

*Baton Rouge  
Area Foundation*



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**NeighborWorks® America grant spurs redevelopment**

*Funding pays for work that will lead to more housing, commerce*

Baton Rouge – With a generous \$675,000 grant from NeighborWorks America, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, the Center for Planning Excellence and their partners continue to work with the Old South Baton Rouge Partnership Board and neighborhood residents to reclaim Old South Baton Rouge, the historic community between downtown and Louisiana State University.

The Foundation, CPEX and partners are investing funds from NeighborWorks on home rehabilitation, home ownership counseling, commercial façade improvements and predevelopment work in eight target areas that are expected to trigger even more building in Old South Baton Rouge.

“Thanks to NeighborWorks, redevelopment of Old South Baton Rouge is accelerating, adding to more than \$150 million already invested by businesses and the public sector since a revival plan began in this decade,” said John G. Davies, president and CEO of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

NeighborWorks America is a national nonprofit that creates opportunities for people to live in affordable homes, improve their lives and strengthen their communities. Its response to the destruction caused by the hurricanes of 2005 has been grounded on the principle of rebuilding from the neighborhoods up. “NeighborWorks is modeled upon a three-decade history of supporting community-based partnerships,” said Donald Phoenix, southern district director for NeighborWorks America. “Our rebuilding initiative supports the foundations of neighborhood rebuilding – the families, organizations, and homes that make up these neighborhoods. So I am so pleased to see how the Baton Rouge Area Foundation has leveraged our funds by working with partners and mobilizing citizens to reclaim and rebuild Old South Baton Rouge.”

The master plan created for Old South Baton Rouge, which is bounded by the lakes, the Mississippi River, downtown and LSU, continues to guide progress in the Old South area. The master plan is a blueprint for making the area work in harmony through design rules that foster a thriving mix of homes, retail, offices and civic spaces.

More than \$150 million has been invested in Old South Baton Rouge in this decade. New condos and apartments have been built near LSU, as have a new library, a Head Start center and community center. The parks system has revamped City Park and an \$18.6 million federal grant has replaced housing projects with single-family homes for purchase and rent.