



Versailles at **5 Years** after Katrina

How is the Versailles community and New Orleans East now?

- The Vietnamese American community returned with 98% of pre-Katrina residents, alongside a 90% return rate for the African American community, and an increased presence of Latino communities.
- New Orleans East is still home to harmful development, three landfills and 28 illegal dumpsites.
- Residents still face linguistic and cultural barriers to mainstream services.

What has the community done?

- In 2006, community members formed the MQVN Community Development Corporation (MQVN CDC), which is “dedicated to preserving and promoting our unique diversity and improving the quality of life of residents in the Greater New Orleans area, beginning in New Orleans East.”

Up-to-date, MQVN CDC and the community works to....

- *Increase* access to Healthcare
 - The CDC established two community healthcare clinics, **servicing over 600 patients** monthly with culturally and linguistically appropriate services
 - The CDC hopes to establish a **permanent community-owned**, federally qualified health center to better serve the **New Orleans East** population
- *Increase* Jobs through Local Business Development
 - CDC has assisted in **rebuilding** and expanding over **200 small businesses**
 - They designated “**Viet Village**” as a cultural destination with the State of Louisiana and secured **over \$500,000** for street and building improvements
 - CDC is developing a 30-acre organic, **locally managed Urban Farm** and is seeking funding for wetlands mitigation to break ground
 - Currently, they are also seeking funding for a **Green Jobs** training program
- *Provide* Affordable Housing
 - During the recession, CDC returned \$12.5-million in unusable tax credits; they successfully acquired other credits to work with Archdiocese of New Orleans
 - CDC will manage a **75-unit, culturally appropriate Senior Retirement Home** awaiting funding commitments from FEMA, its tenant waiting list is **over 200**
- *Provide* Quality Education:
 - In 2008, the CDC opened its Intercultural Charter School and serves **over 300 students**, Kindergarten to 6th grade, from the **Vietnamese- and African-American, Latino** population.
 - The School is seeking a permanent facility with the Recovery School District.
- *Reclaim* the Land: Environmental Justice
 - CDC worked with VAYLA-NO and faith-based coalitions to recently oppose a harmful, gasification project
 - They closely monitor ongoing lawsuits with **Waste Management** and **LDEQ** regarding the **clean-up of Chef Menteur dumpsite**.
 - Currently, CDC is participating in execution of city-wide **Recycling Program** and drafting a City Ordinance on Environmental Justice

How can I support? Please log on to www.mqvncdc.org for more information and to get involved!