

A Note to the Reader

Responding to the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina, the Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) took shape as one of the most intensive grassroots citywide planning initiatives ever undertaken for a great American city. Across New Orleans, thousands of “citizen planners” worked with planning teams to become authors of their city’s future, contributing a rich and nuanced understanding of the needs and aspirations that should drive recovery. Planners drew on this inspiration to create frameworks for each of the city’s districts and to contribute to the formation of a citywide plan.

No national media coverage has succeeded in conveying the breadth or depth of the human and physical tragedy unleashed when the levees failed in New Orleans. Yet, the toll is ever-present in the faces of residents who, in many cases, have not yet been able to return to their homes. Yet the city’s trial occurred at a time of remarkable urban renaissance across America, where neighborhoods both within and outside urban centers have begun to emerge from decades of disinvestment. For New Orleans the implications of this reversal of fortunes are immense: it brings with it an opportunity to address long-term challenges and to build a city of unmatched livability and economic opportunity.

Achieving this promise will further tax the immense courage and commitment of people who have already contributed so much to rebuilding their city. More difficult struggles and choices lie ahead—perhaps none more essential than forging a new era of partnership among government, the private sector, institutions, and the community. For District 6, this era presents a singular opportunity to recapture what has been lost and to improve it where possible. Those for whom the district’s neighborhoods continue to be – and those for whom it again will be – their home, their place of business, their place of worship, or their place of study have throughout the planning process been fierce in their determination to reweave the rich fabric of fine-grained community life so characteristic of this district. Its assets – from institutions of higher education to knowledgeable and committed residents – will provide the tools by which this fabric is rewoven.

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Appendices (available separately)

List of Recovery Projects

Recovery Assessment

District Six Charrette Report (Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company)

The Gentilly Town Center Retail Concept (Economics Research Associates)