



1409 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard | New Orleans, LA 70113 | redevelop.nola.gov | 504-658-4400

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If you haven't already noticed, NORA's reach extends across the city and the world. During the first half of 2019, we have been engaged with neighborhood stakeholders and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) urban planning students to produce a St. Bernard Commercial Corridor Plan; 9th Ward zoning updates with Councilmember Cyndi Nguyen; a 7th Ward Wellness Hub design charrette with NewCorp CDC; the construction kickoff for the Pontilly Stormwater Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project with the City's Department of Public Works; new affordable homebuyer lending products from Hancock-Whitney and the Finance Authority of New Orleans; and a neighborhood revitalization tour with the Center for Community Progress. NORA staff has consulted with government officials from Yulan City and County, Taiwan, Washington, DC, Houston, TX, Kansas City, MO, Albuquerque, NM, Pittsburgh, PA, Buffalo, NY, Greenwood, MS, and the State Bar of Michigan to share ideas about urban renewal, economic development, real estate law, architecture and stormwater management best practices. NORA continues to be recognized as a leader in all of its program areas and I am pleased to report on our second quarter activities below.

-Brenda M. Breaux, Executive Director

Program Area News

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Orleans Housing Investment Program (O-HIP)

In partnership with 6 local developers, NORA has seen the completion of 17 new affordable homes, 7 of which have been sold and 4 more pending sale. By the end of the program, 43 homes will be completed and sold to buyers with household incomes up to 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI).



NewCorp's First 7th Ward Revitalization Legacy Home

NORA has been particularly excited about its new partnership with NewCorp, Inc., a non-profit and certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) located in the 7th Ward, for their first residential project ever.



April 30th Ribbon Cutting

To commemorate the successful completion, NORA and the development team from NewCorp, including Jericho Road and Investar Bank, gathered on April 30th for a ribbon cutting at one of the completed homes. The event offered a chance for NORA and the developers to share their success story and recognize the many partnerships required in the creation of affordable homes. Both first phase homes are under contract and New Corp plans to complete 4 additional homes in O-HIP.

COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION

Commercial Gap Financing / Façade RENEW

It was nearly a year ago that construction began on 1626 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, the last vacant structure on O.C. Haley's 1600 block. Today, the historic renovation is complete and occupied by Gulf Coast Housing Partnership and Gideon Community Development Corporation, as well as the Youth Empowerment Project's (YEP) Thrift Works. Overall, NORA invested \$500,000 in Commercial Gap Financing funds for the rehabilitation of the structure as well as a \$37,500 Façade ReNew grant for the historic renovation of the building's façade. The block is now complete!



1626 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard at completion

St. Bernard Avenue Main Street Plan

This spring, a team of graduate students from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the MIT began working on the creation of the St. Bernard Avenue Commercial Corridor Plan in collaboration with NORA and neighborhood stakeholders. Building upon past planning efforts, the goal was to create a plan to help guide future investment and decision making along St. Bernard Avenue from North Rampart to North Broad Streets. The MIT students conducted four site visits to study the area, as well as connect with community stakeholders and business owners about the plan. The students' work culminated in a final presentation of the work held in late May at the Nora Navra Library where students presented their recommendations and the plan entitled *St. Bernard Avenue For Generations*. The planning process truly energized business owners and community members in the St. Bernard Avenue corridor. The final version of the plan will soon be available on NORA's website.

LAND STEWARDSHIP

Community Adaptation Program (CAP)

To date, almost 600 pre-applications have been submitted by Low to Moderate Income households in Gentilly that are interested in installing "green" stormwater management infrastructure on their properties and around their homes.



CAP participants with stormwater planter box

Over 150 households have completed the application process and are approved to receive an award of up to \$25,000 towards green infrastructure that will help manage stormwater directly on their property. The first two CAP installations were recently completed within the St. Anthony and Gentilly Woods neighborhoods.



CAP participants with permeable walkway and planter box

The types of interventions installed so far include permeable driveways and walkways, stormwater planter boxes, and rain gardens. The projects were quickly put to the test during heavy rains that preceded Hurricane Barry. Both homeowners report that their new green infrastructure performed extremely well and they are proud to be CAP participants!

Opportunity Zones Request for Applications (RFA) Open Now!

On June 26, 2019, NORA released a Request for Applications to anyone interested in purchasing residential or commercial properties from NORA for development in officially designated Opportunity Zones. NORA is offering approximately 140 properties for purchase that are scattered among Opportunity Zones located in Orleans Parish. Applicants are not required to participate in an Opportunity Zone fund but NORA will prioritize applications that have the ability to obtain sufficient financial resources to complete a project within 12 months. Applications are due on August 28th, 2019 by 4:00 pm at NORA's offices. More information can be found at <http://redevelop.nola.gov/opportunities>.