



Pre-Summit Site Visits, Wednesday, March 5th 1-4pm

On Wednesday, March 5, 1:00-4:00pm, we're sponsoring theme-based site visits to various locations to highlight New Orleans' recovery. Tours will be limited to 30 participants each. More information on each of the tours offered is highlighted below.

Geography Lesson: Navigating the Public School System

Understanding the many facets of the New Orleans' public school system—one of the lowest performing public school systems in the nation—is both challenging and daunting. Join Dr. Andre Perry, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Counseling and Foundations at the University of New Orleans, as he guides you across the hybrid system of traditional and charter schools that comprise public schooling in New Orleans. This tour introduces you to the educational leaders, teachers and students; and sheds light on the many operational and governance issues that impact the way the system works. It tours a cross-section of public schools including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School for Science & Technology in the Lower Ninth Ward and Ben Franklin High School in Gentilly.

Sustainable Buildings Make Sustainable Communities: The Lower 9th Ward

Join Global Green, in partnership with the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association and NENA, as they host a tour of their Holy Cross Project in the Lower 9th Ward. The tour showcases their net zero energy Development -- a LEED-Neighborhood Development pilot project, which is on track to attain the LEED Platinum green building standard. See the usages of solar panels, geothermal energy, a green roof, greywater systems and an advanced energy monitoring. You'll view both single family and multi-family homes -- all for low-income residents of the city, with preference granted to former residents of the Lower 9th Ward. Additionally, you'll learn about the planned community center that will house a host of community resources including a green building resource center, a bank and restaurant, space for the neighborhood association, and the new Climate Action and Sustainable Design Center—focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for coastal communities. Finally, Global Green will discuss how they are utilizing redevelopment projects to try to further develop green collar job opportunities in New Orleans.

Crescent City Connections: Creating Careers, Jobs and a New Middle Class

Learn about two programs representing American labor's commitment to the recovery of the Gulf Coast. Explore workforce development with the Gulf Construction Career Center. At the training facility in New Orleans East, you'll examine the unique nature of this multi-faceted initiative, created by the building trades and funded by the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Talk with participants and trainers about the vision of training for careers instead of "just" jobs; hear about their work on pipelining participants into construction and building trade apprenticeships. You'll also visit Housing International and learn how

partnering organizations are tying construction careers to new building technologies in the post-disaster housing world of New Orleans.

From Farm to Table: Makin' Healthy Groceries in New Orleans

Come learn about local farm initiatives with the New Orleans Food and Farm Network! Take part in this interactive exchange of local program participants and tour members discussing various local and national work being done on the healthy food access front. You'll gather with guests including the NOLA City Farmers in Algiers, the first Good Food Neighborhood which concentrates a slew of initiatives for sustainability in a single neighborhood,. This will be followed by visits other neighborhood sites, such as the new school/community garden and local backyard gardens.

The Big Easy Comes Back: Planning for Community Recovery

There has never been such extensive planning on multiple levels as has taken place in New Orleans over the past two years plus. Planning post Katrina began with the Bring New Orleans Back Commission that focused on large infrastructural issues; followed by The Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan that focused on flooded neighborhoods; then The Unified New Orleans Plan, which completed a comprehensive city-wide recovery plan. Other ongoing planning involves the first ever citywide school district master plan, a public library master plan, and the existence of an Office of Recovery Management. This tour will highlight these unprecedented planning efforts with visits to various neighborhoods across the city. Come and discover how issues of equity, sustainability, and good design are playing out in the Big Easy.

A Place of Their Own: Neighborhood Recovery on Freret Street

Description to come.

From Desire to Magnolia: What You Should Know about NOLA Public Housing

The hot topic of what to do about public housing, and particularly public housing in New Orleans post Katrina, has divided communities and the country. Come and discuss with community stakeholders whether the decision of HUD and the City Council to demolish public housing was the right move in the midst of the post-Katrina affordable housing crisis. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of mixed income housing, and issues surrounding the local housing authority. This tour may raise as many questions as it answers but participants will have the opportunity to visit some of sites first hand that have been at the center of the controversy. Come and be a part of the discussion, and discover little known issues related to NOLA public housing.

Developing Diverse Partnerships: Reinventing Hoffman Triangle

Join the Neighborhood Development Foundation (NDF) in New Orleans' Hoffman Triangle to see the continued work of neighborhood reinvestment that began prior to Hurricane Katrina. You'll learn how broad based collaboration and vision are revitalizing a long disinvested inner city neighborhood into a model of how to create a vibrant, vital community. See how Hoffman Triangle has become a beacon of light in the midst of blight and abandonment.

Transforming New Orleans' Vacant Properties: Big Challenges & Bigger Opportunities

The local New Orleans leaders of the National Vacant Properties Campaign, in partnership with the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) and the City of New Orleans, will conduct a tour of the city's neighborhoods to highlight the challenges and opportunities of addressing blight and abandonment in post-Katrina New Orleans. New Orleans had thousands of vacant and abandoned properties pre-Katrina; the storm multiplied the numbers many-fold. See first-hand the scope of the challenge, and talk with local leaders about plans to transform the processes and policies to develop safe and vibrant neighborhoods.

The Road to Renaissance in Central City

New Orleans' Central City neighborhood is located close to downtown and many parts of it received little or no flooding. Central City hosts a strong krewe of neighborhood organizations, many of whom have taken up the mantle of true community participation in recent neighborhood development strategies. Join the Central City Renaissance Alliance on a journey through the history and current developments of neighborhood reinvestment. Also part of the tour is the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, a local non-profit housing developer that provides families and individuals with affordable home ownership opportunities in Central City. Speak with Jericho Road on their work to transform under-used land, rebuild neighborhoods, and empower communities in one of America's most culturally important cities.