

**Funders Forum on Sustainable Gulf Coast Transformation
The Battle House Renaissance
Mobile, Alabama
November 9 – 12, 2008**

Sunday, November 9

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **National Rural Funders Collaborative Regional Convening: Rural Economies and Collaborative Strategies/Opportunities**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Welcome Reception**

Local Host Comments: Thomas Davis, President,
Community Foundation of South Alabama

Host for the Evening: Marcus Littles, Consultant, Initiative
for Regional and Community Transformation

Monday, November 10

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Option I: The Impact of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike: A Breakfast Discussion**

Kellie Bentz, Executive Director, Hands On New Orleans

Lorna Bourg, President and Executive Director, Southern
Mutual Help Association

Stephen Maislin, President and CEO, Greater Houston
Community Foundation

Moderator: Flozell Daniels Jr., President and CEO,
Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation

**Option II: Breakfast, Registration, Various Affinity
Group Meetings**

**Option III: Summer Learning Collaborative for New
Orleans Youth: A Breakfast Discussion**

- 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.** **Opening of Forum and Introductory Remarks**
- Linetta Gilbert, Senior Program Officer, Ford Foundation
- Alandra Washington, Deputy Director, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.** **Plenary Discussion: Innovation and Sustainability in Rebuilding and Transformation**
- The process of rebuilding the Gulf Coast region has been challenging but not without significant progress. Committed stakeholders from philanthropy and the public sector speak to some of the innovations occurring in the region and what needs to be done to assure the region’s development.
- Iyve Allen, President, Foundation for the Mid South
- Flozell Daniels Jr., President and CEO, Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation
- Thomas Davis, President and CEO, Community Foundation of South Alabama
- Ellen Lee, Interim President and CEO, Greater New Orleans Foundation
- Paul Pastorek, State Superintendent of Education, State of Louisiana
- Kate Wolford, President, McKnight Foundation
- Moderators: Linetta Gilbert, Senior Program Officer, Ford Foundation, and Alandra Washington, Deputy Director, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.** Travel to Dauphin Island, Mobile, Alabama
- 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Lunch, Remarks by Interim Director, Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** **Panel: Philanthropy, Innovation, and Sustainability: The Path Forward**
- This session centers on the theme of philanthropy as one partner in transformation, highlighting collaborations, the

state of investment in the region, and challenges going forward.

Samantha Bickham, Coordinator, Gulf Coast Funders for Equity

Kysha Brown Robinson, Executive Director, Central City Renaissance Alliance

Monique Harden, Executive Director, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights and Advisory Board Member, Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health

Mary Jo Mullan, Vice President, FB Heron Foundation and Co-Chair, New York Regional Association of Grantmakers Gulf Coast Recovery Task Force

Rev. Samuel Tolbert Jr., President, Louisiana Home and Foreign Mission Baptist State Convention; General Secretary, National Baptist Convention of America

Rev. John Vaughn, Program Director, Twenty-First Century Foundation

Moderator: Ivey Allen, President and CEO, Foundation for the Mid South

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Panel: Sustainable Environment and Community

The Greek root words for "economy" mean "management of the house"; the root words for "ecology" mean "knowledge of the house." And it's the same house. Recognizing that human activity and social structures are part of the ecology and the economy, this session will explore how human behavior has exacerbated the ecological fragility of the Gulf region, and how human decisions can increase the region's strength and resilience.

Robin Barnes, Senior Vice President, Seedco Financial: Louisiana

Marco Cocito-Monoc, Director of Rural and Regional Development, Greater New Orleans Foundation

Brenda Dardar-Robichaux, Principal Chief, United Houma Nation

Howard Mielke, Research Professor, Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research

R. King Milling, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Whitney Holding Corporation and Whitney National Bank

Moderator: Gretchen Bonfert, Director, Environment Program, McKnight Foundation

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Return to the Battle House Renaissance with Facilitated Discussion on the Buses

6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. Break

7:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Dinner and Panel: The Role of Higher Education in Regional Sustainability and Innovation**

Higher education has been a key sector in leading the recover, rebuilding and transformation process. The presidents of leading regional universities relate their experiences and how their own institutions have been changed by the events and post-storm efforts to further develop the Gulf Coast region.

Dr. Norman Francis, President, Xavier University

Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan, President, Tougaloo College

Dr. Willis Lott, President, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

Dr. James Lowe, President, Bishop State Community College

Rev. Gregory Lucey, President, Spring Hill College

Dr. Joe May, President, Louisiana Technical College

Rev. Kevin Wildes, President, Loyola University New Orleans

Moderator: David Maurrasse, President and CEO, Marga Incorporated

Tuesday, November 11

7:30 a.m. – 8:45am Breakfast

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Board buses and travel to Ocean Springs, Mississippi

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Panel: Healthy Children and Families

This panel looks at how children and families are faring three years after the storms and what supports and policies are needed to support them going forward.

Nancy Freeman, Executive Director, Institute of Mental Hygiene

Nsombi Lambright, Executive Director, Mississippi American Civil Liberties Union

Pam Stevens, Senior Consultant, PS Consulting NOLA

Michael Zieman, FACHE, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Memorial Hospital Gulfport; Administrator, Memorial Behavioral Health; Chairman, Mississippi Coast Mental Health Cooperative

Clayton Williams, Director of Health Systems Development, Louisiana Public Health Institute

Moderator: Salin Geevarghese, Senior Associate, Annie E. Casey Foundation

12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Panel: Building Sustainable, Innovative Civil Society I

This panel examines the role of culture in the rebuilding and transformation process from the vantage point of community development and cultural production.

Carol Bebelle, Executive Director, Ashe Cultural Arts Center

Kate Nevins, Executive Director, Southeastern Library Network

Mary Rowe, Consultant, New Orleans Institute for Resilience and Innovation

Nick Spitzer, Host and Producer, *American Routes*

Vannarith Suon, Vice President, Cambodian-American Community

Carlton Turner, Project Director, Alternate Roots

Moderator: Linda Usdin, President, swamplily LLC

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Panel: Building Sustainable, Innovative Civil Society II

This panel looks at progress in keeping equity and social justice on local, regional, and national agendas.

Jainey Bavishi, Director, Equity and Inclusion Campaign, Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation

Teresa Bettis, Executive Director, Mobile Fair Housing Action Center

Ben Burkett, State Director, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives and Community Advisor Board Member, marketumbrella.org

Daryn Dodson, Director of Village Ventures, Idea Village

Derrick Johnson, Executive Director, Community Policy Research and Training Institute

Emily Schweninger, Director of Research and Evaluation, marketumbrella.org

Moderator: Ashleigh Gilbert Gardere, Vice President, JPMorgan Chase Community Relations

4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Return to Mobile with Facilitated Discussion on the Buses

5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Break

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Dinner Program: Connecting the Dots—Innovation and Sustainability on the Ground

Mayor Xavier Bishop, Mayor, City of Moss Point, Mississippi

Pam Dashiell, Co-Director, Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development

Karen Gadbois, Co-Director, Common Knowledge; Steering Group Member, New Orleans Institute for Resilience and Innovation

Necole Irvin, Program Officer, Foundation for the MidSouth

Ellen Lee, Interim President and CEO, Greater New Orleans Foundation

Michael Pierce, Executive Director, Martin Luther King Development Corporation

Moderator: Mia White, Consultant, Initiative for Regional and Community Transformation

Wednesday, November 12

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Panel: Innovations in Education**

Local schools in the region have been undergoing rapid changes since Katrina and Rita. This panel presents a sample of efforts to improve educational outcomes for children.

Cheryllyn Branche, Principal, Banneker Elementary and Middle School

J. Martez Hill, Chief Deputy Superintendent, Office of Policy and Operations, Mississippi Department of Education

Deirdre Johnson Burel, Director of Programs, Urban League of Greater New Orleans

Chris Lee, Executive Director, J. L. Bedsole Foundation

Aesha Rasheed, Executive Director, Parent Organizing Network

Moderator: TBD

10:30 a.m. –12:00 noon **Panel: Building Innovative, Sustainable Gulf Coast Communities**

Closing Discussion for Funders

Session goals are to present opportunities for national and regional funders to (1) commit financial resources and (2) strengthen and/or build new partnerships and collaborations.

Michelle DePass, Program Officer, Ford Foundation:
“Conference Reflections”

Moderators: Linetta Gilbert, Senior Program Officer, Ford
Foundation and Alandra Washington, Deputy Director,
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

12 noon

Lunch and Adjourn

12 noon – 5 p.m.

Gulf Coast Funders for Equity Meeting