



## August 2017 Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

### Public Policy Committee

In August, the Policy Committee again reviewed its Policy Wins for the first half of 2017, which included successful advocacy efforts at the local, state and national levels. Also discussed was the upcoming release of the City of New Orleans' 2018 Budget and how housing funds might be spent. The Committee hosted a Teach-In on August 21<sup>st</sup> to educate and inform the community around the budget process – specifically in relation to housing funds. The Committee then reviewed GNOHA's comments to the City's Office of Community Development's 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan, which were due on August 7<sup>th</sup>. An update on HANO's Agency Plan was also provided.

### Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee met in August to discuss Housing NOLA Action Plan Policy Item 4.5 (*GNOHA will work with the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors to include energy efficiency measures on their Multiple Listing Service (MLS) sheets to highlight homes with energy efficiencies*). The partnership between GNOHA and NOMAR did not pan out as expected, therefore a partnership with NAREB (National Association of Real Estate Brokers) will be forged in order to push this goal forward in 2018. The committee will continue to think of ways to support the development of energy efficient homes.

### ***Nonprofit Roundtable***

The Nonprofit Roundtable did not meet in August, but will meet in September. GNOHA submitted a letter to the Louisiana Housing Corporation about the issues that continue to plague the Nonprofit Rebuild Pilot Program. (NRPP)

### Rental Committee

GNOHA is scheduling a workshop between developer members and the team behind Energy Smart, the Energy program to incentivize energy efficiency in multifamily developments, to discuss how the program can be improved.

### Outreach and Advocacy Committee

The Put Housing First Campaign is continuing to secure the support of the initial 10,000 registered voters for the upcoming elections. The Platform was sent out in August and an overwhelming majority of the candidates in the nine races (Mayor, City Council and State Treasurer) responded. The Platform committee and the GNOHA Board of Governors will review the responses and conduct in person interviews for the assessment which will be released on September 21st.

### Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee did not meet this month, but will soon begin writing letters to representatives from national agencies to gain their support around a disaster housing pipeline.

### The Collaborative

The Collaborative held two separate meetings in August, a Financial Fitness Curriculum Working Group meeting and a LHEC Review Team meeting. The Financial Fitness Curriculum Working Group met to discuss the final draft of the standardized curriculum for financial fitness in great detail. The Curriculum Working Group finalized and adopted the new standards. The goal of having a standardized curriculum is to provide education to renters and future homebuyers, to help improve client credit, and encourage financial habits that help clients save.

The LHEC Review Team met to review the 2018-2019 LHEC Application before its publication at the end of August. The Review Team also reviewed the newly adopted financial fitness curriculum standards in this meeting.

### Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Committee did not meet in August, but a meeting with *trepwise* was held at the end of the month to begin work on building a shared solutions service model. The primary uses of the shared solutions are for financial needs (bookkeeping, development finance, construction management, IT, software purchases, and client management services). A small grant from the Greater New Orleans Foundation was awarded to help with the implementation of the shared solutions framework and GNOHA will be working with *trepwise* to conduct a feasibility analysis of the Shared Solution model.

The UNO PLUS Development Finance Certificate Program has received the CEA from the City of New Orleans. An update on the official start date will be provided when available. GNOHA member organizations will be eligible participate, along with the individuals and organizations identified by The Network for Economic Opportunities. The Capacity Building Calendar is complete, and the search for more capacity building opportunities is ongoing.

### HousingNOLA Initiatives

#### ***HousingNOLA Leadership Board***

The HousingNOLA Working Groups are meeting to finalize the 2017 Report Card which will be released on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at Dillard's 11th Annual Housing, Health and Community Resources Fair.

#### ***Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative***

The Trust Fund Steering Committee continues to work on securing a dedicated revenue source for the state's housing trust fund. Committee members are exploring options that could involve escrow interest and legislation in the 2018 session.

#### ***Workforce Housing Council***

The Workforce Housing Council did not meet in August, but staff are continuing to work on workforce housing issues including NORTA's Strategic Mobility Plan.

### ***Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team***

The Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team did not meet in August, but staff are continuing to respond to the Master Plan amendments and next steps for the ordinance.

### ***Assessor Working Group***

The leaders from the Assessor's Working Group met with Assessor Williams in August to discuss next steps for Road Home homeowners, tax credit valuations, nonprofit assessments and tax relief for low-income homeowners in rapidly gentrifying areas.

### ***Lenders Roundtable***

The Lenders Roundtable did not hold a meeting in August, but will meet in September to discuss the structure and presentation of the data compiled to project the housing development funding gap over the next five years. Data was provided outlining the city's commitment for 7,500 units; it is projected that 10,952 units needed for <80% AMI renters. The Lenders Roundtable also discussed the investment opportunities for projects that currently have some public investment, but still lack the private capital necessary to complete the units. The Lenders Roundtable plans to host a finance summit later this year.

### ***Insurance Task Force***

The Insurance Task Force did not meet in August. The Task Force will discuss the next steps involving a survey that is being created for homeowners and developers, in the hopes that these survey results will give a foundation for policy recommendations that can be brought to the commissioner.

### ***Healthy Homes Initiative***

The Healthy Homes Initiative recently developed a new work plan with the help of a national group, the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, and the National Resources Defense Council to pilot a preventative health program to address mold and other building issues that can lead to health problems. The Healthy Homes Ordinance is still pending and is a key component of the Put Housing First platform for candidates.