



## **CB920 Symposium Organizing for Social Equity and Community Rebuilding**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2006  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
New Orleans Marriott**

*Sponsored by*





## WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

- Professional community builders, organizers and outreach staff
- Community development organization staff and partners who want to ensure that residents have a greater say in rebuilding their communities
- Public and private sector professionals, policymakers, and funders interested in supporting community rebuilding efforts with strong citizen engagement
- Community development volunteers looking to promote civic engagement
- Academic institutions offering community development programs



A plant closing. A long, slow exodus of jobs and population. A devastating wave of abandonment – or of gentrification. The clearing of neighborhoods to make way for highways or other “megaprojects.” A natural disaster.

The destruction of a community by one or more of these forces can create overwhelming losses and an acute sense of distress, particularly for a community’s least well-off and least powerful residents. It can raise questions about how communities organize themselves to respond, who decides how to respond, and who leads the response. And it can tear at the social fabric of a community, displacing existing residents, calling old values and assumptions into question, exposing social, economic and racial inequalities, and requiring new relationships to be forged.

In this timely symposium, we will explore aspects of the community rebuilding challenge. Through a thought-provoking array of insightful presentations, panel discussions, and participatory dialogue, we will delve into questions such as:

- How can we bring residents together to rebuild not just the physical assets of the community, but its social fabric?
- How can residents truly control the development of their community when its economic and social foundation has eroded? What steps do we as organizers take to make sure all residents have a seat at the table?
- How can we effectively organize ourselves to use the community rebuilding process as an opportunity to address long-standing social, economic and racial issues?
- How can community builders and organizers respond effectively to dramatic population shifts in a community, welcoming new residents and cultures while respecting the existing communities?

*Organizing for Social Equity and Community Rebuilding* will bring together people, ideas and stories from our host city of New Orleans, from the Gulf region, and from across the U.S. Although the setting for this event is the Gulf Coast, we’ll examine how recent events in this area relate to the dynamics at play in other communities across the country, not necessarily impacted by a natural disaster. Together, we’ll explore the complex answers to these challenging questions. Participants will take away effective new strategies, tactics and best practices to address similar issues in their own communities.

# Symposium Agenda

## MORNING: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF ORGANIZING STORIES

The day begins with compelling stories of organizing successes and ongoing challenges. The common theme – social equity – is a quality that all communities strive to achieve. In our host city of New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina has been a magnifying glass, pointing out and dramatizing challenges faced by communities across the country.

## PANEL AND TABLE EXERCISE

### What Social Inequities Does YOUR Community Face?

As we grapple with the larger meaning of the events in New Orleans, our expert panelists discuss how communities have organized themselves to effectively respond to major change; how residents can drive a process to rebuild their community equitably; how they can collectively develop a vision, and how they can gain the strength to implement the vision – even when this vision may run counter to the status quo. The central challenges to be discussed are:

- organizing residents across racial, class and ethnic divisions
- organizing to “rebuild the social contract” so that all residents in a community are valued and mutually accountable to one another.

## MORNING AND AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS (participants rotate)

1. **Urban Triage** – In a community where a trauma has struck and the city has deteriorated, how do “urban triage” decisions get made about which neighborhoods are rebuilt and which neighborhoods are left behind? How can organizers respond to issues of “benign neglect” or “planned shrinkage?”

2. **Organizing in the Diaspora** – Communities that take in displaced people face numerous challenges. How can these new and often temporary residents be integrated into the community? How can organizers help to safeguard the basic rights of newcomers, and address the concerns of longer-term residents?

3. **Re-enfranchisement and Community Rebuilding** – What are the implications of major community change with regard to voting rights issues? How can organizers promote voting rights as a part of the effort to rebuild communities? And how can we work with non-voting community members to give them a voice in civic life?

4. **Race, Class, and Redevelopment** – Here we take a deeper look at how race and class issues affect the community rebuilding process, and the role of organizing around anti-racism and anti-classism as a tool for equitable development.

5. **Citizenship and the Creation of Community** – This session examines the responsibilities of citizens to look out for the well-being of the community as a whole. We’ll explore various strategies to build community connections and awareness of our responsibility to each other as a community building tool.

6. **Environmental Justice in Community Rebuilding** – Where’s the dump? Where are the power lines? Where’s the junkyard? More than likely these environmental hot spots are located near low-income communities. How can we organize residents in order to avoid repeating these historical mistakes – in the Gulf region and across the country?

## LUNCHEON

### The New Orleans Neighborhood Story Project: In Their Own Words.

Learn and be challenged by the stories of New Orleans residents who are working to build a fair and just community in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and hear about the community building work of the New Orleans Neighborhood Story Project.

**AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS** (See morning session descriptions – participants continue to rotate among topics and enjoy the comprehensive content)

## PANEL AND TABLE EXERCISE:

### From Dialogue to Action: What Next?

Our expert panel tackles the topic of movement-building. How can our local organizing work connect to the larger issues of promoting social equity? Sharing with peers brings this macro question to a more personal – and actionable – scale.

## WRAP-UP AND CONCLUSION

Hear the highlights from each breakout session and how you can access handout materials after the symposium.

**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM > NEIGHBORWORKS®  
TRAINING INSTITUTE NETWORKING RECEPTION**  
You’re invited for food, beverage and entertainment, New Orleans-style!



# Speakers and Panelists

**Our confirmed and invited panelists are recognized leaders and thought-leaders in the field of community building and organizing. We're fortunate to have with us:**

**Lauren Anderson** is the executive director of the New Orleans Neighborhood Housing Services and housing co-chair of Bring New Orleans Back.

**Peter Block** is a best-selling author, consultant and citizen of Cincinnati. His award-winning work is about empowerment, stewardship, chosen accountability, and the reconciliation of community.

**Steve Bradberry** is the lead New Orleans organizer with ACORN, a community organization that fights for the rights of low- and moderate income families. He was recently awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award for his efforts on behalf of the poorest victims of Hurricane Katrina.

**Rachel Breunlin** is co-director of the New Orleans Neighborhood Story Project and adjunct instructor in Anthropology at the University of New Orleans.

**Victoria Cintra** is director of the Biloxi office of Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance (MIRA).

**Mindy Fullilove, MD**, is a research psychiatrist at New York State Psychiatric Institute and a professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at Columbia University. She is the author of *Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America and What We Can Do About It*.

**Lori Gay** is the executive director of Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services.

**Monique Harden** is co-director of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights and an attorney who does community organizing among residents who live on the fence line with toxic industries.

**Damon Hewitt** is a civil rights attorney with the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund.

**Abram Himmelstein**, an author and teacher, is co-director of the New Orleans Neighborhood Story Project.

**David Hunt** is founder of the Community Building Storytelling Project.

**Jackie Jones** is the New Orleans director of Jeremiah Group, an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation.

**Gus Newport**, director of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, is a senior associate at the Urban Strategies Council. He is also a senior consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Technical Assistance Resource Center.

**Eusi Phillips** is a Katrina evacuee, attorney, and organizer of the Be Heard Campaign, in which volunteers place voter information fliers on cars that have Louisiana license plates in cities with a high concentration of evacuees.

**Ken Reardon** is an associate professor in City and Regional Planning at Cornell University. He is currently engaged in research, teaching, and outreach activities in the fields of neighborhood planning, community development and municipal reform.

**Hans Reimer** is the political and issues director of Rock the Vote, and a former senior policy analyst at the Institute for America's Future.

**Kimberly Richards** is a community organizer and trainer with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond.

**Juan Carlos Ruiz** is director of Community Organizing and Political Action of CASA of Maryland.

**Extending Your Learning...Optimizing Your Experience**

**In addition to *Organizing for Social Equity and Community Building* on December 13, don't miss a host of other NeighborWorks® Training Institute opportunities to learn and help rebuild our communities equitably:**

- **Volunteer opportunities in New Orleans on Sunday, December 10; Tuesday, December 12; and Thursday, December 14.**
- **One- and two-day courses in community organizing, including special community building classes with site visits in New Orleans on December 11-12 and 14-15.**
- **Action forum for experienced community building and organizing professionals on December 14 and 15. – CB704 Community Organizer's Forum**
- **Afternoon workshops related to community rebuilding on December 11 and 12.**



# Symposium Registration Form

Please print clearly

## CB920 Organizing for Social Equity and Community Rebuilding

Wednesday,  
December 13, 2006  
New Orleans Marriott

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
NOVEMBER 20, 2006

ON-SITE REGISTRATION BEGINS  
DECEMBER 10, 2006 AT THE  
NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT

SYMPOSIUM FEE (\$145 TUITION  
PLUS REGISTRATION FEE)

### ACCOMMODATION AND HOTEL INFORMATION

A number of sleeping rooms are available for Institute participants at the New Orleans Marriott – (504) 581-1000 – on a first-come, first-served basis at the special rate of \$148 (single/double) plus 13% sales tax and \$3 occupancy tax. Call the hotel directly to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention that you're attending the NeighborWorks® Training Institute.

We are also using:  
Sheraton New Orleans (504) 525-2500  
JW Marriott (504) 525-6500.

REFUND/CANCELLATION POLICY  
For refund/cancellation/substitution policy, please visit [www.nw.org/training](http://www.nw.org/training).

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CALL (800) 438-5547  
OR (202) 220-2454,  
OR E-MAIL [NTI@NW.ORG](mailto:NTI@NW.ORG).



Preferred First Name On Your Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  Ms. Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you do NOT wish to receive e-mail from us regarding training institute events and programs.

Check if you have special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you have attended a training institute before.

Which of the following best describes your organization?

government agency  community-based development organization  financial institution  tribal government or tribal nonprofit

faith-based organization  other \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you are a  board chair  board treasurer  board member

Which of the following best describes your race? Please choose all that apply.

American Indian or Alaska Native  Asian  Black or African-American  Hispanic or Latino

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  White  Other

COURSES REQUESTED (To see the full list of course offerings for the week, and information about the volunteer activity, please visit [www.nw.org/training](http://www.nw.org/training).)

Use both course letters and numbers. Please include second choices in case your first-choice courses are full.

	Monday and Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday and Friday	First Choice Tuition Total
First Choice (Course #   Course \$)	# \$	CB920 \$145	# \$	= \$ _____
Second Choice (Course # only)	#	#	#	

If you sign up for a volunteer activity (pages 4-5), please select only one option:

Sunday/\$20  Tuesday/\$40  Thursday/\$40 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Nonrefundable/nontransferable/registration fee \$ **100.00**

Early-Bird Registration Discount (deduct \$50 if form is submitted by October 30) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Balance Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Payment must accompany your registration form. Faxed registrations must include credit card information and authorized signature. See payment policy.

Check if you qualify for the Southern New Hampshire University tuition rate. (Proof of program enrollment must accompany this form.)

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check enclosed (payable to NeighborWorks® America). Check number \_\_\_\_\_

(Purchase orders will be accepted until November 20, 2006.)

Purchase order attached. Purchase order number \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized signature \_\_\_\_\_

Fax registration with credit card information to: (202) 376-2168

OR

Mail registration and payment to: NeighborWorks® Training Institute, Dept. 167 Washington, DC 20055-0167

Register by  
October 30, 2006  
and SAVE!

On occasion, NeighborWorks® Training Institute shares your name and address with other organizations that are involved in nonprofit management and community development so that they may send you information about other products and services that may be of interest to you. If you are not interested in having us share your name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address with such organizations, please check the circle to the left of this disclosure statement. Rest assured that NeighborWorks® Training Institute honors your privacy and respects your wishes.



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**Symposium  
Wednesday, December 13, 2006  
Pre-Registration Deadline:  
November 20, 2006**

**Don't miss this opportunity to learn from  
experts and share best practices with peers.  
Explore the best ways to plan and implement  
an equitable and effective social response to  
major change in your community.**



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**NeighborWorks® America** • NeighborWorks® America, a national nonprofit organization, was created in 1978 by an act of Congress to revitalize America's older, distressed communities. It accomplishes this through two means: establishing and supporting a national network of local nonprofit organizations called NeighborWorks® organizations, and broadly disseminating quality tools and education for community development.

**NeighborWorks® Training Division** • Since 1988, NeighborWorks® America's Training Division has provided intensive core and specialized education and training in community development through its NeighborWorks® Training Institute to more than 25,000 professionals from across the country.