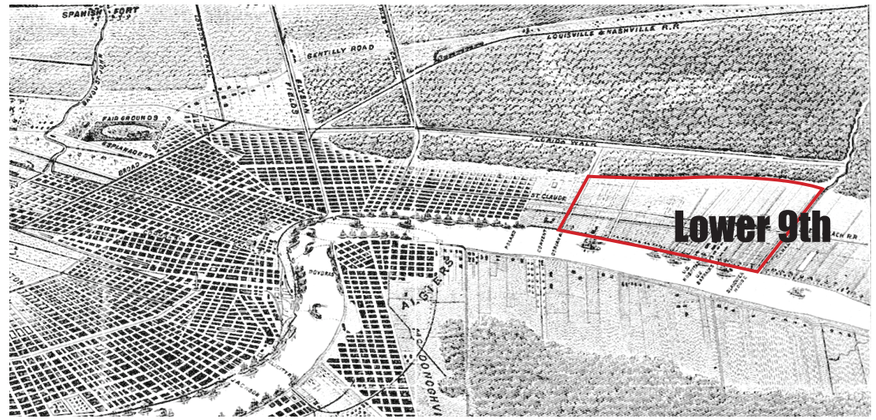
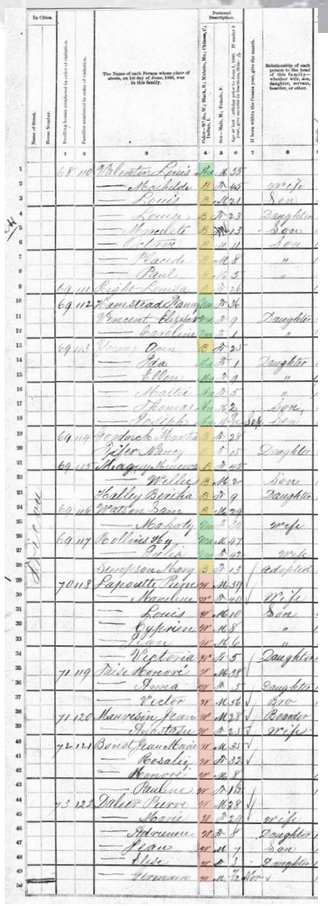
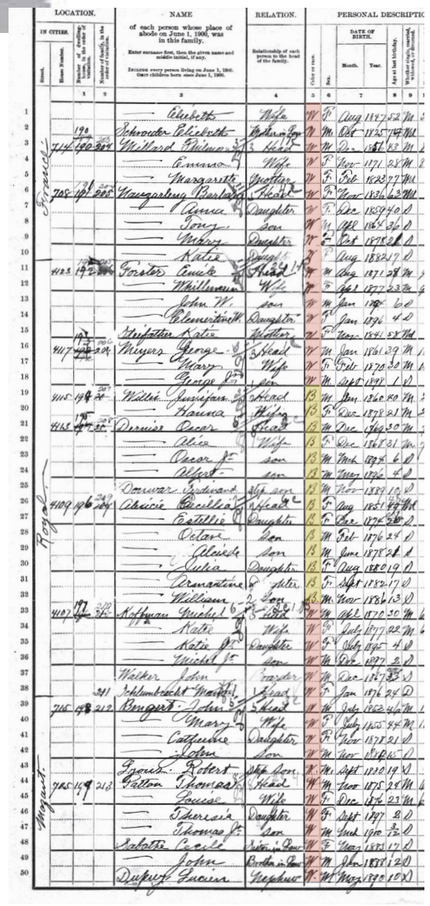
Cultural Ecology of the Lower 9th Ward

Diane Choih | Critical Conservation | Prof. Susan Snyder, George Thomas | December 2, 2013

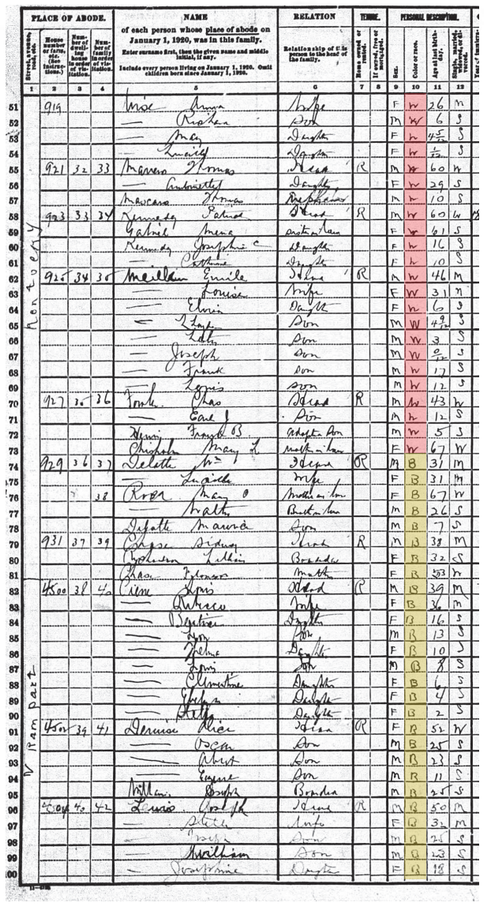




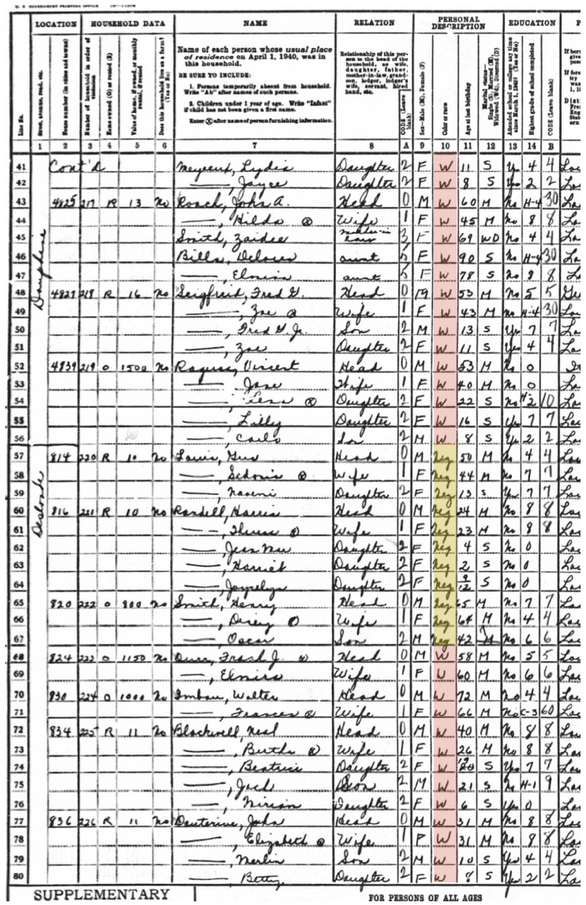
1880



1900



1920



1940

"No city perhaps on the globe presents a greater contrast of national manners, language, and complexion, than does New Orleans."

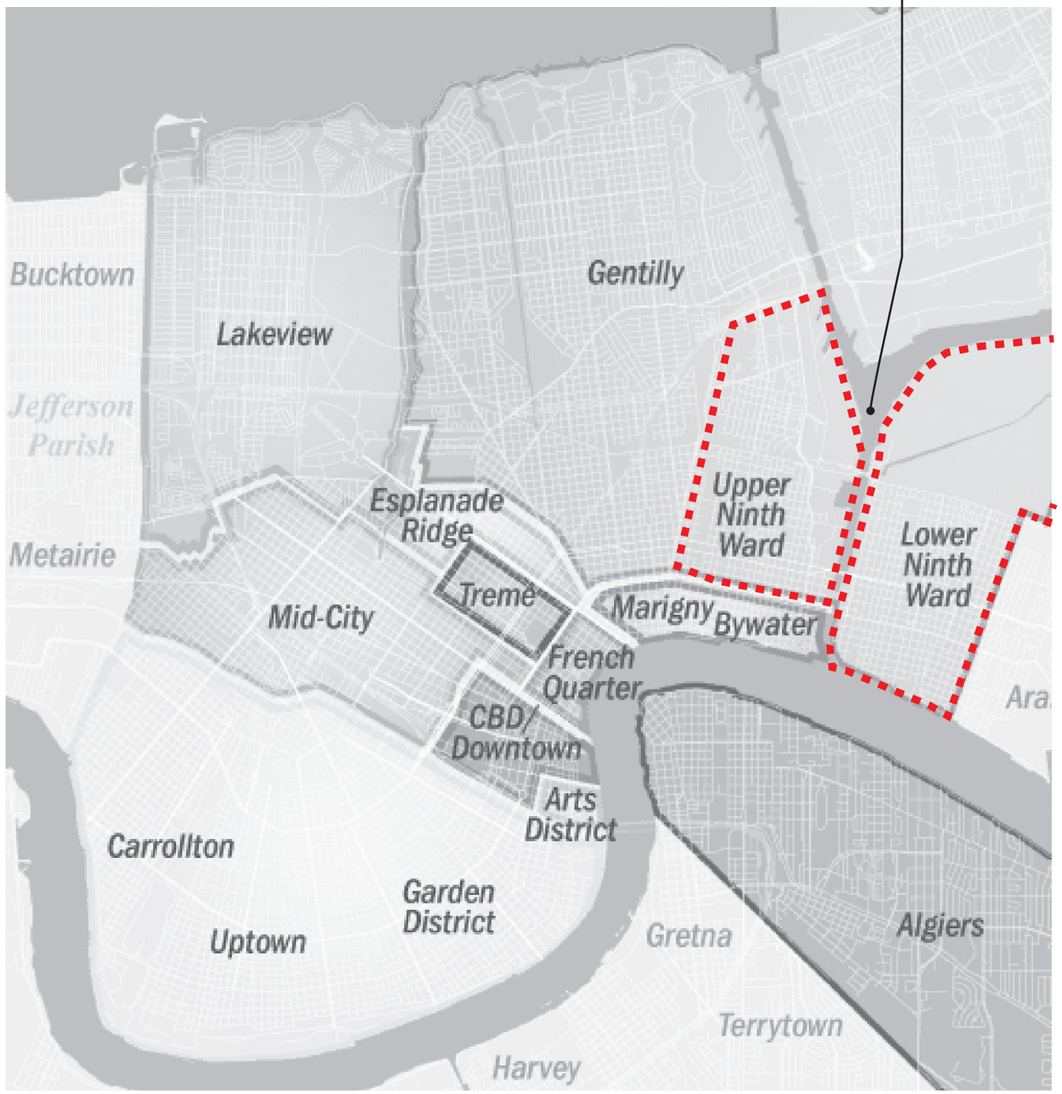
- a visitor, 1816

Lower 9th area was home for mostly German and Irish immigrants, as well as African Americans.

White Black Mulatto

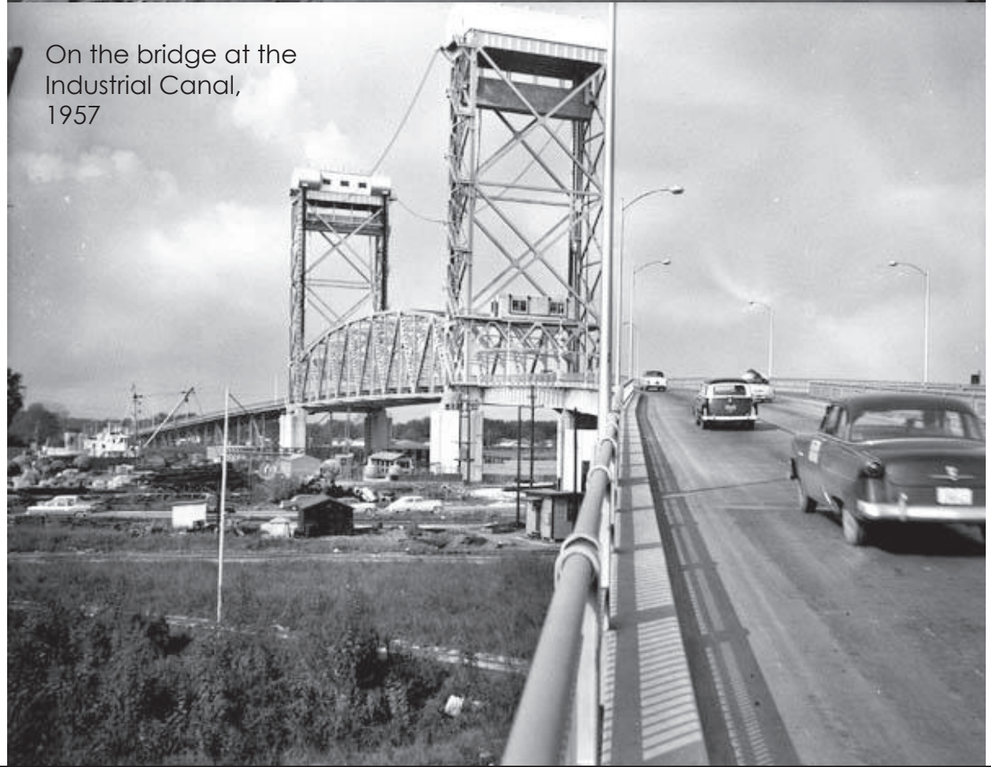
19th C | Embedded culture : Colonial New Orleans very open to diversity

Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, 1923



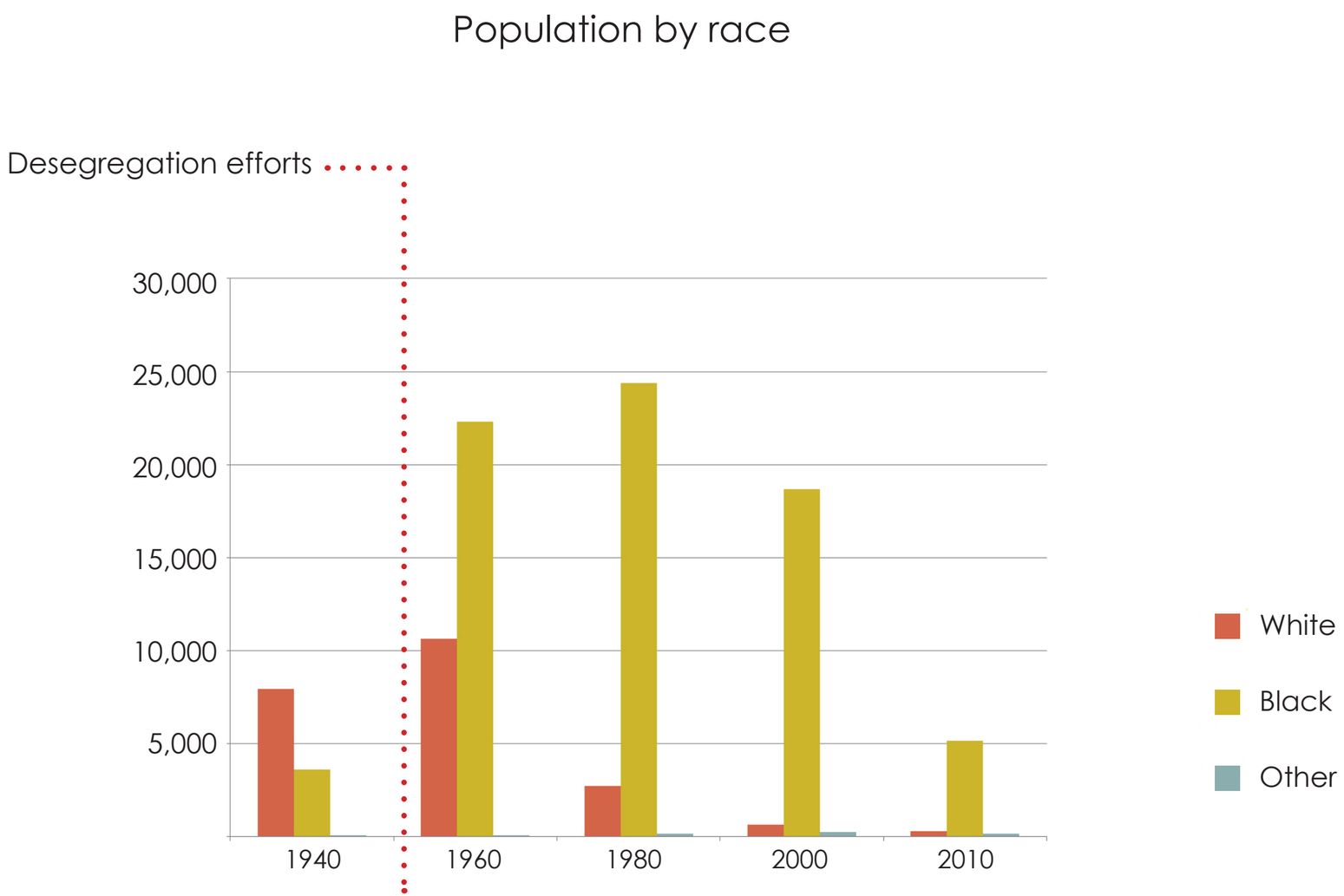
The Industrial Canal severs the Lower 9th Ward from the rest of the city, exacerbating its isolation.

Overlooking the Industrial Canal, 1957



On the bridge at the Industrial Canal, 1957

20th C | Industrialization & commerce : Industrial Canal excavated to foster shipping industry



source: Social Explorer

Changes in the Lower 9th landscape, post-Katrina

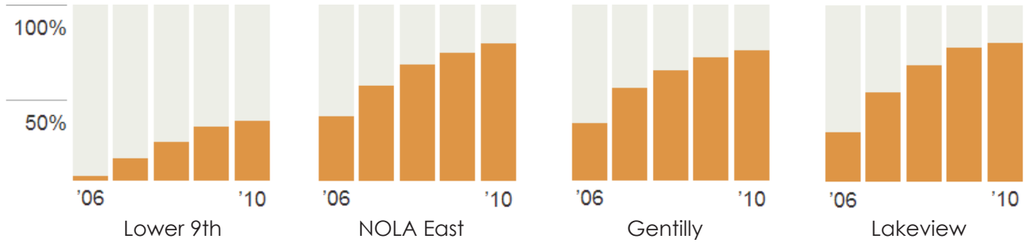
2006

2007

2009

2010

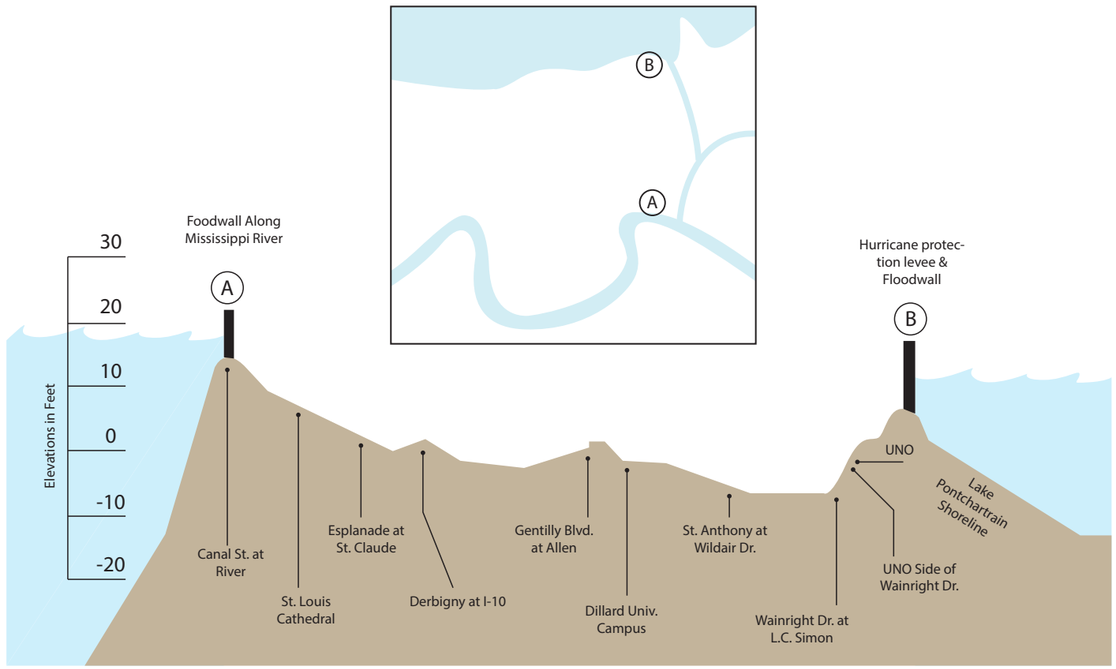
Population recovery, by neighborhood



State of Holy Cross neighborhood, 2012

1. "The Changing Landscape of the Lower Ninth Ward," nytimes.com; 2. "Mapping the Recovery of New Orleans," nytimes.com; 3. whodata.org

New Orleans has considered returning flood-prone parts of the city back to wet-land, including parts of the Lower 9th.



New Orleans undergoing subsidence

Bayou Bienvenue, now & then

MRGO-Must-Go, initiative

21st C | Environmental concerns: Reclaimation efforts hint toward a smaller city footprint

Carolyn Parker

still shot: "I'm Carolyn Parker, The Good, the Mad, and the Beautiful," 2011

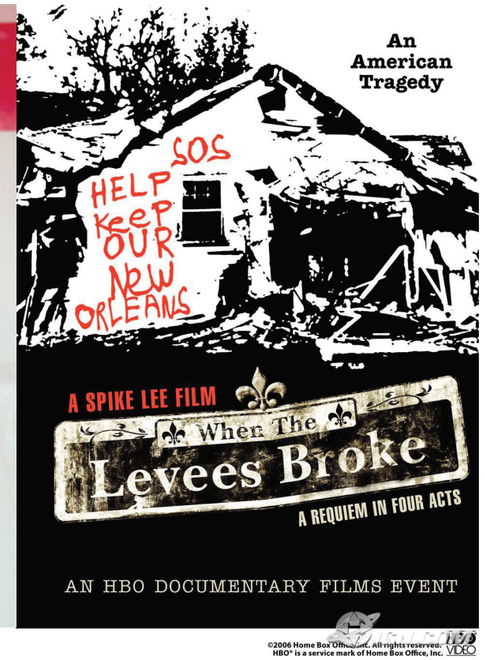
Strong, vigilant public characters become a voice for the neighborhood.

Lower 9th residents have always relied on internal support systems.

Make it Right, Brad Pitt

Celebrities as spokespeople sustain media attention and national interest in the redevelopment of the Lower 9th.

Documentary, Spike Lee



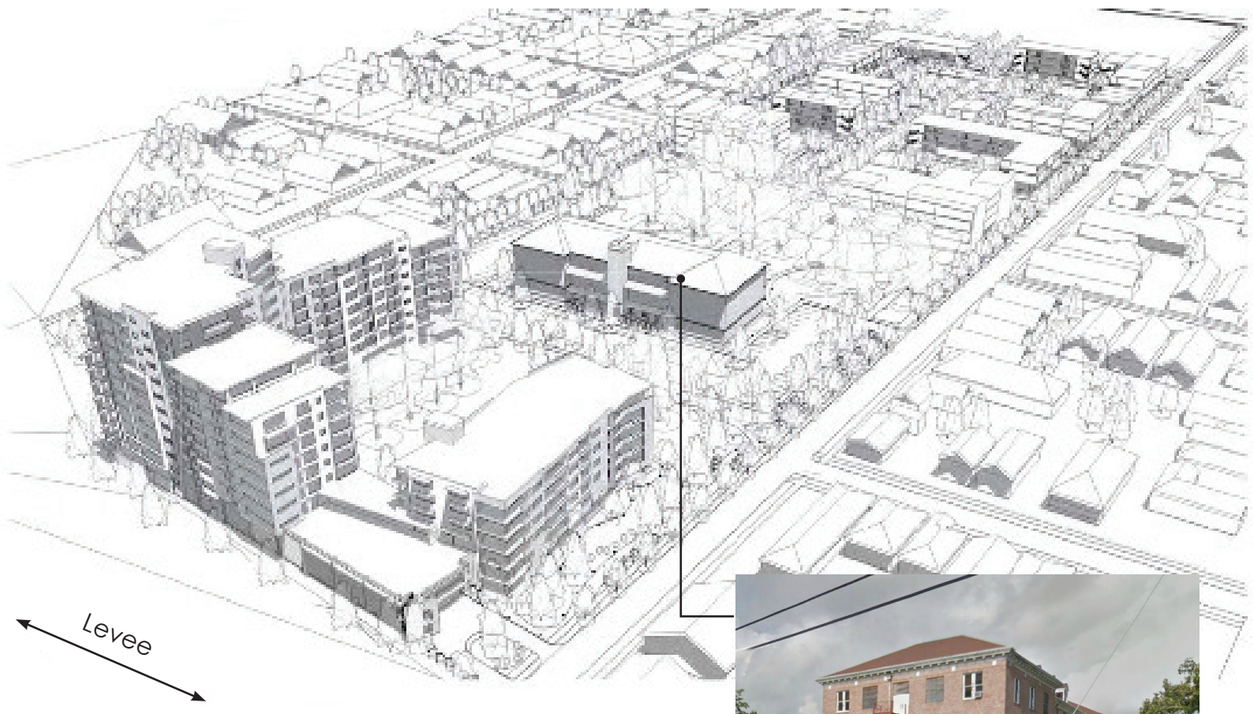
Media cultivates sentimental reactions that favor of the rebuilding of the Lower 9th.

21st C | Information culture: story of resilience from gov. neglect readily consumed by nation

HCNA voted to oppose bringing in MU-1 zoning (medium intensity mixed use) into the neighborhood, as drafted in the new City Zoning Ordinance.

Holy Cross Historical District

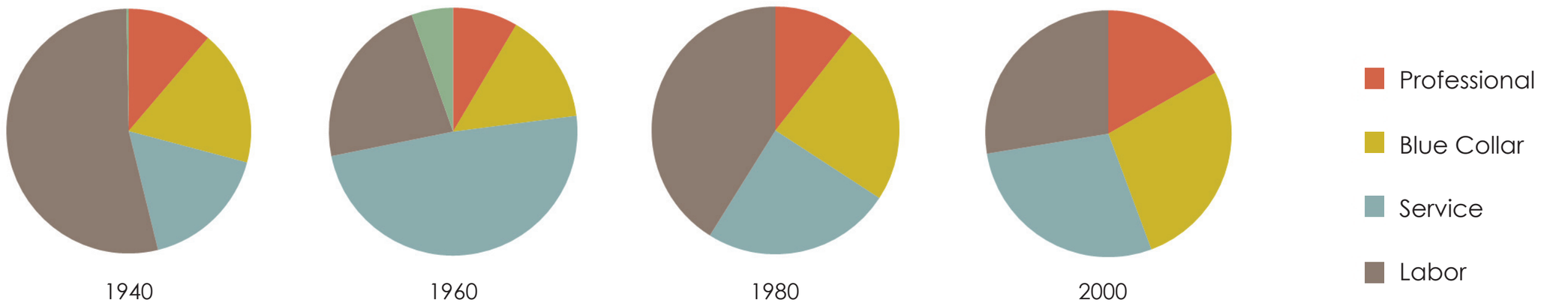
HCNA rejected the proposal by Perez APC mixed-use development on the former Holy Cross Collge, 3-block campus. The 85' height, massing, and modern style is opposed. Artists and musicians move to Holy Cross for the bucolic feel.



Holy Cross College

21st C | Market forces: Holy Cross Neigh. Assoc. resists change that addresses econonomy

Occupation



source: Social Explorer