

# NEWSLETTER

## Summer 2023



*NORA Staff with Mayor Latoya Cantrell at the NORA Office*



Residential Development



Commercial Revitalization



Land Stewardship

*New Orleans  
Redevelopment Authority*

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The New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) was pleased to host Mayor LaToya Cantrell for a visit at its offices in Central City this spring. The visit underscored our growing partnership with the City of New Orleans and its support for NORA's leadership of redevelopment initiatives and projects at all scales. NORA is currently leading the redevelopment of underutilized City-owned properties, like the former firehouse at 2312 Louisiana Avenue, in partnership with People's Housing+ and Alembic Community Development, and the vacant lot at 1141 Esplanade Avenue, in partnership with HRI Communities and New Orleans Restoration Properties. NORA is also managing the redevelopment of the former Six Flags amusement park site with the City's selected development partner, Bayou Phoenix. Through strategic planning and investment, we are fostering the development of affordable housing and economic development opportunities that provide New Orleanians with high-quality homes and small businesses in neighborhoods across the city. We would like to extend our gratitude to Mayor Cantrell for her continued support of the agency and its staff. Together, we are building a brighter future for our city -- one that is increasingly inclusive, vibrant, and resilient.

## Pivotal Housing Partnerships



*NORA Staff outside of a PH+ home in Pontchartrain Park*

People's Housing+ is one of NORA's affordable housing development partners. The organization, which was formed through the merger of Home by Hand with the Crescent City Community Land Trust and Tulane Canal Neighborhood Development Corporation in 2023, uses a new model of programming that is designed to ensure that low- to moderate-income New Orleanians can have access to high-quality affordable housing as well as opportunities to create generational wealth. Combined, the new organization has over 40 years of collective experience, has created over 200 affordable homes across 11 neighborhoods, and has provided over 1,000 financial wellness and homebuyer counseling sessions. NORA has supported all three predecessor organizations across different housing programs over the last ten years, and NORA is excited that People's Housing+ will continue creating affordable housing for the people of New Orleans.

## Supporting Successful and Sustainable Small Businesses

Louie's Kitchen is one of NORA's economic development program partners. The small drive-thru/walk-up restaurant is located on Read Boulevard in New Orleans East and received funding through NORA's \$1.5-million Small Business Assistance Grant Program. The owners, Phong and Kim Vu, opened the doors of Louie's Kitchen in May of 2022 with the hopes of creating a true neighborhood restaurant, walkable from Abramson High School and the New Orleans East Hospital. After a year in business, Louie's Kitchen has become known for their fried chicken and other dishes like po-boys, seafood plates, gumbo, snowballs, and more. According to Mr. Vu, the Small Business Assistance Grant "has helped our business tremendously. With the grant, we were financially able to invest in new kitchen equipment. Also, advertising through flyers distribution and radio ads definitely boosted our sales. As first-time business owners, this program has given us a better opportunity for a successful, sustainable business." NORA is pleased to share that to date 27 businesses have received operating expense reimbursements through the program, including a wide range of small businesses from restaurants to clothing stores.



*Louie's Kitchen's Owners Phong and Kim Vu*

## Growing Green Gardens



*Galvez Garden - 2317 N Galvez St*



*Lissie Stewart at the Galvez Garden*

Lissie Stewart is one of NORA's land stewardship program partners. She has transformed one of NORA's vacant lots into a community garden called the Galvez Garden through the Growing Green Program. Through her project, Lissie has created a sustainable community garden that provides free fresh produce for neighbors. Lissie started out with a few garden beds, but the garden has grown since becoming a LSUAg Master Gardener Project and a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Cultivating the Community Garden awardee. These grants and partnerships have allowed for the addition of signage and a farm stand to share harvests with the community. Galvez Gardens serves as an excellent example of a community asset that will continue to serve the neighborhood by providing fresh produce and local gathering space for years to come.