



## **Bayou District Foundation Premieres New Film Featuring Dr. Norman Francis**

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New Orleans LA-

As the Bayou District Foundation (BDF) nears its fourth anniversary, visions of a powerfully transformed Gentilly neighborhood at the center of its mission are now focusing into reality. Families, including many displaced by Hurricane Katrina from the neighborhood's former St. Bernard Housing Project, will soon be moving into the first phase of newly completed, high quality, mixed income Columbia Parc apartments in the center of the Bayou District on St. Bernard Avenue near Bayou St. John. In addition, BDF officials said great planning progress is underway for brand new neighborhood early learning center, charter public school, YMCA, retail stores and nearby golf and recreational facilities.

To commemorate the anniversary, BDF has recently produced a new film narrated by BDF Advisory Board Member Dr. Norman Francis, President of Xavier University and a 2006 recipient of the U.S. Congressional Medal of Freedom.

The film can be seen on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNux3LPMsv0>

*"What motivates us to serve others?" Dr. Francis asks in the film's opening scenes. "What inspires us to serve our community and help it achieve higher goals and standards? For the Bayou District Foundation, it's about helping others, especially kids, and a calling to help others end that cycle of poverty that breaks human potential and promise."*

Featured speakers in the film include New Orleans City Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; Dillard University Vice President of Community Outreach and CDC Director, Nick Harris; former St. Bernard Housing Development resident Delores White and Bayou District Foundation leaders Gerard W. ‘Gerry’ Barousse and Mike Rodrigue.

Filmed on locations including the new Columbia Parc at Bayou District, East Lake Villages in Atlanta, Dillard University, and Kingsley House, the film, produced by Adrenaline Broadcasting, provides a comprehensive overview of the entire Bayou District project.

‘We believe this film will give people a complete update and timeline of the progress we have made in the last four years on this transformative project,’ commented Bayou District Foundation Director of Public and Government Affairs J.T. Hannan. “The presence of Dr. Francis and former St Bernard Housing resident Delores White really makes the film special.”

For more information on the Bayou District Foundation please go to [www.bayoudistrictfoundation.org](http://www.bayoudistrictfoundation.org)