

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 | Spring 2020



Residential Development



Commercial Revitalization



Land Stewardship



Affordable residential construction as part of the Lower Ninth Ward Development Initiative - LOWER NINTH WARD

New Orleans has been challenged in many ways over the last 15 years and the early part of 2020 has already brought more than its fair share of new challenges. From the cyberattack on the City of New Orleans network in late 2019, to the ongoing coronavirus public health crisis, we are dealing with multiple challenges simultaneously and developing new and creative solutions to keep our good work going.

As you can see in this newsletter, NORA and its staff have risen to the occasion. Our projects are moving forward with new public health and safety protocols in place. We are continuing to provide job opportunities during this crisis as we build stronger communities for the future. Rest assured, NORA will continue to work with its partners to support our neighborhoods and provide resources for affordable housing, commercial revitalization, and green infrastructure as we recover from COVID-19 and emerge stronger, just as we have from each crisis that came before.

- Brenda M. Breaux, Executive Director

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## Continuing to create affordable housing opportunities in the Lower Ninth Ward

NORA is excited to announce that the construction of 60 new homes in the Lower Ninth Ward for low-to-moderate income families is now underway.



Lower Ninth Ward Development Initiative Groundbreaking - LOWER NINTH WARD

In partnership with SBP, the groundbreaking ceremony held on January 30, 2020 kicked off the latest phase of the Lower Ninth Ward Development Initiative. The program will provide 60 affordable, multi-bedroom, energy-efficient rental units to low-moderate income families and veterans. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2020, just in time for the new school year.

For more information on NORA programs:

[www.noraworks.org](http://www.noraworks.org)

## Partnering with local community development organizations to support commercial corridors

NORA recently provided grants to 6 local non-profit organizations who are working to help revitalize various commercial corridors across New Orleans. The grant funds support outreach and assistance to businesses, corridor marketing initiatives, and expanding access to commercial resources.

Congratulations to Broad Community Connections, Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation, Old Algiers Main Street Corporation, Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard Business and Merchants Association, NewCorp, Inc., and Ujamaa Community Development Corporation!



Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard - CENTRAL CITY

## Reducing residential flooding across Gentilly



CAP participant Ms. Elena Evans in her backyard with new infiltration trench and pervious pavement - GENTILLY

Numerous residents of the Gentilly Resilience District have been expressing their gratitude for NORA's Community Adaptation Program (CAP) and the positive impact that it has had towards significantly decreasing the amount of flooding on their properties, and improving quality of life.

Ms. Elena Evans, whose project has recently been completed, used to experience routine flooding on her property around her driveway, and along the sides and rear of her home. Thanks to CAP, her property is now equipped with a new driveway and back patio made out of permeable pavers (designed to allow water to more easily filter into the ground instead of pond on top) and a new infiltration trench (also known as a "French drain," strategically placed along her property's perimeter to capture storm water runoff from her neighbor's property).

Ms. Evans feels that her property is now much better-equipped to handle storm events than it was prior to her applying to the Community Adaptation Program. "I can't say enough good words about the installations," said Ms. Evans. "I look forward towards continuing to see the positive impact that these improvements have on my property."

Since July of 2019, over 40 residential properties in the Gentilly Resilience District have been fitted with green infrastructure improvements as part of CAP. Together, these completed projects are able to manage over 110,000 gallons of storm water.



Newly installed infiltration trench and pervious pavement, designed to reduce standing water during rain events - GENTILLY