

CALL FOR EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE HOSPITAL PLANS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS



The debate over plans for new hospitals is between renewing Charity Hospital or building new elsewhere.



Proposed new LSU and VA hospitals would be built in the Lower Mid-City neighborhood.

New Orleans needs the best in health care, a state-of-the-art teaching hospital, and economic development driven by a world-class biosciences district. The challenge remains—How best to achieve this?

At the direction of the Louisiana legislature, the Foundation for Historical Louisiana commissioned internationally renowned architects RMJM Hillier to do an independent feasibility study of Charity Hospital. This study found that building a 21st century hospital inside the shell of Charity Hospital will save the state hundreds of millions of dollars, help revitalize the Central Business District, put the medical complex into operation at least two years sooner and avoid the destruction of badly needed workforce housing in the Lower Mid-City neighborhood.

The Foundation for Historical Louisiana, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, Smart Growth for Louisiana and the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation are calling for a side-by-side evaluation of the two plans. State and city government can test these claims by calling for an independent cost-benefit analysis that compares the RMJM Hillier concept plan with LSU's plan for its proposed hospital.

We are also asking the New Orleans City Council and the City Planning Commission to get involved in evaluating the plans and their critical importance to the economic development of New Orleans. The LSU and VA hospitals may cost \$2 billion and will dramatically change the urban environment of the CBD and Mid-City, but neither the council nor the commission has held a public hearing to discuss the hospitals' impact. Nor does the city's highly anticipated new master plan for land use and zoning—which is currently being drafted—deal with the hospital plan.

If LSU and the City of New Orleans are allowed to proceed without genuine public participation, this will set a dangerous precedent for any future project in any neighborhood in the city.

(Information continues on back)

We ask your organization to join us in:

1. Calling on Governor Jindal to order an independent cost-benefit analysis comparing the RMJM Hillier study and the proposed LSU plan.
2. Asking the City Planning Commission and the City Council to hold public hearings on these important planning issues.
3. Asking the commission and the council to include the hospitals in the current master-planning process.

The hospitals and the proposed biomedical research district make up the biggest recovery project since Katrina and one of the most expensive economic development efforts this region has ever conceived. To make sure our community and our economy get the maximum benefit from this major investment, decisions need to be made in the open – with the transparency that comes from informing the public and giving opportunities for open participation at the local government level. We believe that a careful study of all the medical, financial and urban design issues, facts and alternatives will make this project a winner for everyone. To learn more, visit: www.fhl.org, www.valsumedcenters.com, www.LSUAMC.com, www.SaveCharityHospital.com, www.PreservationNation.org, and www.prcno.org.

To lend your organization's voice to the 60 below calling for public hearings and evaluation of medical complex alternatives, please email Michelle Kimball at advocacy@prcno.org or call her at (504) 390-3209.

● American Planning Association ● Broadmoor Improvement Association ● Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association ● Foundation for Historical Louisiana ● New Orleans Committee to Reopen Charity Hospital ● Coliseum Square Association ● Doctors for Charity Hospital ● National Trust for Historic Preservation ● Squandered Heritage ● Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association ● Smart Growth for Louisiana ● Preservation Resource Center ● Louisiana ACORN ● Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association ● Louisiana Landmarks Society ● GNO Affordable Housing Action Center ● Holy Cross Neighborhood Association ● New Creation Christian Church ● Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation ● Lower Mid-City Residents and Business Owners Affected by the LSU/VA Hospitals ● The Renaissance Project ● Vieux Carré Property Owners, Residents and Associates ● Southern Christian Leadership Conference Louisiana Women's Division ● French Quarter Citizens, Inc. ● Lantern Light Inc. ● Irish Channel Neighborhood Association ● Louisiana Justice Institute ● Lafayette Square Association ● Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development ● Mid-City Neighborhood Organization ● Historic Faubourg Treme Association ● New Orleans Pax Christi ● Partners for Livable Communities ● C3/Hands Off Iberville ● Phoenix of New Orleans ● Restaurant Opportunity Center of New Orleans ● Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Universalist Church ● The Townscape Institute ● The Urban Conservancy ● United Teachers of New Orleans ● Advocates for Environmental Human Rights ● Bywater Neighborhood Association ● Camp and Julia Coalition, LLC. ● Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana ● Loyola Chapter, National Lawyers Guild ● NorthWest Carrollton Civic Association ● Preservation Dallas ● Carrollton/Riverbend Neighborhood Association ● Faubourg St. Roch Improvement Association ● Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative—Community Land Trust ● New Orleans Women's Health Center ● US/ICOMOS ● Women's Health and Justice Initiative ● World Monuments Fund ● Moving Forward Gulf Coast, Inc. ● Crescent City Media Group ● New Orleans Citizen Participation Project ● Congress for the New Urbanism ● Bouligny Improvement Association ● Institute for Women and Ethnic Studies