Year in Review
2015–2016
Who We Are

The Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design is the community design center of the Tulane School of Architecture. We work with community-based organizations to provide design services for constituencies who are underserved by the architecture and design professions. Staff, students, and faculty collaborate with the leadership and constituents of partnering nonprofit organizations throughout New Orleans. Our partner organizations bring their project ideas to us, and our staff and students translate those ideas into visual narratives and built structures that can contribute to the New Orleans’ neighborhoods and city. Our work focuses on equitable process, meaningful outcomes, design excellence, and inclusion as critical parts of the design process.

Our design work, whether a visual narrative or a built structure, is often a small, but critical contribution to advancing the ongoing efforts of our partner organizations. We develop projects in collaboration with faculty designers and professional collaborators to create designs that strive for beauty, social justice, and true sustainability, while working with other experts to build capacity in our partner organizations. Our work focuses on equitable process, meaningful outcomes, design excellence, and inclusion as critical parts of the design process.
When selecting partners, we seek to create equity along racial, gender, and class disparities. We focus on organizations that are deeply rooted in the communities they serve and use the design process as a means to convene new allies and supporters for our partner organizations, expanding their organizational capacity, while strategically including their current stakeholders, staff, and end-users.

Annually, New Orleans-based nonprofits and community groups are invited to submit a simple proposal for technical assistance through our Request for Proposals (RFP). A jury, with representatives from past project partners, faculty and professional architects, and peer institution leaders, review the proposals and rank the applications based on impact, feasibility, creative potential, and learning opportunities. Other projects, such as exhibits, graphic advocacy, or mapping, may arise less formally, growing out of a past project, expanding partnerships, or reflecting an emerging need in our community.

Once a partnership is started, the team holds multiple meetings with the community partner to learn more about the proposed project. By exploring the ecosystem in which our partner operates—the constituents, stakeholders, funders, and naysayers—we work together to develop a design process that strengthens these connections and the project outcomes through inclusion and feedback. Within these initial meetings, we collectively define success for the project, outline the parameters of our work and define goals within three categories: an appropriate design product, a stronger coalition for advocacy, and the education of young designers.

All projects are developed in a collaborative process that engages the organization’s constituents and stakeholders to better shape the final product and to strengthen the organization’s network at a moment of change. Our engagement process is tailored to each project’s needs, yet it always starts with a few key steps: understanding what the partner wants to achieve, determining the most productive approach to include end users into the process, opening up the design process to include a broader network of collaborators and consultants, executing the project as a team, and celebrating as a team.
The Small Center was first conceived in early 2005 as a way of applying the skills and energy of Tulane School of Architecture faculty and students to real world design and planning challenges. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans and the ensuing federal levee failure flooded 80% of the city, presenting an urgent and immediate need for this type of technical assistance. Then called the “Tulane City Center,” we launched it late 2005 as a way to take part in the recovery of the city, educate students through applied projects, and work with the nonprofits and community groups who would be instrumental in the return of New Orleans citizens, culture, and traditions.

In our first 10 years, we worked with 74 community partners to advance more than 89 projects, at a variety of scales. Of these, we built 25 structures, and our pre-design work helped move 15 other projects to realization with local designers, developers, and builders. Our planning and policy studies have advanced ideas for more productive land use and helped improve our transit infrastructure. Our work has helped local nonprofits leverage millions of dollars to build the capacity and infrastructure needed to support their missions.

In 2014, we moved our headquarters from Tulane’s campus to a neighborhood-based location in Central City. The 7,000 square foot Baronne Street building brought our workspace geographically closer to our project sites and partners, with workshops (including a studio and fabrication shop) tailored to our specific needs. The location offered opportunities to strengthen existing partnerships and to foster new relationships with community members, nonprofits, and government agencies. Our Seedforest gallery hosts public events and exhibits focused on issues of the built environment in New Orleans, and with the new opportunities of the space, we added a new staff position dedicated to shaping our community engagement and curating these public programs.

The Small Center is named in recognition of a generous gift from Tulane alumnus Albert “Sonny” Small and his wife Tina, whose support was instrumental from the Center’s early days and into the program’s continued growth. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, and to the dedication and talent of our collaborators, we offer a sustained force for positive change in the built environment of New Orleans.
Recent Projects

Community Book Center

Drawings, models, and books from the renovation of Community Books.
RECENT PROJECTS

"FAÇADE RENEW"

In January 2014, Small Center began a partnership with the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) to launch the Façade ReNEW Program, an incentive program designed to incentivize commercial property and small business owners to renovate storefronts and building facades in four targeted areas of the city. Façade ReNEW is designed to spur development along portions of four historic commercial corridors in New Orleans: Bayou Road, Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, St. Claude Avenue, and Alcee Fortier Boulevard. The program offered façade improvement grants for individual buildings and placemaking grants to main street associations. Clio Associates LLC worked directly with Small Center to provide 30 hours of technical design assistance for each of the grant applicants. This 2-year pilot program represents an investment of over $1.5 million toward revitalizing these commercial corridors. The program has surpassed its participation goals and NORA is currently seeking additional funds to offer the grants to other key historic corridors.

Collaborators
Beth Jacob of Clio Associates LLC (Design Lead), Melissa Lee, Gionne Jourdan, and JaLeesa Sims-Smith of New Orleans Redevelopment Authority; Linda Pompa of Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard Merchants and Business Association, Jeff Schwartz of Broad Community Connections, Dawne Massey of St. Claude Main Street, Tuan Nguyen of Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation.

Team
Maggie Hansen (Project Advisor), Dan Etheridge (Project Manager), Joseph A. Colon, Emma Jasinkski, Allison Price, JD Scott, Nina Feldman, Emilie Taylor Welty, Nick Jenisch, Sue Mobley.

Special Thanks
Surdna Foundation.

COMMUNITY BOOK CENTER RENOVATION

Community Book Center focuses on books written by and about people of African descent and for over 30 years has had a deep commitment to providing culturally competent resources for educators, students, and families. Community Books also provides a valuable teaching, retail, and gathering space for the New Orleans community. Like other small independent bookstores, however, Community Books is vulnerable to factors far beyond founder and owner, Vera Warren’s, control. The aim of this 14-week design-build studio was to develop a design that reflects Community Book Center as an African American-centered educational home, while adapting to be more accessible for new families and visitors coming to this rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. In Spring 2016, a class of 14 students worked with the staff and clients of Community Books to design and build a new interior for the space. This project is an extension of the Façade ReNEW work Small Center is engaged in along Bayou Road and other commercial corridors.

Team
Emilie Taylor Welty (Design Lead), Sue Mobley, Gabby Black, Christina Blanchard, Jordan Canalay, Katrina Davis, Kristen Witt, Maggie Lloyd, Matt Raybon, Cassidy Self, Fernanda Silva, Al Thompson, Ben Thomas, Evan Walker, Alex Webber, Brian Webber, Donn Peabody, Maggie Herman, Danielle Girdler, Rob Aronchick.

Partners
Vera Warren and Mama Jennifer of Community Book Center.

Special Thanks
Johnson Controls, Inc., Verbena Group, Tulane’s Center for Public Service.
ORETHA CASTLE HALEY BOULEVARD: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, formerly Dryades Street, has witnessed over two centuries of change. First planted in the early 1860s, development on the corridor intensified in the 1880s as a thriving business district that began to grow around the Dryades Market; Irish and German newcomers were followed by Eastern European Jewish immigrants. African Americans settled in the district following the Civil War and developed a strong network of business, civic, and fraternal organizations. The corridor became a hub for activism during the Civil Rights movement but began to show signs of economic decline by the late 1980s.

This exhibit framed the discussion of where we go from here by exploring Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard’s layered and complex history and to uncover stories of people and places as told through its built landscape. Understanding the past of this multifaceted street can foster a deeper appreciation of its present and in turn lead to thoughtful and effective planning for the future.

COLLABORATORS
Beth Isaac (Curator) and Gabrielle Bagar of Clio Associates LLC, PlayBuild
TEAM Sue Mobley (Project Manager), Allison Price, Dom Predmore, Abby Bray, Kyle Miller, Maggie Hansen, Emilie Taylor Welty, Nick Jenisch

SPECIAL THANKS
Sandra Foundation, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard Merchants and Business Association, the businesses that were participants in Façade RENEW

LOCATING NEW ORLEANS: AN EXPLORATION ON SHAKY GROUND

In recent years, New Orleans has been tagged with an onslaught of adjectives: inevitable, unfathomable, accidental, but none so often or so contested, as resilient. Defined as the ability to bounce back from shocks and stresses, resilience is both a goal and a self-evident truth. Resilience is also an aptly built through the repeated experience of adversity, a capacity grounded in precarity as much as persistence.

For nearly 300 years, New Orleans has suffered and rebounded from the challenges of its precarious natural setting. To inhabit this place, we have constructed layers of systems and structures to control the dynamic forces of the environment, the economy, and our citizens. The city has continued to build on a history of choices that constrain future choices while often placing undue burdens on the most vulnerable.

This exhibit drew on maps and mapping to provide a visual exploration of precarity as the central feature of the shifting and interdependent factors within the physical, built, and social environments that construct the landscape of New Orleans. In this light, precarity was expanded historically as well as topically and complicates the construction of New Orleans as ‘resilient’ by focusing on the high costs of resilience to the city and its citizens.

COLLABORATORS
Johnny Lewis, Jakob Rosensweig, the NET Charter School, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts
TEAM Sue Mobley (Curator), Dom Predmore, Abby Bray, Kyle Miller, Gustave Rivas, Allison Price, Maggie Hansen, Emilie Taylor Welty, Nick Jenisch

SPECIAL THANKS
Sandra Foundation

Socil Histories
The Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO) is a coalition working to bridge the gap between the needs of the cultural community and regulatory policy in New Orleans. Over the course of the two-week project, our 2015 Summer Public Interest Design (PID) Fellows read and charted hundreds of pages of city code and municipal ordinances while conducting musician on-the-street interviews and reviews with advocates, attorneys, and the City’s Office of Cultural Economy. The final product is a visually engaging and accessible guide outlining the rights and regulations on street performance in the French Quarter and Marigny. The Guide uses clear graphics to offer a spatial understanding of regulation, a know-your-rights and important rules for performing, and a visual guide to the various public and private enforcement bodies covering the area. Available online as well as at music venues throughout town, the guide has also been uploaded onto the iPads carried by the French Quarter Task Force, setting a new standard for enforcement.

Collaborators: Ethan Ellestad, Hannah Krieger Benson, and Tara Kennedy of Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans

Parisite Skate Park

Parisite Skatepark, named for its proximity to Paris Avenue, was started by a group of skaters who took advantage of a vacant space beneath the I-610 overpass by building a DIY skatepark. This informal public space drew the attention of city officials who questioned the legal implications of operating such a recreational space. The skaters formed a nonprofit corporation called Transitional Spaces and partnered with Small Center to gain legitimacy with the city and develop a plan for the site. Together the team developed a phased master plan for the skatepark and road mapped the process of submissions and approvals for construction phases on site. Additionally, the Small Center team designed and built an entranceway, 3,000 sq. ft. of rainwater collecting gardens, benches, bike racks, signage, and other park amenities. Small Center also connected Parisite with legal, engineering, and other professional support necessary to grow Parisite into a fully operational public space. Parisite opened in early 2015 as the first official skatepark in the City of New Orleans.

Collaborators: Perry Hobson, Andy Mills, Skyler Fye, Jackson Blackwell, Kit Wilson and Julia Wells, Calli Blixt, and Mary O’Mahony of Transitional Spaces; Haley Delery and Vic Smith of the City of New Orleans; Art and Arts; and Ace Public of New Orleans Recreation Department.

Team: Doug Harmon (Lead), Matt Declerq (Lead), Linda Taylor Wells (Chief), John Calfee (Mountains Project Manager); Sara Center; Ruben Contreras; Lee Cooper; Carly Epler; Elizabeth (Lizzy) Hiemstra; Tara Jones; Colleen LaForge; Stephanie Duff; Stanley Mccarroll; Paul Morris; Merrick Nance; Carlee Parker; Kyla Brown; Jonathan Yaffe; Nick Sirois; Grant Whitaker; Emily Youngblood; Nick Sirois; Sue Mobley; Maggie Hansen; Door Pradelia; Megan Cast; Donna Mandel.

Special Thanks: Alex Farah, Mayor Mitch Landrieu’s Office, New Orleans Recreation Department; Commission, City of New Orleans; Capital Projects; Louisiana DOT; SURDNA; Johnson Controls, Inc.; Anne Frederick Collaborative.
RECENT PROJECTS

PARASITE SKATE PARK
Initial rendering (above), designers meeting to talk about a model (far right), and students starting construction (near right).

NEW ORLEANS GUIDE TO STREET PERFORMANCE
The final brochure (opposite page).
Youth Design Workshops

Over the past year, Small Center has hosted events, collaborated on design projects, and displayed the work of students and youth from around the city. From exhibitions, to student-led panel discussions, to mapping as a tool for understanding and self-reinvention, we are excited to contribute to youth-driven programming and design education. We believe that nurturing design engagement with youth in a supportive environment is essential in shaping our housing landscape?

Young Design Workshops are casual conversations about the big issues facing our city. Small Center provides red beans and rice from Café Reconcile. We ask our panelists and participants to bring their questions, expertise, and aspirations, so we can all learn and teach together.

For a full list of our panelists from 2015 – 16, please see page 93.

Team

Team: Sue MOLBY (Lead), Maggie Hansen, Nick Jenkins, Emily Taylor Welby, Owen Peedobly, Shooshana Gordon, Aly 8dy, Carlyn Theu, lei Ying, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Lena Estaden, Catherine Kantor, Kyle Maer

Themes

Vacant Land, May 2016
Food Access, June 2015
Geographic Roy, July 2015
Preservation as Revitalization, Oct 2015
Socialinfluences of OC Hayley, Nov 2015
Regional Rail, Dec 2015
New Monuments, Feb 2016
GrowthOverVes in a Delta, Mar 2016
Affordable Housing: Teach-in, Apr 2016
Community Development: May 2016
Sustainable Tourism, June 2016

Mapping Schools and Behavioral Health Clinics

In Spring 2016, Small Center staff conducted a Public Interest Design Seminar for architecture graduate students. Through mapping, students explored the spatial relationships among schools, youth programming, and city-wide transit systems. The studies revealed various issues related to the decentralized nature of New Orleans’ post-Katrina school system, including a lack of reliable transportation and limited access to health services and recreation opportunities.

Using the seminar work, two 2016 Summer Fellows worked with the Recovery School District on designing a map to visually communicate the needs and dynamics of their city.

Mapping Schools

Graphic designed by 2016 Summer PID Fellow Ida Faye Hightower

Mapping Behavioral Health Clinics

Graphic designed by 2016 Summer PID Fellow Ida Faye Hightower

Schools and Behavioral Health Clinics

Services

Consultations in-person, phone, or video
School tours and staff training
School wellness planning
Behavioral health needs assessment
School wellness needs assessment
Advice on school policy development

Schools

• P.S. 151
• Avery Drive Elementary School
• I.S. 84
• East River Middle School
• New Richmond School
• Young Creative Agency, The NET Charter High School

Behavioral Health Clinics

• GameTime, by Young Creative Agency and The NET Charter

Collaborators

Abby Bray, Camly Tram, Lei Ying, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Emilie Taylor Welby, Donn Peabody, Shoshana Gordon, Nick Jenisch (Design Lead), Jody Towers (Project Manager), Sue Mobley, Javier Gonzalez, Shirley Chen, Doug Keller, Johanna Gilligan, Eliza Sheffield, and the Behavioral Health Council

Team

Nick Jenisch (Design Lead), Abby Town (Project Manager), Sue Mobley, Javier Gonzalez, Shirley Chen, Catie Nguyen, Regina Davis, Hannah Berryhill, Cassidy Martin’s Episcopal School.

Special Thanks

**MOBILE SNOBALL STAND** Students from the NET Charter School designed and created a Mobile SnoBall Stand that doubles as a writing center for Big Class students. The NET students met with our 2016 Summer PID Fellows to brainstorm designs (above), and the almost finished structure (right).

**SONGS OF HOME, SONGS OF CHANGE** A team of high school students collaborated with local artist, Jebney Lewis, to create sound maps of the city. In Spring 2016, the students presented their maps to faculty respondents and a public audience in Small Center’s storefront (opposite page).
Affordable Housing

RENTERS’ RIGHTS ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

Many New Orleans renters live in unsafe conditions which directly impact their health, productivity, and quality of life. The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) builds support for legislation for the inspection and enforcement of safe rental housing. The Small Center team collaborated with GNOFHAC to promote and incite civic action in targeted neighborhoods around the city to dovetail with GNOFHAC’s citywide policy initiative. The aim of this campaign is to inform residents, create a group of committed stakeholders throughout the design process, and result in legislation which guarantees renters more rights, improves the quality of housing, and provides assistance to landlords who want to make improvements to their property.

Collaborators: Max Ciardullo and Renee Corrigan of GNOFHAC

Team: Emilie Taylor Welty (Design Lead), Alberta Wright (Project Manager), Cassidy Rosen, Kati Dvorak, Javier Gonzalez, Rob chimney, Regina Davis, Anna Berlin, Alexander Gonzales, Jeremy Beley, Keri, Sara Harper, Su Thang Pove, Sam Williams, Aurora Smith, Maggie Hansen, Sue Mobley, Niki Jensen, Doni Robbins, Shoshana Gordon

Special thanks: School of Urban Community Connections, students of Young Creative Agency.

2739 PALMYRA

New Orleans is a city facing rising rents and displacement of low to moderate income families. Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative (JPNSI), a non-profit housing and community development organization, was awarded in 2014 to address these issues and create sustainable, democratic, and ecologically just neighborhoods and communities. Small Center worked in collaboration with the Tulane School of Architecture’s Master of Sustainable Real Estate Development program to understand the housing options in two buildings JPNSI owns. The project team traveled to New York City to research precedents and developed reports that outlined the framework of a Community Land Trust and a vision for the JPNSI buildings. JPNSI renovated the Palmyra street building in 2015 through a community land trust, and it serves as a model for permanently affordable housing in Mid-City. Design work begins on their second building in 2016.

Collaborators: Adrian Manriquez, Isabel Barrios, Maxwell Castulo, Jane Scott, Brian White, and Shoshana Gordon of JPNSI

Team: Cordula Roher Grace (Design Lead), Dan Ethridge (Project Manager), Cassia Reaves, John Nelson, Susan Amato, Brian Sulley, Andrea Mayerson, Niki Jensen, Emilie Taylor Welty

Special thanks: SURDNA Foundation
RECENT PROJECTS

PRESIDIO
Floor plan (left), and rendering (right)

BRENTWOOD COMMON
Cassidy Rosen, a 2016 Summer PID Fellow, working on the campaign (opposite page)
**SANKOFA MOBILE MARKET**

Our Fall 2015 design build studio project worked in partnership with Sankofa CDC, a Ninth Ward based nonprofit, to design and build a dynamic mobile produce truck. The aim of the mobile built and assembled was to increase Sankofa’s capacity to serve senior centers and health clinics around the city. Sankofa’s organizational mission is to support the creation of a local environment that promotes positive health outcomes and long-term community well-being.

The Mobile Market is a transformable addition to the bed of a pick-up which can be loaded with produce and folds up to drive through the city streets. It unfolds in an efficient and graceful way to produce shade, display information, and provide a community gathering space.

**Collaborators**
Rashida Ferdinand, Rosa Torres, and Grace Williams of Sankofa CDC

**Team**
Doug Harmon (Design Lead), Emilie Taylor Welty (Project Manager), Sue Mobley, Ruben Contreras, Jenny Renn Key, Eric Lynn, Michael Meline, Shelby Mills, Sarah Morasso, Gianna Morelli, Joseph Newman, Catherine Nguyen, Allison Price, John (JD) Scott, Laura Stokley, Megan Van Artsdalen, Calla Bardwell, Donn Peabody, Nick Jenisch, Maggie Hansen

**Special thanks**
Johnson Controls, Inc., Andrew Schrock, Mercy Endeavors Senior Center, Justin Shiels, Milhaus, Jody Towers

**VISION HOUSE**

Women With a Vision (WWAV) is an organization working to improve the lives of marginalized women, their families, and communities. In the aftermath of an arson attack on their former location, WWAV worked with Small Center to redesign a newly acquired building to serve as its headquarters. The project team closely considered the spatial needs of the expanding organization and its diverse communities of clients, building on its long-running success while better accommodating staff and programming.

**Collaborators**
Deon Haywood, Shaquita Borden, and staff of WWAV

**Team**
Marianne Desmarais (Design Lead), Nick Jenisch (Project Manager), Pavlo Iosipiv, John Ludlam, Donn Peabody, Sue Mobley, Shoshana Gordon

**Special thanks**
Johnson Controls, Inc.

**LEAD**

Like many cities, much of the old water infrastructure in New Orleans is composed of lead plumbing. Over the summer, we worked with the Lead Exposure Assessment for Drinking Water Study (LEAD) based at LSU School of Public Health to develop graphic education and advocacy materials targeted to New Orleans residents most at risk for health impacts due to lead exposure from drinking water.

**Collaborators**
Adrienne Katner, Lizzie Huval, Joye Pate, C Galliano, and J Galliano of New Orleans Lead Exposure Assessment for Drinking Water Project at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

**Team**
Maggie Hansen (Design Lead), Emilie Taylor Welty (Project Manager), Pavlo Iosipiv, John Ludlam, Donn Peabody, Sue Mobley, Nick Jenisch, Shoshana Gordon

**Special thanks**
Johnson Controls, Inc.

**Healthy Cities**

Like many cities, much of the old water infrastructure in New Orleans is composed of lead plumbing. Over the summer, we worked with the Lead Exposure Assessment for Drinking Water Study (LEAD) based at LSU School of Public Health to develop graphic education and advocacy materials targeted to New Orleans residents most at risk for health impacts due to lead exposure from drinking water. Together, we developed a set of graphics to encourage participation in the drinking water study, and additional graphic documents to inform citizens about the impacts and the steps they can take to reduce their exposure. Engagement activities at local markets and with public health workers sought to clarify the messages of our materials while raising awareness around the issue.

**Collaborators**
Adrienne Katner, Lizzie Huval, Joye Pate, C Galliano, and J Galliano of New Orleans Lead Exposure Assessment for Drinking Water Project at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

**Team**
Maggie Hansen (Design Lead), Emilie Taylor Welty (Project Manager), Pavlo Iosipiv, John Ludlam, Donn Peabody, Sue Mobley, Nick Jenisch, Shoshana Gordon

**Special thanks**
Johnson Controls, Inc.
MOBILE MARKET Set-up of the Mobile Market from its truck bed (near left), top to bottom, and a customer choosing produce (far left).

VISION HOUSE Axonometric drawing highlights client and staff spaces (above) and a rendering of the Healing Garden (right).
In 2015, Small Center outlined a 5-year strategic plan with the aim of building on our history of thoughtful design work in service to our home city, New Orleans. The strategic plan set clear targets for measuring our impact and success at addressing the technical needs of our partner organizations, the learning objectives of our students, and the long-term sustainability of our program. Since then, we have hit many significant milestones. Thanks to an endowed gift from our long-time supporters, “Sonny” and Tina Small, we are now named the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design.

This year’s Request for Proposals yielded 23 submissions from nonprofit groups across New Orleans. It is clear that there is still a tremendous need in our city for the work that we do. We are grateful to our supporters who make it possible for us to offer technical assistance while training the next generation of citizen architects. Together we will create a city shaped by its citizens.
COURSES OFFERED
Spring 2016: Public Interest Design Seminar
Spring 2016: Community Book Center Design Build
Fall 2015: Micro-Finance Innovation
Fall 2015: Small Center Mobile Design Build

STUDENTS ENGAGED

- Students enrolled in Small Center courses
- Students enrolled in MSED courses
- Graduate Research Assistants
- Work-study students
- Summer 2016: Public Interest Design Fellows
- Summer 2015: Public Interest Design Fellows

TOTAL COURSES OFFERED: 33

PALMYRA 2739 WITH JANE PLACE

#1 Palmyra 2739 is the first and only permanently affordable apartment building in New Orleans.

Small Center’s research and design work with Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative helped make the case to funders and developers for the community land trust model of shared equity and land stewardship.

Transitional Spaces and Small Center developed a phased master plan for the skatepark and Small Center designed and built the entryway, featuring rainwater collecting gardens, benches, bike racks, and signage.

PARISITE SKATEPARK WITH TRANSITIONAL SPACES

Amount raised by Transitional Spaces using Small Center’s design for the first official skatepark in New Orleans.

You want a facility kids use? Have them design it with you.

– Skylar Fein, artist + skate advocate, at the ribbon cutting to Parisite

Small Center also worked with NORA to develop the framework for the 2-year pilot of Façade ReNEW and provided technical assistance for applicants. The pilot offered grants to storefronts on 3 corridors: Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, St. Claude Avenue, and Bayou Road.

Small Center worked with 2 nonprofits to develop Placemaking proposals as another component of the program: Hayden Place (with OCHMBA) and Alcee Fortier Blvd (with MQVCDC). Both of these applications have been approved for funding by the NORA board.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS
PROJECTS COMPLETED 2015 – 16

Design, Research, and Graphic Narratives Completed:
• City Park Camping
• Guide to Street Performance
• Merrill Ginn Robie Council Institute
• Vision House
• Reusable BAND
• Heritage Garden, Hang Dao CDC
• Dew Drops Inn

Designs Constructed:
• APEX Youth Center Playspace
• Outdoor Environmental Classroom
• Gwendola Water Pavilion
• Parisite Skate Park
• Mobile Market
• Community Book Center Renovation
• Central City Community Notice Board

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
• American Institute of Architects, Architecture in Education, Fall 2015
• AIA/ASLA Change Agents, Spring 2016
• Structures for Inclusion, Spring 2016
• Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture: Natural, Spring 2016
• Design Futures, Summer 2016

AFFILIATIONS
• American Society of Landscape Architects
• American Institute of Architects
• American Institute of Certified Planners
• American Institute of Graphic Arts
• Fansick Design Advisory Board
• Bryan Bell Metropolitan Leadership Forum
• Design Futures
• Moyer Collaborative Designer/Builder Committee
• Regional Transit Authority Advisory
• Tulane’s Center for Public Service Executive Committee
• Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance

PUBLICATIONS
ACSA National Conference Presentation — Designers, Citizens, and Citizen-Designers; charting new modes of engagement, collaboration, and project outcomes at the Tulane City Center

AWARDS
• SEED 2016 – Parisite Skatepark
• AIA Gulf States Award of Merit 2016 – LOOP Pavilion
• Ashoka Center Award 2016
RECENT ARTICLES, PRESS, AND BOOKS

2015

AIA Architect | Resilience by Design
The Guardian | 10 years after the storm: has New Orleans learned the lessons of Hurricane Katrina?
National Public Radio: Morning Edition | After Katrina, Tulane’s Architecture School Became A Community Builder
Higher Education Today | Reinventing a Program, Revitalizing a City at Tulane’s School of Architecture
Vox | How Katrina Sparked a Black Skateboarding Renaissance in New Orleans
The Atlantic: Op-Lock | A Place for the Mardi Gras Indians
AGA | Eye on Design | Design as a Change Agent: New Orleans 10 Years Later

Non-Profit Quarterly | Creating Permanently Affordable Rental Housing in New Orleans
WGBH | First Public Skate Park Comes to Gentilly

Antigropy Magazine | Parisian Visions in New Era of NOLA Skate Culture

WWL TV | New Orleans Opens First Official Skatepark in Gentilly Neighborhood
The New Orleans Advocate | Check It Out: New Orleans Opens Public Skate Park – the First Public Skate Park in City’s History

Times-Quarterly | Bastion Community of Resilience leads nation with new veteran housing and service model

The New Orleans Advocate | Affordable Housing Exhibit pops up at Tulane City Center

2016

Gambit, David and Patty Heyda | Chapter | Rebuilding the American City: Design and Strategy for the 21st Century Urban Core

Gentilly Messanger | Bastion Community of Resilience leads station with new veteran housing and service model

WGBH TV | Housing and wellness center for veterans, families under construction in Gentilly

Fox8 | New community will give veterans in need of rehabilitation a place to call home

Gambit | Affordable Housing Exhibit pops up at Tulane City Center
GROUPS HOSTED

UrbanBuild • Masters of Sustainable Real Estate Development • Taylor Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching • Neighborhood Partnerships Network • Tulane University’s Masters of City and Culture Collaborative • Cowen Institute • Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans • The Data Center • Newcomb Art Gallery • American Institute of Architects • Van Alen Institute, Future Grounds competition • PlayBuild NOLA • National Organization of Minority Architects • Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative

TOURS OF PROJECTS

• Wheeler Learnis Firm, Chicago, Illinois
• University of Virginia Architecture Students
• University of South Carolina, Salt Lake City
• Rural Studio Soft Launch, Newbern, Al
• University of Waterloo Design Build Class, Canada
• University of Manitoba Studio Class, Canada

RED BEANS ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS

• Barbara Lacen-Keller, Director of Constituent Services for City Council Member Stacey Head
• Justin Nystrom, Assistant Professor of History, Loyola University New Orleans
• Sharlene Sinegal DeCuir, Assistant Professor of History, Xavier University
• Casius Pealer, Director, Tulane Master’s in Sustainable Real Estate Development program
• Kristin Glosem Palmer, Founder, The Gisleson Group
• Rachel Ginsburg, Executive Vice President, Center for Planning Excellence
• Kristin Gisleson Palmer, Founder, The Gisleson Group
• Rachel Diresto, Executive Vice President, Center for Planning Excellence
• Lacy Strohschein, Senior Policy and Development Associate, Greater New Orleans Inc.
• John Carvings, Founder and owner, Whitney Plantation Museum
• Sallie núñez Odums, Artist, activist, owner 2-Cent productions
• Gini Greenwald, Director, historic New Orleans Collection
• Richard Campanella, Associate Professor, Tulane School of Architecture
• Aron Chang, Architect, Waggoner and Ball Architects
• Maggie Hassen, landscape designer and Director, Seafall School of Architecture
• Renee Corrigan, Education Coordinator, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
• Alex Vialou, Senior Business Analyst, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
• Maxwell Ciardullo, Policy Analyst, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
• Davida Finger, Interim Associate Director of the Loyola University New Orleans Law Clinic
• Pre Keadle, Executive Director, LEDC
• Shana Griffin, Board Chair, John Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative
• John Carvings, Founder and owner, Whitney Plantation Museum
• Asali Ecclestes, Claiborne Corridor Program Manager, The Network for Economic Opportunity
• Jeffry Goodness, Urban Planner, Miller Urban Consulting

39
Upcoming Events

EXHIBITS / WORKSHOPS / CELEBRATIONS

- September 12th: Opening Reception – The Cost of Home: Local Models and National Policy for Affordability
- October 27th: Affordable Housing and Zoning Toolkit with Center for Urban Pedagogy
- December 14th: Design Build studio celebration – Classroom 1st Day Space
- May 3rd, 2017: Design Build studio celebration – Big Class Writer’s Room at Sylvanie Williams College Prep

RED BEANS ROUNDTABLES

Red Beans Roundtables are casual conversations. Small Center provides red beans and rice from Café Reconcile and great panels of speakers who have unique insights into the big issues facing New Orleans. We ask our panelists and all participants to bring their questions, experiences, and appetites to 1725 Baronne Street so we can all learn and teach together.

Fall Roundtables
September 24th • October 1st • October 15th

Spring Roundtables
February 13th • March 13th • April 17th • May 15th

Please check our website, small.tulane.edu, for more information.
**THANK YOU!**

2016 summer PID fellowship Fellows' sketchbooks (this page) and Design Build Manager Emilie Taylor Welty on a 2016 PID Summer Fellowship field trip to Gulf Coast Community Design Center (back cover)

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Albert & Tris Small • Anonymous • Ellen & Mac Bell • David & Stephanie Barksdale • Pat & Jan Byrnes • Michael Bernstein •agar Byrnes • Myriam & Scott Crown • Cara & Mark Cox • Theresa Davison & Shawn Hendrick • Michael & Robert Denner • Montgomery Fennell II • Nathan & Stacey Good • Dan Hagerman • Judy Kinnard & Kenneth Schwartz • Jamie & Michael Klein • John & Anne Mullen • Cathy & Steven Penzel • Gus & Lorna Rosefield • Cameron & Paul Richardson • The Sizeler Family • John & Rene Williams • Ray Woolridge

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**TEAM**

Maggie Hassan, Director
Donna Fettke, Operations Coordinator
Shonanta Gordon, Program Assistant / AmeriCorps VISTA
CecileTaylor Welty, Design Build Manager
Sue Midby, Public Program Manager
Nick Jensen, Project Manager

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Our past team members include:

- Alan Lewis, Founding Director (2005–2006)
- Dan Etheridge, Founding Assistant Director (2005–2013)
- Scott D. Bernhard, Director (2006–2012)
- Maurice Cox, Director (2012–2016)
- Olivia Stinson, Senior Program Coordinator (2006)
- Alison Popper, Graphic Designer (2009-2016)
- Casey Clouse, Project Manager (2013–2015)
- John Coyle, AmeriCorps VISTA (2015-2016)

Special thanks to Joy Willig and student researchers for researching economic impact, and to Shonanta Gordon for designing this publication.

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The Azby Fund • Blue Moon Foundation • The Brees Dream Foundation • The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley • The Environmental Stewardship Assistance Foundation for Louisiana • Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities • The Harold & Mimi Hulbert Foundation • The National Trust for Historic Preservation • The Construction Zone • New Orleans Food and Farm Network • Sarah Snider Foundation • Transforma Projects • Tulane School of Architecture • Tulane/Sewanee Center for BioEnvironmental Research • Waggoner & Ball Architects • Johnson Controls, Inc. • Dash Lumber • Envision Wild Foundation • John, C. Williams Architects • Eschweiler-Dunne-Rigal • Cox, Allen and Associates Architects

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