LaTosha Brown
Ibis Partners Managing Director
and Former Executive Director of
The Gulf Coast Fund

LaTosha Brown is an award-winning community organizer, jazz singer, 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. 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 native of Alabama and a founding member of the Gulf Coast Fund Advisory Group, Ms. Brown has served as a consultant and advisor for various public foundations and private donors. In 2007, she was appointed as the first Director of the Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health serving in that role from June 2010 - August 2011. She is now a managing director for the Social Venture division of the Ibis Partners Investment group in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Kirk Cheramie
Manager and Program Director
United Houma Nation Radio
KUHN 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.
Capt. Mike Frenette  
President, Venice Charter Boat/Guide Assoc.  
President, CCA of Plaquemines Parish  
Director, Louisiana Charter Boat Assoc.  
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.

Matt Petersen  
President & CEO, Global Green USA  

Matt Petersen has served as President and CEO of Global Green USA since its inception in 1994. Petersen is a social entrepreneur who has been a driving force for sustainable design, solar power, and green communities while improving the lives of those in need. Among Petersen’s many success stories - and perhaps most notable - is his successful vision for the green rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Petersen’s passion and tireless efforts led to greening of schools and housing, as well as the New Orleans Sustainable Design Competition created with Brad Pitt. The competition resulted in Global Green's commitment to build the winning design -- with 23 units of housing and a community center -- which has turned into the Holy Cross Project, a LEED Platinum sustainable village in the Lower 9th Ward. More recently, Petersen spearheaded Global Green’s response to the BP Oil Spill.

Petersen is also an instrumental force in connecting the power of Hollywood to bring attention to climate change, and other environmental challenges and solutions. Working shoulder to shoulder with Pitt, James Cameron, Edward Norton, Leonardo DiCaprio, Salma Hayek, Jake Gyllenhaal, Rosario Dawson, and many others, Petersen has helped bring critical attention to environmental causes. An expert on energy, green building, and sustainability, Petersen has appeared on Oprah, the TODAY Show, CBS Morning Show, ABC Good Morning America, CBS Evening News,
ABC News, CNN, Entertainment Tonight, Extra, E!, and numerous other programs. A frequent contributor to the Huffington Post, Petersen has been quoted in TIME, New York Times, LA Times, Washington Post, People, Atlantic Monthly, and dozens of other publications. Petersen is a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Clinton Global Initiative, and serves on the board of Habitat for Humanity-Los Angeles.

Sharon Gauthe
Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (BISCO)
Executive Director

Sharon Gauthe is the Executive Director of BISCO (Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing), a faith-based nonprofit working in the communities of Terrebonne, Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes in southeastern Louisiana. BISCO is a grassroots organizing group working through local churches and community groups to address longstanding issues in their communities. Currently, the largest challenges facing the communities that BISCO serves are coastal land loss, the BP oil spill disaster and the lack of affordable housing.

Sharon is an award-winning community organizer, and political strategist with over forty years of experience working on a wide variety of issues related to social justice and civil rights. She began her employment with BISCO in June 2000 after serving on the BISCO Board for five years. Her previous employment was as the Region 3 Office of Public Health’s Healthy Communities Coordinator. Her work history includes: the Louisiana Office of Mental Health, the State Department of Public Welfare, the Lafourche Parish Council as a Juvenile Probation Officer, and the Lafourche Parish School Board, as a Social Services Counselor. Mrs. Gauthe graduated from Nicholls State University in January of 1971 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in the Family and Consumer Sciences - Social Services Program.

Mrs. Gauthe has received many awards and acknowledgements including: Public Citizen of the Year Award by the National Association of Social Workers in 2011; Woman of the Year 2000 by the American Biographical Institute; and the State of Louisiana and Thibodaux’s Outstanding Young Woman of the Year in 1981. Sharon currently serves on the following boards and commissions: the LA Center for Women and Government's Leadership Council; the Lafourche Parish Commission for Women and the Lafourche Children & Youth Board, the LA Region III Mental Health Advisory Council, LA Common Cause, the Equity and Inclusion Campaign, the Louisiana Environmental Justice Coalition, and the South Central Public Health Leadership Institute.
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.
Rebecca Templeton
Executive Director
Bayou Grace Community Services, Inc.

Rebecca Templeton is Executive Director of Bayou Grace Community Services Inc., an organization that works to mobilize community, both local and national, in coastal Louisiana’s most critical issue: coastal land loss and the restoration and protection of wetlands. As a native of one of the 5 Bayou Communities Bayou Grace targets, Rebecca knows all too well the impact that coastal land loss has on a community. Rebecca joined the Bayou Grace team in 2009 as the Environmental Outreach Coordinator. Prior to joining Bayou Grace, she was employed as a public school teacher from 2003-2009 in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes and was recognized on the school level as Teacher of the Year in 2008, awarded the Lafourche Parish School Board award For Outstanding Achievement on April 3, 2008 and the Principal's Award for Excellence in September, 2007. Rebecca's work as an educator has helped her to understand that education and understanding are key motivators for change. She intends to use this knowledge to implement effective environment education programs focused on wetlands education. Growing up in the small bayou community of Chauvin has helped to connect her to her target communities. She is personally invested in the issues of coastal land loss and erosion and restoration and protection because these issues affect people with whom she is intimately connected.

Diane Huhn
Bayou Grace Community Services, Inc.
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.

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.

Diem Nguyen  
**Executive Director**  
**Mary Queen of Viet Nam CDC**  
Diem Nguyen is the Executive Director of the Mary Queen of Viet Nam (MQVN) Community Development Corporation (CDC) and the New Orleans East, LA Community Health Center. Diem attended Xavier University of Louisiana, College of Pharmacy, receiving her PharmD degree. She has clinical pharmacy practice experience at the institutional level at Lakeland Medical Center, as well as joint pharmacy cooperation between Xavier University and Tulane University in the Drug Information Dept. Her clinical pharmacy experience also includes internal medicine at Charity Hospital Medical Center and
ambulatory care at St. Thomas Clinic in 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. The Mary Queen of Viet Nam Community Development Corporation endeavors to create an ideal community called Viet Village as a contribution to the colorful ethnic diversity in New Orleans. MQVN CDC has created a community health center, a charter school and, in response to the BP oil spill, it is now spear-heading an aqua-culture and aqua-ponics project. In the post-Katrina environment, MQVN CDC has expanded its services and now serves Asians, Latinos, African Americans, and other residents in the Eastern edge of New Orleans. Since the BP oil spill disaster in the gulf, the MQVN CDC 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 agencies to work on skills diversification and job creation for the displaced fishermen.

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 against Indian people from the classroom to the state capitol is well established and she has gained a reputation as being an outspoken and dauntless advocate for minority issues. This devotion to her people was what inspired her to start the United Houma Nation Relief Fund in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Assistance continues to thousands of tribal citizens in the wake of four hurricanes in three years as well as the recent oil spill.