

An aerial photograph of a large outdoor event, likely a festival or concert, held in front of a grand, castle-like building with crenellated roofs and arched windows. The building is the central focus in the background. In the foreground, a large, diverse crowd of people is gathered on a grassy area. To the left, a stage is set up with various musical instruments and equipment. The scene is bright and sunny, with trees and other buildings visible in the background.

POWER OF VISION



CENTER *for* PLANNING EXCELLENCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



CPEX brings people, culture, and planning together to make great communities happen.

CPEX staff have expertise in community resilience, visionary collaboration, and creative design solutions.

In 2017, we brought that expertise to bear, encouraging Louisiana residents to believe in the **power of their vision** for the future of our communities.

Since our founding, CPEX has encouraged Louisianians to believe in the power of a shared vision to transform a community. In 2017, we maintained our commitment to applying best practices and innovative problem-solving.

As we turn our sights to the future, CPEX's horizon is bright. In 2018, we wish our founding President and CEO, Elizabeth "Boo" Thomas, well in her retirement, and usher in Camille Manning-Broome's leadership. The Board of Directors, Camille, and I commit to honor your trust as CPEX members every day advocating for a well-planned Louisiana.

Thank you for your membership — it is vital to our mission. We hope you'll continue to support our important work in 2018.

*Cordell Haymon // Senior Vice President,
SGS Petroleum Service Corp.; CPEX Board Chair*





Civic Engagement and Education

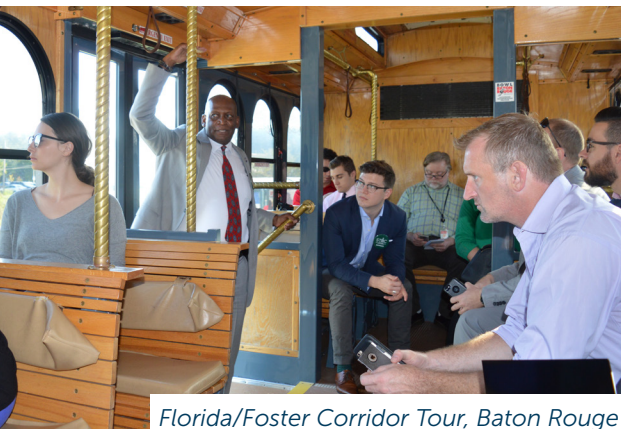
“For twenty years, the Center for Planning Excellence has engaged neighborhood, community, and national leaders to articulate a vision and specific ideas to create a more livable and equitable

Baton Rouge.”

JENNIFER EPLETT REILLY, CIVIC LEADER



Repentance Park, Baton Rouge



Florida/Foster Corridor Tour, Baton Rouge



Carol Coletta, The Kresge Foundation

Advising leadership

Seeking expertise in building community resilience, CPEX was called on by local, state, and Congressional leaders. Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome sought CPEX's participation on her transition teams for Flood Recovery, North Baton Rouge, and Metropolitan Organization. CPEX staff also advised Governor Edwards' administration and Congressman Graves' office on strategies to support resilient long-term recovery.

Showcasing opportunity

With a focus on reducing disparities in North Baton Rouge, CPEX brought the attention of various funders and its own board members to issues and opportunities for future growth and development in the area, and continues to foster collaboration in support of a comprehensive approach for North Baton Rouge.

Convening for Smarter Cities

The 12th annual Louisiana Smart Growth Summit partnered with Baton Rouge's Smart City committee to feature a day-long track showcasing advanced technology applications to address various urban and rural challenges. Our largest crowd yet heard keynotes focused on building great places to live regardless of zip code and capitalizing on common civic assets to benefit all residents. Sessions presented solutions for flood recovery and coastal adaptation strategies, combatting blight, fostering connectivity via accessible transportation systems, and the economic case for smart growth.



Great Neighborhoods and Quality Places

"I had an exceptional experience working with CPEX. Their team took a comprehensive approach to making our downtown more walkable, coordinating the community and vested partners in order to address connectivity. We are very pleased with the results and are beginning to implement some of the plan's recommendations."

MAYOR MIKE COOPER, COVINGTON



Crafting safe, connected corridors

Covington engaged CPEX to create a Traffic Calming and Connectivity Plan to improve walkability and safety on Boston Street, Covington's main thoroughfare. Through community engagement and meetings with city leadership, the team identified a larger challenge of traffic congestion and lack of connectivity downtown. In light of these considerations, the resulting plan suggests a combination of programmatic and design recommendations to address these challenges within the city center.



Demonstrating complete streets for healthy, active lifestyles

CPEX teamed with the LSU AgCenter's Healthy Communities Coalition to conduct site visits and gather resident input concerning active living in Tensas, St. Helena, and Madison Parishes. Temporary demonstration projects showcasing the infrastructure needed to prioritize safe, healthy walking were held in Tallulah, Greensburg, and St. Joseph, Louisiana.



CPEX outlined bike and pedestrian improvements best suited for rural areas, and developed guides to support the coalition in each community in taking steps to make these improvements.

Focus on the Long-Term

Flood Response: Building a More Resilient Future

In the wake of disasters, CPEX supports Louisiana communities and residents in building resilience that reduces risk and vulnerability over the long-term.

“CPEX helped us bring national and local experts to the table to define resilience for Lafayette, and to identify opportunities across agencies to realize our vision for this community.”

MAYOR JOEL ROBIDEAUX, LAFAYETTE

Connecting residents to resources

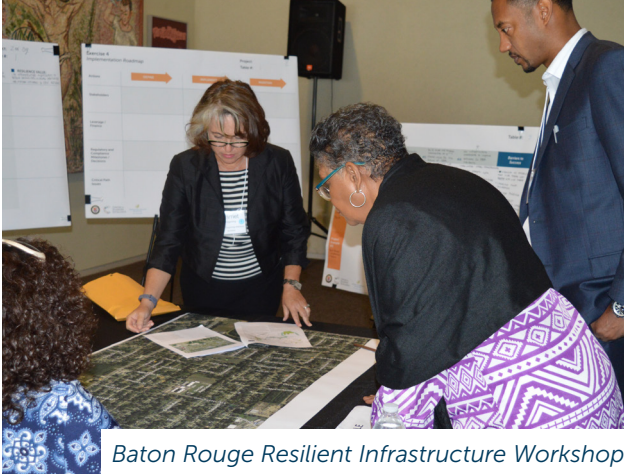
In partnership with Congressman Garret Graves' office, CPEX presented the City of Gonzales with the USDA's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which is being used for the first time in Louisiana. City staff engaged CPEX to guide homeowners in the flood-prone Silverleaf neighborhood through the process of determining property values and considering buyout options.

Aligning priorities for sustainable infrastructure

With funding from the Greater New Orleans Foundation and in partnership with Mayors Sharon Weston Broome and Joel Robideaux, CPEX conducted “Resilient Infrastructure Workshops” to identify common resilience values for capital improvements in Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Mayors and Councilmembers joined key staff from city/parish transportation and drainage, planning, recreation and parks, school systems, and redevelopment agencies as well as community stakeholders. Participants developed a framework for interagency collaboration to evaluate projects for resilience and the potential for multiple community benefits.

Tools to inform resilient decision making

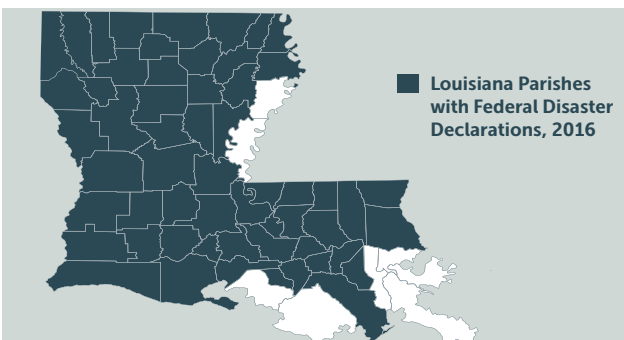
CPEX published the *Rising Above* series of policy papers to inform and support community leaders statewide in ongoing flood recovery efforts and long term resilience. Produced with support from the Walton Family Foundation, McKnight Foundation, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the series highlights best planning practices and implementation tools that state and local leaders can use within Louisiana’s geographic, regulatory, political, and cultural context.



Baton Rouge Resilient Infrastructure Workshop



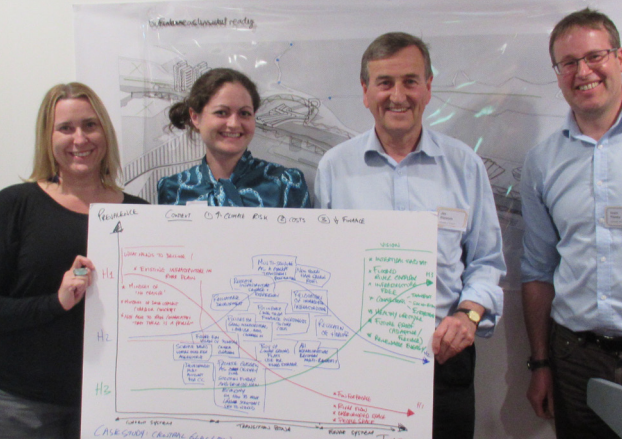
Baton Rouge Resilient Infrastructure Workshop



Rising Above Resilient Recovery Policy Series

“Through our strategic planning partnership with CPEX, especially with the LA SAFE Program, St. John the Baptist Parish is primed to grow smarter and to better adapt to the changing environment. CPEX is helping us realize the VISION for our Parish through meaningful engagement with our residents.”

Natalie Robottom, St. John the Baptist Parish President



STAFF ACCOLADES

Camille Manning-Broome

presented at the 3rd Annual **European Climate Change Adaptation Conference** in Edinburgh, Scotland in June. She spoke about “Seizing the Moment: Unplanned Resilience Planning” as part of a panel titled “Making decisions with multiple stakeholders for long-term resilience.” While in Scotland, Camille and **Jeannette Dubinin**, Director of Coastal Programs at CPEX, also participated in a workshop on “Making Space for Coastal Adaptation” at Glasgow University. Camille and Jeannette lead CPEX’s Coastal and Resilience Program.

Haley Blakeman

was sworn in as **Vice President of Communications** for the American Society of Landscape Architects at the professional association’s annual meeting in Los Angeles in October. A certified planner and landscape architect, Haley is a Vice President at CPEX.

Ryan Benton

completed licensure requirements to become a **Professional Landscape Architect** through the Louisiana Horticulture Commission. Ryan joined CPEX as a Designer in 2014 and is now a Project Manager.



Transportation Choices

“The STAC Pilot Project has provided a great opportunity to grow in our understanding of the ways we can remove barriers to health and encourage active transportation, and the attention we as a community need to pay to make that possible.”

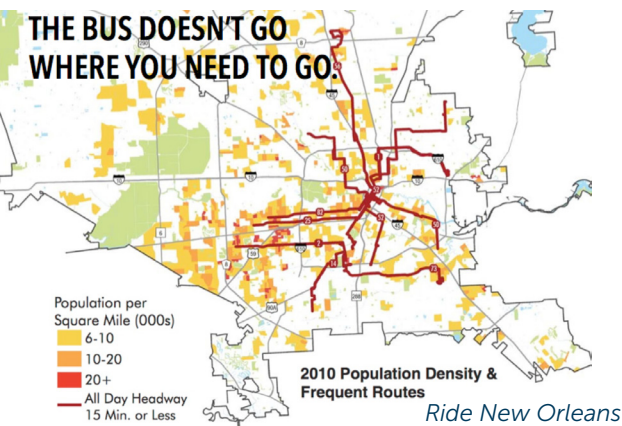
MICHAEL TIPTON, PRESIDENT, BCBSLA FOUNDATION



STAC Pilot Project



STAC Pilot Project



Coupling collaborations and data to reduce fatalities

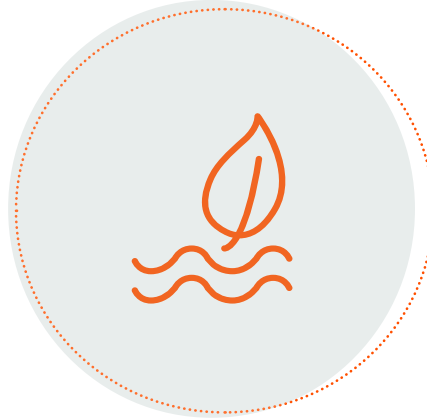
Baton Rouge Sustainable Transportation Action Committee (STAC) (a joint initiative of CPEX and AARP) developed a Pilot Project using data and citizen input to address unsafe pedestrian, bicycle, transit and ADA-compliant infrastructure in the Florida/Foster corridor. Fostering collaboration among the City, MetroCouncil, CATS, DOTD, Planning Commission, and other area stakeholders, STAC produced recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, and a Complete Streets Toolkit to support future efforts. Several recommendations were championed by Mayor Broome at the national "Mayors' Institute for City Design" as a critical project for reducing the divide between North and South Baton Rouge.

Using data for regional mobility

The Capital Region Industry for Sustainable Infrastructure Solutions (CRISIS) coalition (co-founded by CPEX, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and the Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance) released the Capital Region Mobility Strategy (CRMS). The CRMS aligns the region's short- and long-term strategies with broader regional transportation goals including safety, resilience, and economic development.

Engaging employers for transit

CPEX partnered with transit advocacy group Ride New Orleans to host two workshops engaging major employers in the development of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)'s 20 year Strategic Mobility Plan. The workshops highlighted the role of the business community as champions for quality transit.



Resilient Communities

“CPEX offers thoughtful, technical expertise to communities facing unique challenges, from disaster recovery planning to adaptation strategies for coping with coastal land loss. We invest in CPEX because they bring guidance and best practices to local and state leaders as well as the nonprofit and private sectors.”

**ANDY KOPPLIN, PRESIDENT AND CEO
GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION**



Guiding resident-led adaptation

CPEX is leading the drafting of adaptation strategies for 6 parishes through the Louisiana Strategic Adaptation for Future Environments (LA SAFE) program of the LA Office of Community Development and Foundation For Louisiana. As lead consultant for Terrebonne and St. John the Baptist Parishes, CPEX engaged more than 500 residents. The resulting strategies, to be released in 2018, outline community-driven strategies, positioning each parish to receive funding for multiple benefit projects, reduce exposure to flood risk, and improve quality of life.

Harnessing international expertise for Louisiana's coast

CPEX's Rising Above Symposium gathered residents and leaders from 3 communities facing coastal land loss adaptation challenges to envision solutions for their futures. More than 50 participants including stakeholders from Buras, Chauvin, and Thibodaux, international experts and state policy makers workshopped evidence-based "horizon planning." The Symposium was developed and led by CPEX with support from Greater New Orleans Foundation, Foundation for Louisiana and the Kresge and McKnight Foundations. The Symposium's proceedings manual will provide guidance to the three communities as they implement these strategies.

Planning Pays Off

Implementation Updates

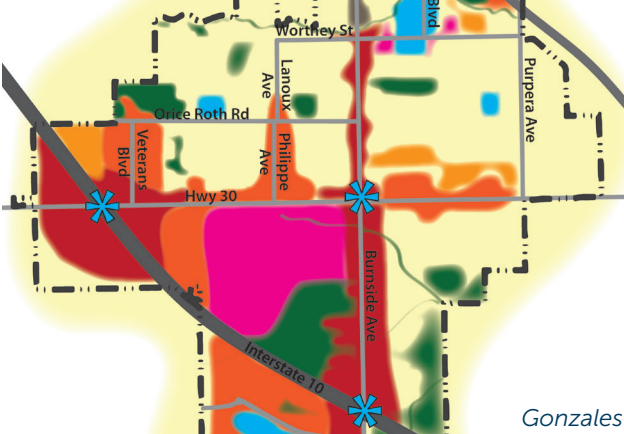
Planning focuses on the long game. The following initiatives are the result of planning efforts CPEX has led in recent years.

“I bring the CPEX [Jean Lafitte Flood Preparedness] Toolkit with me everywhere. It makes it so easy for people to see how they can protect their property from flooding. It helps us with reducing our flood insurance premiums and preserves our culture and way of life here in Lafitte.”

YVETTE CRAIN, FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR, JEAN LAFITTE

Building a sustainable future

In 2013, CPEX worked with Jean Lafitte to develop a Town Resilience Plan. “Jean Lafitte Tomorrow” recommended focusing development in low-risk areas while also enhancing the town center. In 2017, the community cut the ribbon on a new auditorium that will create a more walkable town center while encouraging private sector development and improving the quality of life for residents. CPEX also worked with Jean Lafitte to develop a Flood Emergency Preparedness Plan and Flood Preparedness Toolkit.



Gonzales

Penning policies for progress

Gonzales engaged CPEX to develop a master plan for growth in 2015 and again to advise on zoning code updates in 2016. The plan recommended creating new zoning categories to allow smarter development within the city. In 2017, Gonzales created a “main street district” to encourage and facilitate safe pedestrian access and connectivity along Burnside Drive. The city began the master planning process for a new rail station. The city also approved employment district zoning, allowing for research and development uses, and light manufacturing and retail uses.



Better Block: Government Street

Fostering Government Street Placemaking

With support from Baton Rouge and other partners, CPEX facilitated a “Better Block” demonstration on Government Street in 2013, highlighting the potential for enhanced safety for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians while providing improved access to businesses and institutions.



Government Street today

CPEX remained engaged with city, state, and community stakeholders to advance the residents’ wishes to make those demonstrated changes permanent. Since Better Block, area home values have risen dramatically and 40 new businesses have popped up along Government Street. Soon, families will be able to access these businesses safely, whether in their cars or on foot.

VISION MEMBERS

LEVEL TWO: \$25,000+

Cordell and Ava Haymon

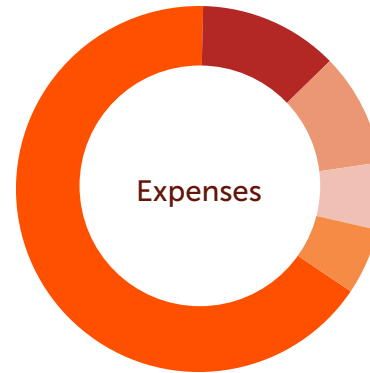
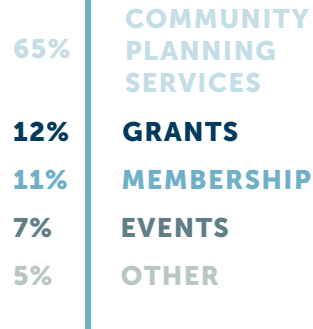
Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation

LEVEL ONE: \$10,000+

Roberta A. Guillory

The John A. Thomas and Elizabeth "Boo" Thomas
Family Fund

FINANCIALS 2017



Total Revenue - \$1,622,117
 * 2017 Income & Expenses are unaudited

CPEX RECEIVED MAJOR GRANTS SUPPORTING OUR PROGRAMS FROM:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation
 Center for Disaster Philanthropy
 Ford Foundation
 Greater Baton Rouge Association of REALTORS®
 Greater New Orleans Foundation

Foundation For Louisiana
 The Kresge Foundation
 McKnight Foundation
 Walton Family Foundation
 Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation

In 2017, we added 22 new members, for a total of 174.

Our strong financial position is the result of a diversified business model that includes mission-driven consulting revenue, restricted program grant funding, event sponsorships and membership support.

LEADERSHIP MEMBERS

LEVEL TWO: \$5,000+

BASF

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of
Louisiana

Robert Burgess, St. Elizabeth
Hospital

Charles W. Lamar III, Charles Lamar
Family Foundation

Lipseys, LLC

Jennifer Eplett and Sean E. Reilly

SGS Petroleum Service Corporation

Stantec Consulting

John G. Turner and Jerry G. Fischer

LEVEL ONE: \$2,500+

AARP Louisiana

Anonymous

Business First Bank

Capital Area Finance Authority

Douglass Stewart Coleman

Cathy Coates and Brian Hales

Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc.

ExxonMobil Baton Rouge

Fishman Haygood, LLP

Donna D. Fraiche, Baker Donelson

Robert Schneckenburger, Hancock Whitney Bank

Jones Walker, LLP

Manship Media - Richard F. Manship, Douglas L.

Manship Jr., David C. Manship, Dina Manship Planche

John and Virginia Noland

Our Lady of the Lake Foundation

Republic Finance, LLC

Beth and James Ruiz

Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann

Stonehenge Capital

Taylor Porter

WHLC Architecture

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

LEVEL TWO: \$2,500

St. John the Baptist Parish

LEVEL ONE: \$1,000

City of Alexandria

City of Gonzales

City of Thibodaux

Lafayette Consolidated Government

Town of Jena

West Baton Rouge Parish Council

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

LEVEL THREE: \$1,000 +

American Institute of Architects
- Louisiana Chapter
Mary Kay and Terrell Brown
Beverly and Dudley Coates
Cox Communications
Linda and John Davies
in honor of Cordell Haymon
Greater Baton Rouge Industry
Alliance, Inc.
Alice and Bob Greer
Home Bank
Kean Miller LLP
John and Susan Kelliher
Kidder & Schultz Certified
Public Accountants
Alden and Margaret Laborde
Foundation

Patrick J. Mascarella
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Phelps Dunbar LLP
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
Red River Bank
River View Development
Alma Lee, H.N. and Cary
Saurage Fund
Hank and Laurie Saurage
Craig and Lynne Smith
Stephen and Martha Strohschein
Anne and Andy Thomas
Joanna Wurtele

LEVEL TWO: \$500+

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Danielle and Tim Basilica
Baton Rouge Growth Coalition
BREC Foundation
Crompton International
Helena R. Cunningham, National
Housing Consultant Services
J. Daniels, Partners Southeast
Anne and Peter Davis
John and Marty Engquist
Brian and Barbara Haymon
Fran and Leroy Harvey
Hearin Properties
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Heymsfield
Jessica and Duncan Kemp
Kevin and Debbie Knobloch
Latter & Blum Property Management
Polly and Conville Lemoine
LUBA Casualty Insurance Company
Bettsie Baker Miller
Neil Erwin Law, LLC
Dyke Nelson, DNA Workshop
Provident Resources Group Inc.
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Charles E. Schwing
Mike Sullivan, AIA - Looney Ricks Kiss/
LRK L.L.C.
Wampold Companies

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

LEVEL ONE: \$250+

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Brian Andrews, E. J. Ourso College of
Business at LSU
Glenn and Jennifer Angelle, Angelle
Architects
Jefferson Angers
Anonymous
Arnold & Associates Interiors Inc
Ascension Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Bailey
George Bayhi
George and Terri Bell
Lance Bennett
Ken Best
Nancy B. Bogan
Aza and Tim Bowlin
Jim and Janie Brandt
John and Beth Brantley
Stephen C. Braud / Ballay, Braud &
Colon, PLC
Camille Manning-Broome and Devin
Broome
Carole Anne Brown
Burns & Co. Inc./Realtors
Cameron Parish Police Jury
Capital Heights Neighborhood Association
Pat and Annah Cave
Renee Chatelain, Arts Council of
Greater Baton Rouge

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La Capitol Federal Credit Union
Julie and Felix Lee
Robert and Judith Levy
Karen and Cornelius Lewis
Chris and Canette Liddy
Jeannine and Tim Lomax

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Transportation Assn. - Kenneth Perret
Louisiana Purchase Real Estate
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Dr. Kenya LeNoir Messer
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Stephen and Heather Moret
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Development Authority
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Michael Olinde
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Justin Kozak, PhD

Camille Manning-Broome

Lauren Marschall, AICP

Janet Tharp

Elizabeth "Boo" Thomas, FASLA

Project Manager

Director of Implementation

Director of Development

Executive Vice President

Project Manager

Executive Assistant

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Director of Communications

Research + Policy Analyst

Senior Vice President

Project Manager

Director of Planning

President/CEO

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Elizabeth "Boo" Thomas, FASLA

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Owner, Brandt + Associates

Founder/CEO, National Housing Consultant Services

President/CEO, One Acadiana

Partner, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, + Berkowitz, PC

President/CEO, Our Lady of the Lake Foundation

Community Volunteer

Associate Vice Provost, LSU Office of Diversity

Owner, Noland Development, LLC

Partner, Phelps Dunbar LLP

President/CEO, Power Coalition

Member, Stone Pigman Walther Wittman

Executive Vice President, Baton Rouge Area Foundation

President/CEO, CPEX

Executive Director, SeaGrant Louisiana



FRENCH
TRUCK
Coffee

Prime

MEALS LUNCH

MEAT CATERING



“Designing for walking scale, as opposed to car scale, is a challenge in Baton Rouge, but one that has the power to transform the city into a more vibrant and accessible one. This change in scale is successful through the support of the community and the careful planning work CPEX provides.”

*Joshua L. Hoffpauir, Owner,
Hoffpauir Studio*



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www.cpex.org

Cover Photo credit: Downtown Development District