. The trick to landing assignments is leveraging your professional network. Past employers are a good first stop to test the waters. Contact former colleagues and clients for help in identifying opportunities. For leads, you might get involved with an association in your industry, an alumni group, a local Rotary Club or a regional small-business association. You might also want to use websites such as PatinaSolutions.com, for those with at least 25 years of experience, or HourlyNerd.com, for those with MBAs or graduate degrees.

2. Seasonal jobs

Plenty of jobs run the course of a season, such as fall, winter, or summer, and can help you pay bills and keep busy. If you like to drive, for instance, limo services provide work year-round, but their dance cards fill up during prom and wedding season, from April to June.

Tax preparers are in hot demand during the first part of the year. Large tax firms, including H&R Block and Jackson Hewitt, hire thousands of tax preparers each year to come on board from January until May 1. You usually need to take the firm’s income-tax course in the fall to prepare. To fly solo, become an enrolled agent with the Internal Revenue Service. You can gain experience through AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, where volunteers help lower-income seniors do their taxes. AARP trains all volunteers.

Substitute teaching, working as an adjunct professor or doing private tutoring during the school year is another seasonal possibility. If you like the great outdoors, each year the National Park Service, as well as state and local parks, hires temporary and seasonal employees. There are also guest service and hospitality jobs at park stores and restaurants; they’re available through Aramark, a national firm that’s authorized by the National Park Service to provide facility and concession management. The holiday season, too, is a great time to land a temporary job. Retailers have a seasonal demand not only for sales clerks but also for customer service helpers, cashiers, stockroom clerks and security guards. You may also find restaurant employment, as a greeter, server, bartender or barista. Package-delivery firms such as UPS and FedEx are inundated with a surge in demand and hire accordingly.

3. Home-based jobs

If you’ve set your sights on a work-from-home job, go straight to a company you’d like to work for and see whether it hires remote workers. You can also use websites such as Upwork.com, which features online positions; Freelancer.com, for project-based work; and VirtualVocations.com, for telecommuting jobs. For those with fluency in two languages, there are a growing number of opportunities for translators and interpreters. To work for certain employers, you need to know specialized vocabulary, such as legal or medical terms.

Graphic designers can find plenty of assignments designing websites, logos, letterhead, business cards, restaurant menus, marketing brochures and much more. If you have a flair for the written word and a clear grasp of spelling, grammar, punctuation and usage, you can find a wide range of writing and editing jobs. Reach out to local associations and organizations, nonprofits, community newsletters and other regional publications. Ask if they need an extra hand on an assignment basis for online and print articles, brochures and press releases.

You might be able to build a business that runs on your own time clock by tapping into your natural talents as a crafter — by, say, making jewelry, sewing pillows and quilts, or creating other one-of-a-kind items. You could sell your creations on a website like Etsy, a marketplace for handmade items.
4. Contract or temporary work assignments

Accountant is the part-time job most requested by clients of FlexProfessionals — a staffing firm based in Washington, D.C., and Boston — says cofounder Gwenn Rosener. A degree in accounting or business is helpful but not required. The most common certification is certified public accountant (CPA). Duties include preparing financial reports, processing payroll checks, invoicing and tracking down delinquent accounts.

Some firms will ask you to monitor checking and savings accounts and track credit card bills, too. If you have the qualifications, you may be in charge of helping to prepare annual tax returns. Many of these positions are virtual, but some are on-site, as well. Employers run the gamut from start-ups and small businesses to churches and local nonprofits. Other popular short-term jobs include administrative assistant, attorney, bookkeeper, marketing communications specialist, project manager, receptionist and sales rep.

5. Hourly assignments

If you sign on to be a personal assistant, you may be asked to handle a variety of tasks: organize bills, papers and appointment calendars; accompany someone to doctor appointments; pay bills; handle laundry duties; run errands; cart around children; walk the dog; track and file medical bills and insurance payments; make meals; shop for groceries. The list of to-dos will depend on your client's needs. In essence, you're a one-stop shop. Advertise your services in community newspapers, on neighborhood listservs, on bulletin boards in apartment buildings, in retirement or adult community residences, and in local grocery stores. Another hourly position gaining traction is Uber or Lyft driver. The beauty of it is, you can turn the app on only when you want to work. Tour-guide, ticket-taking, program-selling and cashier positions are also usually available.

If you're good with animals, you could try pet sitting or dog walking. The level of activity depends on your charge. Summer vacations, spring breaks and holidays are peak demand times. This tends to be a word-of-mouth service, but advertising your services at a local pet store can help attract clients.

6. Direct Sales

Selling for a direct-sales firm like Avon, Cutco or Mary Kay can be profitable, and there are plenty of opportunities to do so. You can market the goods straight from your home office — all you need are a computer, internet access and a telephone. But there are generally some start-up costs (for a “starter” kit of training materials and products). Legitimate direct-sales companies allow you to “sell back” unsold products that are in good condition if you decide this type of work isn't for you. You set your work schedule, so that's a plus. You'll usually sell a company’s products through home office parties and online sales.

Earnings are typically commission-based. Contact the Direct Selling Association for information on specific direct-sales companies, and do your due diligence. Visit business.ftc.gov for guidance. Many of these companies have been scrutinized for illegal practices or pyramid schemes. Check with your local Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau or state attorney general’s office to see if there have been complaints about a company in the past.

Whatever kind of part-time work you pursue, one benefit is that you'll be working outside the typical 9-to-5, so you'll have plenty of time for other interests, too.

Kerry Hannon is a career transition expert and an award-winning author. Her latest book is Getting the Job You Want After 50 for Dummies. She has also written Love Your Job: The New Rules for Career Happiness and Great Jobs for Everyone 50+: Finding Work That Keeps You Happy and Healthy...and Pays the Bills. Find more from Kerry at Kerryhannon.com.

The Trumpet | August/September | 2016

TURN YOUR PASSION INTO YOUR PROFESSION.

They say it’s never too late to do what you’ve always dreamed of. And now, it’s never been more possible.

AARP can help you access tools, resources and information that can help you start and grow your business every step of the way. If you don’t think Real Possibilities when you think AARP, then you don’t know “aarp.”

Take the first step today at aarp.org/la

Real Possibilities is a trademark of AARP.
Eleven years after Katrina, more than half of New Orleans’ 72 neighborhoods have recovered over 90 percent of the occupied households they had before the levees failed. On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina struck and the levees protecting the city of New Orleans failed. More than 40 of the city’s 72 neighborhoods were flooded, many with more than 10 feet of water.

1. 107,379 New Orleans homes were flooded and 26,965 sustained wind damage.

2. Eleven years after Katrina, there are 20 neighborhoods that now have a larger number of active addresses than they did prior to the levee breaches.

Thirteen of these neighborhoods largely did not flood because they are in the “sliver by the river” or on the west bank. But, seven of these are east bank neighborhoods that did flood.
Moreover, greater than half (40 of New Orleans’ 72 neighborhoods) have recovered over 90 percent of the population they had before the levees failed. Only four neighborhoods have less than half the population they had prior to Katrina, including three public housing sites that have been demolished to make way for new mixed-income housing: B.W. Cooper, Florida Development, and Iberville. The Lower Ninth Ward, which was the most heavily damaged neighborhood of all, also has less than half the population it had prior to Katrina. The Lower Ninth Ward is bordered by canals to the west and north, and the surge of water that hit the Lower Ninth Ward was so strong it knocked homes completely off their foundations.

Overall, New Orleans continues to grow 11 years after Hurricane Katrina. The most recent population data from the U.S. Census Bureau are population estimates for 2015. According to these estimates, between 2010 and 2015, the New Orleans population grew 13 percent, resulting in a ranking of 41st on population growth out of 714 U.S. cities with populations of 50,000 or more. Even newer data from Valassis Inc. on households receiving mail suggests the population grew another 1.6 percent from 2015 to 2016.

All told, New Orleans households receiving mail have increased by 22,523 since June 2010, with fully 67 of 72 neighborhoods experiencing gains.

**Topping this list is** The Central Business District which added 1,818 residences since 2010.

Little Woods and Central City added 1,801 and 1,668 residences, respectively.

And, other flooded neighborhoods including, Filmore, Lakeview, Lower Ninth Ward, Mid-City, Seventh Ward, St. Bernard area, St. Roch, and Treme’/LaFitte all gained between 600 and 1,000 households.

Five neighborhoods lost households from June 2010 to June 2016. Of those neighborhoods, four were on the west bank (Behrman, McDonogh, Old Aurora, and U.S. Naval Support Area).

Looking at change from 2015 to 2016, seven neighborhoods gained 100 or more new households: Central Business District, Central City, Iberville Development, Little Woods, Mid-City, Seventh Ward, and Treme’/LaFitte.

---

**About Valassis Data**

The Data Center relies on the Valassis Residential and Business Database, which must be purchased from Valassis Direct Mail Inc, for neighborhood-level tabulations of addresses receiving mail. Valassis is one of only a few companies nationwide that qualifies to receive weekly data feeds from the U.S. Postal Service’s Address Management Services database. The Valassis Database is unique from other sources of U.S. Postal Service data because it provides address level data. Although the address level data cannot be released to the public, The Data Center developed a robust in-house geocoding process in order to generate extremely accurate census-block and neighborhood level data. The Valassis Database includes active and vacant addresses, but does not include no-stat addresses.

This paper published in an academic journal reviews literature from the fields of demography and other disciplines to identify available administrative data sets including USPS data that can form the basis of sound, relevant, and timely county-level population estimates following a catastrophic U.S. event.
Inaugural Louisiana Education Policy Fellows Present Critical Landscape Issues
Premiere professional development program for cross-sector education leaders; 2017 applications now open

The inaugural Louisiana Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) cohort completed their journey with the presentation of three comprehensive policy initiatives looking to the future of the state’s school system.

The program, coordinated by Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN), took the Fellows through ten months of intensive policy, leadership, and networking development. Monthly topic colloquia, the Washington, D.C. Policy Seminar, and insight from a wide assortment of local, state, and federal guest speakers provided a space to debate and discuss the field’s most critical issues.

As a program capstone, the cohort selected, researched, and developed briefs on three specific policy initiatives as the most salient to Louisiana’s education landscape. They are:

• Willing Professionals + RESPECT = PTSS (Prepared Teachers and Successful Students)
  Sherdren Burnside, Dr. Lisa Green-Derry, Brionne Stewart, and Adrian Todd

• The Louisiana School Choice Parent Dilemma: When Public School is Not a Viable Option
  Susan Kahn, Ed. S. and Zakenya P. Neely, MA

• School Discipline Reform: Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline
  Brian Adams, Dr. Marsha Broussard, Lisa French, Dr. Lisa Green-Derry, and Sara Massey

Full briefs accessible at www.opennola.org.

Response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive. “My Fellowship has equipped me with the tools to become a change agent in the education arena, and opened up important lines of communication at the local, state and national levels,” said Dr. Lisa Green-Derry, 2016 Fellow and Urban Strategies, Inc. Education Director.

Applications are now open for the 2016-17 cohort. Enrollment is limited — please apply early. Visit the website at opennola.org/epfp to get started today.
New Orleans is Sinking, But What Can We Do About It?

By Nathan Lott, GNO Water Collaborative

This spring, researchers at NASA, LSU and UCLA released a study on the rate of subsidence, or land sinking, in metro New Orleans. They found that New Orleans East experiences the worst subsidence and speculated that groundwater withdrawal might be responsible. This added to the controversy surrounding a new power plant in the area, where cracked foundations and potholes are common.

Subsidence is a particularly complicated phenomenon. It can result from multiple factors, all of which occur out of sight beneath our feet.

Regional subsidence is the slow sinking of land across coastal Louisiana caused by faulting and sediment compaction as the relatively young land of the Mississippi Delta settles downward. Although it does not occur uniformly, this regional subsidence does occur coast-wide.

Localized subsidence results from the combination of specific factors at a given place. These can include the extraction of hydrocarbons or groundwater. In much of New Orleans, overreliance on pumped drainage also contributes. The use of pumps to flush stormwater through pipes and canals extracts groundwater and dries the surrounding soils. This is sometimes referred to as dewatering.

When dried, clay soils will expand again; the resulting fluctuations can damage pipes or pavement. Organic soils undergo oxidation when dried and do not expand again. The soil in areas closer to Lake Pontchartrain typically contains a higher percentage of organic material. During the 1970s, this was a cause of acute subsidence in some Jefferson Parish neighborhoods, cracking foundations and gas lines. Subsequent laws required the use of pilings to stabilize structures.

While changing the way we manage rainwater can’t stop all subsidence in Southeast Louisiana, it can have a significant impact. In particular, it can reduce subsidence in the upper layers of soil, which impacts the stability of buildings, roads, and utilities.

Green infrastructure refers to landscaping and building practices that promote the infiltration of rainwater. Green infrastructure, such as rain gardens, can resupply our native soils with the moisture they need. At the same time, these techniques keep rainwater out of storm sewers, reducing the need for pumping. So even as we debate how to better manage industrial water withdrawals, the double-benefit offered by green infrastructure suggests it should be our first line of defense against subsidence.

To learn more, visit nolawater.org

Further Reading:
“Special report: How New Orleans is making a ‘serious problem’ worse with its levees, pumping stations”

“Anthropogenic and geologic influences on subsidence in the vicinity of New Orleans, Louisiana”

“Subsidence and Coastal Geomorphic Change in South-Central Louisiana”
http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/geo-evo/research/la-subsidence.html
HousingNOLA, an Equitable Roadmap for All of New Orleans

HousingNOLA is a 10-year partnership between the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA), the Foundation for Louisiana, the City’s Office of Housing and Community Development, and dozens of public, private, and nonprofit organizations working to solve New Orleans’ affordable housing crisis.

In 2014, the Foundation for Louisiana’s TOGETHER Initiative convened a group of New Orleans residents and non-profits to develop strategies for improving housing policies and increasing equity in the city. What emerged from this initiative was a desire to draw upon the community’s widespread engagement with housing policy issues in the post-Katrina years, and finish the transition from “recovery mode” toward planning for a strong future for New Orleans.

From November 2014 to November 2015, the HousingNOLA Leadership Board reached out to every community and neighborhood in New Orleans to meet with residents, hear their housing concerns, and brainstorm potential solutions. The Community Engagement Working Group – made up entirely of New Orleanians who aren’t formally involved in housing policy or development – organized or participated in more than 35 neighborhood meetings, community roundtables and public events in every district in the city. Many of these events involved developers, officials, and residents sitting side by side, eating together, and discussing the hard realities of rebuilding New Orleans. Special meetings were also held throughout the city for financial institutions, city government, and special needs advocates to include their perspectives on the affordability crisis.

The HousingNOLA 10-year Strategy and Implementation Plan, released on December 10, 2015, shows need for approximately 33,600 additional housing opportunities in New Orleans by 2025. Since 2000, New Orleans home values and rents have both more than doubled and wages have not come close to mirroring the dramatic rise in housing costs. Almost 60% of New Orleanians are now “cost-burdened,” spending more than a third of their income on housing costs. The city ranks second in the nation for the percentage of renters paying more than half of their income on housing.

HousingNOLA with partners like the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) has committed to strategies that will strengthen and grow the affordable housing sector. The plans priorities are based on HousingNOLA’s five goals:

- Preserve existing supply and expand the total supply of affordable rental and homeownership opportunities throughout New Orleans.
- Prevent future displacement through development activities and continued study and policy review.
- Enforce and promote fair housing policies throughout New Orleans.
- Encourage sustainable design and infrastructure for all New Orleanians.
- Increase accessibility for all, including residents with special needs.

HousingNOLA’s mission is to offer a road map to maximize the effectiveness of scarce government resources, increasing non-traditional resources, and assisting private sector investors in making strategic choices. More than 100 organizations and community groups participated in the process. The 10-Year...
The Own the Crescent Homeownership Fair at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center celebrating Homeownership Month in June 2016.

The 10-year Strategy and Implementation Plan has been embraced by New Orleans housing advocates and city leaders. The following major policy victories have already been achieved:

- The City of New Orleans’ Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund (NHIF) has been dedicated to homeowner and renter rehabilitation in order to create neighborhood stability across the city;
- Worked with the City of New Orleans City Planning Commission to begin a study on mandatory inclusionary zoning;
- The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) has implemented the criminal background check policy it adopted in 2013;
- FEMA has reclassified East Bank neighborhoods as Flood Zone X, which should result in lower flood insurance costs;
- Coordinated with local stakeholders as a part of the Energy Efficiency for All (EFFA) coalition, a national collaboration to promote energy efficiency policies in multifamily and affordable housing;
- Worked with the Louisiana Housing Alliance and Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless in order to educate developers on using Medicaid to fund supportive services through the annual State Housing and Homeless Conference;
- Governor Edwards signed SB610 a bill that calls for predictable and reasonable tax valuation for affordable housing multi-family properties; and
- With Housing for Resilient New Orleans, the City of New Orleans is coordinating disposition efforts of HANO, NORA and the City with available public funding (HOME, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and the Neighborhood Housing Investment Fund) for affordable housing development to create the highest possible number of affordable units. Housing for Resilient New Orleans also insures that the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority and HANO will continue to prioritize residential development on their available inventory.

All advocacy and implementation efforts will be revisited and tracked in an annual HousingNOLA Report Card—the first of which will be released in late September 2016. The Report Card will serve as a progress report and create accountability for achieving HousingNOLA’s vision and goals.

Plan aims to spur the creation 5,000 new affordable housing opportunities by 2021, encompassing 2,000 rentals, 1,500 homes, and 1,500 units for people with special needs, such as the homeless, the elderly, veterans and people with disabilities. HousingNOLA also calls on decision makers to identify dedicated revenue sources to preserve and expand an additional 11,580 safe, affordable homes for all New Orleanians by 2025.
Some Southern states have huge budget deficits. The most racist states have the biggest deficits. Louisiana has the biggest budget deficit per capita in the South. And as the Louisiana legislature grapples with its budget crisis and tries to decide where to cut education and healthcare instead of raising taxes, the issue of race and decisions based upon race rage and roll just below the surface. Instead of thoroughly examining real reform that would transform society and save billions, Louisiana’s Republican Party continues to waste money on universally proven ineffective and costly programs.

Louisiana’s legendary history of being the most brutal and deadly state for African American men continues today. The old saying, “sold down the river” refers to slaves being sold from the brutal back breaking plantations above and around Louisiana to the more sinister and deadly sugar cane plantations in Louisiana. Conditions were ominously more dangerous and the plantation owners much more ruthless in and around New Orleans.

Happening for 300 years, the practice of moving the male slaves away from their families still impacts society and legislation today. For centuries, black families were destabilized and dehumanized by attacking and removing the black male from the family. Today, the continued destabilization dehumanization of the black family is the most important factor in the achievement gap between whites and blacks in America. The absence of strong productive men has contributes to crime, poor education outcomes and the unbreakable cycle of poverty.

Today’s slavery is the prison industrial complex. Louisiana leads the ENTIRE WORLD in the incarceration of black people. So despite white privileged rationalization of the inherent criminality of African American men, as the justification of this phenomenon, one need only look at the Jerome Morgan case for real and current evidence of a corrupt and fully funded “criminal justice system” that has continued to destabilize black families. The nearly $3 billion Louisiana spends on its “criminal justice” is simply the 21st century model to disenfranchise African American men and comparable in effect, bigotry and destruction of African American men and families.

Contrary to popular white privilege revisionist history, African American men were neither placid nor happy in their slave conditions. Escapes were commonplace. New Orleans was home to the largest slave revolt in American history. And Southern planters stood guard around the clock to protect their investment in free labor. Today’s over policing is remarkably similar to the constant suspicion and harassment African American men endured during slavery. In fact, today’s Southern criminal justice emanates from this belief that movement in society by African American men should be harshly and systematically regulated.

States that spend billions to destabilize the African American family invest most heavily in jails and prisons and police and prosecutors and judges and probation and parole officers and do not invest in economic opportunities and positive inclusion into the economic system of the state. Smarter Southern states like Texas and Alabama and Georgia have seen the light and reduced prison expenditures and reduced barriers to full citizenship like the right to vote even after incarceration and access to housing. Now these states have seen a significant reduction in crime, greater economic growth and balanced budgets. Moreover, Texas has been able to increase spending for healthcare and education by a factor of two compared to corresponding cuts in criminal justice.

Legislators in Louisiana are still preaching “lock ’em up and throw away the key.” This expensive and completely failed policy only increases crime as it most pointedly destabilizes the black family. Men who lose jobs, lose housing, whose families disintegrate and become unemployable are more often future problems than men who have second chances. The compassion and support being delivered to suburban heroin addicts is the sort of response that promotes community healing and a solution orientation. But for racism, this same compassion would result in African American men contributing positively to society.

Instead Louisiana is billions of dollars in the red. And while legislators offer ideas like raising the age of adulthood for arrested people from 17 to 18 others simultaneously offer legislation that will remove the right to hold a job, get a contract or even run for office for 20 years for men after being released from prison.

Our budget deficit is racism personified. Jails or jobs? Long sentences or longer hospital stays? Raise prison guard salaries or increase teacher pay.

We can move forward or allow our base past to defeat our right now.

“"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again!” —Sojourner Truth

Tune into Pumps, Pearls, and Politics Fridays at 1 pm on WBOK 1230 AM!

And join us for our POWERtalks created to encourage women to build more robust networks of female leaders, enhancing partisan competition, and stimulating women in public and political life.

For updates about the show, Like us on Facebook, follow me on twitter @ timolynn or sign up to join the mailing list at www.onedegreeimpact.com

POWERtalks are held at: Ashe Cultural Arts Center
1712 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.

Photo: Timolynn Sams Sumter
The Politics of Race in Louisiana
And Across The South

“If your character was described not by your friends or those who liked you but by one who was not always was in your corner, what would that person say?” A man of quite energy with a Caribbean accent sat with his walking stick between his legs had commanded the attention of the room. This was my first meeting with Mr. Victor Gordon.

Mr. Victor as I referred to him was longtime civic leader and former vice chair and current chairperson of Neighborhoods Partnership Network, who passed away this summer on June 23. He was committed to our work in every way — time, talent and treasure. He was a gentle giant, humble, kind, gracious, wise, and filled with knowledge and generous to share with anyone he came in contact with. Often jokingly calling himself “Papa Doc,” Mr. Victor had high standards that he held for himself and expected the same for others. A man who put his family first and lived for justice.

Mr. Victor’s community involvement and commitment spans over 30 years, during which he fervently advocated for improved quality of life at the local, state and national levels. For almost a half a century, he served as the president of the Pontilly Neighborhood Association (Pontchartrain Park & Gentilly Woods), where he was instrumental in post-Katrina recovery efforts.

His passion and commitment to his community certainly shined through his work. Mr. Gordon worked as an educator in the Orleans Parish school system for 35 years. In addition to serving as Board chair of NPN and he served several other nonprofit boards, including Total Action Community, Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN) and the Dryades YMCA.

Mr. Gordon was tough, but fair. He held everyone accountable, but always offered solutions. Personally, I am so grateful for his many talks, his words of support for me as a leader in this work Victor Gordon was the epitome of a true community leader. I will miss him.

By Timolynn Sans Sumter

In Memory
of
Mr. Victor A. Gordon, Sr.

A GENUINE LEADER IS NOT A SEARCHER FOR CONSENSUS BUT A MOLDER OF CONSENSUS.
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Timolynn Sans Sumter
Forty years ago, the landscape of homeownership among African Americans was bleak. Redlining – the practice of excluding communities of color from lending opportunities – was the rule of the day, with banks declining to write mortgages for potential buyers and refusing to even do business in urban communities. As a result, the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA) was passed by Congress and a valuable tool for determining which lending institutions were living up to their “continuing and affirmative obligations to help meet the credit needs of the local communities in which they are chartered” was added to the community’s toolkit.

Today, billions of dollars in deposits flow through the doors of financial institution’s annually. And for the most part, these institutions have done an adequate job of support community uplift in a real way. However, as we wrestle with another anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the federal flood that decimated broad sections of our city, it pains me to say we find ourselves living in communities that closely resemble what we faced four decades ago.

According to the 2016 Katrina Pain Index recently released by Attorney Bill Quigley, New Orleanians are currently paying more than half of their income on housing. The median annual salary for African-American residents in our city sits at $25,000 while the median income for White New Orleanians is $60,000. And even though home sales are cooling off a bit, the average home in Orleans Parish sold for $384,076 from January to June of this year. That breaks out to just under $2,000 a month in principle and interest, not including taxes and interest … And 100 percent of the monthly earnings of the average Black man or woman in this city. Additionally, we have billions of dollars in mortgages annually flowing through financial intuitions that have not committed to opening doors in our community.

The premise of the CRA is simple: If a financial institution profits from deposits of particular segments of the community, it has an obligation to support those same depositors as they work to improve their individual and collective circumstances. The CRA provides options for financial institutions to submit strategic plans for addressing the challenges faced by the communities they serve. Furthermore, community organizations can submit input on the effectiveness on those proposed steps.

I don’t think anyone can realistically question the obvious imbalance in this city’s recovery over the past 11 years. But we can proactively and collectively find solutions for leveling a clearly uneven playing field as we move forward. As entrepreneurship and innovation are booming for certain segments, others in our community are still finding themselves at the short end of the stick. Billions of dollars are sitting on the table. Claim your seat and be a part of the discussion. The time is now to use what we have to get what we need.
CeeCe Gives 20 thoughts about Burnell Jones Sr. a.k.a. Uncle B

As a community we draw to the trending events and people sometimes overlooking the "folks" that keep the most talked about places and people going. One of those good old "folks" is Burnell Jones Sr. known to New Orleans natives as "Uncle B". "Uncle B" is a humble yet firm gentleman that you just have to know to understand his strengths. Reason being is because he handles business from Seal's Class Act to Second Mount Olive B.C. Church in a very quiet way; not seeking validation he very well should, but with the self-contentment of his own heart even with being recently diagnosed with #STAGE4CANCER. With this thing called #CANCER that affects us all directly or indirectly, and now affecting "Uncle B", I decided to list 20 facts about this man's life. Let's honor Burnell "Uncle B" Jones Sr. Won't you with me.....Did you know that "Uncle B"......???

1. Did you know that Uncle B is 83 years old?
2. Did you know that Uncle B is married to his wife Orelia Jones for 41 years?
3. Did you know that Uncle B is not only a New Orleans native, but originally from the 8th ward and resides in the 7th ward?
4. Did you know that Uncle B served his great country and is in fact a retired Army Veteran?
5. Did you know while serving in the Army Uncle B was a proficient boxer?
6. Did you know that Uncle B is the loving father of not one but 7 children.
7. Did you know that Uncle B is a hard-working man? So hard-working that he worked for years and then retired from Nolmar Chemical Corporation.
8. Did you know that Uncle B assisted niece Cecile "Ms. Seal" Dalton's dream of Seal's Class Act. Uncle B retired from his job and came on board with "Ms. Seal" in the bar business.
9. Did you know that Uncle B gives back to our community by serving as one of the founders of Seal's Class Act Outreach & Social Club?
10. Did you know that Uncle B is not only one of the founding founders but has been the organization's treasurer for the last 18 years?
11. Did you know Uncle B is a faithful member of Second Mount Olive B.C Church that attends church every Sunday?
12. Did you know Uncle B's church and faith is a major part of his life.
13. Did you know that Uncle B opens the church for service, cuts the grass while serving as a member of the Usher and Trustee Board? Not only, was that but Uncle B awarded as the 2015 "Willing Worker of the Year".
14. Did you know that Uncle B is the founder of "Uncle B's Parade Bikers" which was established this Easter and is 40 members strong.
15. Did you know a typical Sunday for Uncle B would be going to church and then coming spend time with his buddies at Seal's Class Act.
16. Did you know that Uncle B's only cocktail is a Budweiser in a can.
17. Did you know Uncle B is a lover of Gospel and R&B music.
18. Did you know that Uncle B was diagnosed in June 2016 with Stage 4 lung cancer.
19. Did you know that Uncle B has never been sick before in his 83 years.
20. Did you know after 3 chemo treatments, Uncle B was told no more treatments could be done and was sent home with hospice.

Uncle B would always greet customers as they came to Seal's Class Act just as he would do the members of Second Mount Olive B.C. Church. Since being diagnosed with cancer, Uncle B's condition has affected his wife Orelia, his children, his family, his church, his community and his friends. One of his closest buddies, Benny from New Orleans's own Treme' Bass Band reflects on how hurtful it is to see him bare endless pain and not to have his buddy's company. Not only has his cancer affected so many, it has greatly affected Uncle B's life itself, so much that he has not did one of his favorite things "riding his bicycle" since his diagnosis. In honor of Uncle B, Seal's Class Act employees, the community along with biker/bicycle clubs, outreach organizations, second line groups and Representative Joseph Bouie celebrated Uncle B's life by riding bicycles this pass Tuesday from Seal's Class Act to Uncle B's home. Because Uncle B was to fragile at the time to ride, his wife along with his children positioned him on the porch to see the out pour of love, support and respect for this great man's life. Trying to comfort others, this quiet, humble spirit with a sense of humor says:

"I lived a good life. I have lived my life." — Burnell "Uncle B" Jones Sr.
Algiers Point Association
1st Thursday of the month – 7 p.m.
Visit www.algierspoint.org for location.

Algiers Presidents’ Council
4th Tuesday of the month
7 p.m.
Waldenberg Village - 3701 Behrman Place
www.anpcnola.org

Broadmoor Improvement Association
3rd Monday of every other month
7 p.m.
Andrew H. Wilson Charter School Cafeteria
3617 General Pershing Street
www.broadmoorimprovement.com

Bunny Friend Neighborhood Association
3rd Saturday of the month
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
3721 N. Claiborne Avenue
bunnyfriendassoc@gmail.com

Bywater Neighborhood Association
2nd Tuesday of the month
7 p.m.
Holy Angels Cafeteria
3500 St. Claude Avenue
www.bywaterneighbors.com

Carrollton Riverbend Neighborhood Association
2nd Thursday of the month
Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ
1333 S. Carrollton Avenue

Carrollton United
2nd Monday of the month – 5 p.m.
St. John Missionary Baptist Church
Leonidas Avenue and Hickory Street
www.healthyneworleans.org

Central City Renaissance Alliance (CCRA)
3rd Tuesday of each month
6:00 p.m.
Mahalia Jackson Early Childhood & Family Learning Center
2405 Jackson Avenue
www.mccra.org

Chapel of the Holy Comforter
4th Thursday of the month
6:30 p.m.
2200 Lakeshore Drive

Claiborne-University Neighborhood Association
Quarterly meetings (Date and time TBA)
Jewish Community Center
5342 St. Charles Avenue

Downtown Neighborhoods Improvement Association (DNIA)
Last Tuesday of each month
7 p.m.
Joan Mitchell Center
2275 Bayou Road

DeSaix Neighborhood Association
2nd Saturday of the month
10 a.m.
Langston Hughes Academy
3519 Trafalgar Street
danadesaix.org

East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Committee
2nd Tuesday of the month
6 p.m.
St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church
7300 Crowder Boulevard
www.enonac.org

Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association
1st Saturday of the month
10 a.m.
New Hope Community Church
3708 Gentilly Blvd.

Faubourg Delachaise Neighborhood Association
Quarterly meetings

Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting – 2nd Monday of the month
7 p.m.
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Cafeteria
1368 Moss Street
http://www.fsjna.org

Faubourg St. Roch Improvement Association
2nd Thursday of the month
6 p.m.
True Vine Baptist Church
2008 Marigny Street

Filmore Gardens Neighborhood Association
4th Thursday of the month
(no meetings in November and December)
6:30 p.m.
Project Home Again
5506 Wickfield Street

Garden District Association
Visit www.gardendistrictassociation.com for annual meeting information.

Gentilly Civic Improvement Association (GCIA)
3rd Saturday of the month
6:30 p.m.
Edgewater Baptist Church
5900 Paris Avenue
www.facebook.com/gentillycivic

Gentilly Heights East Neighborhood Association
3rd Monday of the month
6 p.m.
Dillard University, Dent Hall – Room 104

Gentilly Sugar Hill Neighborhood Association
3rd Monday of the month
6:30 p.m.
Volunteers of America
2929 St. Anthony Avenue

Gentilly Terrace and Gardens Improvement Association
2nd Wednesday of the month
7 p.m.
Gentilly Terrace School
4720 Painters Street
www.gentillyterrace.org

Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Association
2nd Tuesday of the month
5:30 p.m.
Pleasant Zion Missionary Baptist Church
3327 Toledano Street
hoffmantriangle.org

Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
2nd Thursday of the month
5:30 p.m.
Center for Sustainability
Greater Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church
5130 Chartres Street

Irish Channel Neighborhood Association
2nd Tuesday of the month
7 p.m.
Irish Channel Christian Fellowship
819 First Street
www.irishchannel.org

Lake Bullard Home Owners Association
Cornerstone United Methodist Church
5276 Bullard Avenue
Visit lakebullard.org for meeting schedule

Lake Catherine Civic Association
2nd Tuesday of the month
7 p.m.
Email lakecatherineneighbors@yahoo.com for location information

Lake Willow Neighborhood
2nd Saturday of the month
10 a.m.
St. Maria Goretti Church

Lower Ninth Ward Neighborhood Empowerment Network Association
2nd Saturday of the month
12 p.m.
1120 Lamanche Street
www.9thwardnena.org

Lower Ward Ninth Ward Stakeholders Coalition
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month
5:30 p.m.
1800 Deslonde Street

Melia Subdivision
2nd Saturday of the month
5 p.m.
Anchored in Christ Church
4334 Stemway
Send your neighborhood meeting details to: info@npnnola.com

Neighborhoods Partnership Network
3321 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119
504.940.2207 • FX 504.940.2208
thetrumpet@npnnola.com
www.npnnola.com
TALKING BACK, TALKING BLACK....

WBOK
1230AM
Real Talk For Real Times

WWW.WBOK1230AM.COM
HOTLINE: 504.260.9265