

# *Strategies* for Strengthening Communities

## Office of University Partnerships 2012 National Conference

Following both site visits, conference participants will meet at Dillard University to view a short film and enjoy a reception sponsored by the university. Buses will return to The Roosevelt Hotel 6:30–7:30 p.m.

### *Site Visit Two: Musicians' Village and Lower Ninth Ward (Make It Right Foundation)*

New Orleans Habitat's Musicians' Village, conceived by Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis, consists of 72 single-family homes, 5 elder-friendly duplexes, a toddler-friendly pocket park, and the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music.

New Orleans Habitat for Humanity purchased the property immediately following Hurricane Katrina. The homes are traditional habitat-style homes built by more than 40,000 volunteers and a team of subcontractors. New Orleans Habitat provides their partner families with 0-percent interest loans to purchase their home, with the families completing 350 hours of sweat equity in lieu of a downpayment.

The Ellis Marsalis Center for Music serves as the cornerstone of Musicians' Village and is dedicated to the education and development of the next generation of New Orleans music enthusiasts and the preservation of New Orleans unique musical heritage. The center consists of an intimate performance space, recording facility, classrooms, and computer facilities. Village residents and students are able to take advantage of a wide range of musical instruction and cultural enrichment programs. The center is also utilized as a gathering place for local residents to address community issues and a home base where diverse creators can realize their visions.

Make It Right was founded by Brad Pitt in late 2007 to help rebuild the Lower Ninth Ward by developing at least 150 safe, green, and affordable homes. Since then, architects have designed and constructed 75 homes in the neighborhood, establishing new standards for affordable, energy-efficient, single-family homes. As the anchor for redevelopment in the Lower Ninth Ward, Make It Right's homes were a catalyst for the rebirth of a neighborhood that is now recognized as "largest and greenest community of single-family homes in the world" by the U.S. Green Building Council.



New Orleans, Louisiana



April 23-26, 2012

