

Lucas Díaz

CONTACT INFO

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EDUCATION

Tulane University
2013-current (anticipated 2017 dissertation defense), Doctoral Fellow in City, Culture, and Community Program
University of New Orleans
2003, Masters in Fine Arts-Creative Writing
Loyola University-New Orleans
1996, Baccalaureate of Arts in English/Creative Writing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Center for Inclusive Public Life
August, 2013-current, founder of a non-profit organization dedicated to national research, training and program design/implementation in inclusive public life skill development for individuals.

City of New Orleans
March, 2011-August, 2013, served as the inaugural director of the Mayor's Neighborhood Engagement Office for the City of New Orleans under Mayor Mitch Landrieu. Supervised small liaison staff and advised the mayor on public participation planning, activities, and policies. Implemented new programs and designed policy and processes for enhanced public participation in targeted city hall departments.

Puentes New Orleans, Inc.
February, 2007-March, 2011, co-founded and served as founding executive director of first-ever regional Latino community development and advocacy organization. Designed and implemented community-based programs in housing training, leadership development, advocacy training, youth development, voter registration, public safety training, interpreter training, and inter-ethnic trust and coalition building.

The New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, Inc.
September, 2005-January, 2006, served as the development director, and had the responsibility of designing, implementing and overseeing all fundraising activities, from grant and individual donor prospecting to writing, soliciting, tracking, and stewarding grants, awards, and gifts.

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Loyola University-New Orleans

September, 2004-August, 2005, served as the director of foundation and corporate relations and grant development, and had the responsibility of designing and implementing a foundation and corporation solicitation strategy, which included assisting faculty and staff with program design and grant proposal development.

Dillard University

December, 2002-December, 2004, served as the director of foundation relations, and had the responsibility of designing and implementing a foundation-based solicitation strategy, which included assisting faculty and staff with program design and grant proposal development.

New Orleans African American Museum of Art, Culture, and History

June, 2002-December, 2002, served as the development director, and had the responsibility of designing, implementing, and overseeing grant-related fundraising activities, including prospecting, developing, and soliciting grants.

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

March, 2002, December, 2002, served as the court's grants manager, and had the responsibility of prospecting, designing, soliciting, and stewarding grants for the court.

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November, 2000-March, 2002, served as the development grant writer, and had the responsibility of writing foundation and corporation solicitations, and individual donor letters.

United States Navy Reserves

May, 1987-June 1995: served in the Navy Reserves as a hospital corpsman and was activated to full-time service for Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf War, from 1990 to 1991.

HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES CREATED/TAUGHT/TA

SOCI 3030: Introduction to Research Design, Fall 2015, Tulane University. Served as a teacher assistant for this course. The course is designed to provide a sound introduction to the overall process of scientific research design and the specific research methods most frequently used by sociologists and other social scientists. The course provides an overview of the nature of scientific research (including both product and process), discussion of the ethics in conducting human subject research, and explores dilemmas inherent in efforts to describe social reality. The course examines measurement and sampling in depth, as well.

SOWK 3000: Civic Engagement and Leadership, Fall 2015, Tulane University. Revised syllabus and taught. An undergraduate, upper level, 3 credits Service Fellows course designed to explore leadership roles in public participation in government and community decision-making. The course explores meaning of active citizenship and its role in maintaining democracy, social justice in a democratic frame, civic action's role in democracy building, institutional civic leadership, and everyday practices that build democracy.

SOWK 9942: Introduction to Qualitative and Interpretive Approaches to Human Inquiry, Summer 2015, Tulane University. Served as teacher assistant. A graduate level 3 credits course designed

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to develop in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of qualitative data collection and analysis; develop in-depth knowledge pertaining to three classical qualitative data collection methods: content analysis, ethnography, interviewing. The course also provides assignments and exercises designed to enhance students' abilities to conduct qualitative data collection methods. Additionally, students are introduced to qualitative data analysis software in organizing and analyzing the data. Finally, students learn how to effectively construct a research project and write a research proposal. The overall objective of the course is for students to become proficient in the systematic analysis of qualitative data.

SOWK 3000: Civic Engagement and Leadership, Fall 2014, Tulane University. Co-created and co-taught. An undergraduate, upper level, 3 credits Service Fellows course designed to explore leadership roles in public participation in government and community decision-making. The course explores meaning of active citizenship and its role in maintaining democracy, social justice in a democratic frame, civic action's role in democracy building, institutional civic leadership, and everyday practices that build democracy.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela: A Comparative Approach Conference, November 2015. Participated as a discussant for panel titled *Civil society responses, and non-state armed actors panel*.

Community Based Participatory Research Award from Tulane Center for Public Service, June 2015. Awarded research grant to conduct community based participatory research on civic engagement in the Tulane geographic corridor between its two main campuses.

City, Culture, & Community 2015 Symposium: Social Justice and the City. March 6, 2015, Tulane University. Presented draft paper on Panamanian black social movement research.

Stone Center Tinker Summer Field Research Grant Award, Apr. 2014. Awarded small research grant to conduct interviews in Panama on the Panamanian black social movement.

PUBLISHED PROFESSIONAL/CONSULTED WORKS

"Latinos in Metro New Orleans: Progress, Problems and Potential" in *The New Orleans Index at Ten Collection*, The Data Center, www.datacenterresearch.org, 2015. Co-authored article with Dr. Elizabeth Fussell.

"From Both Sides Now: A Field Report from New Orleans" in *Connections*, The Kettering Foundation's Annual Newsletter, www.kettering.org, 2014. Contributed article on public participation work during my city of New Orleans tenure between 2011 and 2013.

"Building the Middle Ground" in *Participation Now*, an online public participation forum at www.OpenDemocracy.net, 2014. Contributed article on government and community building bridges.

New Orleans Recreation Development Commission Neighborhood Participation Process Policy Manual, 2012. Created and wrote public document on public participation process for

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recreation.

City of New Orleans Neighborhood Participation Plan, 2012. Created and wrote public document on public participation.

“Sobreviviendo Katrina-tres años después,” 2008. *El Diario NY*. Contributed Op Ed on latinos in post Katrina New Orleans.

PUBLISHED CREATIVE WORKS

“Dominican Nuevaorleanos” in *What Can't be Lost*, 2010. University of Louisiana Lafayette Press. Contributed creative non-fiction.

Passing Unseen: Stories from New Domangue, 2007. I-Universe. Self-published short stories collection.

“Esther” in *Life in the wake: fiction from post-Katrina New Orleans*, 2007. NOLAFugees Press. Contributed short story.

Strange Fruit jazz suite, 2005. Released by Basin Street Records. Wrote liner notes and narrative accompaniment for the suite.

Carnival album, 2005. Released by Basin Street Records. Wrote liner notes.

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS

“The New Orleans Index at Ten: Latinos in Metro New Orleans: Progress, Problems, and Potential” panel participant on August 26, 2015. Participated on latino population panel for City of New Orleans Katrina 10: Resilient New Orleans 10 year commemorative event.

“Katrina: The Debris // Nueva Orleans” on WWNO Radio Show on July 13, 2015. Interviewed as expert on New Orleans area Latino population.

“Illegal Immigrants” on WWL Radio on July 1, 2015. Participated as expert voice on Latino population in post Katrina New Orleans in response to the New Orleans Index at Ten report.

“Data Center Report Recommends More Welcoming City Polices for Latino Residents” on WWNO Radio podcast on July 1, 2015. Provided expert response to Latino population questions.

Kettering Learning Exchange, November 2014. Consulted staff and researchers on civic engagement in pre/post disaster resiliency research discussions.

2014 Neighborhoods Summit, November 8, 2014. Co-designed and coordinated full-day civic conference for neighborhood leaders, offering civic skill development workshops and panel discussions on civic issues.

Roundtable on the CZO, September 2014. Organized and facilitated a community conversation on the City of New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance on behalf of Neighborhoods

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Partnership Network's Capacity College.

Kettering Workgroup, June 2014. Consulted staff and researchers on public participation in New Orleans.

City of New Orleans, May 2014. Consulted by Neighborhood Engagement Office to develop and deliver a meeting preparation training workshop for community volunteers working with the city.

City of New Orleans, Feb. 2014. Consulted by Neighborhood Engagement Office to develop and deliver a civic leadership training workshop for community volunteers working with the city.

Racial Equity and the Future of New Orleans Convening, The Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change, 2014. Invited to serve on committee on structural racism in New Orleans.

Kellogg Community Leaders Fellowship Selection Committee, 2013. Invited to serve on committee to select inaugural fellows from New Orleans pool.

Kettering Learning Exchange, 2013. Consulted staff and researchers on public participation practices in government.

Kettering Learning Exchange, 2011. Consulted staff and researchers on public participation practices in government.

Neighborhood Partnership Network's two Town Hall Meetings, 2011, on the Orleans Parish Jail size. Served on a panel that spoke about the City's working committee on the jail size.

City of New Orleans Criminal Justice Task Force, 2011. Served as a task force committee member that discussed and provided recommendations to the City of New Orleans on the projected size of the Orleans parish jail.

“Race-Baiting the Gulf to Exploit Black and Brown Workers” in *Colorlines*, Sep. 2010. Consulted on news article on race relations and post disaster work.

“Immigration ad crosses line some say,” in WWLTV-Eyewitness News, Oct. 2010. Consulted on feature news video.

Loyola University *Juntos!* Forum on Latino New Orleans, Mar. 2010. Consulted as professional panel participant.

Mayor's Chief of Police Selection Committee, City of New Orleans, 2010. Consulted as community representative on selection committee.

“Arizona Copy Cat Law Pending in Louisiana,” in *Jambalaya News/New American Media* website, Jul. 2010. Consulted on news article on immigration legislation in Louisiana.

“Cops Call Oil Spill Workers Immigrant Gangsters,” in *Colorlines*, Jun. 2010. Consulted on news article on immigrant issues in post disaster work.

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“Stubborn stay put to face Gustav,” in *Agence France-Presse*, in The Age-World Section, Sep. 2008. Consulted on Latino community for news piece on Hurricane Gustav evacuations.

The University of New Orleans panel discussion on ethnic and race relations in post-Katrina New Orleans, Feb. 2009. Consulted as professional panel participant.

Building Common Ground, Jun. 2009. A New Orleans race relations panel by Oxfam America. Consulted as professional panel participant.

“Nueva Orleans Rising,” in *Latina*, Aug. 2008. Consulted on feature article on Latinos in New Orleans.

“New Orleans Sees Rise in Latino Population,” in PBS Newshour, Aug. 2007. Consulted on feature news video on Latinos in the New Orleans rebuilding after Katrina.

RECOGNITIONS

Aspen Ideas Festival, Jun. 2014. Selected for National Scholars Scholarship.

Norman C. Francis Leadership Institute, 2013. Selected as member of inaugural class of 25 New Orleans fellows.

Five Portraits of Extraordinary People, by Frontline Solutions, Nov. 2012. Nationally featured for work in community development and public participation.

American Council of Young Political Leaders, 2011. Selected for a national cultural exchange fellowship for politically involved people with El Salvador.

National Association of Latino Community Asset Builders, 2010. Accepted into one-year Entrepreneurship Leadership Fellowship.

Effective Louisiana Leadership Program (Emerging Leaders Program), Oct. 2009. Selected for a Louisiana-based program developed by former U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, James Joseph.

Young Leadership Council Role Model, by the Young Leadership Council, Oct. 2009. Recognized with regional award for community work.

Innovator of the Year, by New Orleans CityBusiness, 2008. Recognized with regional award for founding new non-profit.

Jazz Times, Music Review for *Strange Fruit*, 2005. Liner notes for Irvin Mayfield's musical suite, *Strange Fruit*, given positive review.

Jazz Times, Music Review for *Carnival*, 2005. Liner notes for Los Hombres Calientes' album, *Carnival*, given positive review.

New York Times, Arts Review for *Strange Fruit*, 2005. Narrative for Irvin Mayfield's musical suite, *Strange Fruit*, given positive review.

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“Irvin Mayfield's *Fruit* should raise his musical stature,” in *Chicago Tribune*-Lifestyles section, 2004.
Narrative contribution critiqued in feature article and given positive review.

Glimmer Train Summer 1998 Very Short Fiction Award finalist for “The Rainstorm.”

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Designed and implemented all programs from Mar. 2011 to Aug. 2013 for the inaugural launch of the City of New Orleans Neighborhood Engagement Office under Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu, which included:

- Creation of City of New Orleans Neighborhood Participation Plan (available for download here: <http://www.nola.gov/nola/media/Neighborhood-Engagement/Files/City-NPP-Book.pdf>)
- Creation of New Orleans Police Department Police Community Advisory Board program, policy manual, and training workshops (more info at: <http://www.nola.gov/neighborhood-engagement/>)
- Creation of New Orleans Recreation Development Commission Neighborhood Participation Process program, policy manual and training workshops (policy manual and other information available here: (<http://www.nola.gov/neighborhood-engagement/projects/nordc-cats/>)
- Creation of Neighborhood Capacity Building Initiative (more info at: <http://www.nola.gov/neighborhood-engagement/>)
- Creation of New Orleans Neighborhood Summit (more info at: <http://www.nola.gov/neighborhood-engagement/>)
- Creation of Department of Capital Projects neighborhood participation processes
- Creation of Choice Neighborhood participation processes
- Creation of quarterly Leadership Roundtable (more info at: <http://www.nola.gov/neighborhood-engagement/>)

Co-founded and served as founding executive director of Puentes New Orleans, Inc., a Latino serving community development and advocacy non-profit, from Feb. 2007 to Mar. 2011, transforming an initial \$25,000 seed grant into an annual \$450K operating budget while accomplishing the following:

- Developed a multi-ethnic coalition for New Orleans neighborhood called Village de l'est in 2011
- Developed a parent leadership program for a local school in 2010
- Developing a Black-Brown coalition framework in 2009
- Co-developing LatiNola, a civic engagement program for Puentes New Orleans in 2008
- Co-developing LatiNola Votes! a voter registration program for Puentes New Orleans in 2008
- Developing an integration framework for institutional implementation at Puentes in 2008
- Developing a public leadership training program and fellowship in 2008
- Co-developing the Hispanic Public Safety Initiative for Puentes New Orleans and the Hispanic Apostolate of Catholic Charities in 2007
- Co-developing a first-time home ownership training program in 2007.

Trained in Community Organizing by the Industrial Areas Foundation, 2007.

Trained in Community Development concepts by NeighborWorks America, 2007.

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Wrote and managed grants totaling over \$1 million in private foundation/corporate awards between 2007 and 2011 for Puentes New Orleans, Inc. programs.

As a fundraising professional across various institutions between 2000 and 2006, wrote grants that secured over \$15 million in foundation, corporate, individual, and public gifts/grants.

COMMUNITY TRAININGS CREATED/TAUGHT

Building Civic Work Through Effective Public Relationships, November 2014. A two hour workshop developed and taught for Neighborhoods Partnership Network's Capacity College program.

Knowing Your Board Responsibilities, November 2014. A two hour workshop developed and taught for Neighborhoods Partnership Network's Capacity College program.

The Board's Role in Fundraising, October 2014. A two hour workshop developed and taught for Neighborhoods Partnership Network's Capacity College program.

Communicating Effectively, October 2014. A two hour workshop developed and taught for Neighborhoods Partnership Network's Capacity College program.

Leading Conflict-Free Meetings, September 2014. A two hour workshop developed and taught for Neighborhoods Partnership Network's Capacity College program.

Advisory Team Leadership, February 2014. A two hour workshop developed and taught for the City of New Orleans PCAB and NORDC CAT advisory community members

Police Community Advisory Board Effective Team Management, May 2014. A two hour workshop developed and taught for the City of New Orleans PCAB community members.

NORDC Community Advisory Team Effective Team Management, May 2014. A two hour workshop developed and taught for the City of New Orleans NORDC CAT community members.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Human Relations Commission, City of New Orleans, August 13, 2015 to current

Jericho Road Housing Initiative, member, Board of Directors, from 2013 to current

City of New Orleans Criminal Justice Task Force, 2010-2012