

# NEWSLETTER

## Summer 2022



*Dew Drop Inn Groundbreaking at 2836 LaSalle Street*



Residential Development



Commercial Revitalization



Land Stewardship

***New Orleans  
Redevelopment Authority***

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NORA is pleased to announce that the restoration of the historic Dew Drop Inn is finally under way! NORA is providing a \$900,000 loan to the project through its Commercial Corridor Gap Financing program. Community leaders, development team members, and project funders gathered for the groundbreaking on July 7th to celebrate the past and future of this storied space. With an aggressive construction timeline, the hotel hopes to reopen in time for Jazz Fest 2023. The iconic property will strengthen the LaSalle corridor, providing hotel rooms, a pool, and a bar and music venue that will honor the music once performed by Ray Charles and Little Richard in the 1940's and 50's. The Dew Drop Inn, once listed in the Green Book as a safe haven for African-Americans in the days of segregation, served as a musical hub for talented musicians from both the local community and the broader South. Although the building remained vacant for many years, this revival will restore a major commercial and cultural asset for the Central City neighborhood.



4830 Mithra Street

NORA is pleased to announce the first closing in Pontchartrain Park for the Orleans Housing Investment Program (OHIP), at 4830 Mithra Street, which was built by Saint Bernard Project. The remaining 16 properties in Pontchartrain Park have started construction with families expected to move into homes in 2023.

NORA is also pleased to announce the beginning of construction for a new phase of OHIP in New Orleans East. Six developers presented their designs to the East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC) earlier this year. The new homes will earn FORTIFIED Gold and Energy Star V3 certifications to ensure they meet the highest standards of energy efficiency and hazard-resilience. In addition, each home site will be capable of detaining at least 1,000 gallons of rainfall. Construction for the OHIP-NOE properties has just begun with most homes expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2023.

This spring, NORA launched its \$1.5 million Small Business Assistance Grant program. The goal of this program is to support and better leverage revitalization efforts taking place along 29 designated Low and Moderate Income (LMI) area commercial corridor segments, including those corridors identified in NORA's Commercial Corridor Gap Financing and Façade RENEW Programs. The Small Business Assistance Grant Program intends to prevent



commercial vacancy and serve as an additional financial resource to certain qualified business enterprises, established between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021, that occupy commercial storefronts on target commercial corridors. Applications for recoverable grants of up to \$25,000 were accepted this spring to reimburse eligible business expenses including lease payments, mortgage interest, utilities, and marketing over a six (6) month covered period. Awards are currently being made available to qualified business enterprises on a first-come, first-served basis until all program funds have been allocated. NORA expects 50 or more businesses to ultimately receive funding through the program. The first grants will be awarded in August.

### Community Adaptation Program Cruises Through the 175 Project Mark



Ms. Lydia Taylor in front of the 150th CAP project

Even as we approach 200 projects completed, the Community Adaptation Program shows no signs of slowing down. To date, the program has helped 179 Gentilly homeowners improve stormwater detention and infiltration on their properties. With a myriad of options ranging from rain barrels to permeable pavers, homeowners can choose green infrastructure projects that best suit their homes and lifestyles. With the projects completed so far in Gentilly, the neighborhood is now able to store over half a million gallons of water during heavy rains. Ms. Lydia Taylor created an outdoor oasis in her backyard, beautifully demonstrating multiple intervention projects, including permeable pavers, rain gardens and downspout planter boxes, for the 150th CAP project. NORA is excited to announce the Community Adaptation Program will receive additional funding to serve more Gentilly homeowners and a citywide expansion of the program is planned for this fall.