



# NEW ORLEANS

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## CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

NOCDC Newsletter

Spring  
April 2012

### New Additions to NOCDC Board

NOCDC recently welcomed two new board members:

Dr. Adrine J. Harrell-Carter is an assistant professor at Southern University of New Orleans' College of Business and Public Administration. Her research interests include entrepreneurship, strategic management and international business.

Ms. Alexandra Norton works for the City of New Orleans as Innovation Manager. Previously she worked for the State of Louisiana as Special Projects Policy Director.

### Upcoming Projects

#### Young Leaders

A Regional Project for Africa

May 15-19

16 Visitors

#### Sustainable Urban Development

A Regional Project for Latin America

May 22-25

8 Visitors

#### America's Multi-Ethnic Society

A Regional Project for Europe & Eurasia

May 22-26

16 Visitors

#### Volunteerism in the U.S.

A Project for Spain

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[NOCDC Homepage](#)

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Overheard  
by the NOCDC

May 20-23  
9 Visitors

**Interfaith Dialogue**  
A Project for Tajikistan  
May 29-June 2  
5 Visitors

**Climate Change & Clean Energy**  
A Project for India  
June 1-6  
6 Visitors

**Grassroots Democracy**  
A Regional Project for Africa  
June 5-9  
16 Visitors

**Peace Through Performing Arts (Arabic)**  
A Regional Project for the Near East  
June 5-9  
8 Visitors

**U.S. Foreign Policy & Human Rights**  
A Multi-Regional Project  
June 24-27  
8 Visitors

**Administration of Justice**  
A Regional Project for Africa  
July 1-8  
15 Visitors

## Ines Sigel Takes Position at UNO

After more than three years as NOCDC's Program Coordinator, Ines Sigel will take the position of Program Coordinator with the Division of International Education at the University of New Orleans on May 1. Ines will be responsible for the administration of the summer study abroad program in Prague, Czech Republic and will assist with the administration of the International and National Student Exchange Programs at the Division of International Education. The NOCDC is extremely appreciative of Ines' hard work and contributions to the Council and wishes her great success at UNO. Ines will be replaced by Emily Ramirez, NOCDC's Program Officer.

**Camilla Franklin Discusses  
Local Textile Industry with Trade Visitors**

... Musician and Park Ranger, Sunpie Barnes, speaking Dutch to Carolien Gehrels, Vice Mayor of Amsterdam, during her visit to the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park...

... Krewe du Jieus founder, L.J. Goldstein, telling a group of Syrian visitors how the krewe uses satire to eradicate Jewish stereotypes within the context of Mardi Gras...

... Dottie Stephenson of JEDCO introducing Japanese visitors to the Blue Dog after they spotted a print hanging in her office...

... Larry Bagneris of the Human Relations Commission telling of his experiences promoting LGBT rights to a group of African visitors studying human rights...

... Malik Rahim discussing current housing issues and the founding of Common Ground Health Clinic after Katrina with African visitors after riding his bike from Algiers...

... A group of law professors from Azerbaijan heading to Frenchmen Street shortly after arriving in New Orleans...

*"We had a wonderful time with the Syrian women. At one point the Syrian women, along with the entire second grade, broke into song and sang 'If You're Happy And You Know It...'! The interfaith discussion with the fourth graders was very meaningful as well... What an unforgettable morning! We love our NOCDC visitors!"*

*Heather Farnsworth,  
St. Paul's Episcopal School,  
Interfaith Dialogue*



*Japanese Economic Revitalization in U.S. Communities delegation met with Ms. Camilla Franklin on April 19.*

A group of Japanese visitors traveling on the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program visited New Orleans from April 18-21 to study economic revitalization in communities. A meeting focusing on the textile industry was requested by Mr. Atsushi Wakui, the Assistant Director in the Textile and Clothing Division, Manufacturing Industries Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry. On April 19, the group met with Camilla Franklin, originally from Britain, who has been involved in various facets of the global textile industry for 20 years. Her experience includes a 13 year stint at the late New Orleans Blumenthal Print Works where she was the Executive Vice President of Design and Global Sourcing. She currently works in sales for Lava Textiles and recently started her own small business, Blissett Textile. At Blissett Textile in New Orleans, which has been in business since January, Camilla works with fashion interior and textile designers whose designs she digitally prints onto fabric using a special type of printer. Her products are primarily household textiles. Ms. Franklin's business fills a niche because of the rarity of locally made products in the textile industry. Her meeting with the Japanese delegation focused on various aspects of the textile industry as a whole, including import and export, as well as how the U.S. could improve its competitive edge.

## NOCDC is Stepping-up its Facebook Game!

## Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

*The following corporations support NOCDC and its efforts:*

Honorary Consulate of Canada

Honorary Consulate General of the Czech Republic

Honorary Consulate of Finland

InterContinental Hotel

International School of Louisiana

Louisiana District Export Council

Southern U.S. Trade Association

## NOCDC Board & Staff

### Board Members

Machelle Lee Hall, President  
Lillian Thompson, Treasurer  
Nathalie Bastin  
Adrine Harrell-Carter  
Bruno Jubelin  
John Lambert  
Alexandra Mora  
Alexandra Norton

### Advisory Board Members

Hon. Jay Dardenne  
Patricia Denechaud  
Patricia Gay  
Edward T. Hayes  
Dr. E. Ralph Lupin  
Maestro Robert Lyall  
Hon. Kristin Palmer  
Jeffrey Stacey  
Sean Wilson

### Staff

Susannah Coolidge, Executive Director  
Ines Sigel, Program Coordinator  
Emily Ramirez, Program Officer

*The mission of NOCDC is to promote citizen diplomacy- the notion that the individual citizen can help shape U.S. foreign relations*



*"one handshake  
at a time."*



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Ever

wonder what is going on with NOCDC during the time between newsletters? Would you like to stay more involved and learn a little in the process?

NOCDC has recently begun to focus more on social media, namely Facebook. Using the [business page](#) feature, we are more frequently posting which groups are in town, information about the countries of origin, photos, and, occasionally, related events around town. In addition, we have added a "like" button to our website's [main page](#).

If you would like to be more involved or simply receive more frequent updates, please "like" NOCDC [here](#). This will help NOCDC to both increase its presence in the community and to keep those interested informed.

## Thank You to Our Professional Resources

*Thank you to our professional resources, who met with our international guests in March & April, 2012.*

**Backyard Gardener's Network-** Ms. Jenga Mwendo, Founder & Director

**Beacon of Hope-** Ms. Tina Marquardt, Executive Director

**Beuerman Miller Fitzgerald-** Mr. Greg Beuerman, Principal

**BioDistrict New Orleans-** Mr. James McNamara, President and CEO; Ms. Bonita Robertson, Special Counsel to the President

**Blissett Textile-** Ms. Camilla Franklin, Owner

**Broadmoor Improvement Association-** Ms. LaToya Cantrell, President

**Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans-** Ms. Stephanie Haynes, Media Relations Representative

**City of New Orleans Human Relations Commission-** Mr. Larry Bagneris, Executive Director

**Common Ground Relief** - Mr. Thom Pepper, Operations Director; Mr. Malik Rahim, Founder

**Dana Brown & Associates** - Ms. Dana Nunez Brown, Principal

**Delgado Community College-** Ms. Kathleen Mix, Vice Chancellor, Workforce Development and Education; Mr. Harold Gaspard, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Ms. Rachelle Matherne, Assistant Director, Digital Media Education Center; Mr. Warren Punecky, Dean, Business and Technology Division

**Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Department of Social Services-** Mr. Walter Fahr, Child Welfare Specialist

**Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, Tulane University-** Mr. Ky Luu, Executive Director

**Episcopal Community Services, Diocese of Louisiana-** Deacon Elaine Clements, Diocesan Disaster Coordinator

**ERACE-** Mr. Bill Knecht, ERACE Chairman; Ms. Leonetta Terrell, Board member; Ms. Marva Guilmette, Board member; Mr. Hugo Montero, Ms. Joyclyn Owens, Intern

**French American Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Coast Chapter-** Mr. Eric Belin, Vice President

**Global Green-** Ms. Linda Morgano, Green Building Program Associate

**GlobalSolve Management Services-** Mr. Kevin Pollard, President

**Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.)-** Mr. Matt Rookard, Senior Vice President for Business Development; Ms. Denise Washington, Executive Assistant for Business Development; Ms. Robin Barnes, Executive Vice President for Programs

**The Green Project-** Ms. Phyllis Jordan, Executive Director

**Gulf Restoration Network-** Mr. Jonathan Henderson, Coastal Resiliency Organizer

**HandsOn New Orleans-** Ms. Lindsay Nash, Volunteer Programs Supervisor

**Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana-** Ms. Darlene



Kattan, Executive Director

**ICNA Relief USA-** Jane Aslam, Director of Disaster Response Services

**Institute for Economic Development and Real Estate Research-**  
Dr. Ivan Miestchovich, Jr., Director

**Jazz National Historic Park-** Mr. Reginald Galley, Park Guide

**Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO)-**  
Ms. Dottie Stephenson, Deputy Director

**Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans-** Dr. Brenda Brasher,  
External Community Relations Chair

**Kingsley House -** Mr. Keith H. Liederman, Ph.D., CEO

**Krewe du Jieux-** Mr. L.J. Goldstein, Founder

**Levees.org-** Ms. Sandy Rosenthal, Founder, Executive Director

**Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church  
Disaster Response-** Reverend Darryl Tate, Executive Director

**Louisiana Economic Development-** Mr. Larry Collins, Director of  
International Services

**Louisiana Interfaith Disaster Recovery Network-** Ms. Jessica  
Vermilyea, Chair

**Louisiana Office of State Parks-** Mr. Raymond Berthelot, Chief of  
Interpretive Services

**Louisiana Sherriff's Association-** Dr. Bobby Gaston, Director,  
Special Programs

**Louisiana State Museum-** Mr. Greg Lambousy, Director of  
Collections; Mr. Robert Freeland, Tour Guide and Lecturer

**Loyola University-** Dr. Vincenzo Sainato, Assistant Professor,  
Program Director, Criminal Justice; Prof. Sherry L. Alexander, Ph.D.,  
Associate Professor

**Mary Queen of Viet Nam Community Development  
Corporation-** Ms. Tap Bui, Health Outreach Coordinator and  
Community Organizer

**Mayor's Office of Coastal and Environmental Affairs-** Mr.  
Charles E. Allen, III, MSPH, Advisor & Director

**Merritt C. Becker Jr. University of New Orleans Transportation Institute-** Dr. John Renne, Director, Associate Professor of Planning and Urban Studies, Director, Transportation Studies; Ms. Tara Tolford, Research Associate

**Metropolitan Center for Women and Children-** Mr. Mauricio Aguilar, Staff member

**The Micah Project-** Ms. Ilana Robbins Gross, Communications and Operations Coordinator

**Michoud Assembly Facility-** Mr. Bob Fudickar, Director of Business Development

**Muslim Academy-** Mr. Nabil Abukhader, Principal

**New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau-** Ms. Kim Priez, Vice President of Tourism

**New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation-** Mr. Mark Romig, CEO; Mr. Jeremy Cooker, Director of Special Projects; Ms. Hartley Casbon, Marketing Director

**New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice-** Ms. Yihong "Julie" Mao, Staff Attorney, Equal Justice Works Fellow

**Office of Senator Mary Landrieu-** Mr. Wes Kungel, Regional Representative

**Orleans Audubon Society-** Ms. Joelle Finley

**Orleans Parish Criminal District Court-** Mr. Larry Cager, Chief Deputy; Mr. Arthur Morrell, Clerk of Court; Honorable Franz Zibilich, Section L Judge

**Mr. Ronald Nabonne,** Attorney and Campaign Strategist

**New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity-** Mr. Jim Pate, Executive Director; Ms. Aleis Tusa, Communications Director

**Plessy & Ferguson Foundation-** Ms. Phoebe Ferguson, Founder, Board Member; Mr. Keith Plessy, Founder, Board Member; Ms. Brenda Square, Founder, Board Member

**Preservation Resource Center-** Ms. Patricia Gay, Executive Director

**Providence Community Housing-** Ms. Andreanecia Morris, Program Manager

**River Birch Landfill-** Mr. Tom Nicolson, General Manager

**Sidcat Strategies-** Mr. Sidney Arroyo, Political Media Strategist

**Smart Growth for Louisiana-** Mr. William Borah, Attorney

**Southeast Louisiana Red Cross-** Ms. Kay Wilkins, Director

**St. Paul's Episcopal School-** Ms. Charlene Schwank, Interim Head of School; Ms. Sylvia Parks, Director of Admissions; Mr. Andrew O'Brien, Middle School Latin Teacher; Ms. Debbie Waldmann, School Chaplain, Head of Religious Studies; Ms. Heather Farnsworth, Early Childhood, Lower School Spanish Teacher; Mr. Chris Bryan, Parent of a 3rd Grade Student

***The Lens***- Ms. Karen Gadbois, Co-founder and Staff Writer; Ms. Maggie Calmes, Engagement Editor

**The Louisiana Weekly-** Mr. David Baker, Web and Associate Editor

**The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation-** Mr. Don Marshall, Executive Director

**Trafficking Hope-** Ms. Gena Bohl, Executive Director; Ms. Summer Kelly, Outreach Coordinator; Ms. Charity Trahan, Outreach Coordinator

**Tulane University Department of African and African Diaspora Studies-** Dr. Adeline Masquelier, Professor & Chair, Department of Anthropology, Professor, Department of African & African Diaspora Studies; Dr. Christopher Dunn, Director, African & African Diaspora Studies, Associate Professor, Spanish & Portuguese Department; Dr. Gaurav Desai, Associate Professor, African & Diaspora Studies, English

**Tulane University Department of Political Science-** Dr. Alla Rosca, Professor of International Relations

**Tulane University Law School-** Mr. Adam Babich, Environmental Law Clinic Director; Mr. Martin Davies, Admiralty Law Institute Professor of Maritime Law; Mr. Onnig Dombalagian, George Denègre Professor of Law; Ms. Ellen Forrester, Criminal Clinic Student Attorney; Mr. Günther Handl, Eberhard Deutsch Professor of Public International Law; Ms. Janet Hoeffel, Vice Dean; Mr. Oliver Houck, Director, Environmental Law LLM Program; Mr. Herbert Larson, Professor; Ms. Lynn Luker, Adjunct Professor; Mr. David Meyer, Dean; Ms. Stacy Seicshnaydre, Civil Litigation Clinic Director; Ms. Tania Tetlow, Domestic Violence Clinic Director

**Tulane University School of Architecture-** Ms. Alexandra "Sandi"



Stroud, AIA, Director, Master of Sustainable Real Estate Development

**United Houma Nation-** Mrs. Brenda Dardar-Robichaux, Principal Chief

**United Non-Profits of Greater New Orleans-** Ms. Lisa Kaichen

**University of New Orleans-** Dr. Raphael Cassimere, Jr., Professor Emeritus, History Department; Dr. Ed Chervenak, Political Science Professor

**Urban League of Greater New Orleans-** Mr. Winston Williams, Business Consultant

**Urban League's Women's Business Resource Center-** Ms. Lynnette Colin, Executive Director

**U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana-** Ms. Helen G. Berrigan, Section C Judge; Mr. Kito Bess, Chief Probation Officer Eastern District of Louisiana; Mr. Jim Letten, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Louisiana; Ms. Virginia Schlueter, Louisiana Eastern Federal Public Defender;

**Waggonner and Ball Architects-** Mr. J. David Waggonner, III, FAIA

**Woodlands Conservancy-** Ms. Katie Brasted, Executive Director

## Thank You to Our Hosts

*Thank you to all who welcomed visitors  
with home hospitality in March & April, 2012.*

**Mr. Dale and Mrs. Jeannie Biggers** hosted Mr. Felix Alexander Lutz studying Minority Politics in their home for dinner.

**Dr. Jean Cranmer** drove French visitor, Mr. Pascal Dupeyrat, to Laura Plantation.

**Mr. Richard Fullerton** hosted a visitor from Japan studying Economic Revitalization in U.S. Communities for dinner.

**Mr. Robert and Mrs. Wendy Grubb** hosted three visitors from India studying Human Rights Advocacy and Awareness in their home for dinner.

**Ms. Machele Hall** hosted three visitors from India studying Human Rights Advocacy and Awareness in her home for dinner.

**Mr. Herbert Larson** hosted ten visitors from Azerbaijan studying trial advocacy and maritime & energy law in his home for dinner.

**Mr. Julien Meyer** hosted two visitors from Japan studying Economic Revitalization in U.S. Communities for dinner.

**Ms. Sarah Pfeiffer and Ms. Alex Hoover** hosted three visitors from Korea, studying global challenges and cooperation for dinner.

**Mr. and Mrs. Collins Phillips** hosted 10 visitors from African studying Human Rights & U.S. Foreign Policy in their home for dinner.

**Mr. Walter Wolf and Ms. Alexandra Mora** hosted Ms. Carolien Gehrels of the Netherlands in their home for dinner.