

CHAPTER 2:

Planning Process

UNOP Overview



The Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) was created to include all neighborhoods in planning the recovery of the City, unlike some of the prior processes that focused exclusively on flooded neighborhoods, thereby eliminating District 13 from the process. The objective of this multi-level planning process was to successfully integrate community input and professional planning expertise into a citywide recovery and rebuilding Plan.

This planning was 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 built on all completed professional and community planning work in New Orleans so that no unnecessary, duplicative work was completed. Key post Hurricane Katrina planning work that had 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 were incorporated and unified in this planning process.

The planning process was 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.

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.

This plan is one of thirteen District Planning documents; however, elements have been incorporated into the Citywide Planning document as well. The final plans will be submitted to the City Planning Commission for review in late January 2007 and will follow the City's ratification process shortly afterwards.



PROCESS

After being selected, the H3 Studio Project Team, consisting of H3 Studio of St. Louis and Waggoner & Ball Architects of New Orleans interfaced with the public in a variety of ways. The diversity of the Project Team brought strength in urban planning practices, architectural consideration, public housing and a true understanding of local conditions.) Communication with the public was initiated through contacting and setting up individual meeting with leaders of the known community groups and diverse stakeholders within the District. The H3 Studio Team depended on the networks and foundations of pre-existing community groups. The preliminary contact list was supplemented with additional names learned at community meetings or suggested by other community leaders.

In the first months of the process while the H3 Studio Project Team was meeting with neighborhood level groups, they were also conducting an independent "on-the-ground" survey of the District. Through this process a comprehensive base map was created, containing all of the information collected in the field. Working in the field allowed the planners to gain additional familiarity with the community, through contact and first-hand experience. The information collected in the field and ideas derived from the neighborhood-scale meeting shaped the content of the first District-wide Public Meeting, held on Sunday, October 15, 2006.

Throughout the UNOP process, the H3 Studio Project Team facilitated four District-wide Public Meetings and three Neighborhood Leaders Committee workshops. Citywide Community Congress Meetings were interspersed between these meetings. In addition, the H3 Studio Project Team made it a priority to maintain direct contact with community members, local organizations, City Council Representatives and other local entities through various forms of communication.



District Meetings

As the foundation for the UNOP process, four Public District – wide meetings were held each month throughout the process, beginning in October.

- District Meeting 1**
Confirm/Develop Needs, Visions, & Goals
October 15, 2006
- District Meeting 2**
Scenarios for Recovery
November 12, 2006
- District Meeting 3**
Draft District Plans
December 15, 2006
- District Meeting 4**
Final District Plans
January 14, 2007

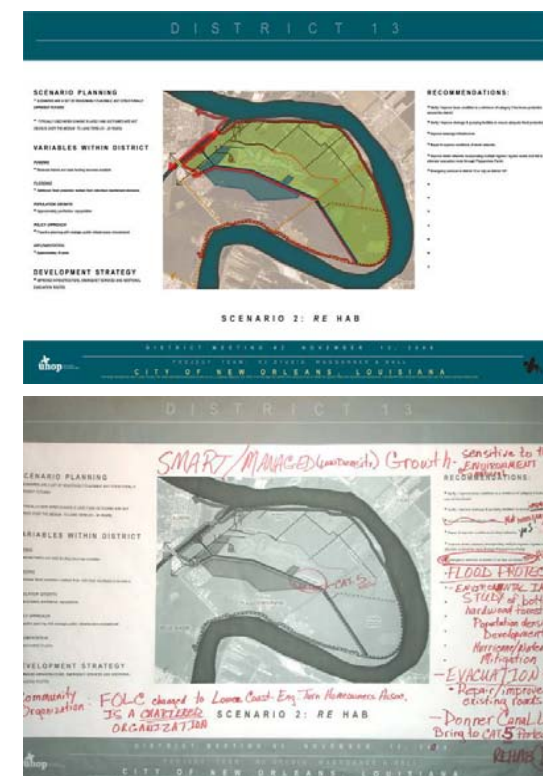
At each meeting participants were seated around tables in groups of 8 -12 individuals. The meetings began with the delivery of a presentation, which contained comprehensive information about the progress of the planning process. **To supplement the digital information, large printed maps and diagrams were displayed throughout the room.**

Following the presentation large format tableboards, which contained relevant images and text, were distributed to each table throughout the room. **In these “break out work sessions” participants were asked to join in conversation with others around the table and comment on information presented on the tableboards.** The H3 Studio Project Team encouraged members from different neighborhoods to work together at each table. Members of the District Project Team circulated throughout the room during the work session; however, the intention was for discussion to be directed by the public with the tableboard serving as a framework. Following the work session, one

representative from each group was asked to report back to the entire room, highlighting the major points discussed at each table. After which time, the floor was opened to announcements of District – wide importance or relevance to the UNOP process. The meetings concluded with information regarding the next steps of the process and announcements of future meetings.

Documentation

Meeting minutes were taken during the meeting and posted on the UNOP website to ensure that the community has access to the information. **The tableboards that were drawn upon during the work sessions, were thoroughly documented and scanned as to become part of public record.** Sign – in sheets were digitized and all participants were added to the District 2 contact list, which served as a database for future outreach contact. Photographs were taken at each meeting as another form of documentation.



A “tableboard” before and after public meeting 2

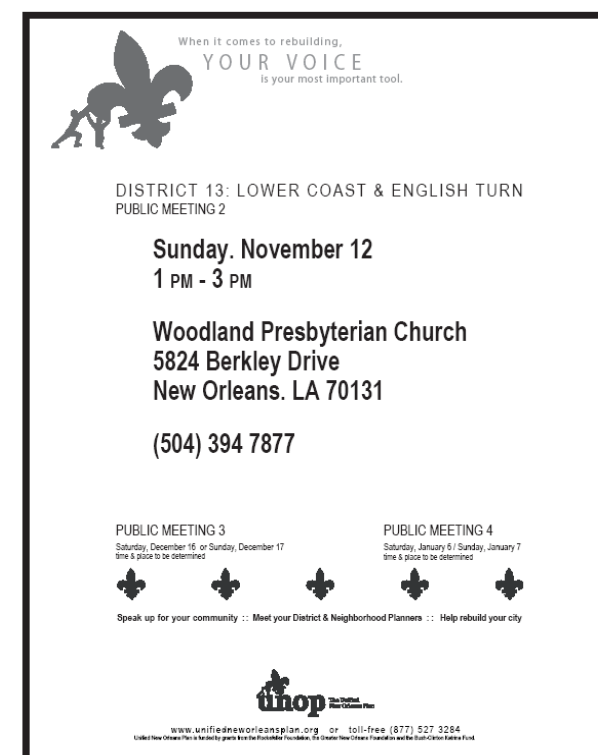
Public Meeting Outreach

Flyers

Neighborhood leaders were offered stacks of flyers to distribute within their respective communities. In addition, flyers were delivered to mailboxes within the District and posted in local business and public / civic establishments within the neighboring District 12.

Digital

An email announcing the time, location and content of the public meeting was sent to all neighborhood leaders and all previous public meeting attendees (for whom an email address was available.) A printable version was emailed as to allow the recipients to print copies for others in their community. An announcement and copy of the public meeting flyer was posted on the UNOP website.



Neighborhood Meetings

At the beginning of the process the priority of the H3 Studio Project Team was to hear the voices of the existing community groups and gather information regarding pre-existing plans and documents. Local community and neighborhood groups offered meaningful information, useful to the planning process and to the District Team. The content of the information was sometimes factual and other times more narrative and experiential. Many of these organizations were in possession of pre-existing planning documents and some were in fact the creators of these plans, which were made available to the H3 Studio Project Team. Overall, meeting with individual organizations allowed the Project Team to become familiar with the fine grain of the District.

Neighborhood Meeting format

The initial meetings with neighborhood leaders and residents were informal and often held in public places, such as coffee shops, community offices and restaurants, within the respective neighborhoods. These meetings were essentially conversations as opposed to formal presentations.

Outreach

Outreach was not an active component of these meetings, considering that they were often held with individuals, all of whom were contacted directly via phone or email to arrange the individual meetings. These individuals as representatives of their respective communities, were in direct contact with residents.

Other Meetings

Community Support Organization Advisory
Committee Meetings

5:30 – 7:30 pm
City Council Chamber

October 12
October 26
November 9
November 30
December 7
December 21
January 11
January 25

The Community Support Organization (CSO) is a nine-member advisory committee, comprised of representatives from the Mayor's Office, City Council, City Planning Commission, Greater New Orleans Foundation and five citizens (each representing a City Council District.) The CSO held meetings in City Council Chambers bi-weekly to serve as forums for citizens to respond to the planning process. The H3 Studio Project Team attended the CSO meetings and upon request at specific meetings offered a status report of the planning.

City – Wide Community Congresses

Community Congress 1
UNOP Recovery Plan Framework
October 28, 2006

Community Congress 2
UNOP Citywide Recovery Scenarios
December 2, 2006

Community Congress 3
UNOP Draft Recovery Plan
January 21, 2007

The Citywide Planning Team facilitated three Community Congress Meetings over the course of the planning process. These meetings held at the Morial Convention Center were open to the public. Citizens from all Districts within the City were encouraged to attend and participate. The status of the Citywide planning efforts was presented and through technology made available by AmericaSpeaks, participants were able to directly respond to proposals through a remote voting device. Members of the H3 Studio Project Team attended each Community Congress.

District & Citywide Meetings

The UNOP orientation meeting was held in late September, 2006, which was the first gathering of the Citywide and District – wide Teams. Representatives from various teams, agencies and institutions delivered presentations and offered information pertinent to the planning process.

Following the initial meeting and continuing throughout the process, weekly conference calls were held between the Citywide and District – wide planning teams. The purpose of which, was for the planning teams to correlate and clarify information across the City and Districts. Each team provided a brief update of their planning efforts and as a collective unit the planners discussed preparation for upcoming meetings and reports.

A second meeting between the Citywide and District-wide planners was held in October, to allow for coordination and communication between all teams. The thematic sector leads were present at this meeting to provide information about their respective categories to the planning teams. Although the Citywide and District – wide planning teams were separate entities, there was a significant amount of communication that occurred between the team throughout the process.

District Meeting 1

Saturday, October 14, 2006
 2 pm – 4pm
 Behrman School (617 Opelousas Avenue)

The purpose of the first District-wide public meeting was to obtain input on the preliminary District assessment and needs analysis and the development of Vision and Goals for the Recovery and Rebuilding Plan for District 13. The meeting began with the introduction of the H3 Studio Project Team and an explanation of the Team's planning approach was offered. The UNOP process was introduced and explained at length as to clearly articulate the definition and purpose of a Recovery Plan.

The H3 Studio Project Team introduced District 13 from various perspectives: physical, historic and ecological & vulnerability. The significance of the District was discussed within the context of history as well as its physical presence along the border of Orleans and Plaquemines Parishes. The institutional facilities were located on a map and the various residential conditions were delineated.

Prior to the meeting, the H3 Studio Project Team had completed a thorough assessment of the District, which included an "on-the-ground" survey and intensive analysis of existing planning documents. Information derived from both methods of assessment was presented in both graphic and verbal form. The presentation was organized within thematic sectors, such as Hurricane / Flood Protection, Housing and Education and information was further broken down into Pre-Katrina and Post-Katrina categories. Previous planning efforts and planning documents with relevance to District 13 were outlined. The purpose of the "break-out" sessions was to establish a clear set of Needs, Vision and Goals for the District. After hearing feedback from each of the groups, the meeting was concluded with an explanation of the next steps and an invitation to the next public meeting.



District Meeting 2

Sunday, November 12, 2006

1 pm – 3 pm

Woodland Presbyterian Church (5824 Berkley Avenue)

Recovery Scenario Planning

The purpose of the second District-wide public meeting was to discuss and debate Scenarios. Each conveyed various approaches and development strategies to recovery within District 2 in the context of the overall recovery of the city and a series of indeterminate variables such as level of funding, flood protection, and repopulation. The District-wide assessment, which was presented at the first public meeting was briefly summarized as to allow those new to the process to understand the prior stages. Further analysis followed, including both District and Citywide information regarding, flooding, funding and repopulation. Once proper background information was offered, the three Recovery Scenarios were presented; *RE PAIR*, *RE HAB* & *RE VISION*.

A written outline and corresponding diagram for each Recovery Scenario were laid out on tableboards. During the one hour long “break out” session, sets of boards were distributed and individuals were encouraged to mark up the scenarios with comments and suggestions. Following the session, feedback was heard from a representative of each work group. After hearing feedback from each group, the meeting concluded with a discussion of next steps and an invitation to the public meeting.



District Meeting 3

Friday December 15, 2006

6 pm – 8 pm

Woodland Presbyterian Church (5824 Berkley Avenue)

The purpose of the third District – wide public meeting was to discuss and debate the Draft Recovery Scenario for District 13 and begin to determine a set of priorities. The District-wide assessment, Citywide analysis and initial Recovery Scenarios were briefly summarized as to allow all meeting participants to understand the entire process.

The Recovery Scenario was presented along with the Vision, Goals and Principles of the District. All of the information, graphic and textual, was outlined on the tableboards, which were distributed to each table throughout the room. The purpose of the “break out” session was for participants to comment on the proposed elements of the Recovery Scenario. Since the information was organized by sector, the work groups were encouraged to focus on addressing the principles for each. After hearing feedback from each of the groups, the meeting was concluded with an explanation of the next steps and an invitation to the final public meeting.



District Meeting 4

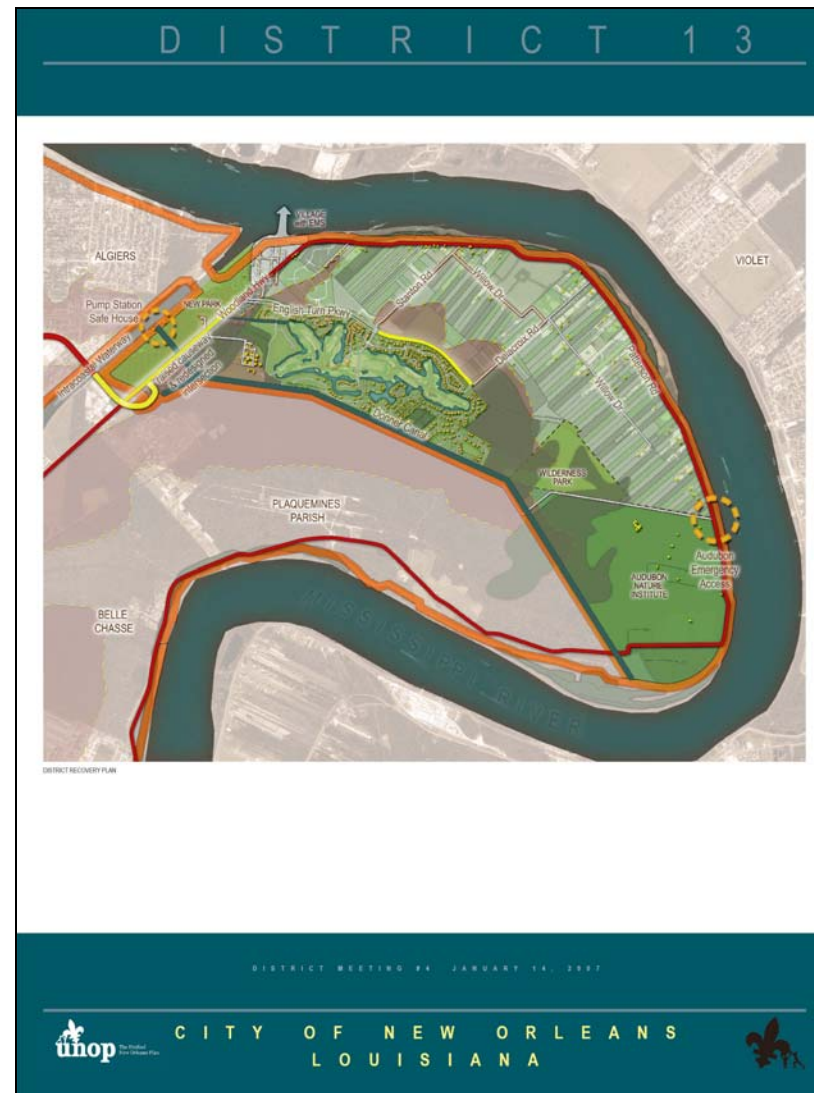
Sunday, January 14, 2007

1 pm – 4 pm

Woldenberg Village (3701 Behrman Place)

The purpose of the fourth and final District – wide public meeting was to present the District 13 Recovery Projects and to discuss issues of implementation. The meeting began with a concise yet thorough summary of the District – wide planning process, which included an initial assessment, further analysis, preliminary scenario suggestions and a chosen Recovery Scenario.

Approximately twenty projects were discussed throughout the meeting, however, they were categorized by thematic sector, which provided the presentation with a manageable framework. In addition, a project matrix, which clearly summarized the content of each project, was handed out to each participant, along with a copy of the revised Vision, Goals, & Principles. The meeting functioned more like an open forum than a formal public meeting, which enabled members of the public to openly vocalize their comments. Most residents approved of the proposed projects; however, there were some individuals that were openly critical of the projects. Due to the inability for the residents to reach consensus as a collective unit, it was decided that further implementation efforts would happen at a smaller scale; there would not be a single voice of the District. To conclude the meeting the H3 Studio Project Team ended with closing comments and an expression of gratitude for all those that had participated throughout the District Planning process.



PROJECT: Repair Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection

Project Location: Planning District 13
Area of Impact: Metairie/Algiers
Recovery Title: Hurricane & Flood Protection

Project Description: Repair Category 3 Hurricane & Flood protection with the goal of protecting the residents and property in the District 13 area. The project will include the repair of Category 3 Hurricane & Flood protection with the goal of protecting the residents and property in the District 13 area. The project will include the repair of Category 3 Hurricane & Flood protection with the goal of protecting the residents and property in the District 13 area.

Project Timeline: 2007-2008
Anticipated Outcome: Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection

Project Description: Repair Category 3 Hurricane & Flood protection with the goal of protecting the residents and property in the District 13 area. The project will include the repair of Category 3 Hurricane & Flood protection with the goal of protecting the residents and property in the District 13 area. The project will include the repair of Category 3 Hurricane & Flood protection with the goal of protecting the residents and property in the District 13 area.

Project Timeline: 2007-2008
Anticipated Outcome: Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection

PROJECT: Conduct a Detailed Ecological Study

Project Location: Planning District 13
Area of Impact: Metairie/Algiers
Recovery Title: Ecological Study

Project Description: Conduct a detailed ecological study of the District 13 area. The study will include the assessment of the District 13 area's ecological resources, including wetlands, waterways, and other natural resources. The study will also include the assessment of the District 13 area's ecological resources, including wetlands, waterways, and other natural resources.

Project Timeline: 2007-2008
Anticipated Outcome: Ecological Study

Project Name	Location	Area of Impact	Recovery Title	Project Description	Project Timeline	Anticipated Outcome
Repair Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection	Metairie/Algiers	Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection	Repair Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection	Repair Category 3 Hurricane & Flood protection with the goal of protecting the residents and property in the District 13 area.	2007-2008	Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection
Conduct a Detailed Ecological Study	Metairie/Algiers	Ecological Study	Conduct a Detailed Ecological Study	Conduct a detailed ecological study of the District 13 area. The study will include the assessment of the District 13 area's ecological resources, including wetlands, waterways, and other natural resources.	2007-2008	Ecological Study
Repair Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection	Metairie/Algiers	Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection	Repair Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection	Repair Category 3 Hurricane & Flood protection with the goal of protecting the residents and property in the District 13 area.	2007-2008	Category 3 Hurricane & Flood Protection
Conduct a Detailed Ecological Study	Metairie/Algiers	Ecological Study	Conduct a Detailed Ecological Study	Conduct a detailed ecological study of the District 13 area. The study will include the assessment of the District 13 area's ecological resources, including wetlands, waterways, and other natural resources.	2007-2008	Ecological Study