WhoData 2012 Project Newsletter

WhoData.org

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“Partnering with leaders and stakeholders across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Placing data in service to strengthen and benefit communities.”
WhoData would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the organizations and individuals that have made WhoData a success, due in large part to their time and expertise:

- Michael Lostocco
- Mike Madej
- Husni Qurt
- Nada Toueir
- Devon McGuiness

- Michael Martin
- Laverne Saulny
- Senator Mary Landrieu
- James Bradley Stire
- Students of MURP 4081

Thank you to those not mentioned explicitly by name, as well as the hundreds of residents and volunteers that have given their time and energy to walk the blocks, surveying this city.

In spring 2012, the Greater New Orleans Foundation provided funding to expand our ability to provide services to non-profits, community groups, administrative operations and community survey materials. The following projects and personnel were supported, in part, through this generous donation:

- 2012/2013 WhoData Program Administration – Brittany Arceneaux
- 2012/2013 WhoData Website maintenance – Darin Acosta
- 2012 Louisiana Land Trust Mapping & Analysis – Carl Seifert, Brian Baldwin
- 2012 WhoData GIS & Map Standards – Brian Baldwin
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Welcome to the inaugural edition of the WhoData.org Newsletter! We hope you will enjoy reviewing a number of projects that we have provided for the residents of New Orleans, Louisiana since the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. There are many wonderful stories of resilience, ingenuity and bravery that have yet to be fully documented or the stories told.

Since 1987, I have worked in a variety of roles and had opportunities to examine and participate in ways that academic, public, private and non-profit organizations have engaged in the neighborhood planning process. Some have been successful but others have not. As a result, the social and economic benefits that arise from collaboration, neighborhood knowledge and public policy have been mutually exclusive and, at times, directly undermine the goals of people and systems that otherwise should be compatible. (Thompson & Owens, 2012)

In an effort to bring the ideas, talents and technologies together, a theory of “middle through” community engagement was named in 1996 as public participation geographic information systems (PPGIS) (J. Ferreira, 1998; R. Sieber 2006). The goal was simple – identify the shared vision and resources that would allow residents, their municipal leaders and the academic community to work collaboratively and synchronously. By incorporating local/neighborhood knowledge with public information then merge them into shared data systems, there would be a significant increase in residents communicating their desires, improve civic engagement, and further inform municipal leaders with a better understanding of community needs. By using PPGIS, residents would be empowered by increasing ready access to information and increase their ability to fully participate in a modern ‘ladder of citizen participation’ (Arnstein, 1969) by using contemporary technology, such as GIS, to meet these goals.

As a scholar, former practicing city planner, licensed real estate appraiser, GIS educator and real estate market analyst, I have been able to directly and indirectly evaluate the unfortunate impact that the lack of data has for urban areas recovering from disasters (whether man-made or natural) (Thompson, 2011). In most cases, citizens are unable to obtain their right to fair and impartial information which contributes to the lack of understanding of the top-down planning process typically provided by planners. In an effort to address the digital divide by expanding data access, It has been my personal goal to eliminate roadblocks that imprison
data through community data information systems that can be understood by many, supports access to municipal resources, expands economic development opportunities and identifies ways to document, map and analyze quality of life issues (blight, crime, homelessness, etc.).

In New Orleans, WhoData.org was created to use PPGIS theory and apply this to a community-municipal-university partnership. Thus, in 2009 with the help of Mr. David Lessinger (now Director of Land Banking at the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority) from the Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans, Brian Baldwin a 2010 Masters in Urban Planning graduate of the University of New Orleans Department of Planning & Urban Studies, Lynn Dupont who is the Principal Planner and GIS Manager for the Regional Planning Commission along with a coalition of non-profit groups in Central City and myself completed the first WhoData Project. By Spring of 2010 with the volunteer mapping service programming assistance of GISCorps, ‘WhoData.org’ - a fully integrated web-enabled community data information system – was launched.

Our focus remains to provide training, resources, support and a shared environment to view, map, download and monitor change in New Orleans neighborhoods. As we move ahead in 2013, we will continue to follow the growth of many neighborhoods in New Orleans. WhoData will partner with entrepreneurial leaders and stakeholders using applied PPGIS to achieve mutual understanding and increase geospatial information between the public, private and non-profit business sectors. Our goal is to place cutting edge data in service to promote strategies and outcomes using best practices to strengthen and benefit communities.

While we initially focused on blight and property condition mapping, as you will see from the newsletter vignettes, the WhoData PPGIS achieved so much more. Our work is not unique but it is a measured success of how we moved from a dream to an idea realized to keep data public for the citizens and City of New Orleans.

With sincere gratitude for the opportunity,

Michelle M. Thompson, PhD
Project and Report Overview

WhoData.org, a community-focused public participation geographic information project, aims to share data that academic, public, private and non-profit organizations can use to assess, monitor and manage quality of life issues. WhoData empowers resident-led, non-profit or community-focused groups, primarily in New Orleans, with training and resources to map and analyze data they collect on neighborhood conditions and trends. The community data information system, www.whodata.org, houses the results of property condition surveys. Residents are able to highlight priority properties that reflect indicators of blight, create customized maps and export property lists to share with the public and municipal leaders. Neighborhood profile reports, compiled maps and select data analysis are summarized on the project website: www.whodata.net. The WhoData team is primarily supported by dedicated volunteers from the University of New Orleans Department of Planning & Urban Studies, City of New Orleans with support from the GISCorps and the Regional Planning Commission. Operations Management is provided by the Project Director with key support from the Program Operations Manager. Operations Management includes project monitoring, training on data collection methods and techniques, direct supervision of special projects, overall organization, security and control of WhoData resources.
PROJECT OVERVIEW
WhoData.org, a community-focused organization aims to share geographic housing data with public and private organizations alike through an online mapping tool. It empowers organizations throughout the city by providing them a platform to map and analyze the information they collect on properties in their area. It allows residents to assess their own neighborhoods, highlight properties that show indicators of blight, create their own maps and property lists, and share this information with the public. Operations management includes a responsibility to monitor projects, conduct training, direct projects, and organize and control resources of WhoData.

SCOPE OF SERVICES
• Organize team contact information
• Update and organize Gantt chart
• Draft press releases for WhoData projects
• Edit team monthly report
• Draft and respond to administrative emails
• Draft press releases for WhoData projects
• Manage Nondisclosure and Data Sharing Agreements of team members and partnering organizations
• Monitor whodata.org and ensure all data is posted and accurate

WhoData Program Administration
Project Manager: Brittany Arceneaux
Client: WhoData Team

• Monitor and aid in the design for WhoData.net and ensure all information is posted and accurate

Timeframe
January - ongoing

PROJECT DELIVERABLES
• Monthly WhoData Gantt chart
• Monthly WhoData Report
• Data Sharing Agreements
• Non-Disclosure Forms
• ESRI© ArcGIS files
• Any digital files needed by team members to support projects including: data, ESRI© ArcGIS files, map request forms, and WhoData training materials

WhoData Program Director Michelle Thompson with Mayor Mitch Landrieu of New Orleans, LA (left) and Mayor Svante Myrick of Ithaca, NY (right) [New Orleans City Hall, November 2012]
WhoData.org Data Dictionary

Project Manager: Josh Baer
Client: WhoData Team

PROJECT OVERVIEW
In order to better communicate internally, a standard terminology for attributes and features used in a GIS. This effort will bring efficiency and a reduction in errors to WhoData's work.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Timeframe
August 2012 - March 2013

PROJECT DELIVERABLES
• Spreadsheets featuring dictionary items
• Detailed descriptions of shapefile/feature class attributes and intended characteristics

FUTURE RESEARCH
The data dictionary will be located on a digital site accessible to all team members. Further research needs be conducted concerning a cost effective online host for large files that can be linked to the data dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOR RENT? [For_Rent]</td>
<td>This field answers the question, ‘Is the structure available for rent?’ Three valid entries are possible: ‘Yes or No or &quot; &quot; [blank]. Field surveyors are instructed to observe the rental availability by the presence of a rental or lease sign. Access to the structure and conversation with the inhabitants are not required. If a parcel does not contain a building structure, then this field should be blank (&quot; &quot;).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW
The WhoData Data Dictionary defines the fields used in GIS files (both shapefiles and feature classes) used in Whodata products. No file naming rubric or GIS file field ordering system has been determined as the creation of this document; therefore an external name related to the field contents has been utilized. This data dictionary is organized in alphabetical order by this (hopefully) useful external field name.
WhoData.org Organizational Structure
Meeting the Team

Brittany Arceneaux
Program Operations Manager

Brittany currently works with WhoData as the program operations manager. Brittany’s roles in project management include work the Lower Ninth Ward and Hoffman Triangle.

Along with field research, Brittany works with neighborhoods organizations to provide GIS training and methods of data collection. She has presented her research at conferences such as the 2012 New Orleans Housing Community Development Conference and the 2012 National Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference.

Darin Acosta
Webmaster/ GIS Analyst

Darin continues to provide webmaster services for the WhoData website. This includes, uploading all maps, reports and other news related to the organization.

He has also lent his GIS mapping skills to a variety of WhoData projects over the last few years.

Alena Anderson
GIS Program Associate

Alena has utilized her experience with property conditions surveying and GIS mapping to identify key issues affecting development and support creative neighborhood planning strategies for the Hoffman Triangle and New Orleans East neighborhoods.

She has used her experience with GIS mapping to create thematic maps that exemplify key market trends affecting the revitalization of commercial corridors in New Orleans, LA.

WhoData.org Organizational Structure
Meeting the Team

Alena Anderson
GIS Program Associate

Carl Seifert (v)
GIS Program Associate

Chandra Teddleton (v)
GIS Program Associate

Brian Baldwin (v)
Mapping Manager

Dr. Michelle Thompson (v)
Program Director

Lynn Dupont (v)
Regional Planning Commission / Program Partner

Smita Peethambaram (v)
GIS Corps / Program Partner

Darwin Acosta (v)
GIS Program Associate

Alena Anderson (v)
GIS Program Associate

Josh Baer (v)
GIS Program Associate

Brittany Arceneaux (v)
GIS Program Associate

Darin Acosta (v)
GIS Program Associate

Alena Anderson (v)
GIS Program Associate

Carl Seifert (v)
GIS Program Associate

Chandra Teddleton (v)
GIS Program Associate
WhoData.org Organizational Structure
Meeting the Team

Josh Baer
GIS Program Associate
Josh has provided database management services to WhoData and UN-PLUS community mapping projects.

In addition to working with WhoData, Josh provides GIS mapping services to a local bike advocacy group and is currently working with NOPD to track bike related theft throughout the city of New Orleans.

Brian Baldwin
Manager of Mapping
Has 10 years of experience working with ESRI products and open source GIS. Brian currently works with the Milwaukee Police Department as a Crime Analyst, conducting spatial and temporal analysis of crime. He works as a consultant with a diverse array of clients that include, The University of New Orleans, FEMA, The University of Hawaii, and others. Brian provides support for WhoData by creating maps, analyzing data, formulating reports, and conducting spatial analysis.

Carl Seifert
GIS Analyst
Carl has worked on several maps related to priority city-wide housing initiatives and programs.

He has contributed his time and effort to update neighborhood property conditions surveys for WhoData.

Dr. Michelle M. Thompson
Program Director
Dr. Michelle M. Thompson is an Assistant Professor in the University of New Orleans Department of Planning & Urban Studies (UNO-PLUS). Dr. Thompson is the WhoData Program Director and provides training, research and reporting services for community based organizations in New Orleans, LA. Dr. Thompson teaches geographic information systems (GIS), housing and community development, land use planning, urban public finance and introduction to neighborhood planning. Dr. Thompson has research interests in the application of public participation GIS, international micro-finance, community and economic development.

Chandra Teddleton
Program Associate
Chandra has worked on developing effective and creative marketing strategy for the New Orleans East neighborhood.

As part of her work, Chandra has also helped monitor commercial blight and advertise small businesses in New Orleans East.
Since Hurricane Katrina occurred in 2005, New Orleans East has been on a steady road to recovery and has been the recipient of nearly $3.2 billion dollars of public and private investment (GCR, 2012). Over $150 million dollars of these funds have been allocated for major development projects located in the heart of the New Orleans East in area referred to as the New Orleans East Town Center Commercial Corridor Revitalization District. These major development projects include:

- $3 million dollars for Streetscape Improvement Projects on Lake Forest Blvd and Read Blvd
- $7 million dollars in renovations for New Orleans Public Library on Read Blvd
- $18 million dollars in renovations of Joe Brown Park
- $130 million dollars in reconstruction of New Orleans East Methodist Hospital

With this investment, comes opportunity to transform this area into a destination place that supports multiple modes of transportation, encourages increased pedestrian mobility and enhances existing underutilized waterways and green space.

Despite these viable assets, there are liabilities to future investment and revitalization of the commercial corridor district. The most significant liabilities are the commercial and residential blighted properties adjacent to I-10. These properties portray the area as economically defunct and derelict for residents, commuters, visitors and potential investors and developers.

Fast Forward Restart has taken an aggressive and proactive approach to minimize this issue. The organization has placed a great deal of pressure on property owners of large scale blighted commercial properties, attended adjudication hearings, as well as, code enforcement and Blight Stat meetings to ensure that the City handles this matter in

Abandoned Property on Lake Forest Blvd (A. Anderson, 2012)
One of the major Fast Forward Restart’s major priorities is Commercial Corridor Revitalization along Read and Lake Forest Blvd in an area referred to as the New Orleans East Town Center. As part of this initiative Fast Forward Restart is committed to eliminating blighted commercial properties along key commercial corridors to create a climate of confidence and quality of place that encourages investment and the return of residents. Fast Forward Restart is also working with local architects to engage community in “town center” design studio and implementing a “Keep the Corridor Beautiful Campaign”. Fast Forward Restart has also been diligently working on developing a marketing campaign that promotes New Orleans East as a great place to live, invest and play.

In June 2012, Alena Anderson, WhoData.org GIS associate and intern at the Office of Senator Mary Landrieu, reached out to the most efficient and appropriate manner as well. The success of Fast Forward Restart of minimizing this liability is a sign that the organization and its supporters have the capacity to facilitate a viable transformation of the commercial corridor revitalization district.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Alena Anderson, WhoData.org GIS Associate, worked with Ms. Johnson to clearly define the boundaries of the New Orleans East Town Center completed a property conditionssurvey 187 blighted properties, inventory of existing businesses and planning recommendations for future development projects within the boundaries of the New Orleans East Town Center Commercial Corridor Revitalization District. She completed an analysis of the neighborhood characteristics, existing infrastructure conditions and market potential of designated target commercial corridor zones, policymakers will have the necessary information to make decisions that are most conducive to that particular corridor as well as benchmark success and failures over time.

**CLIENT: FAST FORWARD RESTART**

The size and number of employees of each employment center for both 2004 and 2010 are exemplified in this map. These figures provide a greater insight on the current state of the market within the New Orleans East Town Center and the rest of the New Orleans East Community.”
Barbara Johnson, Fast Forward Restart Project Director, to develop project that would exemplify important issues promoting and negating the revitalization of the New Orleans East Town Center commercial corridor district. The project was broken to two phases listed below.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The primary focus of Phase I was for WhoData.org to provide an initial “snapshot” of designated commercial redevelopment zone identified by Fast Forward Restart in the preliminary planning phase of the project.

**Timeframe**
June 2012 - August 2012

**Deliverables**
- An inventory of properties within the designated study area that includes the property owner’s name, mailing address, property photos and conditions survey results
- GIS-generated maps (.pdf format)
- Interim Brief
- Presentation

**Standard Framework for Evaluating Commercial Corridor Revitalization: Steps for Implementation**
The following steps for implementation were used in both phases of this project by WhoData.org:

- Identify Commercial Corridor Revitalization Program
- Define boundaries of the commercial corridor revitalization district
- Identify Assets and Liabilities of the Commercial Corridor Revitalization Districts
- Evaluate Neighborhood Demographics
- Analyze Proposed Zoning for Properties
- Create an Inventory of Properties
- Conduct a Property Conditions Survey
- Evaluate Economic Census Data
- Analyze Consumer Spending Trends
- Calculate Retail Leakage and Surplus
- Identify Business Locations
- Create a comprehensive report of findings, conclusions and recommendations

**KEY FINDINGS**

There are 187 properties located within the boundaries of the New Orleans East Town Center Commercial Corridor Revitalization District.

One of the significant findings associated with the ownership and assessed values of properties located within the district, was the discovery that several properties or parcels have numerous owners. This instance occurred primarily with vacant land between Dwyer and Lake Forest on Bundy Street. (A. Anderson, 2012)
Road. From the appearance of Bundy RD, several have developed into a single large, vacant, overgrown and unsecured lot. This issue related to multiple owners will affect future land acquisition in the area. Within the boundaries of the New Orleans East Town Center there is a wide range of assessed values for properties. Less than twenty of the properties (4%) had total assessed values over $1,000,000 in 2012.

In terms of occupancy, less than half of the properties surveyed were considered to be occupied and roughly one third of properties were considered to be vacant. A small percentage of the properties represent semi-occupied properties that are less that 50% occupied. In terms of building condition, roughly 1/3 of properties are in GOOD condition and nearly a ¼ are in fair condition. Approximately 16% of properties are in POOR condition and several other properties did not have buildings and were considered to be open space. The map above illustrates the diversity of building use in the area, thus supporting the branding of the commercial corridor district as a destination place.

Despite these concerns, there is a substantial amount of buildings that are in good condition that are available for retail and other commercial uses along Read Blvd and Lake Forest Blvd. There are also a diversity of uses of buildings within the district, which supports plans to market the New Orleans East Town Center as a destination place.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the fact that there has been a substantial amount of investment in the New Orleans East Town Center, vacant overgrown lots and properties in poor condition are target issues that need to be addressed in the future. Complicated ownership issues affiliated with vacant lots that may be suitable for large scale development should be addressed so an effective strategy for redevelopment can be established.

Information collected from this WhoData.org should be instrumental in future development of implementation strategies for the New Orleans East Commercial Corridor District.

Since the final report was completed in December 2012, Fast Forward Restart has been able to use the information provided by WhoData.org to engage business leaders, local government officials and other professionals in the process of establishing a clear strategic implementation strategy for the New Orleans East Commercial Corridor Revitalization District. WhoData.org will continue to provide mapping and analysis support for future projects affiliated with the New Orleans East Town Center.
Fast Forward Restart (FFR) was formed in September, 2005. In November, 2005 the company launched their program with its first workshop consisting of 18 small business owners from New Orleans who had been affected by Hurricane Katrina. They were each partnered with a professional business coach for 90-days to support them. Since then, 220 small businesses and nonprofit organizations have benefited from the 90-day Fast Forward Restart program. The Fast Forward Restart Project was created as a result of our success and expertise from this experience and from analyzing community needs. Staff experience in organizational development, working with large corporations, hospitals, and government organizations led to processes that addressed the business community as a contributor to individual business success. Fast Forward Restart is a (501c3) non-profit organization whose primary aim is to provide economically distressed communities with training, technological support and re-energize the thriving center of local commerce in New Orleans East.

“A score card was created to analyze the success of the businesses under the FFR umbrella and assist in ascertaining the goals on a quarterly and annual basis.”

PROJECT OVERVIEW
Over the course of several months in the fall of 2012 WhoData provided research and development support to Fast Forward Restart. The work included a Universal plan for assessing business in the FFR program, assessing priority targets for blight remediation through a top ten list, a pop-up retail survey, and a guide of restaurants in the area. The work sought to improve the economic structure in New Orleans East and focus on potential areas of small business development.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
Positive
• Universal plan for assessing business in the FFR program
• Guide of restaurants in the area
• Continued focus on the blight in the community
• Updated data-bases and contact information for stakeholders and businesses

Negative
• Lack of support from business community
• Lack of resources in the area
• Citizen ignorance on economic and business matters in NO East
SCOPE OF SERVICES
The project entailed gathering public information from nola.gov to summarize New Orleans East blight statistics. Based upon the resident-led Blight strategy committee, the top ten blighted commercial properties were compiled into mini-book of references with a photograph, project details and status in the City’s blighted property disposition process.

Timeframe
October 20 - December 2012

1. Using the Fast Forward Restart business partner and stakeholder database, conducted interviews to obtain demographic information and update contact information, applicable website and logo.

2. Pop-up Retail Survey: Gathered data from scholarly sources, newspapers and financial reports on the success of pop-up businesses and the financial impact on the community. The information was presented to Barbara Johnson and proposed pop-up stores such as Toys R’Us and Marshalls in the New Orleans East Community.

3. Budget Analysis of FFR businesses: A 30 point categorical analysis was conducted to review the success of the businesses under the FFR umbrella. The analysis includes detailed information on the back of office, CRM, Sales, Employees and lead generation. A scorecard was also created and will assist each coach in ascertaining the goals on a quarterly and annual basis.

4. New Orleans East Food Guide: The final version of the New Orleans East food guide was disseminated December 11, 2012 and will be addressed at the FFR business meeting geared toward restaurants December 12, 2012. A window-survey
analysis was compiled to get an accurate listing of restaurants in the area.

Challenges
Another issue with each project is the individual businesses unwillingness to participate in promotions for various reasons. The Restaurant guide was compiled and the owners were called, and over ten of the owners did not wish to participate or have the information disseminated to their business. The issue with creating a pop-up location lies in how the space will be rented and what large companies are willing to support the initiative and act as catalyst pop-up stores.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fast Forward Restart
• Continue and compile a universal system to track individual businesses in the organization to gauge progress
• Continue to forge partnerships with public and private institutions in the city
• Update the pop-up survey information to include food trucks and non-traditional pop-up areas such as markets

FUTURE RESEARCH
• Focus on the businesses in the area and continue to promote growth
• Update blight statistics
• Compose a summary and testimonial account(s) of the success of Fast Forward Restart
• Track each business under the new excel formula(s) and produce quarterly reports that will coincide with the quarterly lunch and learn for the businesses in the Fast Forward Restart program

PROJECT DELIVERABLES
• New Orleans East Food Guide
• New Orleans East Pop-up Survey Analysis
• Compiled budget analysis of the Fast Forward business participants
• Compiled top-ten blighted properties in New Orleans East
• Mini-book highlighting the commercial blighted properties in New Orleans East
• Complete Fast Forward Restart stakeholders and business partners.
The mission of the United Saints Recovery Project (USRP) is to assist communities that have suffered damage from natural disasters, helping residents return home, improve their quality of life, and strengthen their communities. The USRP works with local, national and international volunteers to complete their mission. Part of their work includes assisting homeowners.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In December 2012 United Saints requested that WhoData train, direct, and provide resources for their volunteers. We agreed to assist in the completion of property condition and resident surveys within the Hoffman Triangle. WhoData provided walking maps, training, cameras, survey forms, survey materials, and data entry methodology. WhoData continues to correspond with United Saints to ensure an accurate data entry process. We also hope to continue this partnership in other areas of the city.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

After United Saints and WhoData agreed upon a work plan and scope, the initial phase of work in Hoffman Triangle commenced. The map below indicates the survey boundaries.

- Create a series of walking maps divided into sectors showing property addresses and parcel numbers
- Organize binders for each team including pencils, markers, digital cameras, white boards, clip boards, city context maps, walking maps, pencil cases, memory cards, and batteries
- Design spreadsheets for property condition and resident survey data entry
- Conduct a property condition survey training and debriefed the staff and volunteers on
the role and participation of WhoData in the community
• Provide data entry training and materials

Timeframe
December 2012 - March 2013

PROJECT DELIVERABLES
• WhoData property condition training
• Survey materials
• Data entry spreadsheets
• Walking maps: address and parcel maps
• Context maps
• Survey data posted on WhoData.org

FUTURE RESEARCH
In the spring of 2013 WhoData team members will assist with data management which includes cleaning and organizing the data from United Saints. The data will be used to assess changes between the 2011 and 2012 data. University of New Orleans students conducted the 2011 property condition surveys. The ‘2012 Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Profile Report’ can be found on www.whodata.net.

United Saints Recovery Project: unitedsaints.org

Associated Neighborhood Development: ndf-neworleans.org

In the summer of 2012, Associated Neighborhood Development participated in a ‘Tip the Block’ event that was a Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Association-led event in collaboration with other community partners aimed at clearing lots, providing community surveys of blight, trash/tire dumping and cleaning drains. Highlights of this effort, which was part of a series of Taylor Park city beautification strategies by the City of New Orleans, can be found in the J. Brad Stire video entitled “Hoffman Triangle: Evolution of a Neighborhood”.

The video can be found here: youtube.com/watch?v=2Fcyh1dRLuk
In order to support the work that the Neighborhood Development Foundation, Associated Neighborhood Development, and Hoffman Triangle residents are doing to improve quality of life in Hoffman Triangle, WhoData and the University of New Orleans Department of Planning and Urban Studies has committed to providing geographic information systems (GIS) services and support to aid in this revitalization effort. This public participation GIS (PPGIS) project is an example of how the Community, the City, and the University can work together to evaluate neighborhood potential and change “from the ground up”.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The focus of this project is to evaluate the ‘State of Hoffman Triangle’ using prior research from the University of New Orleans Department of Planning and Urban Studies (2011), GIS Analysts, Community Development Finance Intern – Michael Lostocco, WhoData Brittany Arceneaux, the Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Association and Associated Neighborhood Development.

The University of New Orleans Department of Regional and Urban Studies class MURP 4081 took on Associated Neighborhood as a Client. WhoData team members provided support to the class by providing a series of maps representing data provided by Associated Neighborhood Development and...
also acquired from the City of New Orleans.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES**

WhoData assisted in the facilitation of Data from Associated Neighborhood Development and also gave instructions to the students in the class. Constant communication and aid was provided to the students throughout the 2012 fall semester. This facilitated a system to organize, represent, archive, and systemize a database for the information used in the class research.

**Timeframe**
August 2012 - December 2012

**PROJECT DELIVERABLES**

- Assets and historical landmark ESRI® ArcGIS10 file
- Survey data and photographs of 54 overgrown lots in Hoffman Triangle
- Survey data and photographs of ten (10) Quality of Life violation trash and/or fire dumping sites in Hoffman Triangle

Hoffman Triangle: quality of life violation on South Johnson Street and Fourth Street (B. Arceneaux, October 2012)
Hoffman Triangle Community Land Trust Project

Manager: Alena Anderson
Client: Kim Washington - Associated Neighborhood Development, Van Temple - Crescent City Community Land Trust, May Louie/Jason Webb - Dudley Learning Center (DLC)

PROJECT OVERVIEW
For the last few months Associated Neighborhood Development (AND) has been working with the Crescent City Community Land Trust (CCCLT) and Dudley Street Learning Center (DLC) to develop a community land trust in Hoffman Triangle. For this project, WhoData.org continues to work with project stakeholders to establish a clear acquisition strategy for creating a community land trust in the Hoffman Triangle. The Acquisition Map (right) that highlights specific properties of interest and other development opportunities.

Scope of Services

SCOPE OF WORK
WhoData.org has supported the AND/CCCLT community land trust by creating:
• An inventory of properties of interest that includes priority rating for acquisition/implementation, assessed values and ownership information
• Detailed property cards for all properties of interest identified in the map above
• Maps that exemplify target properties for acquisition/development and phases of implementation

DELIVERABLES
• Detailed Property Cards
• AND/CCCLT Stewardship Agreement

Timeline
Fall 2012 - TBD
WhoData.org Community Data Sharing Initiative: Louisiana
Land Trust Data

Project Manager: Carl Seifert and Brian Baldwin
Client: Louisiana Land Trust
Contact: Daniela Rivero, Property Management and Development Director

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Louisiana Land Trust (LLT), a public sector initiative with the task of managing, maintaining, and putting Road Home properties back into commerce, has recently transferred their entire portfolio of properties in Orleans Parish to the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA). This map shows all LLT properties as of November 2012.

The Louisiana Road Home Corporation Act became effective on June 29, 2006 under Senate Bill No 445. This Act created a non-profit corporation whose mission is “to finance, own, lease as lessee or lessor, sell, exchange, donate or otherwise hold or transfer a property interest in housing stock damaged by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.” (Louisiana Land Trust, 2012)
The Louisiana Land Trust (LLT) was formed to manage, maintain and return formerly private properties to commerce. In Orleans Parish, the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) was designated as the agent for the LLT to sell Option 2 and 3 properties through programs such as the Lot Next Door or auctions. In 2010 and 2011, WhoData provided mapping services for NORA and supported the work of the LLT by matching addresses to the City's parcel layer (http://www.lalandtrust.us/).

The highest concentration of Louisiana Land Trust properties can be found in the Lower Ninth Ward. The Lower Ninth Ward contains over seven hundred Louisiana Land Trust properties.
Project Homecoming: Pilot Land Neighborhood Association

Project Manager: Brittany Arceneaux
Client: Project Homecoming
Contact: Evan Ponder, Community Liaison

Project Homecoming is a faith-based community development organization building resilient neighborhoods in the greater New Orleans area. Project Homecoming is committed to facilitating a culture of care in targeted communities through: safe, durable, affordable and environmentally sensitive construction; community driven partnerships; service and fellowship (Project Homecoming, 2012).

PROJECT OVERVIEW
Over the past three years WhoData has partnered with Project Homecoming to conduct surveys throughout the New Orleans Area. Ms. Sarah Green, former Community Liaison led the mapping effort for the ‘Raise Up the Lower 9th Ward’ initiative (see Lower 9th Ward Profile and Mapping Project). In November 2012, Project Homecoming sent their recent survey data for posting on WhoData.org. In this way the data would be updated and made available to the residents and others interested in their community. In order to visualize the property condition survey changes from 2008, the 2012 survey results were provided.

SCOPE OF SERVICES
Project Homecoming used 0 and 1 in certain survey categories to represent False and True and 1,2, and 3 in the property condition category to represent Good, Fair, and Poor. Brittany Arceneaux corresponded with Project Homecoming staff to convert the survey data spreadsheet into the correct format. Columns were rearranged to follow a consistent format and numeral responses were converted to text.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES
The 2012 Pilot Land Bayou District data will be uploaded to WhoData.org in 2013.

US Senator Mary Landrieu and Michelle Thompson at Raise Up the Lower 9th Ward meeting (D.McGuinness, 2011)
In collaboration with neighborhood groups, residents and volunteers, the Regional Planning Commission (RPC), lowernine.org, Project Homecoming (Sarah Green), and the UNO Department of Planning & Urban Studies, all parties pooled their resources to undertake the task of surveying the 1.63 square mile Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, LA throughout the months of July and August 2011. As part of the initiative inspired by US Senator Mary Landrieu, Raise Up the Lower 9th Ward (RUL9W) involved Whodata.org to assist volunteers with the survey process.

Lower Ninth Ward. WhoData methodology categorizes parcels into four land use categories: Building Present, Empty Lot, Parking Lot, and Open/Rec Space. Out of the identified parcels the most frequent land use in the Lower Ninth Ward is empty lots.

SCOPE OF SERVICES
WhoData created a comprehensive report containing on the ground survey findings in New Orleans’s Lower Ninth Ward Neighborhood. The report provides data to the community gathered from the community. United States Senator Mary Landrieu, in support of Raise Up the Lower 9th Ward coalition, provided the inspiration for the survey and report that WhoData.org began participating in during the Spring of 2011.

PROJECT OVERVIEW
The WhoData team trained volunteers on land uses, reading a parcel map, determining characteristics of blight, identifying housing and commercial occupancy and recognizing other built environment information that a community requires when making decisions for future needs and growth.

WhoData survey results show property conditions concerning 7,729 parcels in the Lower Ninth Ward.
PROJECT DELIVERABLES

Property in the Lower Ninth Ward was not only severely damaged or destroyed during Hurricane Katrina, but the residential housing market has rebounded poorly in comparison to other neighborhoods around New Orleans. In response to obtaining property assessment data from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, WhoData has commenced an initiative to map, analyze, and report on the nature of property values in the Lower Ninth Ward.

Phase I
Preparation of survey materials, volunteer outreach and training, property conditions surveys, data entry, mapping, analysis and Lower 9th Ward Real Estate Market Value Study: UNO-PLUS MURP 6051 Housing and Community Development spring 2011 course report.

Phase II

Phase I, Lower 9th Ward Real Estate Market Value Study was supported by the Greater New Orleans Foundation, Ford Foundation and New Orleans Redevelopment Authority as part of the UNO-PLUS MURP 6051 Housing and Community Development spring 2011 course. The report entitled “Market Value in the Lower 9th Ward: Evaluating Reinvestment for the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority.” can be found here: http://www.whodata.net/pages/projects.html

The Lower 9th Ward study area includes both Holy Cross and the Lower 9th Ward.

Darin Acosta Surveys Damage in the Lower 9th Ward (D. Acosta, 2007)
Lakeview Civic Improvement Association has been continuously operating since it was founded in 1924. A few of its principal initiatives include but are not limited to the following: a compact with NORA to determine how Road Home properties will be maintained and brought back to commerce, interacting directly with City agencies to remediate blight, employing technology to improve communication with all residents, encouraging economic development in Lakeview, continuing the restoration and maintenance of our green spaces, increasing the number of family activities in Lakeview, pursuing the possible establishment of a Lake Area community center, expanding efforts to increase neighborhood safety, monitoring compliance with Lakeview zoning district regulations, re-establishing a neighborhood liaison/outreach program through the block captain network, preserving and protect the historic districts and landmarks of Lakeview, (LCIA, 2008).

PROJECT OVERVIEW
Upon completion of an updated property conditions survey, Lakeview Community Improvement Association (LCIA) provided Whodata.org with the results of their property conditions survey for sharing with the community through Whodata.net. LCIA requested several additional maps reflecting additional survey data including overgrown lots, concrete slabs without houses, and Option 1 properties. These maps were provided in hard copy and digital format for dissemination to neighborhood residents.

SCOPE OF SERVICES
Create a series of maps displaying survey data results. Maps include:

1. Overgrown lots
2. Slabs only
3. Option one properties
4. Blighted properties
5. Technically compliant properties

Timeframe
June 2012 - September 2012

FUTURE RESEARCH
Lakeview Community Improvement Association has already agreed to future property surveys and additional data streams over time.
PROJECT OVERVIEW

In September 2011 volunteers from the Lakeview Civic Improvement Association (LCIA) began taking inventory of street conditions in the Lakeview area of New Orleans, LA. The Lakeview area is a collection of neighborhoods located in Orleans Parish. After establishing a protocol that was developed in cooperation with the Regional Planning Commission, WhoData.org and LCIA, volunteers evaluated streets conditions block-by-block and collected primary data to be analyzed and incorporated within a geographic information system (GIS). The primary data included identifying nine street conditions: street type, rolling bumps, uneven plates, broken curb, missing pavement, water leak, raised manhole covers, potholes, and clogged/broken storm drains.

“The goal of this project was to improve community data collection techniques, enhance mapping and visualization of volunteer collected data, and provide a functional map for LCIA to convey street maintenance priorities to the City of New Orleans.”

SCOPE OF SERVICES

A partnership was formed between the LCIA, University of New Orleans Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Whodata.org and Regional Planning Commission to collect block-by-block street condition information and compile detailed maps to prioritize public infrastructure needs in the community.
**Timeframe**
August 2011 - December 2011

- Create walking maps for volunteers
- Create survey forms after LCIA designated categories of focus
- Integrated survey data from LCIA using State and Federal standards
- Joined the collected data to the cities street layer
- Summarized results
- Prioritized results in the format of a report and tables
- Geographically represented survey results using GIS software

**DELIVERABLES**
- Walking Maps
- Customized Survey Forms
- Street Type Map
- Street Repair Prioritization map

Through a standardized means of data collection, and improved mapping techniques, community organizations can coordinate with governmental offices and other development organizations to target specific infrastructure changes that improve their neighborhood and contribute to the city’s revitalization efforts.

This map provides the LCIA with a visual representation of street maintenance severity issues by block. LCIA is now using this data to inform and coordinate infrastructure plans with City of New Orleans Department of Public Works and the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board. These data and maps are intended to continue aiding LCIA in their efforts to improve the quality of life for residents in the Lakeview area.
New City Mapping: Neighborhood Partners
Data Mapping

Project Manager: Darin Acosta
Client: New City and Providence Housing
Contact: Maggie Tishman, New City Project Manager and Andreanecia Morris, Vice President – Providence Housing

PROJECT OVERVIEW
New City and WhoData.org created a partnership in 2008. WhoData provided survey material support for the designated survey area. New City worked with volunteers in 2008 and 2011 to conduct property condition surveys. WhoData has received this information to upload to WhoData.org and in addition is providing three blight study maps for the organization.

SCOPE OF SERVICES
WhoData will use the 2008 and 2001 survey data to cartographically represent a change in occupancy and blight over time.

Timeframe
December 2012 - January 2012

PROJECT DELIVERABLES
The 2012 map compares the change in occupancy between 2008 and 2011. Based upon the New City survey, 79% were deemed occupied in 2011 which is a change of 21% from 2008. For vacant properties, 21% were deemed vacant in 2011 which is a change of -65% from 2008.

WhoData is producing three maps for New City:

- A 2008 Map representing blighted properties and occupancy
- A 2011 Map representing blighted properties and occupancy
- A Map representing the change in blight between 2008 and 2011
Taylor Park Community Reinvestment

Project Managers: Brittany Arceneaux and Dr. Michelle Thompson
Client: Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Association
Contact: Kimberly Washington

PROJECT OVERVIEW
Taylor Park stands as a platform for community and social interaction between the residents of the Hoffman Triangle. Due to low investment and damage Taylor Park does not currently serve as a sufficient recreational space for this Central City community. The Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Association (HFTA) is reaching out to local government for support and expansion for Taylor Park. Dana Brown and Associates will provide pro bono Landscape Architecture services and community participation support. WhoData will also provide HFTA with community participation support, GIS services, community outreach, and proposal organization.

SCOPE OF SERVICES
• Identifying the assets and potential of Taylor Park
• Reaching out to Public Citizens and City Officials for a public discussion
• Integrating Public Desires
• Sketching plans for the improvements
• Budgeting the cost of improvements
• Organizing a proposal
• Submitting Proposal to potential investors

Timeframe
February 2013- May 2013

PROJECT DELIVERABLES
• A public meeting concerning the desires and needs for Taylor Park
• 2012 Arial Imagery Map of Taylor Park
• 2013 design plan for Taylor Park
• Proposal for Improvements and Expansion

Ben Shirtcliff, Kim Washington, Brittany Arceneaux and Dana Brown meet on Taylor Park
(M. Thompson 2012)
Central City Neighborhood Mapping Initiative

Project Manager: Carl Seifert
Client: Harmony Neighborhood Development
Contact: Will Bowling, Blight & Acquisitions Manager and Stephanie Cox

Over the past 15 years, Harmony Neighborhood Development has evolved: first serving as a funding intermediary to non-profit home builders, then as the local development partner on the Harmony Oaks mixed income rental project and on to becoming one of the leading developers of high-quality affordable homes in Central City New Orleans (Harmony Neighborhood Development, 2012).

PROJECT OVERVIEW
This was a follow-up to the ‘Walk the Block’ mapping project where WhoData trained a coalition of Central City non-profits to survey and map property conditions. The results of the mapping supported the open source data policies of WhoData and were put on the internet mapping services website. Additional maps will be created and put on the WhoData.net web page which compare survey results over time.

SCOPE OF SERVICES
Create a series of maps displaying survey data results. Maps include:

1. Current property conditions
2. Occupied/ Vacant changes over time
3. Property conditions over time

Timeframe
December 2012 - March 2013

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
WhoData will use the 2011 and 2012 survey data to represent conditions changes between the two surveys. This information will be used as a tool to track the changes of blight in the New Orleans Central City Neighborhood.

FUTURE RESEARCH
Ideally, a continued relationship with Harmony Neighborhood Development will lead to future property surveys and additional data streams over time.

harmonynola.org/walk-the-block-a-huge-success/

'Walk the Block' in Central City (M. Thompson 2011)
HOFFMAN TRIANGLE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST PROJECT (HT CLT)
Manager: Michelle Thompson and Alena Anderson
Client: Kim Washington - Associated Neighborhood Development (AND), Van Temple - Crescent City Community Land Trust (CCCLT), May Louie/ Jason Webb - Dudley Learning Center (DLC)

HISTORIC FAUBOURG TREMÉ COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT
Project Manager: Darin Acosta
Client: Dabne Whitemore, HTFA Outreach Coordinator

LAKEVIEW CIVIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (LCIA) FALL 2012
Project Manager: Josh Baer
Client: Ms. Rita LeGrand, LCIA

LOWER 9TH WARD LAND VALUE MARKET STUDY
Project Managers: Alena Anderson and Michelle Thompson

A young resident inspects a vacant building survey in the Hoffman Triangle neighborhood (M. Thompson 2011)
References:


For more information about WhoData, please visit:

www.whodata.net

or contact,

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Program Director:

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