



PENN INSTITUTE *for* URBAN RESEARCH  
presents

# RE BUILDING

## URBAN PLACES AFTER DISASTER

LESSONS FROM HURRICANE KATRINA

### BIOS & ABSTRACTS

#### SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW

Natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods or earthquakes or unnatural events such as a terrorist attacks are part of the American experience. In the past five years, US cities have experienced a full range of calamities from category five hurricanes to one-hundred-year floods to bombings of high-density buildings. The challenges of preparing for such calamities, withstanding their impact and rebuilding communities require strategic responses a different levels of government in partnership with the private sector and public will.

Disasters have a disproportionate effect on urban places. Dense by definition, cities and their environs suffer dramatic destruction or damage. The destruction of cities means the destruction of complex, interdependent social, environmental, and economic systems. Weaknesses not readily apparent in pre-disaster times surface. Social services collapse. Longstanding structural and substantive problems around educational access and quality become prominent. The local economy cannot function. Cultural resources that give identity to such places disappear. The plight of New Orleans and several smaller cities on the Gulf Coast exemplifies this phenomenon.

This conference focuses on rebuilding cities and their environs after a disaster. Since 75% of the nation's population is urban, an exploration of rebuilding issues in metropolitan areas, with attention to cities, is not only relevant but critical for future preparedness. In considering rebuilding urban areas, four major issues emerge: (1) making places less vulnerable to disaster, (2) re-establishing economic viability to urban regions, (3) responding to the permanent needs of the displaced, and (4) recreating a sense of place.

Underlining these concerns is a crucial theme – setting priorities interactively – one that poses significant challenges for rebuilding in a democratic, market-based society. Disasters tend to disproportionately affect at risk populations. This theme evokes many questions including: Who sets priorities and how do they set them? Can we organize participatory decision-making under conditions requiring focused, strategic choices? How do issues of race and class intersect in the rebuilding process? Should we restore or reform as we rebuild?

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2006

### OPENING ADDRESS

#### Speaker's Biography:

**Marc H. Morial** \* is the President and CEO of the National Urban League, the nation's largest and oldest civil rights and direct services organization empowering African Americans and other emerging ethnic communities. Since his appointment in 2003, Morial has re-energized the Movement's diverse constituencies by building on the strengths of the ninety-five year old organization. Morial laid out an ambitious five-point "Empowerment Agenda," that covers Education & Youth, Economic Empowerment, Health & Quality of Life, Civic Engagement and Civil Rights & Racial Justice. These five areas are now measured as a part of a new quantitative analysis, the "Equality Index," found within the League's much-heralded State of Black America report. They have come to serve as the cornerstone for his efforts to help improve the quality of life for each and every American. Previously, Mr. Morial served two distinguished four-year terms (1994-2003) as Mayor of New Orleans. He maintained a 70% approval rating, reduced crime by 60% and reformed a corrupt police department, built \$400 million in city infrastructure improvements including 15,000 new home owners, 200 miles of streets, a new sports arena and expansion of the convention center. Before becoming mayor, Morial served as a Louisiana State Senator for two years. He has bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

### PENN ON THE FRONT LINES

*Penn faculty and alumni share their experiences responding to Hurricane Katrina.*

*In preparation for this panel discussion, Penn Institute for Urban Research asked each panelist to respond to the following three questions about their experiences in responding and rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.*

1. *What was your role in responding to the disaster?*
2. *What were your accomplishments in responding or helping to rebuild after the disaster?*
3. *What were the successes and failures of the response and rebuilding efforts you were involved in? Based on your experience, what are your recommendations for future disaster preparedness and response efforts?*

*What follows are the biographies of each panelists, including moderator, Dean Arthur H. Rubenstein, as well as their stories from the front lines.*

#### Moderator's Biography:

**Arthur H. Rubenstein**, MBBCh is Executive Vice President of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and Dean of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine. In his current positions, he is responsible for the academic, research, and health-services components of the University of Pennsylvania Health System. Well known for his inspired teaching, Dr. Rubenstein has served in numerous professional leadership positions during his career. These include President of the Association of Professors of Medicine, of the Association of American Physicians, and of the Central Society for Clinical Research; and Chairman of both the American Board of Internal Medicine and the National Diabetes Advisory Board.

#### Presenters' Biographies and Responses:

**Eileen Sullivan-Marx** † is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Practice & Community Affairs at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She is responsible for the oversight of school-owned nursing practices including the Living Independently For Elders Program, a PACE model of care for older adults in West Philadelphia and the integration or practice, research, and education at the School. Dr. Sullivan-Marx's research area focuses on nurse-sensitive outcomes of care for frail older adults. Dr. Sullivan-Marx continues today as an active international and

national consultant on nurse practitioner and geriatric practice issues and oversees the School's practice mission. Dr. Sullivan-Marx leads the School of Nursing's efforts in community outreach, integrating health with the community and university efforts to educate students and the community. She is a leading researcher on improving functional outcomes of older adults in community and institutional settings.

**What was your role?** As Associate Dean for Practice & Community Affairs, I coordinated the School of Nursing's logistic response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster by organizing a small work group of staff, faculty, and students. We were the central area for communication and coordination of information on volunteering efforts, donations, and outreach. I represented the School of Nursing to the Office of the Provost for accepting students dislocated from the disaster area who were interested in attending Penn for the fall semester. Along with the Dean and faculty, we established guidelines for students and faculty who wished to volunteer in the disaster area post Katrina. I coordinated a response to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Dept of Public Welfare who called us to accept potentially 75 older adults into our LIFE Program relocated from the Disaster area on short notice (visit [www.lifeupenn.org](http://www.lifeupenn.org) for information on the LIFE Program.)

**What were your accomplishments?** We had several major donation responses including 500 pairs of shoes through efforts of Dr. Sweet-Jemmott and students to the Salvation Army and the local shelter for Katrina families who came to Philadelphia. We welcomed these families to a LIFE picnic at Fairmount Park. The older members of our LIFE Program who are on limited means themselves collected nearly \$400 for victims of the disaster. Nursing students sponsored a blood drive for victims. We established a web site immediately on the School of Nursing web page with links for information and updated it daily with a blog. The School of Nursing has adopted a sister school in Mississippi to aid in response to the disaster. I have since been appointed to the City of Philadelphia's Emergency Preparedness Review Committee. With national nursing experts, I developed an information mnemonic for first responders on Elder Care tips that were posted on our Penn Nursing and other university web sites.

**What were the successes and failures? Recommendations for future disaster preparedness and response?** From my perspective, the university and other institutions need to plan in advance for a response to a national disaster or even international disaster that affects us indirectly. We responded well to some aspects albeit in an ad hoc manner. We should have permanent structures and processes to respond in the future. The health science schools need to plan on how they can be used as "first responders" or "second tier responders" in a disaster. For example, if a surge of casualties overwhelms the local hospitals and clinics during a disaster, could nursing, dental, medical students be quickly mobilized to assist in these efforts. If we planned for this, we would be more flexible and strategic in our response to disasters.

**Norma Cuellar** is an assistant professor at Penn's School of Nursing. She received her BSN from the University of Southern Mississippi, her MSN from Louisiana State University Medical Center, and her DSN, in which she concentrated on Adult Health Nursing, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Virginia in Complementary and Alternative Medicine. While in Mississippi, Dr. Cuellar volunteered with the American Red Cross as a local volunteer in several hurricanes. With Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Cuellar volunteered on the national level and was deployed to the Louisiana area. She was asked to serve as the nursing supervisor at the Cajun Dome in Lafayette, LA, one of the first shelters that was opened for the residents of New Orleans after the hurricane. During her deployment, a second hurricane caused this shelter to be evacuated to Shreveport, LA.

**What was your role?** I was a volunteer for the Red Cross and served as the Nursing Supervisor of a shelter in Lafayette, LA, at the Cajun Dome. This was where many of the New Orleans residents were staying. This shelter could hold up to 2500 people. I arrived three weeks after Katrina and there were between 800-1000 people at the shelter. The shelter was considered a "showcase" for all the other shelters. It had a security station, transportation services, post-office, store, refreshments, FEMA booth, volunteer booth, services available, counseling, health care, first aid (Red Cross), day care, school for the kids, to name a few

things. While I was there, we had to evacuate when Rita came through. This was extremely stressful for all involved. For the residents, it was like going through Katrina all over again.

***What were your accomplishments?*** It was the small things that counted the most. Disasters are chaotic and disorganized by nature and many of the volunteers did not expect this leading to some frustration particularly as we had to move to a new site.. After having a evacuation drill (which was very successful), moving 1000 people north by 30+ buses while providing health care to those in need was very successful. Working with those with mental health and chronic health care problems was an accomplishment. Keeping an outbreak of a virus which caused nausea and vomiting and extreme dehydration and illness for 3 days was an accomplishment. Helping the elderly get their medications in a timely fashion was an accomplishment. Emergency care for those who needed it was an accomplishment.

***What were the successes and failures? Recommendations for future disaster preparedness and response?*** I don't think you can ever predict a disaster and the effects of what may happen, however, we can improve the level of organization. . There must be a structure that can respond with efficiency and flexibility. Also, as we all could plainly see in the media, we must care for the elderly and disabled in a better way. There must be a plan of action by all agencies to make sure people are taken care of when something happens i.e. a community agency like the Alzheimer's Association may know older adults who need help. Is there a plan for these organizations to contact the disabled and make sure they are OK...if given the time?

**Lisa Murphy** received her BS in Biological Sciences from Stanford University in 1992 and her VMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1997. Dr. Murphy practiced small animal medicine in New Jersey before joining the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center in Urbana, Illinois in 2000, where she held the titles of Consulting Veterinarian in Clinical Toxicology and Manager of Biosurveillance and Emergency Response Programs. In October 2003, she became a diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology. From February 2004 through March 2005, Dr. Murphy worked as the Area Emergency Coordinator for USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services in Sutton, Massachusetts, managing the New England states. She currently holds the position of Assistant Professor of Toxicology in the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to emergency preparedness and disaster response, Dr. Murphy's special areas of interest include exotic and aquatic animal medicine. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association's Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) and responded to both the World Trade Center disaster and Hurricane Katrina.

***What was your role?*** I responded as a member of Veterinary Medical Assistance Team 2 (VMAT-2) with the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) as part of FEMA. I was sent as a Veterinary Medical Officer to relieve the Team Commander that had been in the field for almost three weeks. Our VMAT team was based in Biloxi, MS and had established field hospitals in Gulfport and Waveland, MS.

***What were your accomplishments?*** Our mission was to provide veterinary care while the local veterinary infrastructure (veterinarians and their clinics) were recovering in the aftermath of Katrina. In addition to caring for abandoned, stray, and surrendered companion animals, VMAT also provided veterinary support to search-and-rescue (SAR) dog teams in the region.

***What were the successes and failures? Recommendations for future disaster preparedness and response?***

*With respect to the response itself:*

- Continued coordination of mental health, medical, veterinary, and security personnel should be encouraged
- Better communication will ensure a clear message regarding overall mission and goals and minimize rumor, misunderstanding, and conflict

*Considerations for future planning efforts:*

- Facilitate changes in disaster response plans to minimize separating pets from their owners
- Provide mechanisms for pets and owners to be quickly reunited when they do become separated
- Provide guidelines to shelters for caring for both animals and people

**Cynthia Otto** is currently a tenured Associate Professor of Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and an attending veterinarian in the Ryan Veterinary Hospital Emergency Service. She was Pennsylvania's 2002 "Veterinarian of the Year". Dr. Otto is active in basic and clinical research. Her NIH funded research laboratory investigates the interactions of oxygen and inflammation. She is the director of the Veterinary Clinical Investigation Center and is the lead investigator monitoring the search and rescue dogs of September 11, 2001. Dr. Otto has been involved in disaster medicine as an active member of the Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 since 1994 (including deployments to Hurricane Floyd and 9/11) and the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team-2 since 1999 (deploying to Hurricane Katrina).

***What was your role?*** I responded as a Veterinary Medical Officer with Veterinary Medical Assistance Team-2 to Biloxi, MS. Our mission was to address any animal issues related to the disaster including:

- Medical care of abandoned animals, stray animals, owned animals, and working dogs and horses
- Veterinary Clinic Assessment
- Zoonosis Awareness/prevention
- Food Safety (although this did not materialize as our mission)

***What were your accomplishments?*** We were successful in assimilating information regarding the needs of veterinarians, shelters and animals affected by the disaster. We facilitated the delivery of necessary supplies (especially food) for the animals. We removed carcasses. We provided a medical care facility to address the medical needs of those animals that were brought to us by owners or by rescue groups. We worked successfully with several other response agencies (search and rescue, disaster medical teams, social workers) to address multiple animal and human issues.

***What were the successes and failures? Recommendations for future disaster preparedness and response?***

*Successes:*

- The VMAT teams were involved early in the response
- Many people were able to evacuate and did take their animals
- There was inter-agency cooperation
- Galveston learned and evacuated animals with its citizens

*Failures:*

- Inadequate supplies
- Inadequate communications
- Delayed inclusion of animal oriented NGOs in the response

*Next time:*

Mitigation

- Preventative animal care needs to be extended to lower income families (vaccines, spay/neuter, parasite control)

Preparation

- Communities need to make plans that involve animals - on an individual owner level, on an emergency response level, on a governing/decision making level
- Shelter facilities need to be made available for people evacuating with animals

Response

- Communication networks need to be available
- Animal issues need to be part of the big plan and include humane groups to allow for animal rescue
- Resources need to be available to perform the mission

**Paul Farmer \***, Executive Director of the American Planning Association (APA), comes from the world of practice. Mr. Farmer spent 20 years in senior management positions as deputy planning director in Pittsburgh, director of city planning in Minneapolis, and executive director of planning and development in Eugene, Oregon. During his years of practice, he served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Georgia Tech and the University of Oregon. Mr. Farmer grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana, attended Rice University in Houston (B.A. and B. Arch., 1967), and Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he was a Richard King Mellon Fellow and received a master's degree in city and regional planning in 1971. He has received professional awards from Progressive Architecture and the National Endowment for the Arts, has consulted in Asia, Europe and North America, and has written and lectured extensively.

***What was your role?*** Almost immediately, APA began answering inquiries from the media. As a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, and with personal knowledge of both the Gulf South and disasters, I provided background information. My staff, including Jim Schwab, an international expert on disasters whom we had dispatched earlier in the year to Sri Lanka, provided information as well. Within two days, we had conference calls with APA leadership in Louisiana and Mississippi. We quickly revised the curriculum of a two day course on Safe Growth that had been previously scheduled for the following week in DC and invited many staff of federal agencies to attend without paying a fee. In order to reach as many planners as possible as quickly as possible, we delivered a 90 minute audio conference on post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, attended by 250, primarily in the Gulf Coast states from Florida to Texas. During the first week of October, we delivered a Friday-Saturday disaster recovery workshop in Shreveport, with 150 attendees. International experts were faculty. Also in October, at the invitation of the New Orleans City Planning Commission, a five person team of volunteers spent a week in New Orleans assessing the planning function and making recommendations for the post-Katrina function. In early November, APA and AIA developed and offered a 3 day workshop in New Orleans, attended by 500. It was the first such workshop in the Gulf States after Katrina and Rita and was carried out on behalf of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. Both the work of the New Orleans Assessment Team and the work from the LRA conference was provided to the Bring New Orleans Back Committee and the ULI panel. APA also teamed with ULI to organize town hall meetings on behalf of the BNOB Commission in Atlanta, Memphis, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston and Baton Rouge. APA sponsored an AICP Symposium on Housing in the Wake of Disasters at the National Building Museum and is a co-sponsor of the NBM's "Building in the Aftermath" series. I spoke at a NBM symposium in November that examined the disaster to date as it affected New Orleans. APA has also been active in Washington through coalitions seeking to secure a federal response appropriate to the magnitude of the disaster. From the very beginning, APA has been working with our members, chapter leaders and FEMA. Within a week, at FEMA's request, we had developed an extensive web site on Katrina/Rita, and included a resume posting element that has identified volunteers who have contributed in many ways. Of course, members in the Gulf States and member firms have been involved in both Mississippi and Louisiana. This includes all of the high-profile firms working for the two states and the city of New Orleans as well as the firms that have FEMA contracts and are providing planning assistance. APA has an entire track on disasters scheduled for our national conference in San Antonio. APA is the nation's leading NGO in the provision of research, education and best practices regarding hazard mitigation, disaster planning, disaster recovery and reconstruction. Two years ago, APA launched a *Safe Growth America* initiative to raise awareness and provide research and tools on the entire range of safe growth issues. APA has provided disaster assistance and training in several Latin American countries, with Spanish language material available on our Spanish language web site. Materials are also available on our Chinese language web site. APA has also provided assistance in Australia.

Japan and Europe. Please visit [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org) for a much more extensive description of APA's efforts.

***What were your accomplishments?*** Planning is not well-established in the two states. Government is suspect. For example, to date, the State of Mississippi has still refused to adopt something as elementary as a state building code. An important success has been to vastly increase the discussion of planning and the benefits of planning, as well as to assist in the creation of planning efforts in both states. For example, the 500 attendees at the LRA Conference adopted "smart growth" and participatory planning principles as principles that would guide the LRA's subsequent work. As planning progresses, the tough issues are at least being debated.

***What were the successes and failures? Recommendations for future disaster preparedness and response?*** Katrina/Rita devastated an area the size of the United Kingdom. Katrina alone was the worst natural disaster ever to hit the populated areas of the U.S. The initial federal response was a visible failure and the federal response continues to be a failure. Blind ideology, such as opposition to the Section 8 housing program, is preventing effective programs such as Section 8 from being used to meet needs. Mississippi and Louisiana were both ill-prepared (and now their economies have been devastated). According to FEMA, many states have all of their counties in compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Only 3 Mississippi Counties were in compliance. Only 7 of 39 Louisiana Counties were in compliance. Most local communities, too, were not prepared. Research has demonstrated the value of state-mandated planning, state-mandated zoning and state-mandated hazard elements of local, regional and state plans. While Louisiana has now adopted a state building code, few other steps have been taken by either state. The federal response continues to be far, far short of both the need and the President's promises.

First, states must mandate planning, regulatory tools such as zoning and building codes, and hazard elements within comprehensive plans (not as stand-alone documents). Second, we must understand that more people are moving into hazard areas and disasters will become more routine, as they are in both Florida and California. That means increasing our education and training efforts and including hazard and disaster elements in all comprehensive plans. Third, we need to understand (and admit) that global climate change is occurring, that disasters such as Gulf Coast Hurricanes are likely to get worse. Fourth, we need to begin to repair the damaged environment, such as the Gulf Coast marshes. Fifth, we need to address the social equity and environmental justice issues in meaningful ways. Sixth, FEMA needs to be returned to its independent status and it needs to (again) be depoliticized. Finally, we need to renew the social compact, commit ourselves to collective action and elect national, state and local leaders who will, once again, call for shared sacrifice when so many are in such need.

**Laura Blackstone** is currently working with FEMA's Long Term Community Recovery in Louisiana and worked last fall for Hurricane Charley Long Term Recovery in Charlotte County, Florida. She has worked as a planner in the Philadelphia area since 2000. Prior to landing in Philadelphia, she spent time in the Peace Corps in Ukraine as an environmental volunteer.

***What was your role?*** Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR) is a relatively new branch of FEMA, whose mission is to enable a community to recover from the long-term consequences of a disaster. LTCR provides a framework for various federal agencies to coordinate with state and local government, as well as non-profit and private organizations. As a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, there are approximately 20 parishes in Louisiana with teams putting together Long Term Community Recovery plans. This disaster differs from other states, because early in the process the State of Louisiana created the Louisiana Recovery Authority to facilitate the state's role in long term recovery. The LRA and FEMA's joint planning efforts have been renamed "Louisiana Speaks".

My role has been working in Beauregard Parish, which is located in southwest Louisiana, approximately 45 miles north of Lake Charles. Beauregard Parish was hit by Hurricane Rita and sustained wind damage, which destroyed people's roofs and a significant portion of the timber industry. Some people in the parish went weeks without electricity, which cutoff their

access to water and wastewater treatment. Emergency preparation is fresh on citizens' minds. Our team is working with the local community to identify the most critical issues facing the parish and to create a plan for the entire Parish to strengthen their communities.

**What were your accomplishments?** To date, our team's most significant accomplishment has been generating public input. Louisiana Speaks organized a Louisiana Planning Day on Saturday, January 21 in the affected parishes and cities within Louisiana and across the South. Our team is working with a Recovery Committee comprised of local leaders who are actually responsible for creating this plan. At the Committee's request, we organized meetings in the rural areas to strengthen our public input.

**Lee Farmer** is a transportation planner with DMJM Harris Planning in Fairfax, Virginia. She has been on assignment in New Orleans since November 2005, where she is working as a project officer in FEMA's Public Assistance Program assigned to private non-profit schools in Jefferson and St. Charles parishes. Ms. Farmer holds a B.A. in history from Rice University and a master's in Irish Studies from the National University of Ireland, Galway, where her thesis was entitled "Urbanisation and Urban Conflict in Belfast, 1830-1860." She received her Master of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in 2004, where she was the recipient of the Lewis Mumford Award for Contributions to the Study of Urbanism.

**What was your role?** I have been working as a project officer in FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program. The role of the PA program is to help restore a community's infrastructure after a disaster, including transportation systems, hospitals, utilities, and schools. I am assigned to work with private non-profit schools in suburban New Orleans. I help them figure out what needs to be done to restore their facility and which costs are eligible for FEMA funding. Then I write it up and send it through the system.

**What were your accomplishments?** Schools must be up and running before a community can truly begin to recover. As a project officer, I have facilitated the rebuilding of schools by ensuring that they receive the necessary funds for rebuilding. The FEMA program is important because it provides reimbursement for repairs which, as unanticipated expenses, otherwise might result in severe financial problems for the schools, and could hamper their effective operation.

**What were the successes and failures? Recommendations for future disaster preparedness and response?** The PA program focuses on restoring facilities to their pre-disaster condition (with allowances for disaster mitigation measures). By providing funding for rebuilding a community's infrastructure, it is an essential piece of the rebuilding efforts. However, the focus tends to be on restoration on a facility by facility basis and the program does not encourage a comprehensive approach. Municipalities can coordinate projects using their own staff, but the public assistance program does not provide planning support.

It should be noted that FEMA does provide planning support through Emergency Support Function #14, Long Term Community Recovery. This is a fairly new effort (pilot programs were run in Florida after hurricanes Charley and Ivan and in Utica, Illinois after a 2004 tornado).

**Eric McAfee** moved from Philadelphia to New Orleans after graduating from PennDesign's Department of City and Regional Planning in 2004 to take a job at Fernandez Plans, LLC – a small planning consulting firm in the Mid City neighborhood. After Hurricane Katrina, he was deployed by FEMA to work as a contractor in the group assistance division. He now serves as the planner for a housing strike team in St. John the Baptist Parish, 25 miles west of New Orleans. The goal of the strike team is to survey vacant land and negotiate with the landowners to lease the land for the development of travel trailer or mobile home communities that would provide temporary housing for hurricane evacuees still living in the parish. The strike teams serve as liaisons between parish officials, FEMA, landowners, and neighbors of the landowners, selecting the sites that meet the approval of both the parish and construction teams under FEMA.

**What was your role?** I am part of a housing strike team, which means I help search for sites that can be used as mobile home/travel trailer parks that will be used to house displaced

persons from the hurricane. Every parish (the Louisiana version of a county) has a strike team. I was the planner on the strike team for St. John the Baptist Parish. I also had to do demographic research, interviews with public officials, and then use the information I gathered to determine the best locations for sites. Once sites were selected, we serve as advocates among the community and before the liaison between construction crew at FEMA and the public in the relevant parish.

***What were your accomplishments?*** We have three sites under construction and are hoping to get at least 4 or 5 more in the next six weeks. These sites will contain about 200 mobile homes or travel trailers. I have also created a presentation which now serves as a model for communicating the process for site selection and site assessment among strike teams.

***What were the successes and failures? Recommendations for future disaster preparedness and response?*** The failures are simply poor communication among the different agencies in FEMA and lack of coordination; not only does the right hand not know what the left is doing, but the individuals fingers on each hand seem to have no clue what is going on with the other fingers. This – and an unreasonable demand on FEMA's part for permits, signatures, affidavits, etc. – has definitely slowed the process down. I'd like to see the process much more streamlined and the communication to strike teams improved, so we aren't forced to contradict ourselves when it comes to delivering messages to the public and parish officials. Despite these hold-ups, I'd hardly say FEMA is the main one to blame for lack of progress: the people of Louisiana often display the not-in-my-back-yard attitude. The parish council rejected four of our sites in early January, giving in to the neighbors who protested while at the same time not providing any alternative solution for the displaced persons.

**Sandy Sorlien**, a Philadelphia native, teaches a course called "The Photography of Urban Place" at PennDesign. Her photographic book "Fifty Houses: Images from the American Road," was published in 2002 by Johns Hopkins University Press. In a parallel career as a code writer and photographer for the New Urbanists, Ms. Sorlien was head of the Coding Team at the Mississippi Renewal Forum, a massive post-Katrina planning charrette for eleven devastated cities. Since then she has returned to the Gulf Coast three times to give SmartCode follow-up seminars and will return twice more this month, for charrettes in Gulfport and Pass Christian, Mississippi.

***What was your role?*** I coordinated the Codes Team for the Mississippi Renewal Forum, which was a massive post-Katrina planning charrette for eleven devastated cities, led by town planner Andrés Duany in Biloxi MS October 12-17. During and after the charrette, my team customized the SmartCode for the State of Mississippi. The communities expressed that they wanted zoning code reform in order to manage the pattern of development as developers pour into the area. We also met with eight FEMA experts to work out standards for rebuilding in flood zones. On the side, I photographed conditions along the coast for use in websites and publications, including the Pattern Book for Gulf Coast Neighborhoods. Since the Forum, I've returned to the Gulf Coast three times to give SmartCode follow-up seminars and to continue photographing for future illustrated codes. I'll stay down there for three weeks this month, to calibrate codes for SmartCode charrettes in Gulfport and Pass Christian, and to lead discussions at several day-long workshops in other towns.

***What were your accomplishments?*** The MRF produced an astounding amount of physical design work. We didn't just brainstorm about plans, we produced them. At the end there was a foot-and-a-half-high stack of reports, codes, maps, renderings, and plans, addressing everything from the architectural scale to the community scale to the regional scale. These tools were offered free of charge to the 11 devastated cities of the coast for use in their rebuilding. My role was to coordinate several initiatives of the Codes team, including customizing the Mississippi model SmartCode, compiling recommendations for building codes (life and safety issues) from structural architects, reviewing the preliminary regulating plans for each city, and writing and publishing the final Codes report. To date, nine of the eleven Forum cities have started the process toward adoption of the SmartCode. Pass Christian and Gulfport are both holding five-day customization charrettes this month.

***What were the successes and failures? Recommendations for future disaster preparedness and response?*** The first success was simply getting 200 design professionals and officials, 120 on the New Urbanist national team and 80 on the Mississippi team, to gather

for six days in the ballroom of a hurricane-damaged hotel with only about three weeks' notice. It couldn't have been done as well without the Internet, especially the Mississippi Renewal listserv we started before the charrette and which still buzzes with connections among far-flung New Urbanists and our compatriots on the Coast.

The charrette overall has been a success because it empowered Mississippi communities to demand better design, construction, and planning and to craft their own future. Local civic action groups are now springing up in many towns to carry forward the work of the Forum. Another important success was getting the traditionally uncooperative Gulf cities to think more about regional cooperation, especially on highway and transit issues. Yet another was the production of the sturdy and beautiful Katrina Cottage, which debuted last month at the Orlando Builders' Show. After the recent news that FEMA trailers are approaching \$75,000 each and that neighborhoods don't want them around, this \$35,000 permanent, expandable cottage should be the model for the future of emergency housing. Stories about the cottage have appeared in more than 10 newspapers so far.

Failures included the inability of charrette communities and leaders to convince the megalomaniacal MDOT to tone down Bridgezilla and other destructive highways, though the tide is finally turning; failure to attract the casinos and some of the Biloxi city officials to the Forum vision for Biloxi; failure to convince FEMA to allow us to harden buildings in flood zones instead of raising them, and failure to assimilate spatial demographics into the plans, though that can still be done as plans are refined this spring.

What to do differently: Put pressure on MDOT for temporary bridges immediately. Do more research on FEMA Flood Advisory mapping – it took us weeks to fully understand the planning implications (such as they are with provisional maps). Before the charrette itself, planning teams should coordinate more in advance with the codes, social issues, and regional mapping teams. Include more local architects in the charrette. There were quite a few, but at first there was resistance from the local AIA because some members were not originally invited. Apart from the Forum, a procedure for much faster insurance assessments must be in place. Disgraceful delays resulted from the fleet of adjusters being completely overwhelmed. Instead of site visits, photographs should do for properties that were obviously totaled. There were also disgraceful delays in debris removal in some areas. The local debris collectors must relinquish control to allow volunteers and contractors from outside, and federal contractors must move much faster. In many cases the insurance delays and debris removal delays are connected; homeowners were not allowed to touch a stick on their property until it had been assessed. After two months of waiting, many said the hell with it and started working on their properties.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006

### WELCOME

#### Speakers' Biographies:

**Ronald J. Daniels** \*\*, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, is the author of numerous scholarly articles and books. His scholarly interests lie in the law and economics of the corporation and of the regulatory state. His current scholarship focuses on the challenges of building strong laws and legal institutions on developing states. His most recent publications include, as co-author, *Rethinking the Welfare: government by Voucher* and *The Political Economy of Rule of Law Reform in Developing Countries*. Daniels is active in public policy formulation and has contributed to several Canadian public task forces.

**Eugenie L. Birch** † is co-Director, Penn Institute for Urban Research and Professor and Chair of the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design. Professor Birch has published widely in two fields: the history of planning, and contemporary planning and housing. She is currently engaged in a longitudinal study of downtown living. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Urban History*, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, *Journal of the American Planning Association* and *Planning* magazine. Professor Birch was President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, co-edited the *Journal of the American Planning Association* and is currently the chair, Planning Accreditation Board. From 1990 through 1995, Professor Birch was a member of the New York City Planning Commission. In 2002, she served on the jury to select the designers of the World Trade Center site. Elected to the American Institute of Certified Planners College of Fellows, she is also a Fellow, Urban Land Institute and a member of the board of New York's Municipal Art Society.

**Susan Wachter** † is co-Director, Penn Institute for Urban Research and Richard B. Worley Professor of Financial Management and Professor of Real Estate at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Wachter has taught at Wharton since 1972 and served as chair of its Real Estate Department from 1997 to 1999. She studies real estate economics, urban economics, and housing finance. She served as Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1999 to 2001. As director of the Wharton GIS Lab, Professor Wachter is a national expert in housing analysis and the first woman to head the American Real Estate Urban Economics Association. She is currently researching default and delinquency models, tenure choice and homeownership affordability, real estate price index methodologies, and the modeling of neighborhood change.

### CONVOCAATION

#### Speaker's Biography:

Amy Gutmann took office in July of 2004 as the eighth president of the University of Pennsylvania, where she also holds faculty appointments in Political Science, Communication, Philosophy, and Education. Gutmann came to Penn from Princeton University, where she served as Provost (2001-2004), the Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Politics (1990-2004), Academic Advisor to the President (1997-98), Dean of the Faculty (1995-97), and was Founding Director of the University Center for Human Values. Gutmann is a former President of the American Society of Political and Legal Philosophy, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the W. E. B. Du Bois Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, a Member of the American Philosophical Society, and a Fellow of the National Academy of Education. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Carnegie Corporation and in 2005 was appointed to the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board, a committee that advises the FBI on national security issues relating to academia. In 2003, Gutmann was awarded the Centennial Medal by Harvard University for "graduate alumni who have made exceptional contributions to society." She has published more than 100 articles and essays and edited books in political philosophy, practical ethics, and education that have been translated into many languages. Her most recent books include *Why Deliberative Democracy?* (2004, with Dennis Thompson), *Identity in Democracy*

(2003), *Democratic Education* (revised edition, 1999), *Democracy and Disagreement* (1996, with Dennis Thompson) and *Color Conscious* (1996, with K. Anthony Appiah). Her reviews have appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Washington Post*, and other general publication

## **PANEL ONE: MAKING PLACES LESS VULNERABLE**

*Rebuilding damaged urban places integrates a deep respect for the forces of nature and requires assessing and strengthening an area's ecological strengths and avoiding or mitigating its vulnerabilities. GIS mapping techniques are the foundation of inventorying a region's physical and economic carrying capacity and assembling information about the presence of natural hazards, important resource production areas, ecologically significant lands, and valuable cultural resources. Using this information geologists, landscape architects, city planners and engineers develop and apply rebuilding decisions including right- sizing of urban places, locating buildings and infrastructure, retrofitting damaged areas and structures, structuring and implementing building and zoning codes, flood insurance. The aim is to support a resilient system of cities and regions.*

### **Moderator's Biography:**

**Frederick Steiner** is Dean of the School of Architecture and Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture, University of Texas at Austin. Previously, he was director of the School of Planning and Landscape Architecture, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Arizona State University (ASU) and taught planning, landscape architecture, and environmental science at Washington State University, the University of Colorado-Denver, and the University of Pennsylvania. In 1998, he was the National Endowment for the Arts Rome Prize Fellow in Historic Preservation and Conservation at the American Academy in Rome. Dean Steiner received his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in city and regional planning and a Master of Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. He earned a Master of Community Planning and a B.S. in Design from the University of Cincinnati.

### **“Taking a Longer View: Mapping for Sustainability”**

#### **Abstract:**

The National Committee to Map Ecological Constraints is mapping the environmentally sensitive areas of the Gulf Coast Region from Pensacola, Florida, to Houston, Texas at a 1:25,000 scale. The project has two phases. In the first phase, one map provides an environmental portrait of the region dating back to the early 1970s, and a second map displays four risk zones based on ecological processes. The first map goes back 30 years, comes up to the current day and documents the impacts to the Gulf Coast that have occurred during that period of time. The map graphically displays the impacts of storms, hurricanes, floods, storm surges, winds, rise of sea level, loss of land, and increased human settlement. This assessment provides a base of what has happened up until now, and by integrating the best available prediction modeling techniques, we illustrate potential future impacts if current trends continue.

The second map is intended to provide a foundation for regional sustainability. It delineates four zones that illustrate the potential risk of areas along the coast. The first zone displays the highest levels of risk from natural disaster: places not to build under almost any circumstance. The next zone shows the second level of vulnerability: places that should be built only at the risk of the property owner with no public subsidy, insurance guarantee, or emergency relief. The third zone displays modest levels of risk: places where building can occur following state and/or local regulatory control. The final zone is risk free: places that can be developed following local norms and regulations.

In the next phase, we will attempt to suggest policy options based on more detailed environmental assessments coupled with future scenarios. Our objective will be to avoid disasters for current residents (including those currently displaced). More detailed environmental analysis will minimize the future loss of life and property and will protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

We anticipate five GIS-generated sets of maps, again from Pensacola to Houston at the 1:25,000 scales. These five maps will be overlaid to produce a composite map of environmentally sensitive areas. We also anticipate more “drop from the clouds” three-dimensional drawings of the consequences. We intend to use these maps and drawings to illustrate needed environmental policies for the Gulf Region. These policies will help guide the rebuilding of New Orleans and other Gulf communities.

**Presenter's Biography:**

**Barbara Faga**, FASLA, is Chair of the Board of EDAW – environmental, economic, planning and design consultants with 1200 employees and 28 offices worldwide. Projects include the Tax Allocation District (TAD) Feasibility Study and Redevelopment Plan for the Atlanta BeltLine; Diagonal Mar Parc, Barcelona; Schuylkill River master plan, Philadelphia, PA; and the Wharf District Park Plan of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, the park over the \$15B Big-Dig in Boston. Ms. Faga was named one of the top 15 women changing the world of architecture by DesignIntelligence in 2005. Her book, *Designing Public Consensus: The Civic Theater of Community Participation for Architects, Planners, and Urban Designers* is scheduled for release in March 2006. Ms. Faga attended Michigan State University and Georgia Institute of Technology.

**Co-authors:**

Frederick Steiner, Dean, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin

James Sipes, Senior Associate, EDAW

Robert Yaro †, President, Regional Plan Association and Professor of Practice, PennDesign

**“The Legacy of Two Centuries of Mismanagement of the Mississippi Watershed”**

**Abstract:**

The destruction visited on New Orleans and neighboring towns by Hurricane Katrina is a direct consequence of instabilities imposed on the Mississippi Watershed by more than 200 years of well-intended but uninformed mismanagement of that complex natural system. The proximal cause of flooding of large areas of downtown New Orleans was the now-well-documented failure of the levee system, but the capacity of that system to protect the city was compromised by management strategies that have interfered with the normal development of the sedimentary landform that is the Mississippi Delta.

These management strategies are superimposed on natural trends that have characterized the Mississippi Delta for many more years than humankind has endeavored to control the system. These trends include the systematic rise of sea level; the continuing subsidence of the land under New Orleans; the denial of an annual increment of flood-borne sediment to the river flood plain to compensate for subsidence; the imminent diversion of the Mississippi into the Atchafalaya Distributary, as a manifestation of the normal processes of growth of a delta; and the rapid erosion of the buffer zone of tidal wetlands that lies between New Orleans and the Gulf.

The net effect of this 200-year management history has been to build into the system vast instabilities that cannot be reversed by some short-term engineering solution; no matter how ambitious or how expensive. New Orleans will be abandoned by its river, perhaps before the city is devastated by another hurricane. The challenge before us is not to find the political will and the financial resources to rebuild New Orleans in its historic location. The challenge is to meet the urgent needs of many thousands of people whose lives have been devastated by Katrina, while a plan is developed to move the city and its vital activities to a site that will be safer from fully predictable future hurricanes, and will remain on the river after the Mississippi is diverted into the Atchafalaya Distributary.

**Presenter's Biography:**

**Robert Giegengack** † is currently the Davidson Kennedy Professor in the College, and Professor of Earth & Environmental Science in SAS. He studies the long-term history of variation in climate to extend our observational baseline deeper into the past than is accessible from the instrumental record of atmospheric variables. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in environmental science, geology, paleoclimatology, and environmental geology. He has been a member of the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania for 38 years.

**Co-author:**

Kenneth Foster, Professor of Bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania

## “Negotiating a Shifting Terrain”

### Abstract:

The tragedy that struck New Orleans in the wake of Katrina had its immediate cause in a failure to keep the waters of Lake Pontchartrain out of the city. There is however a deeper cause. It lies in a success and not a failure: the success at keeping the Mississippi in. Largely a bystander in this tragedy, the Mississippi is the *raison d'être* for levees and their urban counterpart, the flood wall, in this delta landscape. Three centuries after these structures began in low mounds and short runs to keep high waters out of low-lying property, they have acquired the status here of not just infrastructure but meta-infrastructure, a backdrop against which the workings of a city operate on a day to day basis. Occasionally, levees come into focus as in flood, but only to question their strength and efficacy, not their existence. However, it is not an alternative to the levee that is required; it is rather the recognition of the temporal nature of its 'natural' predecessor in this particular terrain: a world of flows within flows that fans out from near Simmesport, Louisiana. This temporality challenges the firmness and universality with which the levee is considered to divide water and land and, by extension, notions such as river and city, channel and flood plain. It situates New Orleans in a ground for design that is always yet to be mapped and needs to be constantly negotiated in the processes of settlement.

### Presenter's Biography:

**Anuradha Mathur** is an architect and landscape architect and Associate Professor at the School of Design, University of Pennsylvania. She is co-author with Dilip da Cunha of “Mississippi Floods: Designing a Shifting Landscape” (2001, Yale University Press, New Haven) and “Deccan Traverses: The Making of Bangalore's Terrain,” (2006, Rupa & Co., New Delhi)

### Co-author:

Dilip da Cunha, Faculty, Parsons School of Design and Principal, Mathur/da Cunha

## “Katrina, Containment and Catastrophe: The Role of Planning in Preventing Natural Disasters”

### Abstract:

Hurricane Katrina and the destruction of New Orleans illustrate a serious problem with efforts to contain urban expansion as a remedy for the ills of urban sprawl. Containment, either by nature as in New Orleans or by public policy as in over 100 U.S. metropolitan areas, invariably increases pressure to develop and use inherently unsafe areas. In New Orleans, where natural topographic features contained the relatively safe growth of the city to a narrow area of high ground along the Mississippi River, urban expansion occurred in highly floodprone areas and without adequate urban planning or flood protection. The most recent episode of this expansion into unsafe areas, from 1970 to date, has seen more than 22,000 housing units built in eastern New Orleans, most of which flooded after Katrina. In rebuilding the city, dealing with the risk of future flooding in the low-lying floodprone areas of the city has created a contentious and difficult-to-solve planning problem.

Elsewhere in the U.S. and world both natural containment, such as the bays, lakes and wetlands that surround New Orleans, and public policy designed to contain urban sprawl (so-called “smart growth”) all too often have resulted in similar disaster-prone development. This potential for containment to create conditions leading to catastrophic losses from natural hazards can be countered through careful urban planning. Our research on containment found that property insurance payments for losses in weather-related natural disasters in the U.S. between 1994 and 2000 were \$495 per capita in counties with legislated urban growth boundaries and inadequate urban planning, but only \$95 per capita where state governments required local comprehensive plans with hazard mitigation provisions. We found similar results in counties where urban expansion is constrained by natural features rather than land use regulations. Where states required local comprehensive plans with hazard mitigation elements residential property insurance payments for losses in disasters were \$123 per capita versus \$479 per capita in counties with natural containment where plans were not required.

These findings suggest that comprehensive planning mandates from the states and federal government can be effective tools for combating disasters in naturally contained areas and from preventing sprawl-busting efforts from inadvertently leading to increased risk of loss from natural hazards. In this regard, it is notable that pending legislation in Congress (the “Safe Communities Act,” H.R. 3524) for the first time will provide federal financial incentives for local comprehensive land use plans that address natural hazards and for research on best practices in comprehensive land use and community planning aimed at reducing threats posed by natural hazards.

**Presenter’s Biography:**

**Raymond J. Burby** is Professor of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, associate editor of the *Natural Hazards Review*, and former co-editor of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. From 1992-2000 he was a Distinguished Professor of City and Regional Planning and held the DeBlois Chair in Urban and Public Affairs at the University of New Orleans. Professor Burby’s research focuses on issues related to land use, natural hazards, and environmental quality.

**Co-authors:**

Arthur C. Nelson, Professor and Director of Urban Affairs and Planning, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Thomas Sanchez, Associate Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

**“Natural Hazards Science – A Matter of Public Safety”**

**Abstract:**

The past 12 months have provided a wake-up call to our Nation’s citizens regarding the world we inhabit. Nature gave us several tragic reminders of her force. More than 27 major disasters were declared in the United States from earthquakes, landslides, hurricanes, fires, and floods. Every year, natural hazards that occur in the United States result in hundreds of lives lost and cost billions of dollars in the form of disaster aid, disrupted commerce, and destroyed public and private properties.

The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) has the lead Federal responsibility under the Disaster Relief Act (P.L. 93-288, popularly known as the Stafford Act) to provide notification for earthquakes, volcanoes, and landslides, to enhance public safety, and to reduce losses through effective forecasts and warnings based on the best possible scientific information. It is our goal to provide scientific research and analysis that help the public, the emergency management community, and policy makers make informed decisions on how to react to each hazard and how to safeguard society. We produce coastal-change vulnerability products to provide pre-hurricane forecasts of impacts to infrastructure, essential for evacuation and post-storm recovery efforts. In the case of wildfires, USGS with Federal partners monitor seasonal fire danger conditions and provide firefighters with maps of current fire locations, perimeters, and potential spread.

Natural hazards will always be with us. They are unpredictable and can have tragic consequences. With USGS science, we are striving to prevent these natural hazards from becoming disasters. This is not just a scientific endeavor – it is a matter of public safety. If we can use our science to help save lives and minimize the damage caused by natural hazards, we have achieved an enormous goal – helping to prevent natural hazards from becoming disasters.

**Presenter’s Biography:**

**Dr. P. Patrick Leahy** was appointed the Acting Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Department of the Interior, on June 20, 2005. He previously served as the USGS Associate Director for Geology where he was responsible for basic earth science programs, including worldwide earthquake hazards monitoring and research, geologic mapping of land and seafloor resources, volcano and landslide hazards, and assessments of energy and mineral resources. Dr. Leahy holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in geology (1968) and geophysics (1970) from Boston College, and a doctorate in geology (1979) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

## **PANEL TWO: RE-ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC VIABILITY TO URBAN REGIONS**

*Both the public and private sectors have roles in resuscitating post-disaster economies in impacted cities and regions. They focus on employment, commerce, industry, services, transportation of goods and people. The aim is a swift, efficient, and equitable restoration of economic functions. Among the topics economists and others address in the rebuilding are how the rebuilt economy differs from the pre-disaster economy; incentives and strategies needed to jump-start rebuilding the economy; the interaction between government assistance and the free market take; how far the government's role should go beyond rebuilding critical infrastructure to helping to reconstruct businesses and home; and who pays for the rebuilding and retrofitting.*

### **“Re-Starting a Disaster-Stricken Economy”**

#### **Abstract:**

A policymakers' roadmap for re-starting a regional economy in the wake of a natural or man-made disaster must be based on an assessment of the economic consequences and policy responses to previous recent disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, 9/11, and the Northridge earthquake. This historical perspective provides an understanding of what policymakers should and can do.

The initial economic policy response to a disaster must be designed to quickly re-start the economy's export-based industries. Policymakers must identify their export industries, assess which will provide the largest and most rapid stimulus to the rest of the economy, and quickly provide substantial financial aid.

Financial and regulatory forbearance are also necessary for re-starting an economy. Households and businesses hurt by disaster will lose confidence and their ability to renew their economic lives if encumbered by the economic obligations that prevailed prior to the disaster. Although this forbearance should be temporary, policymakers need to provide it quickly and transparently.

Policymakers must also ensure that the region's economic infrastructure and institutions are functioning well. This includes everything from public infrastructure, such as the transportation network and hospitals, to private institutions, such as universities and non-profits. These institutions are committed to enhancing the region's economic well-being and will be catalysts for broader economic growth if provided the opportunity.

A post-disaster regional economy will only regain its long-term footing if the economic risk posed by future disasters can be mitigated or insured against. It is incumbent on policymakers to facilitate this.

The rapid and appropriate policy response to a disaster can ensure that a regional economy afflicted by a disaster is detoured, but not derailed.

#### **Moderator & Presenter's Biography:**

**Mark Zandi** is Chief Economist and co-Founder of *Moody's Economy.com*, Inc., where he directs the company's research and consulting activities. *Moody's Economy.com* is an independent subsidiary of the Moody's Corporation and provides economic research and consulting services to businesses, governments and other institutions. Zandi was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, where he did his PhD research with Nobel Laureate Lawrence Klein and Gerard Adams.

## **“Katrina’s Impact on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Megapolitan Area”**

### **Abstract:**

The presenter examines the impact of Hurricane Katrina had on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast megapolitan area; the nature of how this region is economically and environmentally integrated; and how resilient the Gulf Coast will prove in the coming years. The fact that New Orleans links to a megapolitan urban network has already helped manage the disaster. The larger Gulf Coast absorbed most of its refugees.

Megapolitan Areas are integrated networks of metropolitan and micropolitan areas. The US has 11 “Megas,” with six in the eastern half of the US and five in the west. The New Orleans metropolitan area, with 1.36 million residents, lies near the middle of Gulf Coast Megapolitan Area that stretches from Pensacola to Houston. The Gulf Coast region features an unbroken string of nine census-defined metropolitan areas (and six surrounding rural counties) that together contain almost 10.4 million people.

A zip-code analysis shows that about 70 percent of the people filing Change of Address (COA) forms stayed in the Gulf Coast Megapolitan Area. The regions receiving the most New Orleans evacuees based on the COA data are metro New Orleans (outside the affected areas), Baton Rouge, and Houston. More than half of all New Orleans evacuees have relocated to just these three metropolitan areas. The next biggest share is found in the rest of the Gulf Coast Megapolitan Area. In total, nine in ten New Orleans evacuees are still in the South according to the COA data as of late October 2005.

### **Presenter’s Biography:**

**Robert Lang** is Director of the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech and Associate Professor in the Tech’s School of Planning and International Affairs. Dr. Lang is currently a Distinguished Visiting Professor in Arizona State University’s School of Public Affairs and Fellow of the Urban Land Institute. He is also co-Editor of *Opolis*, the first academic journal focused on suburban studies, Associate Editor of *Housing Policy Debate*, and Book Review Editor for the *Journal of the American Planning Association*.

## **“Getting Businesses Up and Running Again”**

### **Abstract:**

Housing is the big challenge. How fast can replacement housing be created – and will it be consistent with the quality that you would reasonably hope to have.

Land acquisition, design infrastructure development, permitting, and construction take time. These things – for the most part – must be done sequentially. Living in a FEMA travel trailer – where 25% of the population of the Mississippi Gulf Coast now reside – should not be expected to engender patience.

In the case of Katrina, rebuilding in damaged areas where infrastructure already exists, rebuilding is complicated and slowed by delays in establishing new flood elevations. Setting these elevations – below which new buildings would be ineligible for insurance or financing – can take as long as eighteen months. A big percentage of the damaged areas are literally sitting in limbo.

The consequence of this combination of the inability to rebuild on damaged areas and the need for housing in volume as soon as possible is forcing new development out of the cities and into unincorporated areas. This significantly complicates the planning process. It also makes it difficult for small developments, which might be quicker to deliver, to work.

As if there weren’t enough physical obstacles to be overcome, elevated land prices enter the picture. In an area, such as the Mississippi coast, where land absorbed each year by new residential construction had been relatively modest now has strong demand and numerous new

out of territory prospective buyers. Development is always complicated – now more than ever. Our challenge is to overcome these obstacles.

**Presenter's Biography:**

**Leland R. Speed** is Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority. Mr. Speed is involved in the recovery and rebuilding efforts in Mississippi. Prior to his association with the Development Authority, Mr. Speed founded EastGroup Properties and Parkway Properties; both publicly traded Real Estate Investment Trusts.

**“Transportation, Democracy and the Nash Equilibrium”**

**Abstract:**

Rebuilding, or even building transportation infrastructure is critical the economic viability of Place. But, several questions lie logically prior to the question of whether or not to rebuild in the face of catastrophic damage. Some of the prior questions include extent of the damage, risk of recurrence, the meaning of Place and the cost – in both physical and human terms of relocating the economic, social and cultural activities displaced. The content of the discussion on transportation rebuilding must be framed in the context of these broader questions.

Once that decision is taken, however, there are many ways to proceed. Some approaches are naturally better than others but it is difficult, if not impossible to know at the start of a process which one is right for the Place in question. Our knowledge of disaster rebuilding stems from experience and case study. Models of reconstruction range from the powerbroker, for example the actions of the Marquês de Pombal whom we credit with rebuilding Lisbon after the earthquake of 1755, to the politically mediated market which itself can range widely taking many degrees of mediation from the rebuilding of Chicago after the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 (lesser mediation) to the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan after the events of September 11, 2001 (greater mediation).

The questions of what to do, in terms of bricks and mortar, are value laden and themselves overshadowed by the far more complex questions of how to proceed. However, in order to proceed many tensions that must be resolved. An example is the tension between product and process, which requires us to grapple with the question of for whom do we rebuild? Is it for the displaced community of people or is it for the damaged Place?

**Presenter's Biography:**

**Rachel Weinberger** † is Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania. A planning practitioner for over 15 years, Dr. Weinberger has only recently joined academia. Her areas of interest and expertise revolve around transportation and economic development, transportation and equity and the use of transportation infrastructure as a tool with which to shape urban places, both at regional and local scales. She has written on the effects of transportation infrastructure on local property values, gender differences in commute times and transportation and location choice. Her primary current research seeks to understand how transportation fund distribution policies affect transportation outcomes.

**“The Role of Housing Policy in Restoring Economic Viability”**

**Abstract:**

Drawn from the basic observations that an economy needs people and people need housing, the presenter makes the following points:

1. The relocation policies employed in the immediate wake of a disaster have a significant impact on the ability of a devastated community to restore economic viability as they determine where, and under what circumstances, displaced residents are housed. In the case of a severe disaster like Hurricane Katrina, the only practical option is to relocate families to other cities with available housing.
2. The longer it takes to restore economic viability in the devastated community, the fewer families will return – timing is of the essence.

3. Government assistance to enable families to rebuild their homes is not a matter of charity – it's a prerequisite for long-term community survival and sustainability.
4. We do not currently have the right tools in the toolbox to help rebuild the housing of devastated communities.
5. The policy innovation of "Silent Mortgages" – in which no payments of principal or interest are due until sale of the home – could help more than half of the families with large uninsured losses from Hurricane Katrina to rebuild their homes.
6. Other critical rebuilding tools include: a land bank or redevelopment authority to assemble, clear, and redevelop land and government-funded housing subsidies to ensure a mix of housing that is affordable to families at different income levels.
7. Proactive measures are also critical, including: a sounder approach to flood insurance and the interaction between flood and property insurance; and building codes appropriate to foreseeable risks.
8. To the greatest extent possible, these tools need to be clearly defined and available *before* the next disaster.

**Presenter's Biography:**

**Jeffrey Lubell** is Executive Director of the Center for Housing Policy. Prior to coming to the Center, Mr. Lubell served as Director of the Policy Development Division in the Office of Policy Development and Research at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, as a housing policy analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and as a consultant working on housing and asset-building issues. Mr. Lubell is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College.

**"Restoring Urban Viability after Disaster"**

**Abstract:**

Post-disaster economic challenges, at base, are inseparable from social, political, and physical conditions. Because of this, economic viability is inseparable from the challenges of neighborhood planning, community development, and social repair. Pre-Katrina New Orleans had three major spatial concentrations of jobs, but this city—like most cities—also featured a broad array of small-scale employment scattered across the neighborhoods of Orleans parish that also needs careful nurturing. To ensure a return of economic viability that is coupled with a broader recovery effort, several challenges must be met:

- Displaced residents need a well-designed information system to connect them to the new opportunities and demands of the disaster recovery economy;
- Displaced residents who wish to return need to be given priority for transitional housing, as well as job training in the construction trades and other new forms of work availability;
- Neighborhoods, and the smaller jurisdictions within them, need to be used as sources of institutional support and spatial organization to promote the simultaneous recovery of multiple small communities.

Sustainable recovery entails more than rebuilding damaged homes, businesses and infrastructure; it also entails rebuilding trust between city officials and displaced residents at the sub-neighborhood level across the city. One way to ensure the distribution of accurate information and to support the growth and centrality of locally based neighborhood institutions would be to establish a citywide network of Neighborhood Resilience Centers as clearinghouses for residential and business assistance. This decentralized form of centralized information decision-making could form the basis for renewed urban viability for New Orleans as a whole.

**Presenter's Biography:**

**Lawrence J. Vale** is Professor of Urban Design and Planning, and Head of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. He is the author of three prize-winning books about urban design and public housing: *Architecture, Power, and National Identity*; *From the Puritans to the Projects*; and *Reclaiming Public Housing*. Most recently, he is the co-editor, with Thomas J. Campanella, of *The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

## **LUNCH DISCUSSION: THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE REBUILDING**

*Leaders from Tulane and Xavier Universities will discuss how they are contributing to the reconstruction of New Orleans and the region. This dialogue focuses on the role of the university as a key leader in an urban place and on its specific contributions to a city's economic and cultural foundations.*

### **Presenters' Biographies:**

**Lester A. Lefton** is Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of Tulane University. Dr. Lefton is responsible for overseeing the University's 10 deans and more than 550 faculty on its uptown campus, as well as the University's graduate school, libraries, and international programs. Noted for his energetic teaching style and his widely used introductory psychology textbook in its eighth edition, Dr. Lefton is known for his active involvement with undergraduate students and his interest in higher education issues.

**Thomas Bonner, Jr.** is W.K. Kellogg Professor and Chair of English at Xavier University of Louisiana. A native of New Orleans, he has been on Xavier's faculty since 1971. His M.A. and PhD are from Tulane University. He has served twice as Distinguished Visiting Professor at the United States Air Force Academy and most recently as Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the University of Tulsa. He has written books and monographs on Kate Chopin, William Faulkner, and Edgar Allan Poe and edited books on Southern poetry and fiction. For twenty years he was editor of *Xavier Review*; he currently is the editor of *Xavier Review Press*.

**Reed Kroloff** is Dean of the Tulane University School of Architecture and an independent architectural consultant and commentator. The recipient of the American Academy in Rome's 2003 Rome Prize Fellowship, Mr. Kroloff previously served as Editor-in-Chief of *Architecture* magazine. Mr. Kroloff advises a range of clients on architect selection and design strategy, including, among others, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Ministry of Culture of the Federal Government of Mexico, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the University of Connecticut, and Motown Center.

**Yvette M. Jones** is Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President for External Affairs at Tulane University. Ms. Jones is responsible for all day-to-day administrative functions and externally-related activities at the University. She is the senior officer responsible for institutional advancement and the University's \$700 million campaign; federal, state, and local government relations; public relations and university communications; technology transfer and business development; institutional research; and strategic and campus planning.

**Paul Barron** is Professor of Law and presently serving as the Interim Vice President for Technology Services and Chief Information Officer for Tulane University. Professor Barron is a 1968 graduate of Penn Law School and taught for six years in the Legal Studies Department at the Wharton School. In 1976 he began teaching at Tulane University Law School where he is The Class of 1937 Professor of Law. His areas of specialty are: commercial law, consumer credit, labor law and alternative dispute resolution. Prior to going into teaching, he practiced real estate law in Philadelphia.

## **PANEL THREE: THE NEEDS OF THE DISPLACED: RESPONDING TO ISSUES OF CLASS, RACE, AND RECOVERY**

*In the wake of a disaster, residents of the affected area are displaced to locations both near and far. Some will establish residency in new locations, others will return home. A complex set of determinants will weigh into their decision-making. In both instances, disaster victims have a host of needs that must be met, including employment, education, and health care. In most instances, it is the responsibility of local and federal agencies to ensure these needs are met but where each agency's role begins and ends is often unclear. The role of the private sector is particularly ambiguous. In addition, the panel will address: the economic and social impact on cities that have welcomed displaced residents; the long-term social and economic impacts of short-term response decisions, such as mobile home parks; and how insurance policies impact people's decision to return or relocate.*

### **“Accommodating the Housing Needs of Those Displaced”**

#### **Abstract:**

Katrina exposed many things about American society, not the least the fact that we have no accepted models for providing housing for those displaced. The issue has three important dimensions: providing for the immediate housing needs of those who must evacuate their homes and neighborhoods; accommodating families who wish to return to their home neighborhoods to work on making their houses inhabitable; and the long term process of constructing housing and neighborhoods that are damaged beyond repair. The issues are closely coupled.

In dealing with the immediate displacement, each family's network of relatives and friends was the first line of support, and perhaps the only reliable system. The inability of explaining where to go, and how they would be provided for when they arrived, was one of the complicating factors in persuading families to evacuate threatened areas. Private hotels, motels and apartments were flooded with evacuees, and delays in delivering more permanent accommodation have created long term impacts on receiving communities.

Trailers provided by FEMA were the interim solution to allowing residents with damaged homes to return to their communities. Lacking an inventory of trailers, they were slow to materialize, and there was little consensus on acceptable locations. Local residents feared temporary communities becoming permanent, and many resisted placing trailers in front yards or driveways of damaged homes. More critically, lacking consensus about what should be rebuilt, there was a reluctance to locate temporary housing in areas that might not be reconstructed.

The rebuilding process has presented a prisoners dilemma: residents are deterred from returning or rebuilding homes by the lack of assurance that their neighbors will follow suit. And those who live at the margins of the society, with minimal resources are largely closed out of the options to return. These issues call out for planning a system for dealing with displacement at all three levels.

#### **Moderator & Presenter's Biography:**

**Gary Hack** \*\* is Dean and Paley Professor of the School of Design of the University of Pennsylvania, a multidisciplinary school that includes architecture, city and regional planning, landscape architecture, historic preservation and fine arts. He teaches, practices, and writes about urban design internationally. He has recently stepped down from chairing the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, and has served on numerous boards and commissions over his 40 year career.

## “Rebuilding Cultural and Social Networks”

### Abstract:

Hurricane Katrina was a profoundly devastating natural disaster that caused loss of life and property and great amounts of distress among people of all stripes. But it also revealed two underlying problems that had been hidden from view: the government's inability to cope with a disaster of such magnitude, on the one hand, and the socio-cultural and economic stresses and strains of the region on the other. These stresses and strains, rooted in the legacy of slavery and racial inequality, were further exacerbated by the structurally impoverishing impact of deindustrialization and globalization. While the hurricane certainly impacted everyone, the poor were impacted disproportionately. An overwhelming number of these people were black, and were unable or unwilling to get out of New Orleans because they lacked “ready money,” transportation, or had no place to go. Many, having lived through numerous false alarms, gave in to complacency. Chaos occurred, and people got caught up in it. This was shown in the media nationally and internationally and opened up old wounds. It became clear that we as a country we have not moved to resolve the racial strain directly attributable to slavery and second-class citizenship. Now in the aftermath, the divide is being revealed in who is able to return and who is not, with proposals advanced not to rebuild the major black neighborhoods.

Katrina was one of the increasingly common local calamitous events, like the Paris riots or the tsunami in Southeast Asia, that reveal poverty and a persistent racial divide on a global scale. The question is: how can we go about making the victims whole and healing the divide? To the extent we deal with victims and their plight effectively, we not only will have healing, but America will demonstrate to the rest of the world that such an achievement is possible.

### Presenter's Biography:

**Elijah Anderson** † is the Charles and William L. Day Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of the classic work, “A Place on the Corner: A Study of Black Street Corner Men”; “Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community”, for which he was honored by the American Sociological Association with the Robert E. Park Award for the best published book in the area of Urban Sociology; and “Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City,” winner of the Komarovsky Award of the Eastern Sociological Society. He also has made appearances on the “Jim Lehrer Newshour” and has written for the *New York Times Book Review* and the *Atlantic Monthly*, among other publications. He is director of the Philadelphia Ethnography Project, and his current work concerns how Philadelphians live “diversity” in everyday life.

## “Restoring Public Safety”

### Abstract:

Last year the City of Miami was hit twice: Hurricane Katrina with winds up to 70mph and by Wilma which was a fast moving storm with winds up to 100 miles per and gusts to 120mph, causing widespread blackout of the entire city for a week and blackouts in some neighborhoods for up to two or three weeks.

### *A Few Lessons Learned*

Most of the high rise buildings suffered a lot of window damage. As a result, three blocks of the Brickell Corridor, had to be closed for the next couple of days because of falling glass.

Policy dictated that all units return to headquarters once the winds reached 39mph. As the hurricane reached 40mph and police returned to headquarters, incidents of looting began to break out. A lieutenant informed me it was “too dangerous for police to respond to these looting locations,” I replied, “The looters don't think so!” We responded and several looting arrests were made. We will revisit the old policy in the off-season.

A small number of gas stations could pump gas (with their own generators) resulting in gas lines up to ten blocks long. This required us to deploy up to ten police officers at each location to preserve order.

Finally, when the storm passed and the city was entirely in the dark, I ordered all police vehicles to drive continuously throughout the city with their police lights on to demonstrate to the public that we were there and “omnipresent.”

Additional lessons will be discussed.

**Presenter’s Biography:**

**John F. Timoney \*** was appointed Chief of Police of the Miami Police Department on January 2, 2003. He was also Police Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department for four years, and First Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, where he served with distinction for 29 years. Chief Timoney has been able to strengthen the Miami Police Department’s sense of integrity, revised procedures for greater accountability, implemented one of the most progressive policies in the country on the use of deadly force by police officers, and drastically reduced the number of police shootings of civilians, while driving crime down to record levels. He holds two Master’s degrees, is a vocal proponent for greater formal education of police officers and democratic policing throughout the world, and is considered among the nation’s highest authorities on Terrorism.

**“Rebuilding the Urban Public Health System”**

**Abstract:**

The current health care system in New Orleans is in crisis. Two thirds of acute care hospital beds are gone. The structure for Charity Hospital, which provided an enormous amount of care for the disadvantaged, is unusable, and the hospital is operating out of air force tents. The only level 1 trauma center is destroyed in the process. Finally, there is a severe shortage of medical staff, because of clinical staff who have not returned. Shortly after Katrina, medical units from the military and the US Public Health Service met these needs. However, those units have gone, while it is only now that the population is returning, along with its medical needs. These will be difficult problems to solve, and compounded by both local and national dilemmas.

Some issues are local, such as the addition to the normal stresses of special post-event illnesses, e.g., from mold in damaged homes. In addition, if the system cannot handle normal everyday care, what happens in influenza season, which is imminent? Further, what happens during Mardi Gras, when ambulance calls normally triple? Yet, hospitals cannot successfully recruit medical staff to assist, if their families have no place to live.

This is compounded by structural national problems. Most health care is completely private, as we have no real health care “system” in the US. This gives governmental agencies seeking to address these problems limited levers of influence. Further, most health care is traditionally disconnected from public health. Yet, with the exception of public hospitals like Charity Hospital, it is only public health that is controlled by governments. Further, this is compounded by the historical lack of coordination between local, county, state, and federal public health. Finally, the US has a weak public health system, nationwide, which has been subjected to chronic underfunding and cuts, and diversion of resources into activities like bioterrorism preparedness.

**Presenter’s Biography:**

**Brian L. Strom †**, M.D., M.P.H., is the George S. Pepper Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and Founding Director of the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr. Strom also serves as Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology and has appointments in the departments of Medicine and Pharmacology. Recently, he was appointed Associate Vice Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Associate Vice President for Strategic Integration for the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

### **“Educational Equity: Redress, Challenges, and Promise in Post-Disaster Cities”**

#### **Abstract:**

Throughout the early days of the post-Katrina coverage, news reports presented images of adults—parents, the homeless, and the infirmed—and their struggles to reconcile their overwhelming sense of loss with memories of real or perceived stability and a more predictable existence. As these images pierced the nation’s sensibilities about the apparent absence of government relief and prompted efforts to help the disaster victims find respite, NBC News presented the striking commentary of Charles Evans, a ten-year-boy from New Orleans who summed up poignantly the frustration, despair, desperation, and fledgling hope of the displaced. Charles, as a persona, is representative of the complex issues of well-being and education facing the Gulf Coast’s displaced children. The presentation will consider these tensions of “past and future” in rebuilding post-disaster cities such as New Orleans. First, it will focus on racial and economic disparities and their relationships to educational access, school achievement, and educational opportunities, drawing upon past and contemporary lessons from the regions directly affected and from national analyses. Understanding the needs of the displaced is inextricably linked to who they were prior to and will be subsequent to their displacement—as disproportionately minority and poor. Second, it will examine commentaries about the experiences of children and their displaced families in schools and the school districts that they attend, with a particular focus on successes and barriers in receiving the children; addressing their educational needs; and integrating them into schools, systems, and communities. Third, it will present considerations for educational and social policies and practices that redress past problems such as those faced by children and families in the Gulf Coast and that create viable alternatives to reducing these problems and to shaping the future.

#### **Presenter’s Biography:**

**Vivian L. Gadsden**<sup>†</sup> is Associate Professor of Education and Director of the National Center on Fathers and Families at the University of Pennsylvania. She also has chaired the “Penn Symposia on Equity, Access, and Race.” Gadsden studies intergenerational learning and life-course development among vulnerable children and families in school, home, and community contexts. Her scholarly work includes a forthcoming volume on incarcerated parents and their children as well as numerous published articles and edited volumes on literacy and learning; schooling; parent-child and father-child engagement within low-income and minority families; and issues of race, gender and class.

### **“Responding to the Needs of the Displaced Who Were Already Displaced When Hurricane Katrina Struck the Gulf Coast”**

#### **Abstract:**

On the day Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast a small, but significant population was already displaced from their permanent homes. Nearly 500 children, most of them abused and neglected, were in foster care in Orleans Parish on the last weekend of August, 2005. Of this number, nearly 90% were African-American children. Hundreds more children were in foster care in the surrounding parishes and in the counties of Alabama and Mississippi that were impacted by the hurricane. An additional number of battered women were in shelter in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Mobile. All of these displaced women and children were then displaced by the storm and its aftermath. Already lacking in social capital, the displaced women and children then lost the fragile support of the child welfare system, child protective service system, and the network of support services that serve battered women. This paper examines the situation of displaced maltreated children and battered women and to what extent the system that supports these displaced individuals has been re-constructed and the challenges that still face the rebuilding of the support and infrastructure system that cares and keeps watch for the most vulnerable of family members.

**Presenter's Biography:**

**Richard J. Gelles** \*\* is Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania and holds the Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare and Family Violence in the School of Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania. He is Director of the Center for the Research on Youth and Social Policy and co-director of the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice, and Research, and Director of the Ortner-Unity Program on Family Violence. His book, *The Violent Home* was the first systematic empirical investigation of family violence and continues to be highly influential. He is the author or co-author of 25 books and more than 100 articles and chapters on family violence. His latest books are, *The Book of David: How Preserving Families Can Cost Children's Lives* (Basic Books, 1996), *Intimate Violence in Families, Third Edition* (Sage Publications, 1997), and *Current Controversies on Family Violence, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Sage Publications, 2005).

## **AFTERNOON DISCUSSION: RECREATING A SENSE OF PLACE**

*Catastrophes reveal unparalleled opportunities to build a modern urban center that is not only more resilient to disaster but is built upon the city's cultural values, such as its historic urban fabric and cultural heritage, can emerge. Paying particular attention to the case of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, panelists will examine the opportunities and challenges that present themselves after a disaster and further define what aspects of heritage – tangible and intangible—shape decisions and perceptions about rebuilding.*

### **Moderator's Biography:**

**Marilyn Jordan Taylor** \*\* is an architect and urban designer known for her passionate involvement in the design of urban projects and civic initiatives, as well as for her exceptional leadership on some of the most complex public and institutional projects around the world. An expert in using public space and infrastructure to shape urban districts and civic places, Ms. Taylor leads Skidmore Owings & Merrill's Urban Design & Planning practice, including such projects as Columbia University's Manhattanville Master Plan, the East River Waterfront Master Plan, and the reclamation of Con Ed's East River sites for mixed-use development. Ms. Taylor is deeply engaged in civic leadership. In July 2005 she became Chairman of the Urban Land Institute, having previously served as Vice Chairman for Policy and Practice for this global research and education organization dedicated to the responsible use of land.

## **“The Lessons of Past Urban Disasters”**

### **Abstract:**

The presenter discusses the post-Katrina reconstruction of New Orleans in the light of lessons learned from the historical examples of cities rebuilt after natural and manmade disasters. Most cities have preserved their pre-disaster street layouts during reconstruction, although building techniques have often been upgraded. The challenge of rebuilding New Orleans is particularly complex since it is a modern city, with many interconnected sets of technological and human infrastructures that must be put in place simultaneously. The extent of the real *demand* for rebuilding New Orleans, a city with a declining population, and a weak economy, represents a serious challenge.

### **Presenter's Biography:**

**Witold Rybczynski** † is Martin and Margy Meyerson Professor in Urbanism at the University of Pennsylvania. Described as "one of our most original, accessible, and stimulating writers on architecture" by *Library Journal*, Rybczynski is currently the architecture critic for *Slate*. His essays appear regularly in the *New York Review of Books*, *The Atlantic*, and the op-ed pages of *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. He has also written for *The New Yorker* and *Time*.

## **“Cultural Preservation and Problems of Rebuilding”**

### **Abstract:**

New Orleans and the Gulf region are places of immense *cultural value*, nationally and locally—as distinct from what is commonly debated as their economic value. A thorough understanding of the cultural values of these places, therefore, must be part of the rebuilding process.

Having recognized the cultural value of New Orleans and the region, it follows logically that some kind of cultural preservation approach to redevelopment is warranted. The presenter discusses some (unorthodox) ideas about preservation that are adaptive, flexible, and centered on the goal of equitable social development.

The larger subject of the argument is how the cultural aspects of a place enter in to decisions about (re)development. Generically speaking, places should be seen as having both economic and cultural values, generating flows of economic benefits as well as cultural benefits. Culture need not be a secondary consideration in (re)development. Indeed, we ignore culture at our peril,

and in the field of international development, a critique has arisen over the last ten years or so against development decisions being made with insufficient regard for culture.

Taking culture seriously in redevelopment decisions could play out in several different ways. The presenter will highlight two: First, to adopt a language more friendly to economic discourse, culture could be thought of in terms of capital. Second, culture could be thought of as a set of ideas, as knowledge, in which resides crucial, strategic information for making redevelopment truly sustainable. (Sustainability being redefined in cultural terms, as well as ecological and economic.)

These arguments will be tested by looking at the recommendations made recently by the Cultural Committee of the Bring New Orleans Back Commission, as well as some case studies of wholesale removal of communities in post-disaster redevelopment, and the effects of this on the cultural values of these places: the town of Valmeyer, Illinois, relocated after the Mississippi floods of 1993; and communities in the Aceh province of Indonesia, heavily damaged by the 2004 tsunami.

Anecdotally, these cases support the argument for including cultural factors in redevelopment and rebuilding decisions, and more specifically point to the virtues of slower processes of rebuilding; more decentralized decision-making, and the importance of local knowledge.

#### **Presenter's Biography:**

**Randall Mason**<sup>†</sup> is Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design, where he teaches in the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation. He worked previously at the Getty Conservation Institute and the University of Maryland, and holds a doctorate from Columbia University. His research and practice focuses on urban history, economic and social issues surrounding contemporary historic preservation, and vernacular memorials. He is currently completing a book about the origins of historic preservation in New York City, titled *Memory Infrastructure*.

### **“How Will Reconstruction Affect New Orleans's Historic Architecture?”**

#### **Abstract:**

Many of the current proposals for the reconstruction of New Orleans threaten disastrous results for the historic fabric.

New Orleans's distinctive architecture is best understood as a hybrid repertoire of forms of varied origins, within which the particular kinds, qualities, and locations of houses available to individual residents of the city have been governed by a racialized socioeconomic order. This implies that one must understand the city as a kind of architectural ecology, and treat not individual buildings but the range, mix, and distribution of the entire architectural landscape with a very light hand.

Two aspects of New Orleans's historic architectural ecology require particular attention as one discusses "shrinking the footprint" or any of the other proposals for reducing the city's size and abandoning neighborhoods. The first is that New Orleanians are acutely aware of the historic social hierarchies that have shaped their city, and they understand the implications of the reconstruction proposals in this light.

The second is that New Orleans has suffered disasters such as Katrina in the past and that people have managed to reconstruct their own properties in their own ways in the aftermath. Allow individual homeowners to decide whether and how to reconstruct and allow them to do it at their own pace and in their own way (within the minimal limits of public health and safety considerations). This strategy would take into account the local knowledge and historical architectural understanding of residents that transcends and gives significance to bricks and mortar alone.

**Presenter's Biography:**

**Dell Upton** is David A. Harrison III Professor of Architectural History and Anthropology at the University of Virginia, where he has taught since 2002. For twenty years before that he was professor of architectural history at the University of California, Berkeley. Upton's most recent book is *Architecture in the United States* (Oxford University Press, 1998). He is currently completing a study of urban space and citizenship in early-nineteenth-century Philadelphia, New York, and New Orleans.

**“Planning for New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina”**

**Abstract:**

Most of the flood damage to New Orleans was not caused directly by Hurricane Katrina but by the negligence of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Analysis has shown that the flood walls along the New Orleans drainage canals were improperly constructed by the Corps. The city was spared a direct hit from the hurricane; the damage came later when the flood walls failed, and the pumps were unable to keep up as Lake Pontchartrain poured into the city.

The only equitable plan to rebuild New Orleans is for every citizen who wants to come back to be able to come back. The city-wide plan starts, as it has too, with the flood protection system. Restoring the system to what it was supposed to have been before August 29<sup>th</sup> is well under way. The next step, shown in the WRT plan, is to make it possible to close the connections from Lake Pontchartrain to the drainage canals and to move the pumps to the perimeter of the city, where they belong. Ultimately the safety of the entire Gulf Coast requires a comprehensive wetlands restoration and flood protection plan, which will take many years and will be very expensive. In the meantime, New Orleans will be the only segment of the Gulf Coast which has effective flood protection in place.

The new protection perimeter will permit the drainage canals to become the centerpiece of a city-wide park and open space system, which, with the proposed city-wide transit system, will become the armature for neighborhood based plans, including neighborhood schools, parks and public facilities. A planning process has begun in which New Orleans citizens will determine the priorities for neighborhood restoration. However, early action centers are planned in all parts of the city.

**Presenter's Biography:**

**Jonathan Barnett** <sup>†</sup> is a Professor of Practice in City and Regional Planning and Director of the Urban Design Program at the University of Pennsylvania; and he also practices urban design as a professional in charge at Wallace Roberts and Todd in Philadelphia. He was part of the WRT team retained to prepare the initial reconstruction plan for New Orleans. He has been an advisor to many cities on urban design, has written well-known books and articles about the history, theory and practice of urban design, and is a fellow of both the American Institute of Certified Planners and the American Institute of Architects.

**“Recreating New Orleans Culture and Community with Music and the Building Arts”**

**Abstract:**

New Orleans' cultural landscape as expressed in architecture, music, food, rituals and public celebrations is identified as much a part of the Caribbean as the American South. The historic and ongoing creolization of French, Spanish, African, African-Caribbean, Native and English-speaking American cultures has set the city and region apart in America while offering a model for better understanding similar less explicit processes in the nation as a whole. This is a time of perilous passage for one of the world's great city/states of arts--one where, rare in America, the vernacular cultural expressions of communities have been central rather than marginal to civic identity...and the economy.

If New Orleans is to again be a monument of living culture of global significance, local musicians and craftsmen and their cultural expressions must be paramount in the city's restoration, re-inhabitation and rebirth. The most prominent aspects of public culture that express New Orleanians' deepest sense of themselves and their communities writ large are found in the realms of work (the building arts) and play (music and celebratory occasions). Without these expressions and the individuals and intact neighborhoods central to their realization, it will be difficult for the city to find cultural continuity essential not only to family and community life, but to the future of the economy and civitas of New Orleans as we have known it and might improve upon it.

**Presenter/Author's Biography:**

**Nick Spitzer** is Professor of Folklore and Cultural Conservation at the University of New Orleans. He is also the creator and host of *American Routes*, the Public Radio International program devoted to music and culture of the Gulf South. Spitzer is known for his work in cultural policy and with Afro-Creole community-based traditions in music, Mardi Gras, and the building arts.

**Co-presenters:**

**Eddie Bo** is a New Orleans pianist, R & B singer, and building artisan.

**Earl Barthé** is a 6<sup>th</sup> generation Creole plasterer and an NEA National Heritage fellow who describes his family's work in musical terms ranging from opera to the blues.

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