Added Value

Nonprofits Contributions to Local Resilience Initiative for Built and Cultural Heritage
New Orleans Case Study

Universities
Museums
Preservationists
Design Professionals
Environmentalists
1849 Flood

This “portrait of an old drawing” shows the extent of flooding from an 1849 levee break and lists the territory north of the ridge as “SWAMP FOREST”. 
2005 Flood

This NOAA image shows flooding in New Orleans following levee and floodwall failures caused by Hurricane Katrina
2017 Flood

This photo, courtesy Nola.com, shows a family wading home after pump and turbine failures flooded streets on Aug. 5, 2017.
Lessons from Floods

• Shocks and stressors both invite reform, but shocks tend to bring resources, focus.

• The impulse to recover from shocks is strong and often contrary to re-imagining the status quo.

• In the wake of recovery, it becomes possible to talk about preservation (of heritage) rather than restoration (of the status quo)
Public vs. Private Spheres

PUBLIC
• Water, Air, Wildlife (Public Trust)
• Infrastructure, inc. Roads, Sewers
• Public Lands

PRIVATE
• Private Lands
• Most Patrimony (Dwellings, Structures, Cultural Practices)
• Some Infrastructure (Utilities, Sump Pumps)
Nonprofit Entities

• Add value by bridging the public and private sectors.
• This happens at multiple scales, from corporation and nations to residents and small towns.
Local Nonprofit Players

PLACE BASED
• Community Development Corporations
• Neighborhood Associations
• Heritage Property Owners (e.g. Congregations, Universities)

MISSION DRIVEN
• Museums and Cultural Institutions
• Advocacy Organizations
• Educational Organizations
• Professional Associations (e.g. AIA, APA, APT)
• Community Foundations
Dutch Dialogues

Tulane University, the Dutch Embassy in the U.S., USGBC and numerous design practitioners explored water management alternatives.
Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan

GNO Inc., a regional economic development corporation hire Waggonner & Ball and other practitioners to develop a three-parish plan.
Horizon Initiative

Informal convening of environmentalists and natural resource professionals evolved into Louisiana Water Economy Network
Urban Water Series

Greater New Orleans Foundation funded trips for staff and policymakers to learn about municipal best practices followed by technical classes.
Water Wise

Global Green and practitioners from Water Wise and Dana Brown & Associates provide education and consultation to Treme residents.
Front Yard Initiative

Urban Conservancy uses philanthropic dollars to reimburse property owners for excess concrete removal and green infrastructure installations.
Water Collaborative

Convene practitioners for pro bono projects and professional development; focus advocacy power across the water management sector; conduct public workshops and walk-and-leans
Other Players

Propeller rewards and assists entrepreneurs

I See Change leverages citizen science

Green Light provides free rain barrels
Relative Weaknesses and Challenges

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- Legacy of Corruption and Lack of Credibility
- Inconsistency (across departments, administrations)
- Lack of Flexibility to Experiment, Raise Revenue

LOCAL NONPROFITS
- Leading from Behind (Funders, Members, Media)
- Competition among Worthy Causes
- Staff Inexperienced, Turnover
Relative Strengths and Capacities

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
• Regulatory Authority
• Data and Information on the Built Environment
• Receive State and Federal Funding

LOCAL NONPROFITS
• Downscaled and Groundtruth Big Ideas
• Traverse Political Boundaries
• Trusted by Community Members
• Raise Philanthropic Funds
• Procurement Flexibility
Conclusions

ASK
• For Help
• For Information
• For a Seat at the Table
• For Money (or References)

ACKNOWLEDGE
• What You Do Well and Don’t
• What Your Partners Can Do
• The Value of Teams, Community
• The Zeitgeist