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As we get into the second quarter of 2019, I am pleased to share our progress from the first quarter of this year. The entire New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) staff is working diligently to meet our year end goals, with notable milestones reached in existing programs as we simultaneously plan for the future. Read on to learn more about new affordable housing opportunities coming online across the city, the completion of our Façade RENEW Placemaking initiative, our ongoing work with the City to support improved stormwater management practices in Gentilly, and our upcoming annual auction.

-Brenda M. Breaux, Executive Director

Program Area News

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Lower Ninth Ward Development Initiative

The first home in NORA's much anticipated Blueberry Hill Homes project in the Lower Ninth Ward was completed in February 2019. The homes, located on former NORA property, are being developed in partnership with Neville Development, the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development, the Housing Authority of New Orleans and the Louisiana Housing Corporation. The first phase of homes have been completed and leased to excited tenants who were waiting anxiously to move into high quality new construction homes. All 44 affordable rental units in the project will be complete this summer.



Blueberry Hill Homes property in Lower Ninth Ward

Keep an eye out for new affordable homeownership opportunities on Andry Street in the Lower Ninth Ward in late 2019!

Orleans Housing Investment Program (O-HIP)

NORA continues to work with its development partners to build over 40 new affordable homeownership units in 5 neighborhoods across the city. To date, 9 new homes have been constructed and 4 have been sold to qualified homebuyers that can make up to 120% of Area Median Income. 10 more homes are currently under construction that will be available for purchase before the end of the summer.



O-HIP property in Gentilly Woods by SBP, USA

COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION

Façade RENEW Placemaking

NORA is pleased to announce the long-awaited completion of its two Façade RENEW Placemaking projects in Central City and New Orleans East in March 2019.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Walk

Originally dedicated in 1976, the Frank Hayden sculpture and improvements to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Walk at Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard were rededicated on April 12th in partnership with the Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard Merchants and Business Association (OCHBMBA). The event featured performances and history by local artists as well as remarks by NORA, OCHBMBA, and elected and appointed officials.



Versailles Walk along Alcee Fortier Blvd between Peltier Drive and Saigon Drive

Versailles Walk in New Orleans East was also recently completed in partnership with the Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation. The project, which consists of a walking path with new trees installed in the neutral ground of Alcee Fortier Boulevard, is part of the community's vision for a larger Healthy Walking Trail within the neighborhood. NORA is excited to see these new and improved public spaces come to life!

LAND STEWARDSHIP

St. Anthony Green Streets

As a partner to the City's Office of Resilience and Sustainability, NORA staff participates regularly in community outreach events to spread information about green infrastructure improvements. One recent event took place on a Friday and Saturday in late March at NORA's rain garden on the corner of Wildair and Filmore. The City offered walking tours and presented design proposals for attendees to review and comment on. The event provided a venue for lively conversations about the future of parks, vacant land, and streets in the neighborhood.



Ecology Walking Tour in St. Anthony Neighborhood on March 30th, 2019

Community Adaptation Program (CAP)

To date, 580 pre-applications have been submitted to NORA staff. Over 200 pre-applicants have shown a commitment to participate by submitting additional information for eligibility review and more than 140 applicants have been approved to select their contractors and begin design of new stormwater management improvements to their property.



In February, NORA hosted its first Designer Open-House for approved applicants to attend in order to hear directly from the designers and folks who will be installing the improvements on the individual properties. Construction on the first phase of projects should be under way soon!

Spring NORA Property Auction May 13-14, 2019

NORA is conducting an online-only auction of 100+- vacant lots and structures located citywide. Bidding for this auction will begin on Monday, May 13th, 2019 at 8:00 AM and end between 12:00 Noon and 5:20 PM on Tuesday, May 14th, 2019. All are welcome to bid including: individuals, developers, contractors, and organizations. Properties purchased through the auction must be developed within one year from the date of transfer to the buyer. A Buyers' Seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2019. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the seminar is from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 pm at the Dryades YMCA, 2220 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70113. The properties will sell AS-IS, WHERE-IS to the highest bidder. Properties are subject to a minimum bid price of \$3,500 per property. For more information and to view the properties on the auction list, please visit www.hilcorealestate.com/NORA.