

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023



Residential Development



Commercial Revitalization



Land Stewardship



Vaucresson Creole Cafe preview event with NORA staff and board members

NORA was a proud participant in the grand opening events for the Vaucresson Creole Café! After a much-anticipated wait, the Vaucresson family opened the doors to their brand-new café and deli that will be serving the classic Vaucresson sausage that is served at every Jazz Fest and at many restaurants across the city. NORA provided a \$600,000 loan through its Commercial Corridor Gap Financing program to aid in the development of the ground floor café below two permanently affordable rental units. The development project beautifully restored the building located at 1800 St. Bernard Avenue that served as the sausage production hub until Hurricane Katrina heavily damaged the building. A new mural even pays homage to the man who used to paint the daily signs for Vaucresson. Vance and his wife plan to use the space as not only a café, but also as a community meeting space and an opportunity to introduce tourists to the 7th Ward and Creole traditions. Grand opening events were hosted on November 25th and 30th, 2022.

***New Orleans
Redevelopment Authority***

1409 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd

New Orleans, LA 70113

www.noraworks.org

504.658.4400



1141 Esplanade Avenue

Redevelopment Framework

NORA released a solicitation for the development of the vacant lot at 1141 Esplanade Avenue, which will result in a minimum of 21 rental units for households at or below 80% Area Median Income and/or 12 new Full Time Equivalent Quality Jobs for Low to Moderate Income individuals. Qualifications and proposals were due January 20, 2023.

Property Only Request For Applications

NORA's latest housing program offered NORA-owned lots, for the development of both traditional and unique models of affordable housing opportunities. Through the Request for Applications (RFA), NORA awarded 174 properties to nine development partners, including four new to NORA programs. The proposed combined development envisions 241 affordable housing opportunities, including an estimated 168 affordable rental units and 73 affordable homeownership opportunities over the next several years. NORA anticipates that these units will begin to come online between 2023 and 2024.

In the spring of 2022, NORA launched its \$1.5 million Small Business Assistance Grant program. NORA is pleased to share that to date 17 of the first 20 businesses have received their first reimbursement checks. NORA has been able to assist a myriad of small business types ranging from restaurants to clothing stores. Many of the businesses have lamented about inflation hitting hard, especially after a slow COVID-19 recovery.



Program Manager, Whitney Williams, hugging a Grantee when giving the first reimbursement check

One businessowner, who owns a seafood business, has seen her neighboring businesses close shop, unable to combat higher prices after being closed due to COVID. She feels the pain of her customers as she has been forced to pass along price increases just to stay afloat. The struggles of small business owners have been amplified since the pandemic, and NORA is committed to providing both technical and financial assistance to small businesses in Low to Moderate Income areas across New Orleans. NORA launched another round of funding to assist up to another 30 businesses in early 2023. The funding will provide recoverable grants of up to \$25,000 to reimburse eligible business expenses including lease payments, mortgage interest, utilities, and marketing.

Community Adaptation Program to Expand City Wide



CAP Partners in front of a newly installed Project

NORA is pleased to announce that the Community Adaptation Program, which currently works with Gentilly homeowners, is expected to expand city-wide in 2023. In partnership with the City of New Orleans, NORA has secured \$5 million in funding to expand critical green infrastructure interventions to homes and neighborhoods across the city through a new bond-funded program. The \$5 million expansion includes an increased allocation of National Disaster Resilience funds for additional projects in Gentilly as well as a new allocation of General Obligation

bond funds for projects in neighborhoods across the city. NORA currently partners with four local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and non-profit organizations (Dana Brown and Associates, Thrive New Orleans, Ubuntu Construction, and Wingate Engineers) to complete the design and construction work and hopes to expand the list of construction partners as other organizations are trained in green infrastructure installation and maintenance.