

New Orleans Under Reconstruction

The Crisis of Planning

**A national conference on
the reconstruction of
New Orleans as symptomatic
of larger issues of contemporary
planning and urbanism**

**Tulane University
October 23-24 2009
www.project-neworleans.org**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2009

**Conference organized by Carol McMichael Reese,
Michael Sorkin, and Anthony Fontenot for
Project New Orleans**

The destruction of New Orleans caused by Hurricane Katrina and the failure of the levees was an experience of horror and revelation. Katrina's differential effects and the hugely disproportionate responses by and for different communities laid bare not simply a peculiar U.S. urban anatomy; they exposed a simmering crisis in the nature of planning itself.

New Orleans Under Reconstruction will examine the aftermath of Katrina and New Orleans' struggles with rebuilding as deeply symptomatic of larger issues of contemporary planning and urbanism. The conference gathers an impressive and diverse group of local and national planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers, activists, and academics to present their current work and advance debate about action toward the resurgence of the city. The timing of these debates is all the more crucial as the city moves rapidly toward a mayoral race.

The focus of this event is on highlighting the progress that has been made, overcoming the obstacles that have slowed rebuilding, and advancing future visions for the city, as well as on interrogating the general role of planning today and exploring the possibility of the emergence of a reconstructed New Orleans as an exemplar. Issues concerning environmental ethics and sustainability, master planning, water management, housing equity, contemporary design and green building, cultural landscapes, citizen activism, and the right to the city will all be prominently addressed.

Since Katrina, the conference co-organizers Carol McMichael Reese, Michael Sorkin, and Anthony Fontenot have conducted Project New Orleans, which has compiled an archive of proposals for the reconstruction of the city. Many of these were shown in 2006 at the New Orleans African-American Museum in an exhibition organized by Project New Orleans. An extensive selection from the Project New Orleans archive together with the results of the conference will be published in a book by Verso, scheduled to appear in late 2010.

The conference is free and open to the public.
No reservations are necessary.

Friday, October 23: 5 – 8 pm
Saturday, October 24: 9 am – 7 pm

Tulane University, Kendall Cram Lecture Hall (rm 213) in the Lavin-Bernick Center, building #29 on the campus map; nearest parking garage is building #103 on the campus map, located on Ben Weiner Drive and accessible from Willow Street

On-campus parking is available after 5pm
For campus map see: <http://tulane.edu/about/visiting/uptown-campus-map.cfm>

For more information please call: (504) 314-2328
or visit: www.project-neworleans.org

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Organizers and Participants →