

REGION 6



BROWNFIELDS

Rose Collaborative (formerly Bayou Treme Center) New Orleans, Louisiana

Assistance through the Regional Planning Commission Assessment Grant and LDEQ made this transformation possible.

BEFORE



AFTER



The St. Rose de Lima Church and School was originally built in the early 1900s. The school closed in 1978 and the church closed after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

In 2011, the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) for the New Orleans metro area assisted the non-profit Rose Collaborative (formerly Bayou Treme Center) by conducting a Phase I Environmental Assessment for the site followed by a Phase II assessment under Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ's) Voluntary Remediation Program which included the removal of an underground storage tank. Based on the Phase II sampling results, LDEQ issued a No Further Action letter for everything below-ground. RPC then developed a cleanup plan to address asbestos, lead-based paint and avian fecal matter in the buildings. RPC also updated the Phase I in 2016 for the Rose Collaborative purchase of the property from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and in 2017 for project financing.

The buildings are restored and renovated and house the Southern Rep Theatre, including new community performance spaces; facility space for the New Orleans Career Center, New Harmony High and Operation Spark through the Summer of 2019 when it will become the Waldorf School; and office space for entrepreneurs.

Southern Rep Theatre's mission is to develop and produce new plays that reflect the diversity of New Orleans, to provide audiences with professional theatre of the highest artistic quality and achievement, and to establish a creative working environment that nurtures theatre professionals. As the leading non-profit professional theatre in New Orleans, they strive to use the artistry of theatre to enlighten, educate and entertain. They will be housed in the former 12,000 square-foot former church building.

The 23,000 square-foot former school facility is currently houses the New Orleans Career Center, New Harmony High and Operation Spark which will provide alternative learning options through Summer 2019. In Fall 2019, it will become the new home to the Waldorf School of New Orleans which offers a developmentally appropriate approach to education while integrating the arts with academics for children from preschool through eighth grade. Their curriculum is designed to inspire lifelong learning in all students. In order to support the surrounding community, they will offer scholarships for neighborhood students.

The smaller school building (11,000 square feet) will provide space for Fund 17, a nonprofit with the mission to combat opportunity inequality in New Orleans by providing micro-entrepreneurs financial and educational tools for self-empowerment.