

## A NOTE TO THE READER

In response to the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina, the Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) took shape as one of the most intensive grass-roots 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. The toll is easy to see, however, in the faces of residents—many of whom have not been able to return to their homes. Yet the city’s trial has come at a time of remarkable urban renaissance across America, when neighborhoods both within and outside urban centers have begun to emerge from decades of disinvestment. For New Orleans, this reversal of fortune 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 demand more of the immense courage and commitment of people who have already contributed so much to rebuilding their city. Further struggle and opportunity lie ahead—perhaps none more essential than forging a new partnership among government, the private sector, institutions, and the community. The residents of Desire and Florida can work with each other and with the City to rebuild their neighborhoods as national models of mixed-income communities that enjoy walkable streets, a lively neighborhood center, revived streetcar service, enhanced schools and public services, handsome parks, and other elements of an enviable quality of life.

It has become cliché to say that Katrina changed New Orleans forever. It is just as true, however, to say that this new era holds great promise for the city and for each of the distinctive neighborhoods that make up District 7.

Chapter 1	1
<b>Introduction to the district</b>	
<b>Before the storm</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The storm’s impact</b>	<b>5</b>
Chapter 2	7
<b>The UNOP planning process</b>	
<b>Overview of the UNOP process</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>How the community participated</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Community perspectives</b>	<b>10</b>
Chapter 3	13
<b>Assessment</b>	
<b>Significant opportunities and challenges facing the district before the storm</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>The storm’s damage and recovery to date</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Significant issues that shape planning</b>	<b>17</b>
Chapter 4	19
<b>Vision and goals</b>	
<b>Vision</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Goals</b>	<b>24</b>
Chapter 5	21
<b>Scenarios</b>	
<b>Citywide scenario summary</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>District 7 discussion of scenarios</b>	<b>22</b>

---

Chapter 6	23
<b>Planning framework</b>	
<b>Framework overview</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Core elements</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>List of recovery and improvement projects/initiatives</b>	<b>40</b>

---

Chapter 7	51
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Moving forward</b>	<b>51</b>

---

**Appendices** (available separately)

- > **Sounding Board members**
- > ***A People’s Plan for Overcoming the Hurricane Katrina Blues: A Comprehensive Strategy for Building a More Vibrant, Sustainable and Equitable 9th Ward*, prepared by the ACORN Housing/University Partnership**
- > **Survey of Major Business Corridors, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, January 2007**
- > **Project Sheets**