

Design Narrative

The Crossing development sows the seeds of resilience across the Bienville, Iberville, Treme and Lafitte neighborhoods. By connecting tourist and native, greenway and park, neighborhood and city, The Crossing functions not only as a marketplace of goods, but of ideas and relationships. This commingling of people and place fosters diversity, neighborhood cohesion, and economic opportunity.

Development around The Crossing is rooted in the current social and spatial fabric of adjacent neighborhoods. The NCNIA Community Development Corporation cultivates opportunity by ensuring that 20% of all developed residential and retail units remain affordable for current residents and business owners. The typologies of the new Derbigny retail street transition in scale, offering visibility from I-10 in a fashion that blends seamlessly with Bienville's existing shotgun homes. Profits generated by the development are reinvested in community projects, such as the demolition of the I-10 exit ramp 235A, and the multifamily makeover of the Steel and Aluminum Factory. These programs assure local residents that investing in growth can, in fact, anchor a neighborhood's character.

The Crossing reclaims a lane on each side of Claiborne Avenue adjacent to the site. The lanes are replaced with natural turf and bioswales, allowing pedestrians safer access to programmed space underneath I-10. This space also hosts a portion of the proposed North Claiborne BRT line, which provides high quality transportation service to the Seventh Ward. The BRT line connects residents to employment centers, including the new hospital complexes on Canal Street.

Beyond connecting people, The Crossing serves as the intersection between Louis Armstrong Park and the Lafitte Greenway, which have grown together to become one continuous space. The Greenway's trail channels pedestrians and cyclists from points as far west as City Park. The pedestrian trail and cycle track continue through the park to the western edge of the French Quarter, but not before traversing the Resilience Center's Basin.

Resilience Basin symbolizes the city's delicate relationship with water. Filled in 1938, the historic basin once served as the turning point for boats traveling along Carondelet Canal. The restored basin now functions as a bioretention area and public space. The deck over the basin alludes to the endurance of New Orleans despite devastating acts of nature. The Center's tower functions as an architectural focal point, which sparks interest from park users. Inside the Resilience Center, visitors learn about urban agriculture techniques and weatherization strategies. Locals impacted by Hurricane Katrina share flood narratives and provide authentic entertainment services, such as washtub bass lessons, to tourists who want a taste of real New Orleans flavor.

As Bienville, Iberville, Treme and Lafitte absorb residential demand, The Crossing development plan pulls these diverse neighborhoods and tourists toward a central point of interaction. Implementation will allow these communities to reap the harvests of connected growth.



VIEW A: RESILIENCE CENTER PROMENADE