LaTosha Brown
Director
Gulf Coast Fund

Ms. Brown is an award-winning community organizer, political strategist and philanthropic consultant with over twenty years of experience working on a wide variety of issues related to social justice and civil rights. A native of Alabama, after Hurricane Katrina she founded the Saving OurSelves Coalition, working directly with Gulf Coast residents and internally displaced persons to educate, empower, and assist hurricane survivors to rebuild communities and strengthen families—as well as providing over $2,000,000 worth of food, water and supplies to returning residents. A founding member of the Gulf Coast Fund Advisory Group, Ms. Brown has served as a consultant to the Fund since 2007 and was appointed by the Advisors to be the first Director of the Gulf Coast Fund in June 2010.

Kirk Cheramie
Manager and Program Director
United Houma Nation
KUHN Radio 89.3 FM

Kirk Cheramie is a citizen of the United Houma Nation, a Native American tribe of 17,000 in coastal Louisiana. Kirk received a Master of Arts degree in political science from the University of New Orleans in 1994 and worked in local, state and federal government for 11 years. He is a US Coast Guard licensed captain. He captained marine vessels in the inland bays and rivers of Louisiana, as well as the Gulf of Mexico in the oil and gas exploration and production industries for 16 years. He has been a trawler, an environmental consultant and most recently, a political talk show host on regional
radio. Kirk served on the policy committee of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the fresh water inflow and data transfer committees of the Gulf of Mexico Program, served as director of AmeriCorps on the Bayou (an environmental program in Lafourche Parish). Kirk is currently building and managing KUHN FM, a new public radio station, for the United Houma Nation in Golden Meadow, La. He will host a new talk show geared towards coastal issues of Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico, as well as a progressive rock music show beginning in October 2010. He is of French and Native American heritage and continues to be an advocate for a sustainable coast in Louisiana and the entire Gulf of Mexico.

Byron Encalade
President
Louisiana Oyster Association

Byron Encalade is the President of the Louisiana Oyster Association and a leader for the African-American oyster fishermen in the region. Oil infrastructure has led to the erosion of the wetlands that oysters depend on, which were previously damaged further when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. Since the BP disaster, Encalade has been a leading spokes person for impacted communities on the Gulf Coast; including being interviewed by PBS and the New York Times.

Capt. Mike Frenette
President, Venice Charter Boat/Guide Assoc.
President, CCA of Plaquemines Parish
Director, Louisiana Charter Boat Assoc.
Professional Tournament Angler/Guide
Owner, Redfish Lodge of Louisiana

Mike has been in the charter/guide business for 30 years in Venice Louisiana and was the first to provide anglers from across the country and world, both offshore and inshore fishing as well as lodging. Mike can be seen annually on ESPN, The Outdoor Channel, Versus, as well as other outdoor channels, fishing with anglers such as Bill Dance, Roland
Martin, Mark Zona, Shaw Grigsby, and others. Mike conducts seminars and speaking engagements around the country educating anglers on techniques that will advance their fishing, but most importantly, he enjoys educating the public on the importance that the wetlands, estuary, and fisheries are and how important these are not only to Louisiana, but the rest of the country as well.

Beth Galante
Director of Global Green New Orleans

Beth Galante is responsible for the operation of Global Green's New Orleans Resource Center & Office, supervision of the Holy Cross Project, and rebuilding initiatives including green affordable homes, schools, and neighborhoods. Beth was formerly an Assistant D.A. in New Orleans, prosecuting homicides, sex offenses and public corruption cases. She taught at Tulane Law School, as the former Deputy Director of the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, which was the first recipient of the American Bar Association's Distinguished Environmental Achievement Award and the National Law Journal's Runner Up Lawyer of the Year during her tenure, for its groundbreaking work in the field of Environmental Justice. She is also a former legal representative of the New Jersey Attorney General and the Quapaw Indian Nation regarding damages to their natural resources. Beth has a Masters of Environmental & Energy Law and J.D. from Tulane Law School. Beth is an Aspen Institute Fellow in its Henry Crown leadership program, and has served as Co-Chair of Mayor Mitch Landrieu’s Sustainability Task Force as well as present Co-Chair of the Green Collaborative in New Orleans.

David Gauthe
Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (BISCO)
Legislative Liaison and Organizer

Mr. Gauthe served as a BISCO volunteer beginning in 1995. He was named the 2003 Angel of the Year and was hired as a part-time organizer in April of 2008. He was promoted to a full time position on June 1, 2008. Mr. Gauthe has a Bachelor of Science degree from Nicholls State University and is a LA Licensed Life Insurance agent and a Licensed NASD (National Association of Securities Dealers Agent.) David has won several awards including the Presidential Award from NIS Financial Services; and as a volunteer in his community, has won awards including the Outstanding Young Man of Thibodaux and runner-up
for Outstanding Young Man in Louisiana. His family was also the recipient of the runner up for the Great American Family Award of Thibodaux and runner up for the Great American Family of Louisiana Award, given by the National Jaycees. David has been married to Sharon for 41 years and they are the parents of three successful young adults and grandparents to one set of 1 year old twins and another set of twins due in Nov. 2010. They have been truly blessed. BISCO (Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing) is a faith based group composed of everyday and ordinary people working together with their ministers to affect positive change in the parishes of Lafourche and Terrebonne in South Louisiana. BISCO’s mission is to build a powerful, multi-faith, multi-racial, multi-issue organization that serves as a voice for all people in the communities of these South LA parishes.

Courtney Howell  
Executive Director  
Bayou Grace Community Services, Inc.

Courtney Howell co-founded Bayou Grace Community Services in 2005 post Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and has been executive director of this local non-profit since it incorporated in 2006. Courtney received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of New Orleans in 2003. From 1999-2000, Courtney served as an AmeriCorps *VISTA member in Denver, Colorado, serving as program manager of an intergenerational tutoring program and from 1997-1998, Courtney served as an AmeriCorps *NCCC member at the Denver campus traveling to parts of the U.S. doing various types of service projects. From 2004-2005, Courtney taught English in Ulsan, South Korea and learned to love kimchi and the Korean culture. Courtney now uses her training and experience with nonprofits, service, and different cultures and the study of applied anthropology to continue to build a local nonprofit that not only works to meet immediate needs in family literacy, English as a second language and adult education and disaster relief, but also an organization that promotes local and national volunteerism and community development. This, as well as an organization that works to mobilize community, both local and national, in the target community’s and coastal Louisiana’s most critical issue: coastal land loss and the restoration and protection of Louisiana’s coastline. In 2007, Courtney received the Stewardship Award from the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana for her work in educating out-of-state volunteers on Louisiana coastal land loss. In 2003, she had the opportunity to present her undergraduate qualitative research, “Disrupting Marginalization and Living with Value and Autonomy: The Life History of Robert Bodden” at the Southern Anthropological Society Conference in Baton Rouge, LA.
Diane Huhn
Bayou Grace
Environmental Outreach Volunteer Coordinator

After visiting the five bayous of Lower Terrebonne Parish, LA on a Katrina/Rita relief mission trip, Diane felt compelled to return to the area and joined the Bayou Grace team in the fall of 2008 following the devastation of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Prior to arriving at Bayou Grace, Diane earned her BS in History and Secondary Social Studies Education from the State University of New York, College at Cortland and completed graduate work in the Masters of Education program at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. While spending seven years as a Secondary Social Studies Educator with the Geneva City School District in Geneva, NY, Diane was honored with the Social Studies Educator of the Year award by the Wayne-Finger Lakes Social Studies Educators Conference. Following her successful career in the field of public education, Diane spent five years in the Instructional Design field with Element K in Rochester, NY. During her tenure, Diane served as an Instructional Designer, Content Manager, Engagement Manager, and Senior Instructional Designer developing engaging online educational content. In her current position at Bayou Grace, Diane brings a fresh and innovative perspective to the organization. She pulls together volunteers from across the nation, designs their projects, and gives them first-hand knowledge and understanding of the effects of coastal land loss. As an avid, amateur photographer and videographer, Diane also works to creatively share the amazing people, culture, heritage, and environmental treasures of south Louisiana with others. Through all of her activities, Diane attempts to help carry the message of the critical importance to restore and protect coastal Louisiana and the 5 bayou communities.

Tracy Kuhns
Commercial Shrimper
Director of Louisiana Bayoukeeper, Inc.

Tracy has been co-owner of a commercial shrimp boat with her partner in the family fishing business since 1994, gaining a working knowledge of Louisiana' wetlands, water quality issues, and commercial fishing operations. Over the past 25 years her work included time as a
Community Outreach Coordinator for the Tulane University Environmental Law Clinic helping to educate and assist communities in organizing around environmental issues. She served as community liaison for the Sageglen Utility District on Superfund issues and helped organize an Environmental Health Conference for the Harris County Health Department, Houston, Texas, to educate local doctors. Tracy performed paralegal work for law firms involved in toxics litigation. She is past President and current board member of the Association of Family Fishermen and represents commercial fisheries on the Board of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network. She was co-founder of the Gulf Coast Commercial Fisherman's Coalition. Governor Foster appointed her as Alternate Fisheries Representative for Louisiana to the EPA’s Gulf of Mexico Program, Citizens Advisory Committee and she currently serves on the CAC, as the Fisheries Representative for Louisiana. She is Director of Louisiana Bayoukeeper, Inc in Barataria, LA. She continues to work with coastal communities on water quality, fisheries habitat conservation, and fishing community economic justice issues. She has five children and 17 grandchildren and is a member of St. Anthony church in Lafitte, LA.

**Lance Nacio**  
Owner  
**Anna Marie Seafood, LLC.**

Lance Nacio, local shrimper and owner of Anna Marie Seafood, grew up in the estuaries of South Louisiana. His great-grandfather, grandfather and father all supported their families by hunting and fishing along the fertile coast of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish, a tradition that Lance carries on today from his shrimp boat, the F/V Anna Marie. Lance is also a leader in the White Boot Brigade, a group organized by marketumbrella.org to focus on sustainable harvests, cultural preservation, and business innovation in the shrimp industry.
Father Vien The Nguyen
Chair of the Mary Queen of Viet Nam CDC
in East New Orleans

Pre-Katrina New Orleans East was an enclave of Vietnamese Americans, predominantly Catholics, who came to the area after the war in 1975. In the aftermath of Katrina, this quiet and under-the-radar community was forced to fight against a master plan that would have turned most of New Orleans East into green space and a toxic landfill. As pastor of the local parish, Fr. Vien Nguyen led the community’s efforts in this fight. He also established and is the Chair of the Mary Queen of Viet Nam Community Development Corporation (MQVNCDC) which endeavors to create an ideal community called Viet Village as a contribution to the colorful ethnic diversity in New Orleans. Because of his unrelenting efforts and the unprecedented community effort, Viet Village now has a cultural center, a community health center, a retirement community, an urban farm with a farmer’s market, a charter school, and a shopping mall. In the post-Katrina environment, Mary Queen of Viet Nam Church has expanded its services and now serves Asians, Latinos, African Americans, and other residents in the Eastern edge of New Orleans. Since the April BP oil spill disaster in the gulf, the MQVNCDC has again been at the forefront assisting the large population of Asian American fishermen, oystermen, shrimpers and others who make their livelihood on the Gulf. In addition, MQVNCDC is working with several federal and state and private agencies such as the Catholic Relief Charities to work on skills diversification and job creation for the displaced fishermen.

Tuan Nguyen
Deputy Director
Mary Queen of Viet Nam CDC

As the MQVN Community Development Corporation’s Deputy Director, Tuan Nguyen is in charge of the day to day operations of the organization as well as workforce development of the Village de l’Est community. A native of New Orleans from birth, Tuan was born at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. He grew up in Village de l’Est, a small community in New Orleans East consisting of the most concentrated Vietnamese-Americans outside of Vietnam. Tuan graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelors of Science in Business Management. While attending college, Tuan contributed to his community by volunteering to teach catechism and basic Vietnamese for two years to kindergarten and 2nd graders at St.
Thomas Thien School. After working at Walgreens Drug Store as a manager for four years, Tuan is now working on workforce development for New Orleans East at MQVN CDC, through the Green Jobs, Aquaculture, Urban Farm, Food Manufacturing/Service projects. Due to the BP Oil Spill Disaster, Tuan has been working directly with fishermen in the Gulf Coast to address the needs, concerns, and providing assistance to them. Tuan was invited by Congressman Anh Joseph Cao to be a part of his Rapid Response Team to further his work with the BP Oil Spill Disaster in working with victims as well as government agencies.

Rosina Philippe
Leader in Atakapa-Ishak Tribe
Director, Grand Bayou Community United

Rosina Philippe is a lifetime resident of coastal Louisiana and a member of the Atakapa-Ishak tribe and an advocate for preservation of traditional cultural practices, as well as of the ecosystems that support them. For many years Rosina has partnered with leaders from other communities, along with faith-based and non-profit organizations, to work for sustainability of rural communities and traditional family fishers. Her work focuses on racial justice, economic sustainability, and coastal restoration/preservation. Rosina is a firm believer that people facing similar problems can, through informed education and information sharing, have the power to affect positive long-term changes; and through collaboration can take charge of their own destinies, building toward a more resilient and sustainable life.

Brenda Dardar-Robichaux
Leader and Former Principal Chief of the Houma Nation

Brenda Dardar-Robichaux grew up in the bayou community of Golden Meadow, Louisiana. Shortly after graduation in 1976, Brenda began working for Title VII Indian Education of the Lafourche Parish School Board where she served as Director/Cultural Resource Specialist until her retirement in 2008. Brenda began serving on the Tribal Council of the United Houma Nation in 1992. In 1997, she was elected Principal Chief of the 17,000 member nation. She continued to serve in this position until term limits required she relinquish the position in 2010 after having served for 13 years. Her willingness to confront the injustices
John A. Tesvich  
President  
AmeriPure Oyster Company

John A. Tesvich, president of AmeriPure Oyster Company, is a fourth generation oyster grower, residing in oyster-rich Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. He has been in the oyster business as a grower and a processor for over forty years. He presently serves as chairman of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force, and as president of the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association. Mr. Tesvich is also a member of the Plaquemines Community Foundation, and the Croatian American Society, local non-profit community groups. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Mr. Tesvich, with his wife Jane, a teacher at South Plaquemines Elementary, immediately rebuilt their flooded home and oyster business after Hurricane Katrina. They have three adult children, currently pursuing their own professional careers. The BP oil spill completely shut down Tesvich’s oyster business, and as a result, his 60 employees remain out of work.

Mike Tidwell  
Author, Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana’s Cajun Coast  
Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Climate Action Network

Author and filmmaker Mike Tidwell predicted in vivid detail the Katrina hurricane disaster in his award-winning 2003 book Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana’s Cajun Coast (Pantheon/Vintage). In 2006, following the hurricane, he published The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas, and the Race to Save America’s Coastal Cities.
(Free Press). His four other non-fiction books center on the themes of nature and travel. These include *Amazon Stranger* (detailing efforts to save the Ecuadorian rainforest) and *In the Mountains of Heaven* (travels to exotic lands across the globe). Tidwell has won four Lowell Thomas awards, the highest prize in American travel journalism, and is a former grantee of the National Endowment for the Arts. Tidwell’s most recent documentary film – “We Are All Smith Islanders” – details the dangers and solutions associated with global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. Tidwell is a winner of the Audubon Naturalist Society’s prestigious “Conservation Award.” He now serves as executive director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. A native Georgian, he now lives in Takoma Park, Maryland with his wife and 13-year-old son.

**Patricia Whitney**  
*Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (BISCO)*  
*Environmental Advocate*

Patty Whitney is a lifelong resident of coastal Louisiana, being born and raised in Houma (Terrebonne Parish) and now a resident of Thibodaux (Lafourche Parish), Louisiana. She is the mother of three sons and grandmother of two grandsons, all of whom reside nearby in Thibodaux. She is a graduate of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux and is a retired court reporter. Patty currently holds the position of Executive Assistant for BISCO (Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing) and serves as their Environmental Advocacy Specialist. In that capacity she advocates tirelessly for the restoration and protection of the fragile Louisiana coastal ecosystem and communities. A popular speaker and strategist, Patty brings to her advocacy work a passion for the history and culture of the unique coastal communities she calls home. She currently serves as the President of both the Lafourche Heritage Society and the Terrebonne Genealogical Society, and is the director of the newly formed Bayou History Center, a collaborative partner of BISCO. The Mission of BISCO is to build a powerful multi-faith, mult-ethnic, multi-race, multi-issue organization that serves as a voice for the people of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes in southeastern Louisiana. We are every day and ordinary church people working together with their ministers to bring about positive changes in our communities. Bayou History Center, Inc.’s purpose is “Studying Yesterday to Understand Today and Improve Tomorrow.”