

1215 St. Bernard Ave.

Meeting 1 Summary

The Site

There will be a development on the empty lot at 1215 St. Bernard Ave in the historic 7th Ward neighborhood. The property is outlined in yellow, to the right.

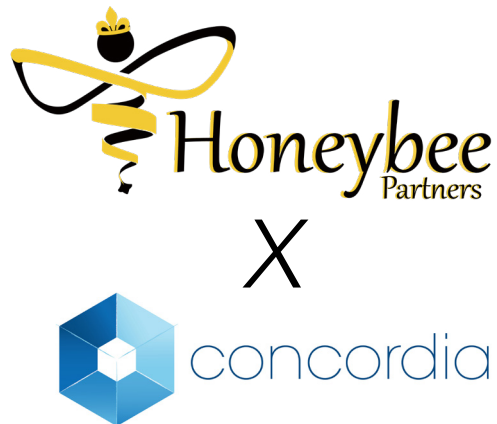
Our team is committed to having the development serve the community around it. Therefore, we are asking stakeholders about what should go on the site before we put pen to paper. This summary includes information about the process and results from the first round of community engagement.



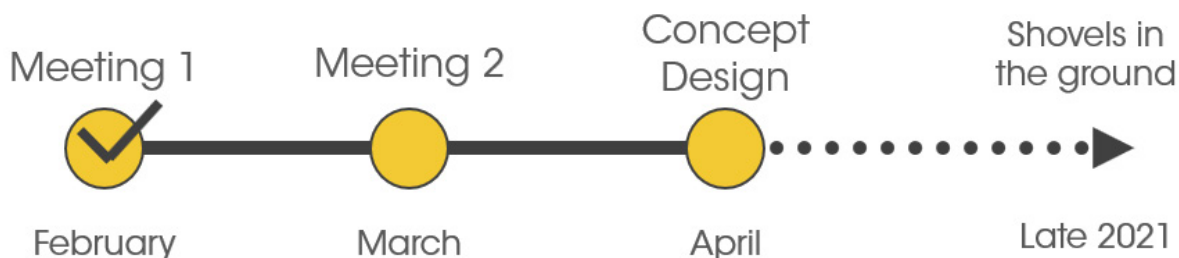
The Team

The owners of the site are Honeybee Partners, Jalence Isles and Caitlin Kwan. They are both New Orleans residents and have lived in the Treme while serving on neighborhood associations.

Honeybee Partners are working with Concordia. Concordia is a local New Orleans firm with over 35 years of experience in architecture, planning, and community engagement.



Project Timeline



Round 1 of Meetings

The first round of stakeholder engagement was multi-faceted. The agenda for the first virtual meeting was developed with initial input from the client and their early conversations with some local residents. The virtual meeting took place on February 4th, 2021 and was attended by over 20 people. The team presented a brief presentation followed by live polling and breakout rooms. Finally, the team went to the neighborhood to do on-the-ground engagement. The results of each step are below.

Survey Results

The first question the survey asked was, “What’s missing from the neighborhood?” Most answers focused on **clean, safe greenspaces** and **equitable, neighborhood wealth-building businesses**. People want to make sure that this adds to the wellbeing of the surrounding neighborhood. Some other suggestions included more daytime services like cafes, bookstores, and childcare. Other responses suggested including affordable housing on a mixed-use site.

The next prompt was, “Tell us your favorite place on St. Bernard Ave. And why?” The overwhelmingly most common answer was **Circle Food Grocery Store** for its fresh food and status as a landmark for the neighborhood. Other answers included the Green Room, Buttermilk Drop, and the library.

The next question was, “What additions would improve St. Bernard Ave.?” The answers echoed the responses from the first question. The most common responses were **cleaner streets** by adding trash cans and lights, more **black-owned, culture-focused businesses**, and **publicly accessible greenspace**.

The final questions were, “What do you like best about the neighborhood?” and “Any additional comments?” The responses were focused on the **culture**, **history**, and **diversity** of the neighborhood. Participants also appreciate the central location and how accessible other neighborhoods like the French Quarter, Tremé, and Bywater are. People recognize the potential of this site moving the neighborhood forward as a place the whole community could utilize.



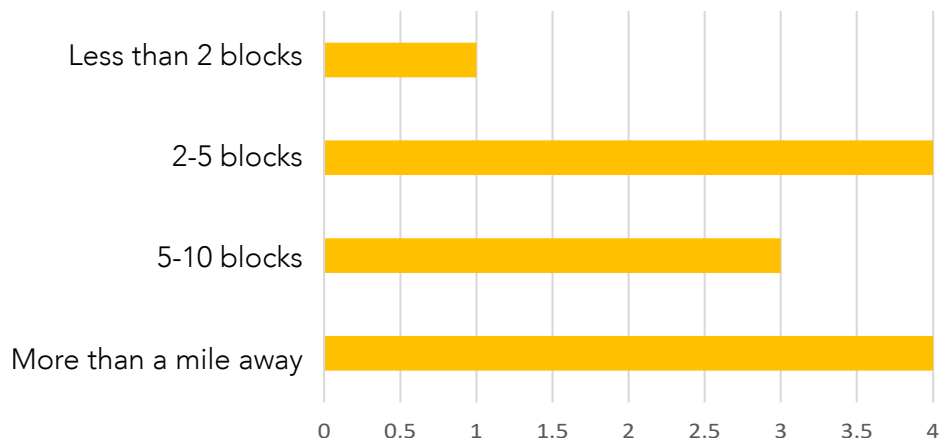
Wordcloud based on responses to "What's missing from the neighborhood?" The larger the word, the more it was mentioned.



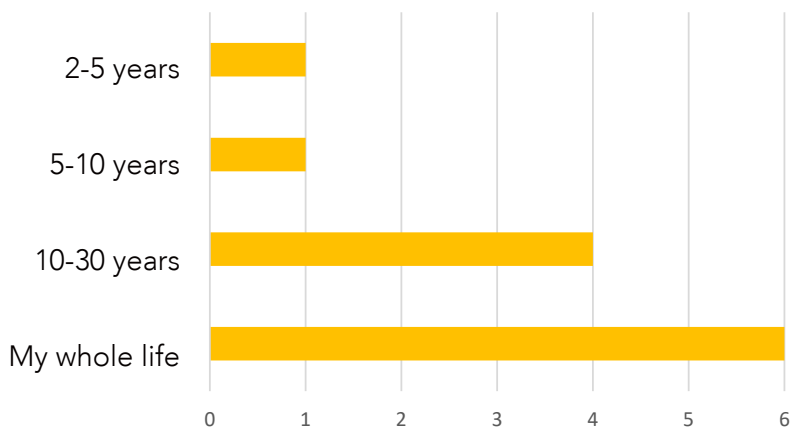
Poll Results

During the virtual meeting on February 4th, participants were asked 3 interactive poll questions. The results were shown live and are illustrated below.

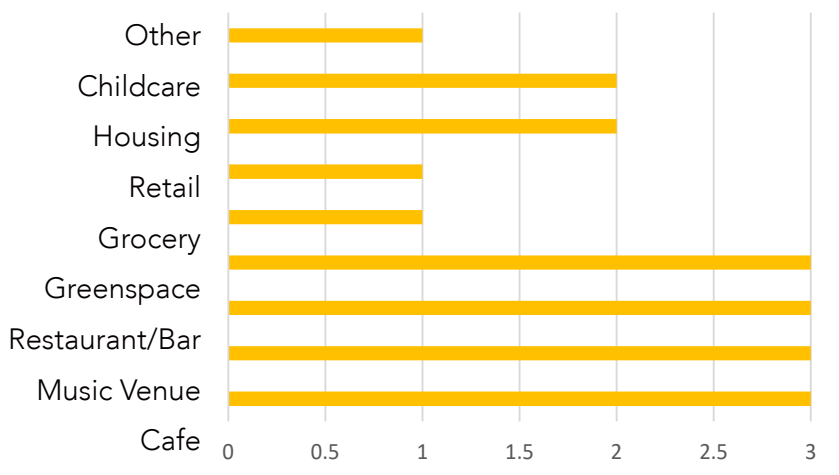
How far from the 1215 St. Bernard site do you live?



How long have you lived in New Orleans?



What should be the biggest priority for the development at 1215 St. Bernard Ave?



The last poll question was developed from the responses from the survey. Participants were asked to vote on their top priority for the development. The top priorities were then expanded upon in the breakout rooms.

After the polling, participants were broken into two smaller breakout rooms so that they could brainstorm the different uses and how to make them successful. Groups used “jamboards” to virtually add their ideas via post-it notes where everyone could see as they placed them. The main uses that groups focused on were ***Greenspace, Housing, and Music Venues.***

Participants prominently want to see significant **stormwater management strategies** such as blue/green infrastructure and rain gardens. Participants also want to have publicly accessible, shaded greenspace. Some suggested a rooftop garden, raising the building to have a shaded courtyard underneath, and a community garden. One comment wanted to make sure that the budget for sustaining the greenspace was accounted for, not just the initial construction.

Participants want the housing to be **affordable**. Some people suggested artist and musician housing specifically. Other participants would like to see a mixed-use site, with businesses on the first floor and affordable housing above.

Most participants want to make sure that if a music venue is added that it is also a **flexible space**. Stakeholders suggested that during the day it can function as a cafe then a venue at night. Others suggested an outdoor venue on the ground or on the roof, especially for public health.

Top Priority	Second Priority	Third Priority	Fourth Priority	Fifth Priority
<p>Music Venue</p> <p>What are your ideas?</p> <p>Jazz club bistro, venue where that is the primary use most days of the week, venue could have a daytime and night time component, outdoor performance venue, all ages events</p>	<p>Restaurant/Bar</p> <p>What are your ideas?</p> <p>restaurant and bar that is consistent, not just pop up, someone local that is intended to stay possibly two small restaurants, possibly selling food as a walk up enabling more than one restaurant, compensate staff with adequate benefits.</p> <p>Restaurants and bars are very different now than before Katrina.</p> <p>Want to make sure that people are aware, encourage them that they may not have internet access. Get a lot of videos that have been in the community and invite their ideas.</p>	<p>Greenspace</p> <p>What are your ideas?</p> <p>possible rooftop performance space</p> <p>Community garden space.</p> <p>if there is an effort to build out to the sidewalk, some shaded areas and possibly courtyard space.</p>	<p>Housing</p> <p>What are your ideas?</p> <p>Affordable housing, artist, musicians.</p> <p>affordable housing component in these historic neighborhoods is so important.</p>	<p>Retail Business</p> <p>What are your ideas?</p> <p>It is possible to have Black/minority owned or operated businesses.</p> <p>Childcare</p> <p>Barber/Salon</p> <p>Cafe</p> <p>Grocery</p>
<p>Other</p>				

[illegible]

Jamboards from breakout room brainstorm

Our next public meeting will be on **March 11th, 6:00-7:30 pm**. This meeting will build on all of the input gathered and push the project forward to develop the concept design by early spring. [Please register here to attend.](#)

If you have further questions please contact George Silvertooth: gsilvertooth@concordia.com

On-the-Ground Results

The team went to the neighborhood to gather more input from neighbors. Community members were asked the same questions that were asked on the survey and at the meeting. XX amount of community members provided insight. The most common themes are summarized below.