

PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP 2018



THE ALBERT AND TINA

**SMALL
CENTER**

FOR COLLABORATIVE DESIGN



TULANE SCHOOL
OF ARCHITECTURE



TELL
US
YOUR
WATER
Story!!!

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- A photograph of a person's hand holding a book. The book has a green cover with white text. The visible text includes 'Small Center' at the top, 'artsnew' at the bottom, and a small logo in the center.
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ABOUT SMALL CENTER

The Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design is the community design center of the Tulane School of Architecture. Small Center believes that innovative solutions to the most pressing problems facing our communities lie in giving voice to the residents who live here. Partner organizations bring their project ideas to us, and we bring our design expertise to bear in collaboration, supporting New Orleans residents in imagining and pursuing projects that strengthen neighborhoods and contribute to a city shaped by its residents.

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Each year, Small Center hires young designers from the Tulane School of Architecture to work in an eight week intensive fellowship. This is an opportunity for students to put their education into practice by advancing community-based projects that respond to needs of New Orleans residents. Small Center engages with the fellows as thought partners on questions and challenges in the field of public interest design. The 2018 Fellowship was made possible through the generous support of Morris Adjmi and Associates, William and Jane Sizeler, and Eskew Dumez + Ripple.



MEET THE FELLOWS



DANA ELLIOT

M.ARCH 1 | 3RD YEAR

Getting out of the typical architecture studio environment and diving into the ins and outs of water in the Gulf Coast and Mississippi Delta regions this summer was a new and challenging way for me to use my design education. The opportunity to work as a team as we researched and digested the complexities of these issues was particularly unique; I think I learned just as much from the four other fellows as I did in my own research, and I know that the work we created together was far greater than the sum of its parts. I am grateful to the other fellows, as well as the faculty and staff that we worked with at the Small Center for encouraging us to play, explore, and experiment as much as we did this summer.

It was particularly satisfying to work at many different scales and see how those disparate threads weave together into the larger story of water in New Orleans. Throughout my education, I have worked from a framework of critiquing power structures with the intent of a more equitable distribution of resources. We had a healthy dose of critique of the major power players in these issues this summer, but it's a completely different thing to turn that on yourself and consider the larger impact of the work we did. I hope that the series of tools we developed this summer can contribute to a more positive relationship with water in the Greater New Orleans area.



FAVORITE PART OF FELLOWSHIP

All of the field trips we took

FAVORITE BODY OF WATER

Mill River/Paradise Pond,
Massachusetts

FAVORITE POTHOLE

The crater I crashed into on my way home in May

HOBBIES

Cycling, Cooking, Museums

SENECA GRAY

M.ARCH 1 | 2ND YEAR



FAVORITE PART OF FELLOWSHIP

Field Study Traveling

FAVORITE POTHOLE

Upperline Street and Perrier Street

FAVORITE BODY OF WATER

Hogback Lake, Michigan

HOBBIES

Ultimate Frisbee, mystery novel reading, grilled cheese connoisseur

Joining the fellowship after my first year of the 3.5 year graduate program felt like a natural progression of my education and Tulane Architecture School's mission. I had recently obtained a treasure chest of geographic-ecologic-socioeconomic history of urban New Orleans in both studio and elective coursework. While it felt vast at the time, it evolved significantly when provided with the opportunity to speak with and, more importantly, visit engaged folks during our field studies.

This evolution sparked an extensive comprehension that globally, delta-coastal ecosystems are also grappling with similar-yet-distinctive circumstances. What is more, it has encouraged critical observation of dissimilar locations. I hail from several northern states, so New Orleans is a climate and location I had not engaged with prior. Now, I question how the built environments I am familiar with manage water.

CLAYTON HAKES

M.ARCH | 5TH YEAR

Though I have learned much throughout the course of the fellowship (sometimes it feels like too much!), nothing has been more powerful than learning the true value of collaboration. With issues as complex and convoluted as New Orleans water issues, no one person can cause meaningful change by themselves. We were fortunate enough as fellows to be connected to a diverse network of knowledgeable and passionate peers who made our successes possible and our failures a learning opportunity.

To me, the most moving experience during the fellowship was our travel week to outlying southern towns and cities. When you live your whole life in or close to urban areas, it becomes easy to forget that anything else exists, but the reality is that there are people there that are just as (if not more) passionate about doing work that strives to improve the daily lives of everyone. Establishing some level of connection to the greater region of where you live is such an enriching experience and I cannot wait to explore more of the south!



FAVORITE PART OF FELLOWSHIP

Field Trips to Alabama and Mississippi

FAVORITE BODY OF WATER

Lake Chautauqua

FAVORITE POTHOLE

The neighborhood pothole at Adams and Panola!

HOBBIES

Bass + Guitar, Photography, Biking, Live Music



COLLIN MOOSBRUGGER

M.ARCH | 5TH YEAR

FAVORITE PART OF FELLOWSHIP

Scaling the overgrowth on the walls of Fort Macomb, and dodging the fire ants that mauled Lucy in the process

FAVORITE POTHOLE

The since-mended deltaic crevasse on the downtown side of Spruce and Carrollton

FAVORITE BODY OF WATER

Bayou Petit Gaillou in Chauvin

HOBBIES

Cooking & Eating, Walking and Biking the City, Collage, Parody, and Woodwork

The opportunity to address the region's water issues in such a transdisciplinary way was critical to my development as a designer and the expansion of my conception of my role within society. The experience of breaking down such a complex and dynamic social structure through the lens of my architectural education gave me a much deeper appreciation for work that transgresses traditional professional boundaries. Furthermore, my recognition of the value of an architectural perspective in a conversation with little to do with buildings helped me in parallel to deepen my appreciation for the expertise of non-architects in pursuit of a more equitable built environment.

From the start, our projects have been framed as researchable inquiries that necessitate open conversation and in-person observation of city systems, taking us on a myriad of field trips in the city, state, and region and introducing us to dozens of local experts in the process. In contrast to the broad and shallow knowledge base needed to negotiate a design studio, the fellowship's focused deep-dive into water management concepts and systems has been a welcome, albeit often overwhelming, change of pace, one that for me has brought into focus these issues of such critical importance to Coastal Louisiana. Certainly, the work produced by the five of us has value in itself, but to me the big payoff of the PID Fellowship is the new way of approaching design problems that I'll carry with me through my final year at Tulane and my career in design beyond.

LUCY SATZEWICH

M.ARCH 1 | 2ND YEAR

This fellowship provided an amazing opportunity for us to take an in depth look at the relationship between coastal and urban ecologies. We had the opportunity to hear to a range of voices and visit critical sites from across disciplines that deal with water in Louisiana. From inside the city it is difficult to see the impacts that civic infrastructure has on its surrounding area, and almost impossible to see veiled environmental damage to neighboring rural land and water. This has been an important opportunity to make meaningful connections between the issues that face New Orleans and coastal Louisiana.

As a group, I think we have developed a new appreciation for how complicated large-scale water management issues are and how small-scale changes can alleviate some of the burden on neighborhoods if the city and state make large scale decisions that facilitate a safer and more equitable environment. I hope our research will contribute to the ongoing discussions Louisiana will be having over the next 50 years.



FAVORITE PART OF FELLOWSHIP

Visiting the Perry Lakes Park
Birding Tower

FAVORITE BODY OF WATER

Lake Erie

FAVORITE POTHOLE

Music and North Villere (Filled
May 2018-RIP)

HOBBIES

Reading, drawing and driving
around the country.

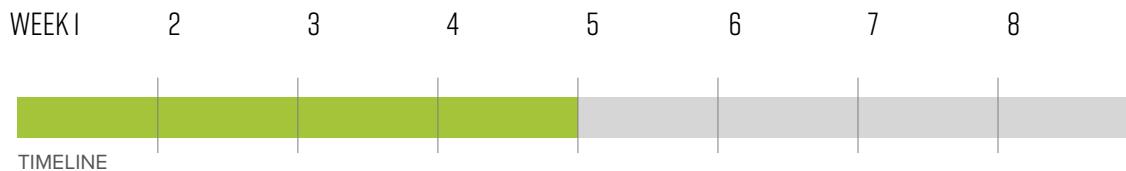
FROM POTHOLES TO THE COAST



ABOUT THE PROJECT

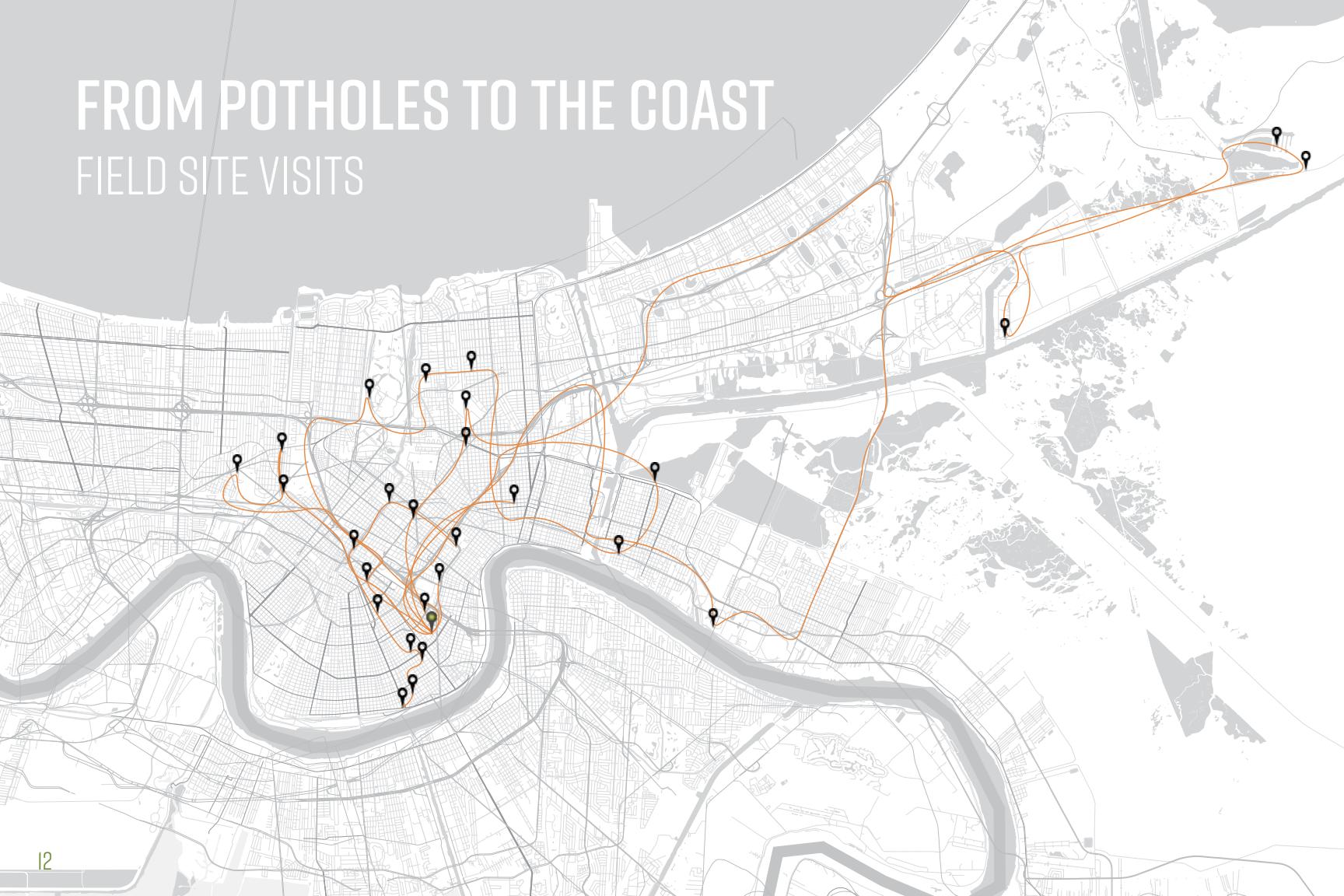
Beginning as a graphic advocacy project, the fellows met with local non-profits, government agencies, NGO's and collaboratives, took field trips to learn about water infrastructure, and researched what it means to operate in the broad arena of New Orleans water management. It quickly became apparent that although there are dozens of groups working towards a common goal, a lack of communication within the network led to efforts being redundant, messages not reaching the public and public voice not being heard by authority.

Noticing this systematic disarray, the fellows created an index of players in New Orleans water management. The fellows contacted organizations, collected local “water stories”, researched organization’s public education campaigns, and identified “on the ground” projects. This resulted in the beginning of a comprehensive New Orleans water management web.



FROM POTHOLES TO THE COAST

FIELD SITE VISITS





NEW ORLEANS IS A GULF COAST CITY

To begin the project, the fellows embarked on a number of field trips around greater New Orleans to better understand the city's critical relationship with water. Field trip destinations included Bayou Bienvenue, London Ave. Canal, Mirabeau Rain Garden, Lake Borgne Surge Barrier, Pumping Station 1, and many more. Beneath each trip lay a common thread: New Orleans is a coastal city and its water bodies and infrastructure are interdependent and inseparable.

These trips also demonstrated the vast complexity of deltaic water management. From the scale of the pothole to the scale of the coast; between social, environmental, and economic implications, the task of making sense of such a network is no small feat.



A MULTI-LAYERED APPROACH

New Orleans and the Gulf South are continually threatened by changing climatic conditions. Sea level is rising, wetlands are eroding, hurricanes and storm events are increasing in intensity - all on top of New Orleans' existing age-old flooding problems and land subsidence.

Existing efforts to reduce disaster risk and improve long-term outlook can be aligned in two categories: urban water management and coastal restoration. Coastal and urban areas are intrinsically tied and cannot be discussed as separate issues. While there are numerous entities working on both issues, communication between groups has been sup-par and no central index of the network currently exists.

Upon identifying this gap, the fellows spent the first four weeks of the fellowship identifying and re-arranging players in water management to create a document that would provide clarity and improve efficiency in the New Orleans water network.

REGULATION:

FEMA NFIP: National Flood Insurance Program
Office of Community Development
NORPC: N.O. Regional Planning Commission
City Planning Commission
Hazard Mitigation Office

IMPLEMENTATION:

SWB: Sewerage and Water Board
DPW: Department of Public Works
NORD: New Orleans Recreational Development Commission
NORA: New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
Growing Green
Dana Brown, Waggoner & Ball
Urban Conservancy Front Yard Initiative

GREYSCAPE PROTECTION:

USACE: US Army Corps of Engineers

LEVEES:

FPA-W: Southeast LA Flood Protection Authority-West
FPA-E: Flood Protection Authority-East
Levees.org
*pre-Katrina, each parish had its own levee board

CITY DRAINAGE:

SWB: Sewerage and Water Board
DPW: Department of Public Works

GREENSCAPE & BLUESCAPE ADVOCACY:

Friends of the Lafitte Greenway
Green Light New Orleans
NOLA Tree Project
SOUL: Sustaining Our Urban Landscape
TPL: Trust for Public Land

WATER EDUCATION:

Ripple Effect
Groundwork NOLA
ISeeChange
New Harmony High School

VISIONING FOR URBAN WATERSCAPING:

Greater N.O. Urban Water Plan (2013)
Waggoner and Ball Architects
Dana Brown and Associates
Dutch Dialogues

Water Collaborative of Greater N.O.
LA Urban Stormwater Coalition
Water Works
Water Wise NOLA

URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

FEMA

GOHSEP: Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

NOHSEP: N.O. Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

EVACUATION:

DOT: Department of Transportation
NOLA Ready
Evacuator

CRISIS MANAGEMENT:

NWS: National Weather Service

LA National Guard

RECOVERY:

FEMA

OCD-DRU: Disaster Recovery Unit
NORA: N.O. Redevelopment Authority

RESILIENCE PLANNING:

Resilient New Orleans (2015)
Climate Action for A Resilient New Orleans (2017)
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability
100 Resilient Cities
Common Ground Relief

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT:

CSED: Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development
Global Green
Water Wise NOLA

FUNDING:

FEMA HMGP: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

HUD: Housing and Urban Development

CDBG-NDR: HUD's Community Development Block Grant - National Disaster Resilience Competition

SELA: USAACE's Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project

GOMESA: Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (2006)

RESTORE Act: Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (2012)

Foundation for LA

GNOF: Greater New Orleans Foundation

Greater New Orleans, Inc.

BP's Deepwater Horizon Settlements

WATER RESEARCH:

USGS-WARC: Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
Louisiana Sea Grant

The Water Institute of the Gulf

The Water Campus (Baton Rouge)

PIES: UNO's Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences

GERS: Gulf Estuarine Research Society

SOCIAL-ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH:

Lowlander Center
Tulane Bywater Institute
Tulane Small Center
LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio
UNO-CHART: Center for Hazard Assessment, Response, and Technology

VISIONING FOR COASTAL RESTORATION:

LA Coastal Master Plan (2017, '12, '07)

CPRA: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

GRN: Gulf Restoration Network
LPBF: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation*

Restore the Mississippi River Delta:

LPBF
CRCL

Audubon LA
Environmental Defense Fund

National Wildlife Federation

CRCL: Coalition to Restore Coastal LA

Restore or Retreat

America's WETLAND Foundation

anti-petro

OK with petro

*LPBF does not endorse the LA Coastal MP

REGULATION:

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
CWPRA: Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (1990)
NOAA: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
DOI: Department of The Interior
DEQ: Department of Environmental Quality
DNR: Department of Natural Resources
WLF: Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

IMPLEMENTATION:

USACE: Army Corps of Engineers
NFWF: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

GCREC: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

CPRA: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

COMMUNITY ADAPTATION:
LA-SAFE: LA's Strategic Adaptations for Future Environments

DOCUMENTATION:

Lake Catherine Community

ISeeChange

Coastal Reporting Team (New York Times & Times Picayune)

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY:

United Houma Nation

LEAN: LA Environmental Action Network

LA Bucket Brigade

Another Gulf Is Possible

WATER EDUCATION:

SLWD: South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center
UNO Coastal Education and Research Facility
LUMCON: The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium



COLOR-SCALE KEY

Bold type indicates players with the most power

URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT

ARENA OVERLAP

COASTAL RESTORATION



MEANS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Interview
- Meeting
- Survey

TELL
US
YOUR
WATER
Story!!



GULF SOUTH EXPLORATIONS





During week five of the fellowship, the fellows took field trips around the Gulf South to gain a better understanding of how small-town and rural public interest design operate and to collaborate with the broader public interest design network. The field trip destinations included coastal research facilities such as, CPRA headquarters in Baton Rouge, LUMCON in Cocodrie, and our neighboring design as well as design-build programs, Auburn University's Rural Studio, the Carl Small Town Center at Mississippi State University, Delta Design-Build, with many more.

TIMELINE

BATON ROUGE
COCODRIE
MONTGOMERY
NEWBERN
GREENSBORO
GREENWOOD
CLINTON





TACTICAL URBANISM



“Guerilla gardening. Pavement-to-parks. Open Streets. These are all urban interventions of a sort - quick, often temporary, cheap projects that aim to make a small part of a city more lively or enjoyable. These types of projects have grown in popularity in recent years, and they even have a new name: tactical urbanism”

- Nate Berg, Citylab





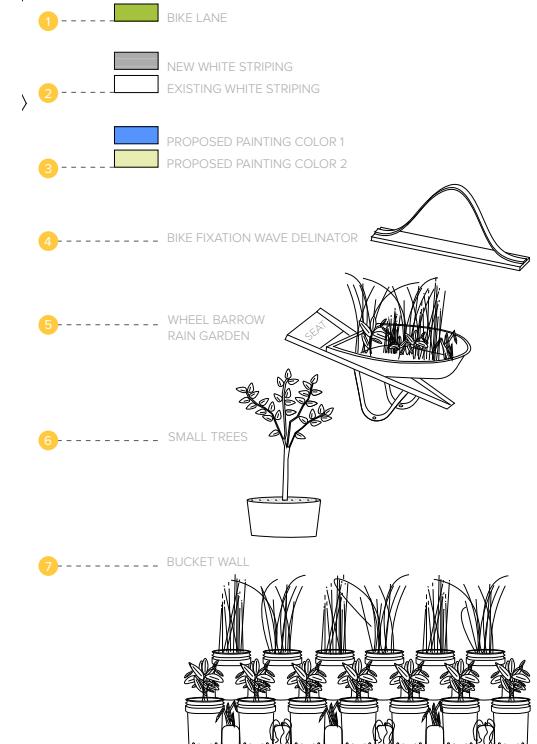
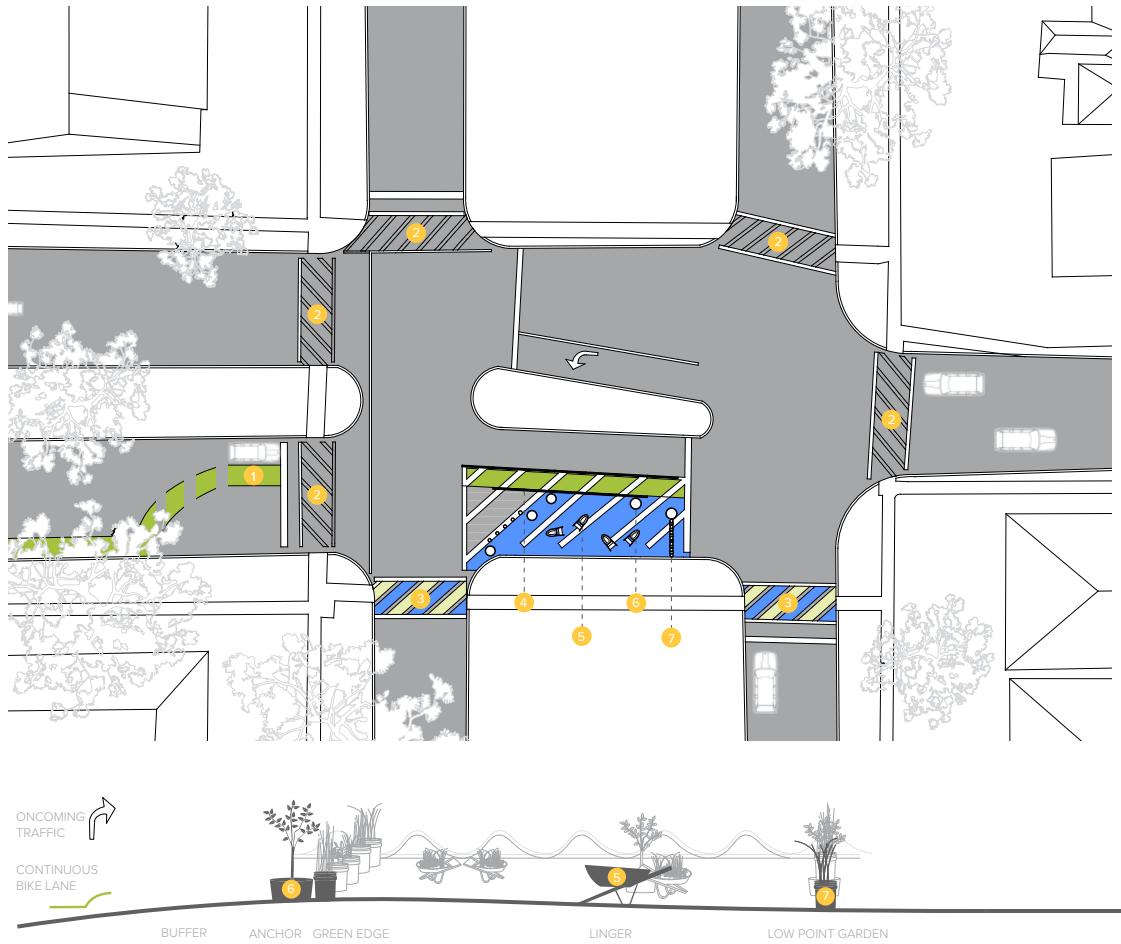
GENTILLY CROSSINGS: MIRABEAU AND ELYSIAN FIELDS

In preparation for forthcoming Gentilly Resilience District projects, the fellows partnered with Bike Easy NOLA, Urban Conservancy, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, and the City of New Orleans to design a traffic calming feature that would advocate traffic safety, green infrastructure, and urban place-making. The goal as set forth by Bike Easy NOLA was to create a pop-up rain garden at the intersection of Mirabeau Avenue and Elysian Fields Avenue.

While a rain garden is typically sited on low ground so that it can collect adjacent runoff, the intersection was located on the highest ground in the neighborhood. This posed a unique design dilemma to the fellows. After countless iterations, the fellows formulated a concept that would utilize a wall of planted buckets at the east side of the site to catch, pool, and slow water from the high point on the west side of the neutral ground. This pooled water would then be caught by the buckets, keeping the plants healthy for the duration of their one month deployment.

Other techniques deployed at the site include an added bike lane, wheelbarrow bench/planters, road painting, and potted trees which will remain in the neighborhood after the project is removed.

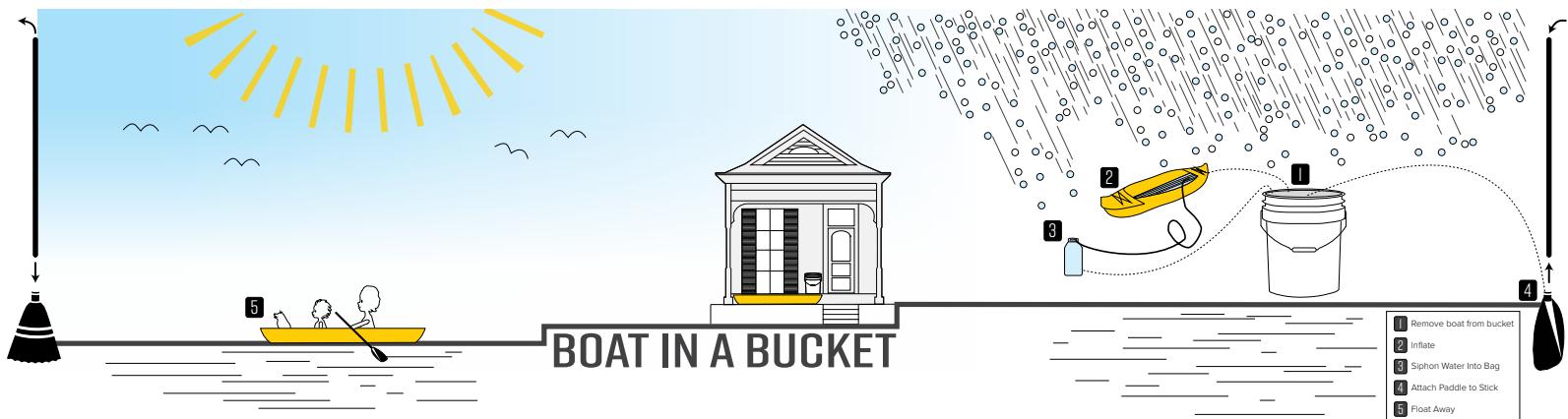
GENTILLY CROSSINGS





BOAT-IN-A-BUCKET

Although New Orleans is surrounded by water, residents' interaction with it is largely limited to rainstorms and flood events, creating a negative culture surrounding water. In response, the fellows designed a Boat-in-a-Bucket float kit. The kit provides an inflatable canoe, drinking water collection bag and paddle. The kit enables residents to be better prepared for rain events and encourages interaction with water on those not-so-emergency days.



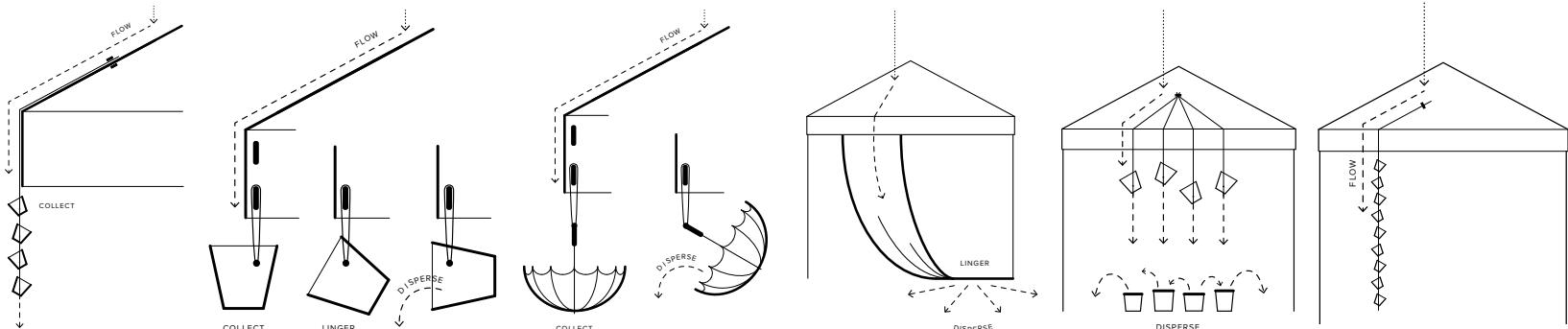


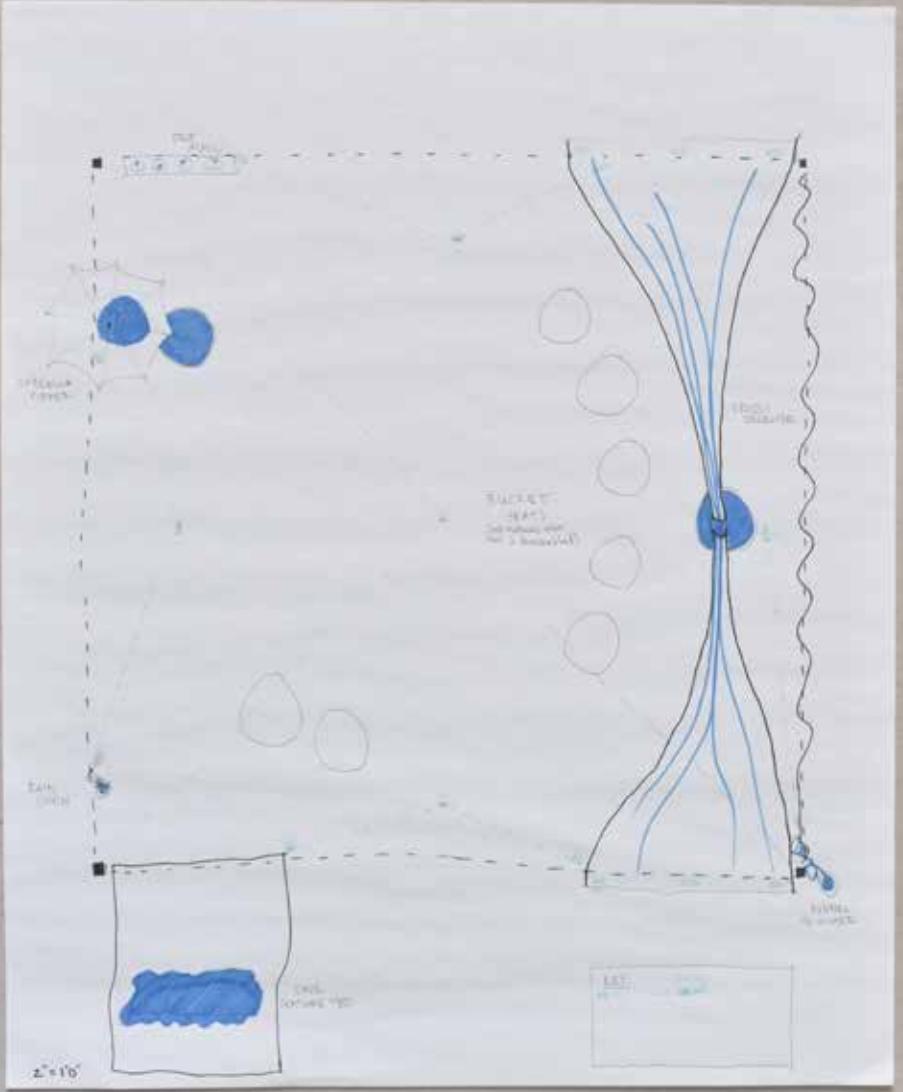


SMALL CENTER WEATHERVANE

Acting as an interactive demonstration kit-of-parts, the Small Center Weathervane (or watervane) illustrates how large amounts of water can be directed to small areas to serve a variety of practical uses. This concept is analogous to the concept of a rain garden in that it strives to make something useful out of rain that is so often a burden for New Orleans' residents.

Features of the tent include a dog-water bucket, acoustic drip-drums, bucket-seating fixtures, a mist-sprayer, and an array of rain chain and catchment features. The tent can be used for green infrastructure advocacy, general education, or just shade on a hot summer day.









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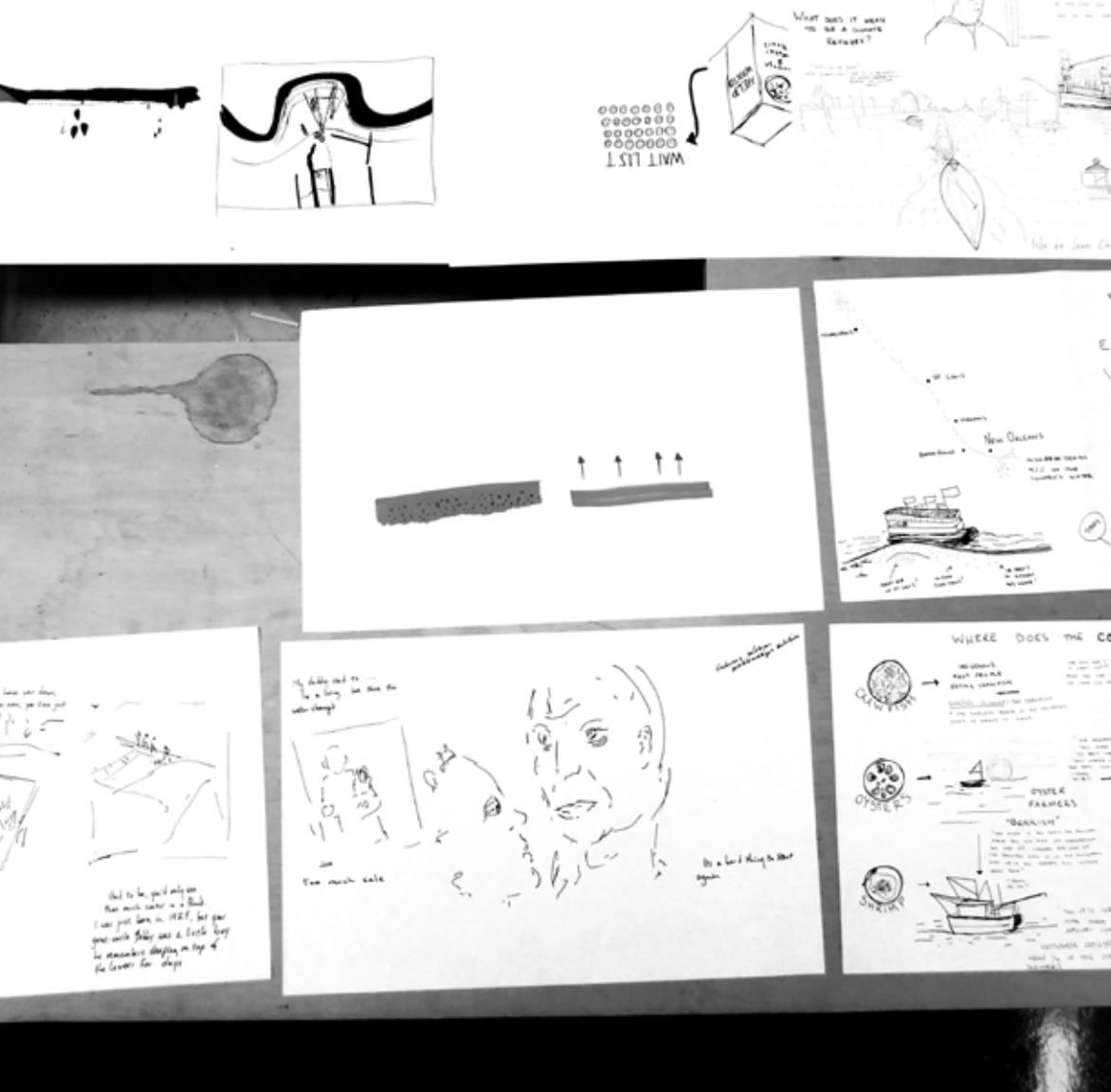
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