



Dear Friends,

As Bayou District Foundation celebrates the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding; we are very pleased to report that our holistic model of community transformation is becoming a reality. Our team has been hard at work to implement our plan to build affordable mixed income housing, great public schools, a YMCA and high quality golf and recreational facilities. To commemorate our anniversary we have commissioned a new video featuring BDF Advisory Board member Dr. Norman Francis, the President of Xavier University and a 2006 recipient of the U.S. Congressional Medal of Freedom. Please take a look!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNux3LPMsv0>

Bayou District Foundation's Progress in each area is detailed below.

### **Housing**

We are very excited to announce that 15 families (approximately 60 people) will be moving into the new Columbia Parc at Bayou District in February 2010. The fact that we will have mixed income housing units opening 13 months to the date after groundbreaking is a testament to the skill and determination of our partners and contractors. Columbia Parc at Bayou District is located on St. Bernard Ave. in New Orleans, with the lifestyle center located on Milton St. The lifestyle center features a fitness area, swimming pool and a 45 seat movie theater. This housing will be among the finest rental property in Louisiana.

New Orleans residents are coming home as part of this project as the waiting list for all three segments of housing (public, rent assisted and market rate) exceeds initial capacity. After the opening, more units will come online as subsequent blocks are completed. The entire first phase of housing... 466 units, (approximately 3000 people including the first 100 families) should be completed this Fall. Phase 2 of the mixed income housing plan has been approved for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, with construction slated to begin on those blocks this summer. Bayou District Foundation would like to recognize our partners and contractors, Columbia Residential, The Housing Authority of New Orleans, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Louisiana Recovery Authority, Boh Brothers, Broadmoor, and Texas BBL for their outstanding work and partnership to make this dream a reality.

### **Retail**

Former and current residents of the Bayou District have requested that we start ramping up planning on the retail element of the project to service neighborhood grocery, healthcare and transit needs. The Bayou District Foundation, together with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF), through their retail affiliate, Commercial Properties Realty Trust are working together to make this part of the project happen.

In June of 2009, BRAAF sponsored a design workshop in Coral Gables Florida in which a blueprint for the new retail, educational and YMCA portions of the development were laid out. This updated site plan is available for review on our website. We are very excited about the vision and will be working with BRAAF closely on efforts to kick start the retail portion of the project.

### **Education**

Unquestionably one of the most exciting aspects of the Bayou District Foundation mission is our participation in the education revolution that is sweeping across Orleans Parish. Education has moved to the forefront of our efforts because the community in which we were working was serviced by two of the worst schools in the Orleans Parish Public School system prior to Katrina. We are currently either directly involved or assisting in the construction of three schools.

The first is an Early Education Center that is envisioned as one of the finest early education facilities in the United States. This facility will be built on the corner of Milton St and St. Bernard Ave in the heart of the Bayou District. Several national education foundations and groups are backing this model and have hosted Bayou District Foundation leadership in Chicago, Washington D.C. and Omaha as we move on a very rapid timeline. <http://www.educarecenters.org/>

Related to the early education center construction is a huge effort to move an existing *New Schools for New Orleans* supported charter school from trailers into a permanent site in the center of the Columbia Parc community. We are actively working toward development of an innovative design and funding plan in order to allow for the commencement of construction on this new K-8 later this year.

Finally, to complete our cradle to college education model, Bayou District Foundation has been assisting the Orleans Parish School System, Friends of McDonogh 35, and the McDonogh 35 alumni association and leadership as OPSB, RSD and McDonogh 35 High School start to plan the construction of a new college prep high school facility. Our role has primarily been one of advice and infrastructure support thus far but we have enjoyed working with the McDonogh 35 family as they undertake the enormous task of building a new high school in the Bayou District.

### **Civic Engagement and Outreach**

Bayou District Foundation has undertaken a grassroots effort to inform different civic, business and religious groups about our efforts. We have given presentations to numerous groups over the last 6 months and have had a remarkable response. If you would like to have BDF present to your group; please email or call [jthannan@bayoudistrictfoundation.com](mailto:jthannan@bayoudistrictfoundation.com) and we will set it up. The presentation is about 40 minutes total without Q/A.

Columbia Residential and Kingsley House <http://www.kingsleyhouse.org/> continue to do very important community support service work with returning residents to Columbia Parc at Bayou District. Columbia has coordinated many of these efforts out of the Lifestyle Center at 6600 Franklin Ave New Orleans, LA 70122 near UNO. If you're interested or you know someone who is interested in living at Columbia Parc please send them to the Lifestyle Center or click on the Columbia Parc website...  
<http://www.columbiaparc.com/>

### **Recreation**

As was reported in the Times Picayune, the City Park Board of Commissioners approved the master plan for golf in late May 2009 by a vote of 28-0. This was a great step for the people of New Orleans as the park voted to give the public high quality affordable golf. The Park recently released the RFP requesting respondents to partner with CPIA with the golf plan. Bayou District Foundation is formulating a proposal and will be submitting to the Park by the Feb 11<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Speaking of golf, Bayou District Foundation presented their 4<sup>th</sup> installment of Jr. Golf clinics this fall. The clinics, held in conjunction with the PGA Gulf States Section and Billy Casper Golf are meant to help teach the game to children of low and moderate income families. Thus far we have serviced over 150 kids and their families. We thank both the PGA of America and Nike for supporting our Jr. Golf Program.

### **Summary**

We achieved a number of milestones in 2009 and are continuing to leverage this momentum in 2010. Please make sure to check our website [www.bayoudistrictfoundation.org](http://www.bayoudistrictfoundation.org) as we continually post information and updates.

Thank you again for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely,

Gerard W Barousse, Jr.  
Chairman

for the entire BDF Team

John Davies - Director  
Mike Rodrigue - Director  
Gary Solomon - Director  
Brian Cheramie - Director  
J.T. Hannan  
Kellie Bentz  
Rosa Asciloa

PS Go Saints!!!