Global Green New Orleans

Elizabeth Teel Galante - Executive Director

Beth Galante is responsible for the operation of Global Green's New Orleans Office which includes a green building resource center, the Holy Cross Leed Platinum Housing Development Project, and other green and energy efficiency rebuilding initiatives like affordable homes and green seed schools. Beth has over 15 years of environmental law and trial experience. She taught at Tulane Law School, and became the 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 her groundbreaking work in the field of environmental justice. Beth is also a former legal representative of the New Jersey Attorney General and the Quapaw Indian Nation regarding damages to their natural resources. She has a Masters in Environmental & Energy Law and a J.D. from Tulane Law School. She is currently an Aspen Institute Henry Crown Fellow.

• **Green Schools Project**
  The goal of Global Green’s green schools project is to create healthier classrooms and more energy efficient schools that in turn improve student performance and save money for school districts, while protecting the environment and reducing carbon pollution that causes global warming. “Green Seed Schools” receive assistance and resources to improve energy and water efficiency, improve indoor air quality, and if feasible, create on-site renewable energy generation. The second and more ambitious phase of the program is the creation of high performance "Showcase Green Schools" which are built to LEED Silver certification.

• **Cap and Trade Wetlands Restoration Project**
  Louisiana’s wetlands loss rates are approaching a “point of no return,” after which restoration efforts will be unable to maintain major population centers and infrastructure along coastal Louisiana, particularly in light of the most recent sea level rise and ocean temperature projections. The rapid development of a carbon offset market infrastructure for wetlands restoration/protection is vital for Louisiana to capture an additional revenue stream to supplement federal and state funding, as well as to incentivize landowners to allow access and aggressively advocate for restoration projects on their lands. Global Green’s Plan is to organize the first Louisiana carbon offset sale that will supplement a state wetland restoration project in the St. Bernard Parish that will bring back 30,000 acres of wetlands and help create infrastructure to facilitate significant future projects.
Michael Hecht brings a diverse background to the task of leading economic development for the Greater New Orleans region. As the Chief Executive of GNO Inc., Michael leads an organization whose mission falls broadly into two categories: business development – marketing the region to businesses – and product development – creating better conditions for business. The ultimate vision of GNO, Inc. is to make the Greater New Orleans region one of the best places in the country for both a business, and a family. Before being tapped by the area’s business community to lead GNO, Inc., Michael served as Director of Business Recovery Services for Louisiana Economic Development, where he led the federally-funded $232M Small Business Recovery Program. Designed to revitalize the independent and small business sector devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Recovery Program helped over 5,000 Louisiana businesses with grants, loans and technical assistance.

Prior to repatriating to Louisiana, Michael worked for Mayor Michael Bloomberg in New York City. As Assistant Commissioner for NYC Business Solutions, Michael designed and ran a nationally-recognized initiative to help the 200,000+ small businesses of New York City prosper and grow. Michael also brings the experience of starting and managing his own business, having founded a conglomerate of restaurant ventures in San Francisco, including the award-winning “Foreign Cinema,” which just celebrated its 10th anniversary.

In addition to his public and private ventures, Michael also has experience in the nonprofit sector, where he was Director of Business Development for the Food Bank for New York City, the largest of its kind in the country. Michael began his career as a strategic management consultant to Fortune 100 multinationals including Coca-Cola, Kellogg’s and IBM, in Europe, North America and Australia. Michael holds an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he was a member of the Public Management Program, and an undergraduate degree in Race Relations from Yale University, magna cum laude. He is a member of Coro Leadership New York, and has lectured nationally and internationally on entrepreneurship and economic development.

Recently Michael has been recognized as one of the 25 “Most Powerful” People in the 10/12 Corridor, a New Orleans Living “Person to Watch,” and a Junior Achievement “Rising Star.” With family roots in Louisiana back to the 1830’s, Michael now lives in New Orleans with his wife, Marlene, an ESL professor at Delgado, and his two small boys, Dexter and Kaj.
Tim Williamson is the Co-Founder and CEO of The Idea Village, a private, independent 501(c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 2000 with a mission to identify, support and retain entrepreneurial talent in New Orleans. With support from a global network of over 650 individuals, corporations, foundations, universities, GNO, Inc., the City of New Orleans, and the State of Louisiana, The Idea Village has provided direct support to over 250 entrepreneurs who have retained over 978 jobs and generated over $87 million in revenue for the community.

An entrepreneur by trade and by training, Tim has successfully started and operated five entrepreneurial ventures in four different cities and has been a steadfast advocate for making New Orleans a vibrant entrepreneurial community. He is a frequent speaker on innovation and entrepreneurship. Tim’s entrepreneurial passion and persistence is contagious as in leadership roles that include the State of Louisiana Small Business and Entrepreneurship Commission, City Year Board of Directors, the National Conference for Community and Justice Advisory Committee, among others. A graduate of the Stanford University Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders, New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute, and CABL’s Louisiana Leadership program, Tim was honored among CityBusiness “Power Generation”, Gambit “40 under 40” and 2009 YLC Role Model. Mr. Williamson also earned the Junior Achievement Rising Star Award and received “Heroes of the Storm” award in 2008. Tim received a B.S.M. in Finance from Tulane University in 1987.

ABOUT THE IDEA VILLAGE:
In 2000, The Idea Village was formed by a group of New Orleans citizens who returned home energized by experiences in thriving communities across the United States. The founders determined that the key to creating positive economic and social change in New Orleans was to create a vibrant entrepreneurial community. The Idea Village formalized in 2002 as an independent 501(c) (3) non-profit organization with a mission to identify, support and retain entrepreneurial talent in New Orleans by providing business resources to high-impact ventures.

THE IDEA VILLAGE STRATEGY:
The Idea Village team supports high impact entrepreneurial talent by identifying growth challenges, setting goals, providing business strategy, marketing support and financial direction. In addition, The Idea Village provides access to development grants, talent and innovative work spaces.

THE IDEA VILLAGE ENTREPRENEUR CHALLENGE:
Each year, The Idea Village hosts The Idea Village Entrepreneur Challenge (IVEC) to drive economic growth in New Orleans. This annual program offers local entrepreneurs access to a diverse resource pool of business experts, professional service providers, MBA students, investors and corporate volunteers who provide resources and strategy to accelerate business growth. The program culminates in New Orleans Entrepreneur Week from March 20 - 27, 2010.
Mahalia Jackson Center - Early Childhood and Family Learning Foundation

Working to permanently change public education in New Orleans by ensuring that all children enter school ready to learn, ECFLF’s pilot project is Mahalia Jackson Early Childhood & Family Learning Center. Located in the Central City community, one of the poorest and most crime-ridden areas of the city, the Center focuses on children from birth through 5 years of age, offering quality Early Head Start through Kindergarten level programs. By also housing an unprecedented combination of existing and sustainable, government, public and private service providers under its roof, Mahalia Jackson Center provides a “one-stop” site for the physical, mental, psychological and sociological health support systems of children and their families. ECFLF will replicate the Mahalia Jackson Center model, its outreach work, and Coordinated School Health model in at least six similarly challenged New Orleans communities.

Pat Cooper - President and CEO

Pat Cooper serves as the CEO of the Early Childhood and Family Learning Foundation in New Orleans, Louisiana. Prior to the New Orleans appointment, Dr. Cooper served as Superintendent of Schools in McComb, MS, for ten years, where he implemented an earlier version of the Mahalia Jackson Center plan. Dr. Cooper earned his undergraduate and master’s education degrees at Louisiana State University, and his doctorate in education administration at the University of Northern Colorado. He has served as a classroom teacher of the emotionally disturbed, principal, university faculty member, as Assistant State Superintendent in the LA State Department of Education, and as Executive Director for the CDC-funded National School Health Education Coalition (NaSHEC) in Washington, DC. Now in his 39th year of public education service, Dr. Cooper serves as a expert consultant nationally in the areas of early childhood education/care and coordinated school health and has done so for the past twenty-five years.

Phyllis Landrieu - Cofounder

Phyllis Landrieu, Co-founder of the Early Childhood & Family Learning Foundation and Mahalia Jackson Center, is a leading advocate for early childhood education. Her primary community interest is improving the quality of life in New Orleans and Louisiana through education, health care and safety. She was elected to the Orleans Parish School Board in January 2005 and served as President in 2006 and 2007, retiring in 2009. She is the founder of Landrieu Public Relations, L.L.C. She received a Bachelor of General Studies Degree from the University of New Orleans in Marketing and Communications in 1998 and a Masters in Education, Curriculum and Instruction from the University of New Orleans in 2003, graduating Magnum Cum Laude.
NakedPizza

Robbie Vitrano, CEO, Trumpet

Robbie is a co-founder and Chief Brand Architect of NakedPizza, a New Orleans-based company backed by Mark Cuban and Robert Kraft. NakedPizza’s mission is to reinvent fast food, raising consciousness about nutrition, health and the food supply as well as the social impact and obligations of a modern, profitable, scalable business.

He is also co-founder and Chairman of Trumpet, a venture marketing studio named by Fast Company to its 2010 list of The Most Innovative Advertising and Marketing Firms and a two-time member of the Inc. 5000. At Trumpet he has assembled a team of entrepreneurs, business strategists, media artists, technologists, cultural anthropologists, data analysts, and product/environmental designers, all working within the context of a reinventing New Orleans.

Together, his work with NakedPizza and Trumpet are a manifestation of the reinventing of New Orleans. His point of view: New Orleans is the Democracy laboratory, an urban microcosm of the economic, political, social, environmental and cultural issues being re-evaluated in the U.S. and around the world. As such, Vitrano reworked his branding experience to launch new ventures, incubating and developing them inside the 12,000 square foot renovated warehouse he purchased post-Katrina in a culturally diverse part of town that took several feet of water. The work there comprises collaboration, advocacy, optimism, and socially responsible capitalism.

Robbie is also a professor at Loyola University, serves on the boards of numerous social innovation organizations in New Orleans, co-founded and incubated the Idea Village and StartupNewOrleans.com, is an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year finalist, City Business' Innovator of the Year/Best Place to Work/Rising Tide, Louisiana Technology Council’s technology of the year winner, GNO Inc. Digital Media Alliance co-chair, a member of Adweek Creative All-Star team, North American Board member of Worldwide Partners Inc. (world's largest network of independent communications firms), and co-piloted the 1996 pinewood derby winner with his son Shane.
New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA)

Kyle Wedberg, President and CEO, NOCCA

Kyle has a professional career that has focused on education and public service. After college, Kyle volunteered for a year through the Americorps program City Year as a teacher’s aide in Boston. He then completed a public affairs fellowship through the Coro Foundation Midwestern Center in St. Louis, MO. After graduate school, Kyle took a position with the Office of Budget and Management for the City of Philadelphia where he served as Deputy Chief Financial Officer. Kyle then returned to City Year to help lead new site development and the start of City Year Louisiana and City Year Los Angeles. In 2007, Kyle took a leadership role with the New Orleans Recovery School District where he served as Chief Administrative Officer. Kyle has a BA from St. Olaf College and a MPA from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Sally Perry, Executive Director, The NOCCA Institute

Sally has served as Executive Director of The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Institute since 1998, following five years as Director of Development for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. A native of Baton Rouge, Sally received her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Music from Louisiana State University. She is a graduate of the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute of Greater New Orleans, Inc. and has enjoyed professional affiliations with the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts, National Society of Fundraising Executives, New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra, the Contemporary Arts Center, and the State Superintendent’s Task Force for Arts Education.

The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts is one of the leading high school arts conservatories in the country. NOCCA provides professional training in Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, Creative Writing and Culinary Arts. NOCCA’s highly diverse student body attends from 115 public, private and parochial schools across the region on a half-day basis. Admission is by audition and tuition is free. Ninety-five to 100% of graduates go on to college, up to 85% with a scholarship. In May 2009, graduates earned $8.75 million in scholarships and aid to college, a $91,000 per student average. The NOCCA Institute, the center’s non-profit support organization, provides support for Financial Aid, Artists-in-Residence, Equipment, Advocacy and Capital Expansion.

Utilizing NOCCA’s distinctive master-apprentice or initiation model of education, we are creating the Academic Studio, a high school arts and academic curriculum in which we connect all of student learning as well as teach math, science and the humanities as we teach the arts. We endeavor to create systemic change in education while developing a Creative Campus that will become a center for innovation for Louisiana and beyond.
Schedulist.com

Chris Laibe - President, Schedulist.com

Schedulist is the world’s first workforce scheduling program designed specifically to improve workforce retention of healthcare facilities. The US healthcare system faces a workforce crisis: There are 200,000 open positions for nurses and the number is expected to grow to 800,000 by 2020. Collectively, US healthcare facilities spend close to $60 billion annually to replace nurses that have changed jobs or left the workforce. For the first time, Schedulist puts proactive, community-building retention tools in the hands of facility administrators so that they can build nurse job satisfaction, loyalty, and quality of care. Schedulist was named “Technology Product of the Year” for 2010 by the Louisiana Technology Council and has been featured on Entrepreneur.com, MSNBC, and Yahoo! Business. Schedulist.com is delivered as Software as a Service and will launch in the second quarter of 2010.

After graduating from Cornell University in 1988, Chris joined the E. I. DuPont Company where he worked for 12 years in finance, sales, technology, and business management in the US and Europe. In 2002, Chris acquired inFRONT, a 25 year provider of workforce management software solutions. Schedulist was created and incubated by inFRONT prior to being launched as a new company this year. Chris is a resident of the Uptown neighborhood of New Orleans where he lives with his wife, Lynne, and tribe of 5: Madeleine, Margaux, Davis, Gus, and Hayes.
Sustainable Environmental Enterprises

Sustainable Environmental Enterprises (SEE) is a mission-driven, triple-bottom line company that believes renewable energy is the new frontier in strengthening historically disinvested communities. SEE is transforming residential solar energy from an expensive luxury item, into a benefit attainable to folks at every income level. The key barrier to the widespread adoption of renewable energy is the large upfront costs that property owners and developers must surmount. SEE eliminates these costs and makes solar energy available for an affordable monthly payment as a one-to-one exchange for the customer’s current utility bill. We use tax credits and the customer’s savings to drastically reduce the costs and make solar a reality today. We use new capital investments for customer lending and operational expenditures. Ultimately, we serve historically disinvested communities with our innovative financial services and renewable energy installation business.

Stacey James Danner - Chief Investment Officer

Stacey James Danner most recently served as a Community Revitalization Program Officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where he analyzed financial structures and sourced $66 million of development financing opportunities for the National Trust Loan Fund and the National Trust Community Investment Corporation. Mr. Danner has also founded, owned and operated Urban Solutions Real Estate Services (USRES), a consulting company that performed economic development planning, urban planning, real estate investment as well as real estate development. While operating USRES, Mr. Danner simultaneously worked at Cosmopolitan Mortgage Philadelphia Branch as a Senior Business Development Analyst. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Justice and Peace Studies from the University of St. Thomas and a Masters of Arts in Geography and Urban Studies with a Concentration in Banking and Urban Economic Development at Temple University. Prior to beginning his tenure with SEE, LLC Mr. Danner came to New Orleans as Rockefeller Fellow.

Lea Keal - Chief Executive Officer

Lea Keal most recently served as a public finance law and finance manager with the Finance Authority of New Orleans, where she provided guidance on the legal basis for city-wide homeownership programs for home buyers and developers including program design for a $50 million CDBG-funded second mortgage program. Ms. Keal worked under the Environmental Toxic Torts Law Group at Masry & Vititoe the law firm made famous by the movie Erin Brockovich. Ms. Keal has also consulted for the City of Calabasas, CA where she drafted the Pedestrian Master Plan for the City's General Plan. Ms. Keal holds a Law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law where she provided legal assistance to the residents of the Many Mansions affordable housing community as part of a Human Rights Advocacy initiative. Ms. Keal earned her Bachelors of Science in Urban and Regional Development & Environmental Geography from the Pennsylvania State University. Prior to beginning her tenure with SEE, LLC Ms. Keal came to New Orleans as Rockefeller Fellow.
Dr. Benjamin P. Sachs

Senior Vice President of Tulane University
and Dean, School of Medicine
James R. Doty Distinguished Professor and Chair

Dr. Sachs joined Tulane in November 2007, and together with his team, has been confronted with many challenges relating to the post Katrina environment. Since then, Tulane has experienced a major turnaround: the clinical faculty is larger, the school and faculty practice plan are operating in the black, medical school applications have increased 39% and the university’s biomedical research submissions (despite the loss of many funded faculty) have increased approximately 20%. The growth in biomedical research has been due, in part, to a new research strategy that brings together the physical and biological sciences at Tulane. In 2008 the school moved into a 240,000sq foot donated building that now houses a state of the art simulation and team training center and educational facility for team based and “Just in time” learning. Lastly, Tulane is playing a major role in improving both the access to and the quality of healthcare in New Orleans by helping fund and build 3 neighborhood health centers.

Before joining Tulane University, Benjamin Sachs held several senior administrative positions at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), including Department Chair, Obstetrics and Gynecology at BIDMC - HMS, the Harold H. Rosenfield Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, and professor at the Harvard School of Public Health. He was also the elected President of the BIDMC Physician Organization, an organization of 1,500 physicians for three terms. While at Harvard, Sachs helped create the research team led by Dr Ananth Karumanchi that discovered the probable cause of preeclampsia, one of the leading causes of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity worldwide. The team also developed a new diagnostic test that is currently being evaluated in the USA and internationally by the World Health Organization. This research has been widely published, including in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of Clinical Investigation, Nature Medicine, and the story told in The New Yorker. Internationally known for his work in improving patient care and reducing medical errors, Sachs’ team at the BIDMC’s Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology in 2007, received the John M. Eisenberg national award for patient safety and quality from The Joint Commission - National Quality Forum. This award recognized the team’s groundbreaking approach to reducing medical errors. Their work on team training was funded by the Department of Defense and Harvard’s Risk Management Foundation. Born in London UK, Sachs graduated from St. Mary’s Hospital Medical School now Imperial College. He received a degree in public health from the University of Toronto and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and a fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the Brigham & Women’s Hospital (HMS). Sachs has been involved in international healthcare initiatives including fundraising for and the development of women’s and children’s health centers in Philippines, Armenia and Ukraine. For example, the center in Dnieperpetrovsk Ukraine provides free care to 20,000 women and children per year.
In April, 2000, Matt co-founded TurboSquid to solve the problem of how to buy and sell 3D models. Serving initially as the company’s Chief Technology Officer, Matt led the team that designed and managed the technology platform. He took on other operational responsibility in 2002, and in 2006 was promoted to the CEO role.

Matt entered the 3D industry in 1994 immediately following graduation from Brown University. He was a founding partner, animator, and senior producer of 3D visual effects for Chimera Digital Imaging. During that time he produced hundreds of animations and effects for television commercials and legal trials.

He sits on the TurboSquid board of directors as well as other non-profit boards and philanthropic organizations. Matt has won numerous awards, including being named "Technology Leader of the Year 2006" for the State of Louisiana by the Governor's Technology Awards.