



ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP



NOPI

THE NEW ORLEANS PLANNING INITIATIVE
A Program of the Department of City and Regional Planning

The New Orleans Planning Initiative (NOPI) is a collaborative partnership between the Department of City and Regional Planning (CRP) at Cornell University and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). NOPI provides academic research and resources to assist ACORN's community-based planning and redevelopment efforts in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans. Through engaged scholarship, NOPI seeks to enhance the participation of Ninth Ward community members in the redevelopment process, and provide resources that will assist in the creation of a comprehensive, community-based redevelopment plan.



Cornell University
College of Architecture,
Art, and Planning

Our Partner in New Orleans

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)

Founded in 1970, ACORN has grown to become the country's largest community organization of low- and moderate-income families. With over 175,000 member families in the United States, Canada, the Dominican Republic, and Peru, ACORN has been at the forefront of such issues as housing, neighborhood safety, schools, and job conditions, to name a few.

ACORN has a significant presence in New Orleans and has been one of, if not the, most active community organizations in the post-Katrina relief and recovery efforts.

NOPI is using a collaborative approach whereby ACORN proposes the desired outcomes and the students and faculty provide the technical assistance to help them achieve their goals. This is a fundamentally different type of working relationship than most university/community research and service projects.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

The New Orleans Planning Initiative Moving Forward

The CRP New Orleans Planning Initiative (NOPI) began when ACORN asked universities for research and professional planning support for their community-based recovery efforts after the devastating hurricane in 2005.

A three-tiered process has been put in place that will allow ACORN to establish a community-based planning framework for the Ninth Ward, more developed planning options for the Saint Claude neighborhood in the upper Ninth, and design options for several smaller tracts within the Saint Claude area. This will set the stage for demonstration development projects. ACORN is working with us and others to put a similar process in place for the lower Ninth. Our goal is to work with ACORN to develop neighborhood-based plans and then to assist in the implementation of those plans.



Working together, we have identified needs and are designing course work in tandem with volunteer work and internships that meet those needs. This is service learning in a setting of great historic consequence with important outcomes on the ground and for each of the students.

In the summer of 2006, nine CRP interns will be working in support of ACORN efforts in New Orleans. In the fall of 2006, course work and special projects will be directed at meeting planning and development requirements in the Ninth Ward and surrounding areas.

Our commitment must meet the commitment of New Orleanians. They are digging in, fighting for their lives, for their families, and for their historic home. Please join us in our efforts to stand with them. Everything is at stake.

Contributions can be made to the Department of City and Regional Planning-NOPI and sent to the address on the back of this brochure.

Engaged Scholarship Coursework on New Orleans

One of the primary goals of NOPI is to engage students in real-world planning issues. The rebuilding of New Orleans cuts across a number of major planning topics and so provides ample opportunities for students to explore issues such as race, participatory planning, disaster mitigation, historic preservation, comprehensive planning, and design.

For the fall 2005 semester, a student-initiated reading course allowed students to begin to better understand the complicated planning issues facing the city of New Orleans. This only proved to be the very beginning of a substantial commitment by the department, for in the spring of 2006 seven courses either completely focused on New Orleans or integrated cases from New Orleans into their curriculum.

Through NOPI a symbiotic relationship is created: students gain through engagement in important contemporary planning topics and ACORN receives a substantial amount of research assistance and data to help them plan for a better New Orleans.



REAL-WORLD PLANNING

Donating to NOPI

Support Volunteer Trips to the Gulf Coast



Please join us in our efforts to stand with the people of New Orleans. Their lives, their families, and their historic home are at stake.

If you would like to make a donation, please send a check written to "Cornell University" with "New Orleans Planning Initiative" in the memo line. Donations go to support volunteer trips to the Gulf Coast. Please send to the following address:

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

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