

UNOP Planning Process



UNIFIED NEW ORLEANS PLAN DISTRICT 3 PLANNING MEETING # 1

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14
1:00 - 3:00 pm
TRINITY CHURCH
1329 JACKSON AVE.**



**info: 504 304 7013
www.unifiedneworleansplan.org**



Neutral Ground Sign (above); Community meetings (below).

UNOP Overview

The Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) was created to include all neighborhoods in planning the recovery of the City. The objective of this multi-level planning process is to successfully integrate community input and professional planning expertise into a citywide recovery and rebuilding Plan.

This planning is led by one Citywide Planning Team, four District Planning Teams and several Neighborhood Planning Teams across New Orleans's 13 planning districts. The UNOP process builds on all completed professional and community planning work in New Orleans so that no unnecessary, duplicative work is done. Key post Hurricane Katrina planning work has already been completed by the Bring New Orleans Back Commission (BNOB), Urban Land Institute (ULI), FEMA, Lambert Advisory and Shedo LLC, and numerous neighborhood groups. UNOP incorporates all of these efforts into a single, unified plan.

The planning process has been completed under the auspices of the New Orleans Community Support Foundation (NOCSF), a board made up of six current and past trustees of the Greater New Orleans Foundation. The Unified New Orleans Plan process was established by an initial grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and subsequent donations from the Greater New Orleans Foundation and the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund.

Once completed, this recovery plan will be submitted to the City Planning Commission and then the City Council for formal approval, the Mayor's Office for review, and finally the Louisiana Recovery Authority and other state and federal agencies and private funding sources.

A recovery and rebuilding plan is required to capitalize on federal and state funds for residents and the city to rebuild. The plan will allow city and state officials to coordinate post-disaster recovery more efficiently and effectively and will help New Orleans comply with necessary federal mandates. The plan

will also identify critical needs of investment, so that private and public entities may make more informed, coordinated investment decisions in New Orleans.

The final phase of the New Orleans Planning process will result in 13 complete planning district plans and one City-wide plan. The final plan will be submitted to the City Planning Commission for review in late January 2007 and will follow the City's ratification process shortly afterwards.

District 3 Planning Process

Throughout the Unified New Orleans Plan process, community input was central to the identification of community needs and the articulation of project proposals with neighborhood, district, and city benefits. The District and Neighborhood Planning Teams relied on community input at every step of the process. The team sought to offer residents, community leaders, and other stakeholders a range of opportunities to contribute to the District Recovery Plan. There were four district planning meetings scheduled as part of the UNOP process as well as multiple Steering Committee meetings. At these meetings, the planning team heard residents voice their needs and desires. As the process neared completion, the District Planning Team requested that residents write project descriptions for the District Recovery Plan so that those projects most important to neighborhood residents would be articulated in the community's voice. In this way, district planning was community driven.

The four UNOP district meetings occurred on October 14, November 11, December 16, and January 6. At the first district meeting, the team sought to establish three Steering Committees. The goal of the Steering Committees was to create lines of communication through which the team could hear directly from residents and other stakeholders. The Steering Committee structure also enabled the team to work more closely and meet frequently with residents. This was particularly important in District 3 since it has 11 neighborhoods, each with its own unique strengths and needs. The Steering Committee "sector" bound-

aries conformed to both City Planning Commission neighborhood boundaries and neighborhood organization boundaries. In fact, the boundaries initially proposed by the team were amended at the first district meeting by participants in order to more closely reflect neighborhood organization boundaries.

A series of Steering Committee meetings followed the first district meeting. The goal of these meetings was to gain community input on Needs, Visions, and Goals. The team sought to not only document neighborhood-level needs and goals, but also to identify those needs and goals that apply to District 3 as a whole. This series of meetings concluded with a meeting of all three Steering Committees, during which participants discussed both neighborhood and district needs and goals. Because the Steering Committees worked at different paces, some met more times than others. Overall, Steering Committee participation ranged from 15 to 30 attendees.

At the second district meeting the team presented Scenarios and a first draft of an inventory of district recovery projects and individual neighborhood projects. Prior to the second district meeting, the team reviewed Steering Committee input and previous neighborhood planning efforts, including Lambert plans and independent, grassroots planning work. The team compiled an inventory of about 90 individual neighborhood projects that had been proposed by previous planning efforts or articulated by community members. From this list, the team identified about 20 projects perceived to have potential district-wide significance and impact.

The goal of this process was to identify district projects to prioritize and propose for funding. Just as importantly, however, the team sought to document and integrate into the District Recovery Plan all neighborhood-scale projects either from previous planning efforts or that had community support. Participants at the second meeting offered input on this project list, which was subsequently modified.

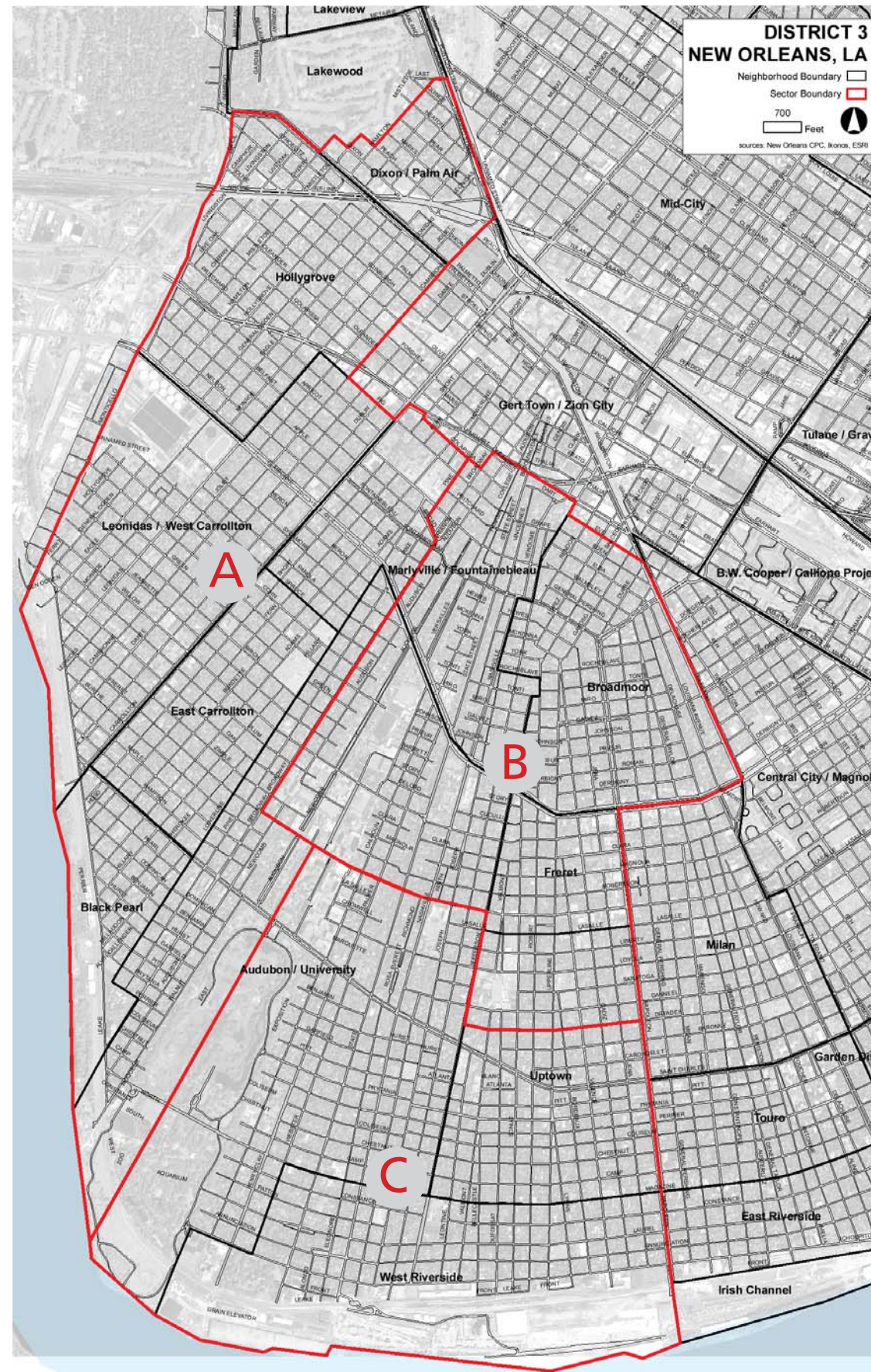
The team engaged in another round of “Check In” meetings in the weeks between the second and third district meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to describe the UNOP process thus far, update residents on the planning work to come, and review the list of district recovery projects and individual neighborhood projects. These meetings were offered to both Steering Committees and neighborhood organizations. Through the process of “checking in,” the project list was amended, corrected, and modified in order to better reflect community needs and desires.

A refined project list was presented to the public at the third district meeting. Changes to the list responded to and reflected community input. A key challenge throughout the UNOP process to both the planning team and participants was to balance needs and desires voiced by stakeholders from different areas of the district and city. At the third district meeting, the team asked meeting attendees to prioritize district recovery projects and discuss the projects’ potential impact and benefits. In this way, the planning team heard input on how community members articulate the significance of recovery projects to their neighborhood, district, and city.

Community Outreach

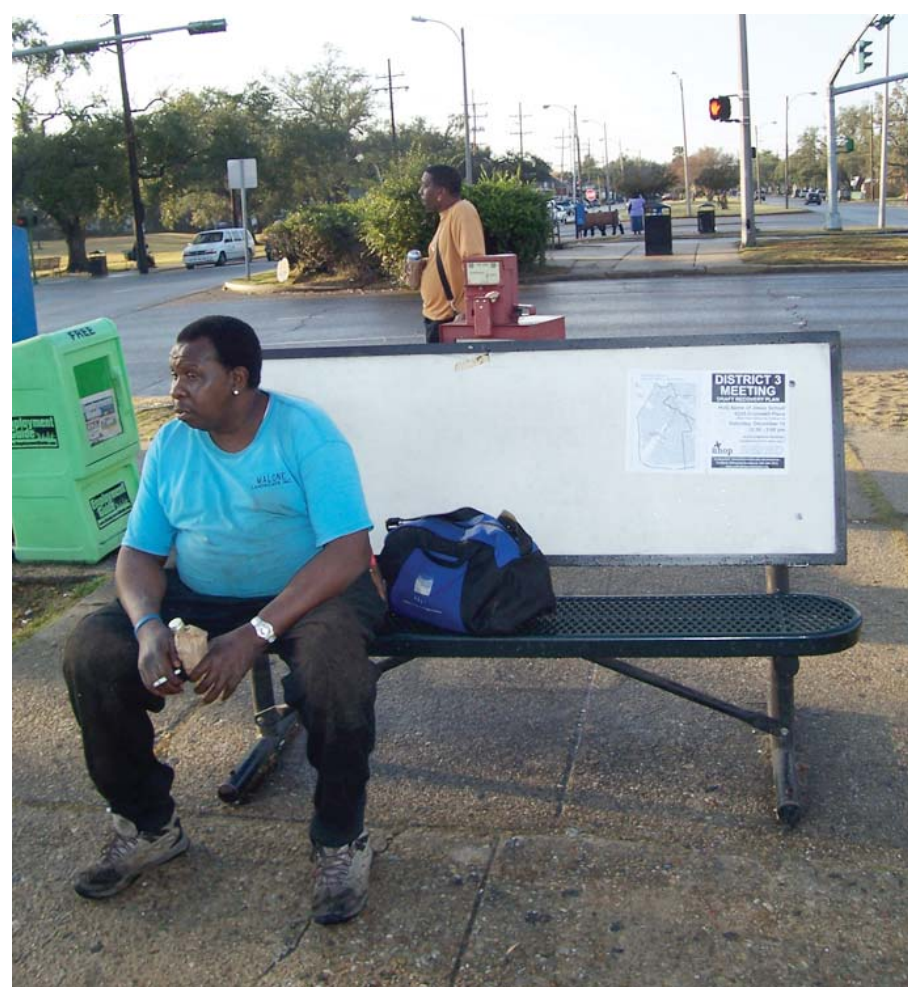
Community outreach initially relied upon existing networks of neighborhood organizations. Later in the process, the team sought sustained engagement with community members through the Steering Committee structure. The District Planning Team’s outreach, in fact, began with residents and community organizations reaching out to the team weeks before the UNOP process formally began.

Through a first series of meetings initiated by residents and organized in collaboration with the team, the District Planning Team familiarized itself with the district’s thriving network of neighborhood organizations and community activists. The team also compiled a database of over 1,000 contacts for neighborhood organizations, business associations,



Steering Committee Sector Map





DISTRICT 3 MEETING

PLANNING RECOVERY SCENARIOS

Holy Name of Jesus School

6325 Cromwell Place

(enter parking lot from Calhoun St.)

Saturday, November 11

1:00 - 3:00 pm



This meeting will focus on planning recovery scenarios and ways to address district issues and concerns.

Neighborhoods located in District 3 include: Audubon, Black Pearl / Uptown Triangle, Broadmoor, Dixon, East Carrollton, Freret, Hollygrove, Leonidas / Pigeon Town, Marlyville / Fountainebleau, Uptown, West Riverside

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elected and government officials, non-profit organizations, and other education, medical, and religious institutions. After the establishment of the Steering Committees, outreach focused on cultivating deeper relationships with Steering Committee participants. However, the “Check In” meetings served as an opportunity for additional targeted outreach, in particular with neighborhoods in which participation could be increased.

The District Planning Team attended and engaged in over community 35 meetings in District 3. Attendance at the four district planning meetings ranged from 75 to 135. The team mobilized a variety of promotion methods for district meetings. These included phone calls, email announcements, posts in the Times Picayune, and on-site signage and flyers. For each meeting, the team distributed over 400 flyers at neighborhood grocery stores, nail salons, bakeries, and bus stops. Many residents—including high school students—volunteered to distribute flyers door-to-door in their neighborhoods.

The team’s outreach efforts achieved representation from every neighborhood in both the district planning meetings and the Steering Committees. However, the team was aware of higher levels of participation from some neighborhoods compared to others. Throughout the process the team sought to encourage broad acknowledgement and respect for the needs of all residents. Yet one salient need made apparent by the UNOP process is for a sustained and formalized community voice in public planning decision-making in New Orleans. One significant recommendation of the District Recovery Plan is, therefore, the future inclusion of neighborhood voices in the City’s planning processes.

The team sought to document and integrate into the District Recovery Plan all neighborhood-scale projects either from previous planning efforts or that had community support.

District 3 Meeting Flyer Distribution.

District 3 Meeting Flyer.

Strategies to Continue Citizen Participation and Dialogue

One of the strengths of the district residents is its strong sense of neighborhood identity. At many of the neighborhood and district meetings, participants expressed an interest in “After Action Reviews” and continuing the dialogue with residents from other neighborhoods to elicit a positive outcome in the planning process. Fostering relationships across traditional socio-economic and geographic boundaries will be critical to creating political consensus as government officials begin distributing scarce funds. Establishing community boards or neighborhood councils is an effective strategy to foster public dialogue and to affect the political process. Short-term strategies for implementing recovery plan projects and programs include the following:

- Establish a “Big-Brother/Big-Sister” type program for well-established neighborhood organizations and Community Development Corporations (CDCs) to mentor nascent neighborhood organizations in other areas of the district.
- Encourage neighborhood organizations to hold meetings with their members/constituents to review the final district and citywide plans and jointly pursue funding and implementations strategies for programs and projects. Provide neighborhood organizations with planning team files in all formats.
- Provide a forum for residents to express themselves and dialogue with district-wide community members outside of traditional settings like neighborhood organization and city council meetings. Encourage institutions that have previously hosted meetings to host future meetings. Rotate meeting agenda-setters and leaders among different community organizations and leaders to preserve meeting neutrality.
- Distribute participant contact information to all participants electronically and in hard-copy. Eliminate the hierarchy of access to information.

- Encourage commercial-corridor property owners and renters to form merchant associations and/or business improvement districts.
- Encourage Neighborhood Planning Festivals (like the June 24 and Sept. 30, 2006 festivals) through a collaboration of non-profit organizations.
- Create temporary Community Recovery Resource Centers in vacant (but safe to be occupied) commercial storefronts and in FEMA trailers.
- Encourage businesses and individuals to trade professional expertise for neighborhood organization manpower. Many residents engaged in the planning process have professional expertise or are part of a business that can lend professional expertise to neighborhood organization efforts – establishing non-profit status, pursuing project funding, purchasing properties. Residents can donate their time in return.

Citizen Participation in Preparing and Implementing Public Policy

“Public policy is a priority in the neighborhood and citywide planning process, especially for citizens in District Four within the Treme, Seventh Ward, Sixth Ward, Esplanade Ridge and Fairgrounds neighborhoods. This process should move forward with citizen participation in the recommending, prioritizing and implementation of the citywide plan being compiled by the Unified New Orleans Plan, its staff and consultants. Representation should include youth, elderly, students, business owners, civic organizations, institutions and non-profits. Public Policy should include: plan recommendations, funding, governance, management of implementation, process, manpower and training, contractor selection, minority and DBE contracting and monitoring of the implementation process.”

Written by the citizens of the Treme, Seventh Ward, Sixth Ward, Esplanade Ridge and Fairgrounds



Summary of Meetings

September 4, 2006	Northwest Carrollton Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Tour
September 6, 2006	Neighborhoods Planning Network Weekly Meeting
September 8, 2006	Neighbors United Neighborhood Tour
September 9, 2006	Upperrickerville Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Tour
September 14, 2006	Aububon Riverside Neighborhood Association (ARNA) Monthly Meeting
September 16, 2006	District 3 "Pre-Meeting" (Resident Organized Information Session)
September 19, 2006	Claiborne University Neighborhood Association (CUNA) Neighborhood Tour
September 19, 2006	Hollygrove Neighbors Neighborhood Tour
September 20, 2006	Neighborhoods Planning Network Weekly Meeting
September 21, 2006	Maple Area Residents, Inc. (MARI) Neighborhood Tour
September 23, 2006	Aububon Riverside Neighborhood Association (ARNA) Neighborhood Tour
September 23, 2006	Lambert Advisory Neighborhood Planning Presentation Public Meeting
September 27, 2006	Neighborhoods Planning Network Weekly Meeting
September 29, 2006	Meeting with Tulane University Campus Architect and Planners
September 30, 2006	Festival of Neighborhoods
October 4, 2006	Neighborhoods Planning Network Weekly Meeting
October 5, 2006	Meeting with Broadmoor Improvement Association
October 10, 2006	Neighbors United Monthly Meeting
October 10, 2006	Meeting with Carrollton Riverbend Residents Association
October 11, 2006	District 3 "Pre-Meeting"
October 12, 2006	Meeting with Jeremiah Group
October 14, 2006	UNOP District Meeting # 1
October 17, 2006	Sector B Steering Committee Meeting # 1
October 18, 2006	Sector C Steering Committee Meeting # 1
October 21, 2006	Sector A Steering Committee Meeting # 1
October 23, 2006	Sector B Steering Committee Meeting # 2
October 25, 2006	Sector C Steering Committee Meeting # 2
October 27, 2006	Sector A Steering Committee Meeting # 2
November 1, 2006	District 3 All Sectors Meeting
November 11, 2006	UNOP District Meeting # 2
November 29, 2006	Sector C "Check In" Meeting
December 1, 2006	Fountainebleau "Check In" Meeting
December 1, 2006	Sector B "Check In" Meeting
December 5, 2006	Broadmoor "Check In" Meeting
December 6, 2006	Maple Area Residents, Inc. Annual Meeting
December 7, 2006	Hollygrove "Check In" Meeting
December 16, 2006	UNOP District Meeting # 3
December 21, 2006	Meeting with Broadmoor and Carrollton Residents
January 6, 2006	UNOP District Meeting # 4

“There are several modes of operation in this city -- one is the planning that’s been going on and I applaud all of you, both the planners and all of you here who have been coming out. The volunteers -- we’ve been coming out because we’re the ones who are truly invested in this city. But the neighborhood organizations are the ones who are going to have to organize to get the monies from LRA to be immediately released.”

Merle Ramsey at District 4 Meeting #4 on January 6, 2007

“... we don’t want it to stop here, we want to be able to preserve as much of the network of people, those who are active in the neighborhood organizations -- there is something of an informal network we’d like to tighten, extend, make it more comprehensive, and then new folks who have just come into the process of neighborhood participation -- we want to plug them into it too ...”

John Pecoul at District 3 Meeting #4 on January 6, 2007

Neighborhood Organizations

The following list represents the neighborhood organizations in Planning District 3 whose leaders and members participated in the UNOP process. The civic participation of the district was a tremendous resource to the planning team, and should continue to be a valuable and essential resource for the entire city. To that end, this list is included so that residents who may not know about a neighborhood organization in their area can seek more information and be involved in shaping their future.

- ACORN Hollygrove
- Audubon Area Zoning Association
- Audubon Boulevard Parkway Association
- Audubon Riverside Neighborhood Association
- Baronne Street Neighborhood Association
- Birch Street Neighborhood Association
- Bouligny Riverside Neighborhood Association
- Broadmoor Development Corporation
- Broadmoor Improvement Association
- Carrollton Audubon Renaissance, Inc.
- Carrollton Hollygrove CDC
- Carrollton Riverbend Residents Association
- Carrollton United
- Central Carrollton Neighborhood Association
- Claiborne University Neighborhood Association
- Fontainebleau Improvement Association
- Friends of Palmer Park Neighborhood Association
- Hollygrove Neighbors
- Hurstville Neighborhood Association
- Maple Area Residents, Inc.
- Neighbors United
- Northwest Carrollton Neighborhood Association
- Palm Air Civic Association
- State St. Drive Association
- Trinity Christian Community
- Upper Audubon Association
- Upper Rickerville Neighborhood Association
- Uptown Triangle Neighborhood Association
- Versailles Boulevard Beautification Commission