



city-works

2007-08 Report

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City-Works

ABOUT

Mission

City-Works is dedicated to the long-term sustainable rebuilding of New Orleans' community, economy, and built environment.

History

City-Works was founded in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to communicate the importance of design in creating a vital and vibrant urban environment and to encourage holistic reinvestment into individual commercial corridors and neighborhoods hard-hit by flood and disinvestment. In each of our projects, we focus on rebuilding areas that have been underserved by the private market and the public sector.

We work with neighborhood organizations, developers, and city officials, along with professional architects and planners, to forge lines of communication, promote the importance of good design, and do the work necessary to restore and rejuvenate the city we love. We bring our expertise in planning and design to these areas in order to stimulate job growth, wealth acquisition, and the availability of amenities necessary for a strong, vibrant community.



New development should respect the city's rich urban fabric and be adaptable for the future.

Guiding Principles

1. The holistic development of the city's infrastructure and public realm is critical to the continued economic health and social well being of New Orleans.
2. Effective planning and design are respectful of the city's rich history, are rooted in the present, and are adaptable to the future.
3. Sustainable practices must be incorporated into the redevelopment of the region to improve our quality of life.
4. Equitable development is achieved by encouraging relationships between citizens and public and private sectors.

Achieving Our Goals

In the Post-Katrina environment, the needs of diverse neighborhoods must be addressed as we rebuild. At City-Works, we focus on building strong social and physical infrastructure by matching reinvestment in commercial corridors with neighborhood needs. To do so, we:

- work with city and state government through policy advocacy and information sharing.
- work to foster community, collaboration, and trust between neighborhood organizations, business leaders, and city officials.
- pilot revitalization and re-visioning projects to direct public sector and private market reinvestment.

PROGRAMS

Introduction

City-Works has a tripartite approach to programming to support sustainable rebuilding in New Orleans: education, collaboration, and action. We provide expertise and experience in sustainable development principles, lead and participate in collaborative planning efforts, and advance implementation efforts for sustainability in underserved communities across the city.

Education

City-Works' educates the citizens of New Orleans about sustainable rebuilding principles and practice through citywide lectures and symposia, neighborhood workshops, and a website and monthly newsletter. We present our lectures and symposia independently as well as in partnership with a variety of partners including the American Institute of Architects, Global Green, the Horizon Initiative, Neighborhoods Partnership Network, Tulane University, and the University of New Orleans.

Education is an important, but often neglected, aspect of planning. It is important for our citizens to understand their options. Over the past two years we have brought public and private sector experts from across the country to share their knowledge and experience and discuss our myriad planning processes with neighborhoods all over the city. Recent speakers include local professionals like Janet Howard, President of the Bureau of Governmental Research, and Yolanda Rodriguez, Executive Director of the New Orleans City Planning Commission. Other speakers include internationally renowned experts like Dr. Avi Friedman, a professor whose research is focused on affordable and sustainable housing, Jeremy Harris, the former mayor



Our monthly symposium series brings experts and community members together to discuss the city's post-storm recovery and planning.



David Dixon, Principal at Goody Clancy, described the master planning process at a luncheon sponsored by City-Works.

of Honolulu, and David Dixon, Principal of Goody Clancy, a firm that was involved in the Unified New Orleans Plan and now leads the citywide master planning process. Together, these speakers have addressed many important issues affecting the city's recovery. In particular, speakers have addressed economic, housing, and planning policy at the federal, state, and local levels.

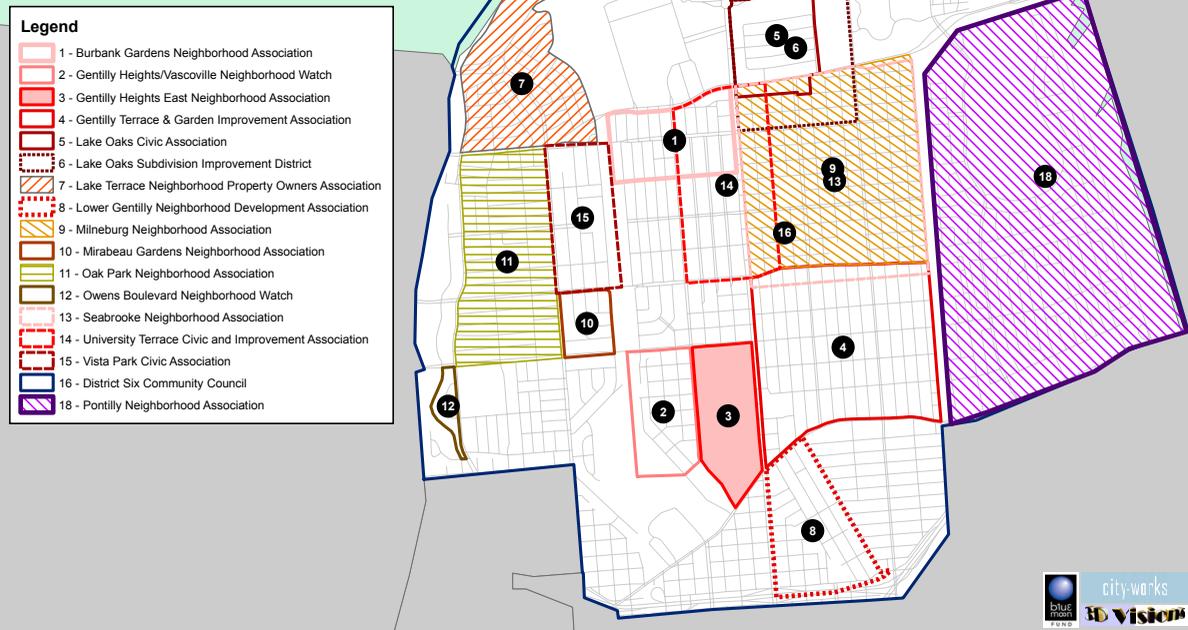
City-Works also works to foster better working relationships between neighborhood residents and developers by building the capacity of neighborhood associations to understand the complexities of development so they can better converse with developers. We regularly conduct workshops on sustainable development principles with neighborhood and interest groups across the city. It is important for citizens to know what the development options are so they can ask for what they want. City-Works educates neighborhood organizations and individuals to help them ask the right questions of developers and be the best citizen-planners in the nation.

Planning District 6 - Gentilly Community Organizations by Service Area

In creating this map, City Works has included information from a variety of sources including direct interviews with over 200 neighborhood organizations. Additional information and assistance has been provided by the City Planning Commission, Regional Planning Commission, Preservation Resource Center, and the Neighborhood Partnership Network.

This version of the map includes all of the organizations that have submitted completed surveys that we have interviewed or that we have confirmed their boundaries.

If we have not included your neighborhood organization or you see an error in our information, please email us at info@city-works.org so that we may correct the error.



City-Works produced a comprehensive map of neighborhood organizations that includes their boundaries and contact information. The map is continuously updated and is a valuable reference for citizens, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Collaboration

From individual citizens and neighborhood groups to professionals and government officials, people across the city look to City-Works to lead collaborative planning efforts and discussions. In a city without a strong history of citizen-government interaction prior to Katrina, this is a particularly important role going forward.

City-Works quickly established itself in 2006 with the groundbreaking release of a comprehensive map of neighborhood organizations across the city. The continuously updated map shows neighborhood boundaries, service areas, and organiza-

tion contact information. For the first time, citizens and government can see who represents neighborhoods across the city. This map has guided planners in their community participation efforts and is routinely referenced by public, private, and non-profit organizations.

City-Works has used this information to track 270 organizations in the city, finding through survey data that the neighborhood organizations are, in fact, integral to the rebuilding of our community. Overall, more people per capita have been participating in neighborhood organizations after the storm -- a 72% increase to 14.1% of the city's population.



City-Works is dedicated to long-term sustainable development in New Orleans' communities and built environment.



*icated to the long-
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unity, economy,
environment.*



Dr. Ed Blakely, Director of the Office of Recovery and Development Administration, meets with the community at our quarterly policy breakfasts.

In addition to the formal lectures and symposia that bring people together, City-Works has also provided a forum for informal interaction between citizens and government. Immediately upon Dr. Edward J. Blakely's appointment as Executive Director of the Office of Recovery Management, City-Works invited him to meet with the heads of non-profit and Main Street groups across the city, to keep a pulse on the recovery. He accepted our offer and met regularly with these groups during a City-Works hosted series of "Blakely Breakfasts" in 2007 and 2008.



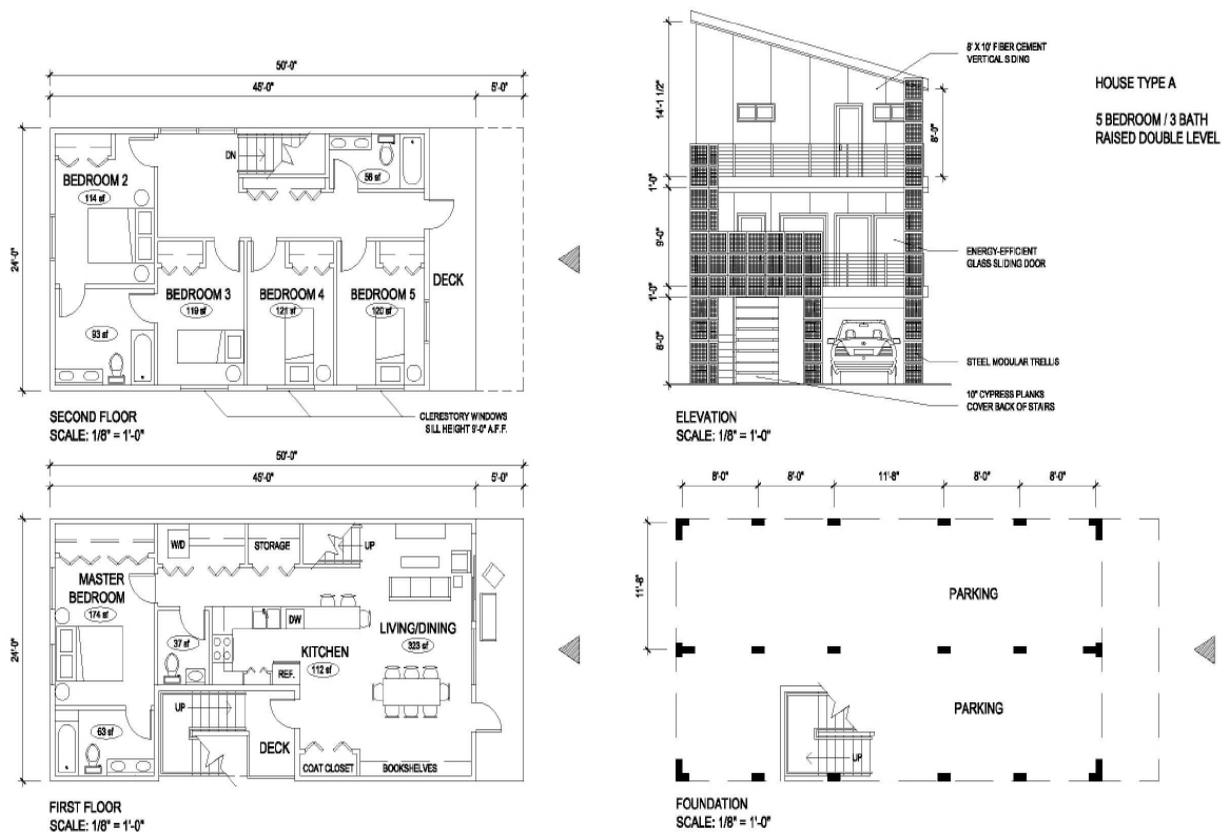
The first annual "Lights on Main" event brought holiday cheer to local businesses on New Orleans Main Streets in 2008.

City-Works has taken a particular interest in supporting and working with the six Main Street organizations in New Orleans to share strategies for success and visions for the future. Sustainable development strategies should be centered on these neighborhood commercial corridors that serve as anchors and models for rebuilding in their surrounding communities. We provide the only regular forum for existing Main Street organizations and their unofficial counterparts to share experiences and expertise, to offer support and resources for individual redevelopment projects, and to collaborate on ideas for future projects.



City-Works was recognized by The Times-Picayune for the "Lights on Main" project.

In addition to our work with Main Streets, we have provided professional advice and expertise to government and groups across the city. We worked with the Downtown Development District on the Warehouse District/Lafayette Square Height Task Force, with the Committee for a Better New Orleans on the development of a Citizen Participation Program, and with the New Orleans City Planning Commission to develop the Future Vision, Historic Preservation, and Sustainable Systems elements of the city's Master Plan.



City-Works, in partnership with Urban Impact, developed three unique, energy-efficient house plans for irregularly shaped lots in New Orleans.

Action

After participating in a multitude of post-Katrina planning processes, New Orleanians have been clamoring for action. City-Works has responded by leading implementation efforts for, and acting on specific recommendations from, the planning processes that have been completed.

For instance, the Unified New Orleans Plan for District One expressed a desire for the redevelopment of upper floors on Canal Street and in the French Quarter. In response, City-Works, in partnership with the Downtown Development District and French Quarter neighborhood groups, researched building code alternatives and best practices for existing and historic buildings. City-Works consulted with

groups in other states to better understand how the International Building Code takes into account, and gives credit for, the inherent strengths of an older building's structure rather than requiring a complete retrofit to comply with new building standards that often makes rehabbing older structures cost prohibitive. The results were shared with the Downtown Development District and the State of Louisiana Code Council to help promote redevelopment.

Another challenge noted in all of the city's post-Katrina planning efforts has been the availability of housing, especially affordable housing. City-Works partnered with Urban Impact, a non-profit housing developer, to overcome a significant inner city design challenge: irregularly shaped lots. City-Works took the current fabric of the



The staff of City-Works has worked with Sustainable Design Assessment Teams from the American Institute of Architects' Center for Communities by Design to develop recommendations and action plans for sustainable redevelopment throughout the city.

Central City neighborhood, largely shotgun row houses, and suggested new ways of envisioning the neighborhood's redevelopment through the creation of three "House Type" design alternatives for building on these lots. These designs employed new building technologies such as Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) construction and green building elements, and construction plans were provided to Urban Impact free of charge.

While working with a diverse group of stakeholders over the last two years, City-Works has observed a standing divide and lack of communication between city government and neighborhood groups. In response, City-Works researched ways to

facilitate communication between the two. In the wake of the storm, neighborhood organizations in New Orleans have evolved to proactively seek solutions to their problems, but have often been forced to work around city government.

City-Works has proposed a new Office of Neighborhoods at City Hall to provide a new forum for interaction, serve as a neighborhood technical assistance center, and help neighborhoods and city government work together. The office would foster information sharing among government agencies and neighborhood organizations, facilitate citizen input and participation in government, and work closely with the city's Economic Development Office or pro-

posed public/private partnership. The office would be charged with the aggressive pursuit and support of retail and business investment along the commercial corridors of our neighborhoods.

The desire for the redevelopment of these commercial corridors has been expressed repeatedly in neighborhoods across the city. All of the major planning processes have identified commercial corridor revitalization as a priority, but no analyses or strategies were developed for individual corridors. City-Works recognized this omission early on and set out to develop specific strategies and road maps for implementation. The organization continues to work toward this goal in partnership with the American Institute of Architects Center for Communities by Design.

Each year since its inception, City-Works has applied for and been awarded a competitive grant for a Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) to help us develop outlines for the sustainable redevelopment of commercial corridors. The SDAT brings a group of experts, including architects, planners, economic development professionals, and community organizers from

across the United States, to develop recommendations for sustainable revitalization. To date, SDAT teams have focused on the Eco-Park area between B.W. Cooper and Gert Town, the Claiborne Avenue corridor through Central City, Broadmoor, and Milan, and most recently the Gentilly Boulevard and Elysian Fields node in Gentilly.

In each case, the team has worked with City-Works and stakeholder groups to develop a strategy and course of action. City-Works has begun implementing their recommendations through its program of Pride Projects -- small projects that catalyze visible change and encourage more ownership and investment from within a community. The annual Lights on Main event, which places holiday lights in businesses on state-designated Main Streets across the city, is a good example.

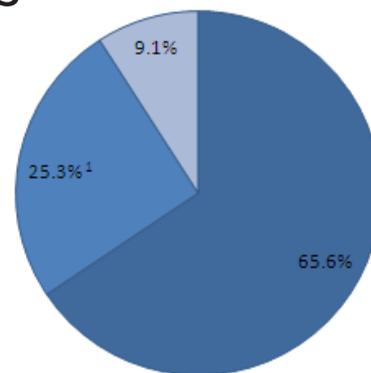
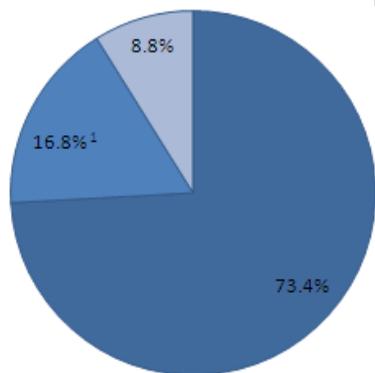
City-Works continues to educate New Orleans citizens, collaborate with diverse stakeholder groups on neighborhood plans, and act on the recommendations of planning efforts to advance the long-term sustainable rebuilding of New Orleans' community, economy, and built environment.

FUNDING

2007

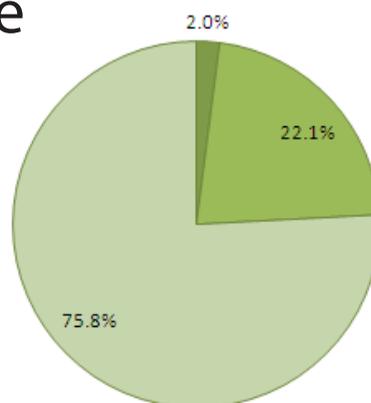
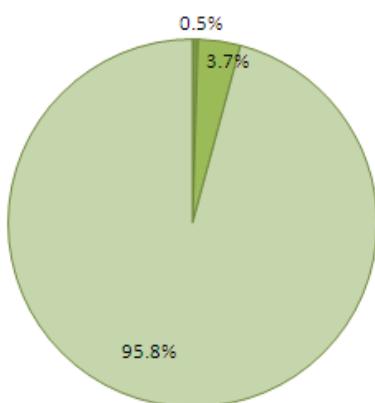
2008

Expenditures



- Programs
- Operations
- Fundraising

Donor Profile



- Individuals
- Professional Corporations and Groups
- Foundations

220

Volunteer Hours

851

¹ The large proportional increase in operating expenses between 2007 and 2008 was due to a move from a small donated space to a larger rented office space necessitated by an expansion in programs and staff.

Funders

Individuals

Anonymous **07**
Michael Bell **08**
Bill Borah **08**
Dorothy Boudreaux **08**
Jane Brooks **08**
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson **08**
Collette Creppell **08**
Shea Embry **08**
Vaughn Fauria **08**
Tessa Jackson **08**
Anthony Laska **08**
Zella May **08**
Angela O'Byrne **07 08**
Julianna Padgett **08**
Chris Pinto **07**
Frank Rabalais **08**
Valerie Robinson **08**
The Ryan Family **08**
Bill Seale **08**
Eric Shaw **08**
Sally Shushan **08**
Jane Townsend **08**
Marshall Truehill, Jr. **08**

Professional Corporations and Groups

AIA New Orleans **07**
Cambridge Development and
Construction Management **08**
Concordia **07 08**
Entergy **08**
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple **08**
Excelsior Endeavors and Development **08**
FutureProof **08**
Jones Walker **08**
Krebs, Lasalle, LeMieux **08**
NewCorp **08**
Perez, APC **08**
Stephenson, Matthews, Chavarri &
Lambert **08**
Waggoner & Ball **08**
Williams Architects **08**

Foundations

Blue Moon Fund **07 08**
Ella West Freeman Foundation **07**
Greater New Orleans Foundation **07**
Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation **08**



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