

Why New Orleans Needs a CPP Now

There is a lot happening in New Orleans right now:

- new housing
- street repaving
- new hospitals
- new businesses
- new zoning codes
- more information flowing out from city government
- much, much more!

All of this activity has an impact on our daily lives, on our neighborhoods and on our future. With so many important things happening in our city, all residents need to be informed.

And all residents need to have a voice in the plans, projects and policies as they move forward.

We do not need more “planning by surprise”, more problem projects, and more wasted opportunities.

A formal Citizen Participation Program (CPP) can connect neighborhoods, businesses and government in a way that helps every New Orleanian have a better quality of life.

New Orleans needs a Citizen Participation Program – and it needs it now!

How You Can Bring Citizen Participation to New Orleans

- Sign up online to receive NOLA CPP updates
- Invite the NOLA CPP team to give a presentation to your neighborhood group or organization
- Get involved with the NOLA CPP Action Team
- Let your elected officials know that you support a CPP

E-mail NOLACPP@gmail.com to be added to our e-mail list!



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Stronger Neighborhoods! More Opportunities! Better Government!



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What is a CPP?

A Citizen Participation Program (CPP) is a powerful communications tool that makes sure that information from city government gets to residents and neighborhoods on a timely basis.

A CPP also provides a clear channel for residents to provide input back to city government, and to track how government uses that input. In addition, a CPP promotes dialogue between neighbors and between neighborhoods, as well as collaboration between neighborhoods and businesses.

The most important piece of the CPP structure is neighborhood associations. Assuming that these associations operate according to basic standards of openness, inclusiveness and democracy, they are formally recognized by the CPP. In return, they are provided resources for things like outreach, communications, information-gathering, capacity training, and getting input to city decision-makers.

The structure also brings nearby neighborhoods together in what are being called District Councils. Composed of representatives of each neighborhood in each city Planning District, they hire professional staff and have offices. District Councils help neighborhoods work together on projects and issues, resolve disagreements and disputes, and make sure they have access to all the information they need to provide informed input to city government before decisions are made.

Finally, there is a citywide CPP Advisory Board that monitors and reviews the CPP. It makes recommendations for improvements, and hears grievances that cannot be resolved at the neighborhood or District Council level.

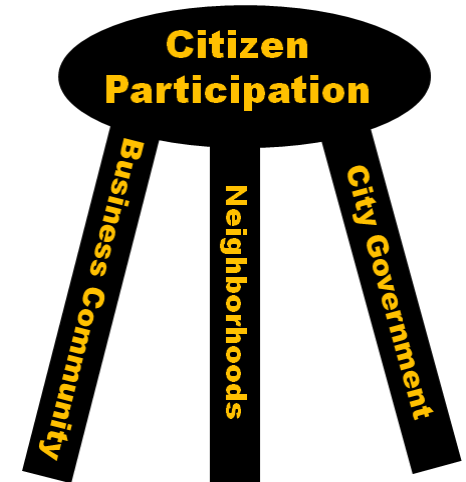
Benefits of a Citizen Participation Program

Benefits to Neighborhoods

- Access to timely and accurate information on projects, policies and proposals at the beginning of the process, before decisions are made
- Easier, more accountable communication with city hall and city departments
- People across the community come together with other neighborhoods and interest groups in constructive dialogue about public issues and projects
- Capacity-building support and resources for certain outreach and operational activities
- Staff available to support the work of neighborhood associations

Benefits to Businesses

- Creates a clear and predictable process for business and community development proposals
- Saves time and money by gathering citizen input and community support early on
- Creates positive relationships within community where development is taking place



A strong CPP is like a three-legged stool that brings neighborhoods, the business community and city government together to build a great city.

Benefits to City Government

- Able to confirm citizens' needs and priorities as plans and services are being designed
- Better communication can make delivery of public services more effective and efficient
- Training for city employees so they are knowledgeable on the process of engaging with citizens
- Transparent decision-making process, which can lead to greater public trust to another.

An effective Citizen Participation Program will protect and preserve our neighborhoods, while creating more economic opportunities for individuals and businesses and improving city government. Let's move the CPP forward now!