UDP/CAUP at the University of Washington and the Jefferson Parish Revitalization Initiative
Vision: community of learners committed to developing a leading-edge urban planning practice with strong connections to the region and public service

Values: sustainability, livability, economic vitality, and social justice

22 primary faculty

5 degree programs + 1 in planning stage:
- Masters in Urban Planning;
- Masters in Strategic Planning for Critical Infrastructures—distance learning;
- Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Urban Design and Planning;
- Interdisciplinary B.A. program in Community, Environment and Planning
  - Interdisciplinary MS in Real Estate (start-up Fall, 2006)
  - Interdisciplinary Masters in Urban Ecology (in planning stage)

Formal concurrent program with the School of Public Affairs—MPA/MUP; working on a concurrent program with Landscape Architecture

Graduate Certificates: Urban Design, Historic Preservation
Research Activities

- In urban ecology exploring the interactions of urbanization and eco-systems (NSF funds);
- on connections between urban design features, non-motorized travel and health outcomes (funds from CDC and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation);
- urban and regional modeling related to growth management and smart growth (funded by NSF and local governments);
- effectiveness of techniques to manage growth and finance infrastructure (funded by local governments)
- participatory planning with multi-ethnic and immigrant communities (UW internal funding)
- hazards mitigation plans (funded by local governments)
- urban food policy
Community Service Initiative

In 2003, UDP initiated the *Northwest Center for Livable Communities* to provide assistance to communities in managing growth, in economic revitalization, and in efforts to become more sustainable and livable.

- Initial funding from HUD
- We envision the Northwest Center as the public service unit for the department, providing both faculty and students opportunities for community service through special studios, courses, internships
- The Center provides the core outreach and service functions for the Department, animated by the same social, economic, and environmental values.
Jefferson Parish Revitalization Initiative Project

PI: Prof. Fritz Wagner
Department of Urban Design and Planning and Northwest Center for Livable Communities
College of Architecture and Urban Planning
University of Washington
In Partnership with Jefferson Parish, Louisiana
Project Team

• Fritz Wagner, Ph.D.—former Dean CUPA, UNO
  – Economic revitalization expert
• Hilda Blanco, Ph.D.—Chair, UDP, UW
  – Land use and infrastructure, economic development
• Frank Westerlund, Ph.D.—Assoc. Prof., UDP, UW
  – Land use planning, hazards mitigation planning
• Bob Freitag—Senior Lecturer, former FEMA official, Director, Institute of Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning at UW
• Manish Chalana, Ph.D.—Lecturer
  – Historic preservation, urban design, 3-D graphic modeling
• Graduate assistants—doctoral and masters in urban planning students
• Jefferson Parish Partners
  – Parish Officials
  – Planning Department
Project Summary

- Focus on Neighborhood Design and Planning for Reconstruction Activities
- Proposed project activities include:
  - Plan analysis to gather and analyze information and identify strategic issues; (Planning Studio held Winter 2006)
  - Development and updating of a project web-site to include project documents, on-line surveys; and interactive lessons on best practices in neighborhood design
  - Community workshops to present findings and identify critical issues
  - Development of alternative plan scenarios
  - Organizing a symposium for public officials and community leaders to share best practices and models in reconstruction effort
  - Identifying strategies and tools for implementing the plan, e.g., PUD and Mixed-use Ordinances, menu of fiscal tools; 3-D illustrations
  - Preparation of final plan document and video presentation of plan
Activities (cont.)

• The project objectives will be achieved through several major means:
  – Special graduate courses:
    • Planning Studios (Winter 06 and Winter 07)
    • Practicums on Design Strategies and Regulatory and Fiscal Tools
    • Independent Studies
  – A project web-site to include:
    • Project documents
    • On-line surveys
    • Interactive Lessons
  – A Symposium focused on best practices and lessons learned so far during the reconstruction process in the Gulf region bringing together:
    • Public officials
    • Community leaders
    • Academic and professionals