



Standing Committee & Activity Reports

October 2018

Highlights

- ❖ The **Capacity Building Initiative** will be working in the New Year to design and implement affordable housing and racial equity orientation program for junior employees of GNOHA member organizations.
- ❖ **PHF Scorecard:** The Candidates' grades were listed on the Candidate Scorecard along with GNOHA's positions on Louisiana state constitutional amendments, including Yes on Amendment 2, the Unanimous Jury Law.
- ❖ **Undesign the Redline:** In partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, GNOHA and several partner organizations served on the advisory committee to develop content for this interactive exhibit. The exhibit is an interactive timeline, documenting federal and local segregation policy and development patterns from the Jim Crow era until the present day. The advisory committee developed content to highlight moments in New Orleans history that have escalated racial disparity and marginalized communities of color. The exhibit concludes with a 'Call to Action', based on priorities laid out in GNOHA's 10 Year Plan, STR regulation and opportunities to engage in upcoming advocacy opportunities.
- ❖ The **Southern Convening** occurred from October 17th-19th, where housing advocates throughout the South met to discuss strategies and best practices for securing affordable housing. The primary goal of the convening was to provide more context and solutions for housing trust funds. The Louisiana cohort met to discuss goals and strategies for 2019, and will share these goals and objectives on the November HousingLouisiana conference call.

Capacity Building

There are no significant updates in October for the Capacity Building Initiative. GNOHA will be working in the New Year to design and implement affordable housing and racial equity orientation program for junior employees of GNOHA member organizations.

Developer Pipeline Study

Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance is working on their Developer Pipeline issues and ways to increase capacity and workflow for developers. In October, GNOHA Received 14 responses to the Developers Survey and GNOHA will be presenting their analysis and action plan in the November Monthly meeting.

Shared Solutions Initiative

In October, GNOHA continued to work with ADP representative to finalize options for a collective health insurance and payroll shared solution for GNOHA members. GNOHA has been collecting additional information from members, however lack of member responses has delayed the process into November. All members will have packages to choose from starting in November.

GNOHA is also researching and curating professional development opportunities in the areas of finance management, marketing, and donor relations/fundraising that are being offered by local organizations and will continue to share these opportunities with shared solutions participants.

HelpNOLANow/Own the Crescent

Own the Crescent

Research and framing for the Own the Crescent webtool continued throughout October. GNOHA staff met with members of the Resiliency Committee to discuss information about resiliency, insurance and flood risk to include in the site. Other content to advertise homebuyer education and homeownership opportunities is being developed. Based on feedback provided in the September Own the Crescent focus group, a new membership fee plan has been developed, which will be more affordable for non-profits and GNOHA members.

The Own the Crescent website will be a resource for finding affordable homeownership opportunities: homes to purchase, buyer subsidy, homes for sale and relaunching the Own the Crescent website and referral system. Nonprofit developers, homebuyer educators and other real estate professionals supporting affordable homeownership can list their programs and services on our website, for the contribution of a fee. GNOHA is now accepting membership and sponsorship applications to have your properties, homebuyer education services or home financing product advertised on the Website, which is projected to launch in the New Year!

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee met on October 10th and discussed the restarting Own the Crescent and the Nonprofit Rebuilders Roundtable. These conversations were followed by a robust conversation about development challenges. Members would like to continue our advocacy campaign to ensure a significant percentage of the NORA LLT Properties are granted to developers of affordable housing for first time homeowners. These ongoing efforts will roll over to our next meeting, which will be held in early December.

Nonprofit Rebuilding Roundtable

The Nonprofit Rebuilders Roundtable met on October 30th, with a new committee comprised of longterm and some new members. In our meeting, we discussed challenges, opportunities for capacity building and shared solutions and the HelpNOLA Now webtool and referral system. The committee will pursue solutions to address financing and capacity challenges that prevent rebuilder organizations from being able to expand their caseload. United Saints estimates they have to turn down 80% of requests for rehab and rebuilding services. The committee is interested in researching micro-financing through credit unions and the Federal Home Loan Bank, as well as grants, to assist homebuyers in financing rehabilitation efforts. GNOHA will research opportunities to provide some support for ongoing project management, staff capacity and operating costs for members.

The committee discussed a system for collecting client intake and referrals through HelpNOLA Now. The next meeting will be held in early December, hopefully with representation from HDLC and Code Enforcement.

Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative

The Homebuyer Education Collaborative met on October 24th where members learned about new training opportunities for Homebuyer Educators and we heard a presentation from representatives of the Finance Authority and NHS about the new eHome America Program. The Collaborative gave feedback, discussing pros and cons of this virtual education tool. In addition to our meeting, Collaborative members participated in 3 HUD Study Sessions with Deborah Graham and a Fair Housing Training with Southeaster Louisiana Legal Services.

The Collaborative Review Team

Six homebuyer education agencies successfully applied for recertification for the LHEC. The review team is meeting to review applications in November and will schedule one-on-one meetings to go over their evaluation in December, with the goal of having recertification completed by January 2019.

Rental Committee

The Rental Committee met on September 21, 2018. The focus was on the Louisiana Housing Search Website, and increasing usage between prospective renters and landlords of affordable housing units. Also, GNOHA would like feedback on how to improve the Developer survey that helps identify barriers that developer partners face when trying to create affordable housing.

Section 8 Subcommittee

The Section 8 subcommittee did not meet in October.

Homelessness/Supportive Services/Transitional Housing

In October, SPAA continues its process to secure funding from the HUD National Continuum of Care funding competition that continues to be based on reducing the number of chronically homeless persons in New Orleans and improved diversion methods that keep people from becoming homeless. The new low barrier shelter in New Orleans has been in operation about 2.5 months and continues to be at capacity, providing shelter to over 100 chronically homeless persons.

Resiliency Committee

The Resiliency Committee met On October 9, 2018. Representatives from the City Of New Orleans engaged with the committee and discussed some of the city's strategies and plans for future resiliency. This includes \$80M in storm management projects in Gentilly, Connect the Crescent, and the introduction of Climate Action Equity Forums, a grassroots method of forum hosting implemented to discuss topics about how climate change directly impact daily lives. The community is encouraged to participate. Action items will be developed around the community's suggestions. The Resiliency Committee also discussed the Stafford Act and how it could potentially effect recovery efforts in the future and committed to exploring the Stafford Act more in depth during the November meeting.

Insurance Task Force

There were no significant updates in October, however, the committee will continue to follow the current status of the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition

In October, GNOHA presented in a discussion regarding flood events and comparing/contrasting the recovery efforts from hurricanes Katrina, Harvey, and Florence. The Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition also focused its attention on Hurricane Florence Recovery efforts in the Carolinas. By the end of October, in North Carolina, FEMA had approved 29,781 Individual Assistance applications and 104.8 Million for all Individuals and Household programs. In South Carolina, FEMA has approved 4,394 Individual Assistance applications and \$18.4M for all Individuals and Household programs (IHP). Those dollars approved does not necessarily mean money has been distributed. Another major area of concern for the Coalition was the extreme devastation due to Hurricane Michael, especially in Panama City and the lack of adequate response from FEMA. By the end of October, Mayor Brudnicki's report stated that the biggest obstacle Panama City is still facing is the displacement of 10,000 residents. At least 30% to 40% of homes were destroyed and need to be demolished. There are no alternative structures that can be converted into housing for residents including churches, community centers, and other buildings. Panama City had not received any information from FEMA about options available to them for temporary housing. GNOHA will continue to communicate with the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition to monitor and assist with the recovery efforts of these cities devastated by disasters.

Put Housing First/Outreach & Advocacy

Advocacy CoP

The Advocacy CoP exists to 1) learn advocacy practices with and from one another and use them to strengthen our individual and collective advocacy efforts and 2) work together to better understand and address systemic inequities in our communities in the city, state and the South.

In Phase 3, the CoP will work on the following practices: Building Outside/Inside Strategy, Spokesperson Training, Tactics for Managing Opposition and Facilitation Training. Strategies and tools for dismantling white supremacy will be a component of each of these practices. In October, the Community of Practice met to discuss the future of the CoP. The CoP collectively selected GNOHA as the administrative partner for the CoP moving forward until the future of the CoP can be definitively decided upon. The CoP has decided on a number of standing design teams to continue making decisions around education/training, administration/funding, and advocacy/outreach on behalf of the group. The group will continue meeting every 6 weeks until the future of the group is decided or until program funding expires. The group will engage in a holiday brunch planning meeting in December and will host a mixer for elected officials' staff in the new year.

Undesign the Redline

In partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, GNOHA and several partner organizations served on the advisory committee to develop content for this interactive exhibit. The exhibit is an interactive timeline, documenting federal and local segregation

policy and development patterns from the Jim Crow era until the present day. The advisory committee developed content to highlight moments in New Orleans history that have escalated racial disparity and marginalized communities of color. The exhibit concludes with a 'Call to Action', based on priorities laid out in GNOHA's 10 Year Plan, STR regulation and opportunities to engage in upcoming advocacy opportunities.

The UnDesign the Redline exhibit launched at the Albert and Tina Small Center on November 1st. It will be open to the public in the Tina and Albert Small Center Monday-Friday from 9 am – 5pm, Saturdays from 1-5 pm and Sundays 1-3 pm, subject to change based on programming at the Small Center. If you are interested in booking a private group tour, contact Sydney Shivers at sshivers@gnoha.org. [Tours and public viewings of the UnDesign the Redline Exhibit will be available free of charge through Mardi Gras 2019.](#)

PHF Candidate Scorecard

In October, GNOHA completed the Put Housing First Campaign for upcoming Civil District Court, Clerk of Court, and Congressional District races. The PHF Platform Committee met October 2, and Candidate questionnaires were sent out Thursday, October 4. The deadline to complete questionnaires was Friday, October 12. After those responses were submitted, candidates were called in for an in-person interview. The questionnaire and in-person interviews were reviewed by the Put Housing First Platform Committee, graded, and given a grade based on to what extent they put housing first. The Candidate Scorecard and voting information sheets were then distributed in-person, via email, and on social media on October 23rd, 2018. The Candidates' grades were listed on the Candidate Scorecard along with GNOHA's positions on Louisiana state constitutional amendments, including Yes on Amendment 2, the Unanimous Jury Law.

PHF March + Rally

In October, the PHF March + Rally planning committee finished planning the Put Housing First March + Rally series of events. The committee met four times throughout the month for planning meetings, and twice more for the the Put Housing First rally press event and pre-rally sign-making party. The committee will continue to outreach and recruit volunteers and supplies for the event leading up to the March + Rally on November 3.

Housing Summit Series

The District E. Housing Summit is an outreach effort coordinated between GNOHA and Councilwoman Cyndi Nguyen and has been rescheduled for January 26th from 9am to 4pm. The purpose of the summit will be to facilitate community engagement, and create more of a cohesiveness between future tenants, current tenants, and landlords in the New Orleans East and the Ninth Ward. Along with building positive relationships, the summit should serve as a tactic to help dispel biases in reference to renting in and to residents in District E. We will have Opening Remarks for Councilwoman Cyndi Nguyen, and then we will do an overview of the State of Housing with specifics around District E.

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met on October 9th to discuss the comment period for HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing policy changes. You can view GNOHA's letter [here](#). Additionally, the Public Policy Committee reviewed the 2019 HousingNOLA Action Items that falls under the Public Policy Committee's purview.

Energy Efficiency for All Coalition

The EFFA Coalition members hosted several calls in October. The coalition is working on the Algiers rate case and working to ensure that it doesn't increase further increase utility costs for West Bank households. Additionally, The City of New Orleans advisors to the Utility, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology Committee release their report regarding the release of Whole-Building Energy Data on October 19th. Whole Building Data Access is needed to begin energy benchmarking, the first step to being energy efficient. An ordinance is expected to come out in late December or early January. Entergy Louisiana has also submitted their draft IRP for the state, which can be viewed [here](#). The coalition will also being working closer with HousingLOUISIANA in 2019 to increase support statewide for energy efficiency programs.

Short-Term Rental Subcommittee

In October, the City Planning Commission released a Canal Street study stating that STRs could act as an incentive to bring renovations to the old buildings on Canal Street, and funnel STRs away from neighborhoods and into commercial corridors. Developers, in conjunction with Sonder, a large short term rental operator in New Orleans, released a \$10 million plan to turn a high-rise building at 1016 Canal Street into a mixed-use building with over 200 short term rentals. The position of GNOHA and partners is that renovation projects such as this are more beneficial to the community if those units are designated for affordable housing, and more specifically, marketed to the hundreds of hospitality and service workers for workforce housing. The STR Subcommittee did not meet in October 2018, however our recommendations for Short Term Rentals are still as follows: Regulations Should Be Uniform and Simple, Deleting Illegal listings and the Enforcement of Restricting Listings without Permits, Not allowing homes that were deemed blighted to be renovated for the purpose of becoming commercial STR's, Clarify definition for "present" in accessory units, Raising the per/night fee to at least \$8.00, and matching the 25% CAP allowed for STR's with a 25% requirement for Affordable Housing.

AARP Age-Friendly Task Force/Aging-In-Place

There was no significant update for this initiative in October. HousingNOLA has previously worked with AARP Age-Friendly Task Force, which was put on hold indefinitely effective September, 2018. As a result of the lack of engagement from AARP, HousingNOLA seeks to join or create a more robust and active initiative by connecting with the Advocacy Center and the New Orleans Council on Aging.

Title Clearing Initiative

There were no activities under the Title Clearing Initiative in September.

Minority Populations with Language Access Barriers

HousingNOLA will be supporting a letter from the Louisiana Language Access Coalition asking the City to address language Access issues around public meetings, signage, navigating essential services of business within city hall, etc.

Community Review Team

The community review team met several times during October as part of the PutHousingFirst March planning meetings. The meetings were held on October 3rd, October 17th, October 23rd, October 25th, and the sign making event on 10/30th. During these meetings, participants finalized the route, roles for volunteers, and delegated tasks such as getting the proper permits, contacting the police, hiring a band, and discussed possible speakers. The Community Review Team will resume their formal meetings (which occur every other month) in November. The date is still TBD.

Leadership Board

The Leadership board did not meet in October. There was thus no substantial updates this month. They will next meet on November 27th at the Nora Navra Library.

ReEntry Housing Collaborative

There was a Southern 4 Parishes Reentry Leadership Meeting to assess the Louisiana Prisoner ReEntry Initiative. The overarching GOAL of the La-PRI initiative is to cut the recidivism rate by 50% for higher risk returning prisoners, beginning with the parishes that contribute the highest number of prisoners to the system. The meeting consisted of the Reentry Task Forces from East Baton Rouge Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Cadeaux Parish, and Orleans/Jefferson Parish. Updates were given on the progress of the different parishes' Reentry Initiatives with Orleans parish doing relatively well, considering the prison population is the lowest since 1979. The Triage team, a subcommittee of the Reentry Task force, met in October to discuss improvements to Triage data sharing methods, including a transition from paper documents to digital forms for triaging, and an update on service providers' eligibility requirements. The Reentry Housing Subcommittee met on October 12, 2018 to discuss the RFP and diversifying funding opportunities. Updates were given from partner organizations in reference to services and capacity.

Assessors Working Group

The Assessor's Office will provide resources to address some challenges developers have reported to GNOHA: a) The assessment process for developers of land banks, to ensure that mortgages reflect the shared ownership model b) The auditing process for developers using Low-income Housing Tax Credits c) The assessment of new homes developed by nonprofits, where homes are assessed for a greater value than the construction cost or purchasing price for the buyer. The Entire Assessor's Working Group will meet in December and Assessor Williams will be giving a presentation to development partners on these issues in the New Year.

We also requested partnership from the Assessor's office in evaluating and improving the Tax Abatement programs for fixed income homeowners, including supporting legislation to make the disability freeze permanent. Efforts to provide relief to New Orleans residents can be enacted by the City Council and we will work with the Assessor to explore those options to to protect low-income and long-term residents of gentrifying neighborhoods.

Lenders Roundtable/One Table/CDFI Lending Fund Lenders Roundtable

HousingNOLA Lender’s Roundtable met in October with HousingNOLA’s Data Working Group to finalize and decide on the data that will be in the Community Development Finance Plan (CDFP). HousingNOLA is planning to release the CDFP in November for the Claiborne Corridor to support development within the cultural innovation district. Members of the roundtable were also participants in a CRA Peer Group Session with the Louisiana Banker’s Association. GNOHA has also started drafted its comments to the OCC regarding CRA reform, advocating for stronger CRA regulation.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council did not meet October, but HousingNOLA met with the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association & Education Foundation to discuss their joining the council.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team

In October, GNOHA and HousingNOLA continued to engage in advocacy to support the Smart Housing Mix, fighting for Council to make inclusionary zoning mandatory—requiring affordable housing component for all new developments. The Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team had a few calls in October to better strategize around the smart housing text amendments and RFP. The CPC is continuing their work on text amendments to the CZO and plan to release the report in November. The RFP has reach deadline and the City should be in the process of starting to finalize the contractor.

Spirit of Charity

There is no significant update for this initiative in October. GNOHA will continue to advocate around housing issues within the district with the Market Rate Housing, Low-Income Attached Housing, and Transitional Housing/Supportive Services working groups.

Healthy Homes Initiative (Rental Registry/Dampness/Mold)

There was no meeting held in October, however HousingNOLA is making an effort to get the Rental Registry back on the City Council agenda. HousingNOLA plans to meet with New Orleans Health Department to discuss the Healthy Homes Ordinance in November.

Community Engagement Working Group

There were no updates for the general committee in October. The committee will meet next in December.

Neighborhood Housing Plans:

Hollygrove/Leonidas

HousingNOLA Staff attended Hollygrove Neighborhood Association’s leadership meeting on October 2nd and their general meeting on October 13th in an effort to present a future partnership to community members between HousingNOLA and Hollygrove regarding

neighborhood housing plans. In this partnership, staff will work with Hollygrove community members to advocate their needs to developers and further educate them around local issues of displacement and gentrification. At the general meeting, members agreed to partner with HousingNOLA.

Lower Ninth Ward

The group met on October 6, 2018 to continue discussing and analyzing the Regional Urban Design Assistance Team report for the housing piece. They discussed assets in housing, such as the long history of ownership of 50-75%, and historical houses in the Ninth Ward. There was also discussion surrounding barriers like overgrown lots that pose a health hazard and a public nuisance, and the lack of access to capital like under-funded subsidy gaps. Most importantly, they discussed overcoming those barriers and what we can do right now to affect change. Some suggestions include tapping into political will and community consciousness to make vacant lot clearance a priority, and building a model home on a vacant site in the Opportunity Zone, utilizing innovative construction and using it as a prototype example for future development.

Data Working Group

The Data Working Group met on October 5th to discuss next steps prior to the Community Development Finance Plan release on November 5th. The group discussed overarching content and logistical considerations for the plan. Participants felt the plan should focus on current costs rather than hypothetical projected costs. The final projection date was changed to start now and project 5 years out, so that projections could align with the Opportunity Zone date (2026). It was also suggested to create project scorecards so lenders know how much projects cost beforehand. The group also discussed implementation methods for the MVA Analysis. The Data working group will next meet on November 12th.

LGBTQ+ and People Living with HIV/AIDS Task Force

This task force did not meet in October. We will be partnering with the Brotherhood Inc. in the future and are currently forming a committee to address service gaps for members of the LGBT Community and People Living with Aids, by analyzing data on discrimination and advocating for improved fair housing and anti-discrimination policies in our City.

Housing for People with Disabilities Working Group

There was no significant update for this initiative in October. However, the Initiative will continue to seek ways to work with the Advocacy Center of Louisiana and their new policy team to tackle a range of housing issues for people with disabilities. HousingNOLA is continuing to support UNITY of Greater New Orleans and their work around ending chronic homelessness among disabled individuals.

Opportunity Youth

The opportunity youth committee had their first meeting with a new committee, under the continued leadership from Joy Bruce at CASA New Orleans and with the new leadership of

Melissa Sawyer from the Youth Empowerment Project on October 22nd. At the meeting, committee members discussed the priorities of the committee: creating housing affordable opportunities for youth through the age of 25 and supporting legislation to extend foster care services past the age of 18. OPSB staff introduced two forms used by DCFS and DOE respectively to collect data on housing insecurity and foster youth in the school system. The committee discussed ways to strengthen the implementation of these forms by partnering with school support staff. The Opportunity Youth Working Group will continue to discuss these data sources and advocate for legislation to extend and fully fund foster care services after the age of 18.

Domestic Violence Survivors

There was no significant update for this initiative in October. However, the Initiative will seek ways to work with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Hotel Hope, the New Orleans Family Justice Center and various individuals who work with survivors to tackle a range of housing issues for this population.

Housing LOUISIANA Housing Alliance Network

HousingLOUISIANA hosted a call in October and also attended Community Change's Southern Convening to discuss Statewide Housing Trust Funds. During HousingLOUISIANA's call, the coalition discuss membership with national alliances, such as National Alliance of Community Economic Development (NACEDA) and the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC). HousingLOUISIANA will become members and work with each national group to better support the statewide coalition. At the Southern Convening, HousingLOUISIANA set priorities and strategized for the upcoming year's Listening Tour and Legislative Session. The coalition was working with the Louisiana Banker's Association to see if they can provide scholarships that will help build capacity for coalition members. HousingLOUISIANA is also continuing its work with NCRC to provide comments regarding Community Reinvestment Act regulation.

Housing FIRST Alliance of the Capital Area

Housing First Alliance is working on their housing plan in Baton Rouge, the Housing East Baton Rouge (HEBR) plan. The Housing FIRST Alliance discussed what data is necessary to ensure the plan meets the needs for housing in Baton Rouge and explored policy recommendations for vulnerable populations.

Alexandria Housing Alliance

AHA is continuing their work with the Power Coalition for the upcoming election season and their Get Out The Vote Campaign. HousingLOUISIANA is continuing to provide technical assistance to the Alliance to help build its capacity. A planning session was held in late October to bring housing issues into the election debate and plan for the post-election success of the Alliance.

Greater Acadiana Housing Alliance

On October 10th, staff spoke with Melinda Taylor & Denise Galatas from the Greater Acadiana Region. They discussed having further regional collaboration with the ARCHH Coalition (Arcadiana Regional Coalition of Housing and Homelessness). They also discussed how

acquiring accurate and updated data needs to be the central focus when convening organizations around the affordable housing conversation. Data was a key part of the 2018 listening tour and should be a driving force of the 2019 listening tour.

Northshore Region

On October 10th, staff spoke with Melinda Taylor & Denise Galatas from the Greater Acadiana Region. They discussed having further regional collaboration with the ARCHH Coalition (Arcadiana Regional Coalition of Housing and Homelessness). They also discussed how acquiring accurate and updated data needs to be the central focus when convening organizations around the affordable housing conversation. Data was a key part of the 2018 listening tour and should be a driving force of the 2019 listening tour.

Lake Charles Region

There was no significant update for Lake Charles Region in October.

Houma Region

There was no significant update for Houma Region in October.

Shreveport Region

Shreveport is currently preparing for their Community Needs Assessment (CNA) Partnership Engagement Working Group Summit on Thursday, November 15, 2018, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Shreveport and Bossier City were selected to establish community led, institutionalized best practices to aid in achieving HUD's Strategic Goal of Building Strong, Resilient, and Inclusive Communities. The Community Partnership Engagement and CNA processes allowed HUD to partner with other federal, state and local government agencies, public/private for profit and non-profit organizations, as well as non-governmental partners to develop long-term strategies for identified community needs. An overarching outcome of this engagement is to leverage available resources to fill funding gaps needed to address Shreveport/Bossier recovery efforts. This Community Needs Assessment will be the last phase of those initiatives.

Monroe Region

The Monroe Region is moving through their recovery process. We are working to stay updated on their progress and offer support as needed.

New Orleans Region

GNOHA is working to implement their three policy priorities for 2018: Smart Housing Mix Passage, reaffirming our public partners' goals, and securing a dedicated revenue sources and NHIF reauthorization.

Jefferson Parish

Jefferson Parish Housing Authority was granted permission to have a third party administrator to their HCVP. However, there are ongoing legal issues and concerns.

St. Bernard Parish

There was no significant update for St. Bernard Parish in September.

Plaquemines Parish

Partners within Plaquemines Parish reached out to GNOHA/HousingNOLA to discuss housing issues and we are planning to follow up with those CDCs and developers in the fall.

St. Charles

The St. Charles Housing Authority had a board meeting on Oct. 23rd. At the meeting, the board approved a Low Rent and HCV Utility Allowance Study for 2018.

St. John the Baptist Parish

There was no significant update for St. John the Baptist Parish in October.

St. James Parish

There was no significant update for St. James Parish in October.

LA Safe/LEAD the Coast/Coastal Master Plan

In October, GNOHA staff participated in the LEAD the Coast Development Committee meeting hosted by committee member Zion Travelers Cooperative Center in Phoenix, Louisiana. The Committee made decisions regarding the requirements, provisions, and logistics of the fellowship component of the LEAD the Coast program. The pilot fellowship program will be implemented following the first cohort of the revised LEAD the Coast program.

Statewide Listening Tour

HousingLouisiana will begin planning for the Statewide Listening Tours for 2019 Legislative Session in late 2018/early 2019. The first stop will be Lafayette in mid-January.

Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

The Southern Convening occurred from October 17th-19th, where housing advocates throughout the South met to discuss strategies and best practices for securing affordable housing. The primary goal of the convening was to provide more context and solutions for housing trust funds. The Louisiana cohort met to discuss goals and strategies for 2019, and will share these goals and objectives on the November HousingLouisiana conference call.

ConnectNOLA

ConnectNOLA focuses on bringing non-profit service organizations together to help one another achieve their respective goals. ConnectNOLA will hold its 2018 Fall Gathering for all of the organizations involved on November 15 at Lakeview Christian Center.

HousingNOLA has been working with LAHousingSearch.org, a property listings website funded by the LHC, to promote the consistent listings of affordable housing opportunities on

a centralized website. GNOHA has been fielding our developer members' interest and experiences with the website to determine if it will benefit affordable housing developers, landlords, and renters. We hope to advocate that government subsidized housing be required to list on LAHousingSearch.org in order to make affordable housing opportunities more accessible to tenants.