

urbanconservancy

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Front Yard Initiative workshop participants at our February workshop

Ready to go from gray to green?

Spring means festivals, crawfish boils, and... Front Yard Initiative workshops! Each spring, we host three FYI Design Workshops; attendance is the first step to apply for the Front Yard Initiative's taxable reimbursement incentive to go from gray to green. Following the workshop, applicants have two weeks to submit their designs for consideration by our Review Committee, and are often asked to submit revisions and answer clarifying questions.

Although incentive funding is limited, attendees are encouraged to take advantage of the technical assistance and support we can provide to make projects as time- and cost-effective as possible even if we can't provide a partial reimbursement.

Our first workshop in February was attended by 21 people who thought critically about their spaces, designs, and the cost of their installations. We're looking forward to our

final online workshop set for Saturday, April 13 at 3:00 pm. Register for the workshop [here](#) or at the link below. We hope to see you there!

Register



BASIN+ participants explore permeability

BASIN+ is rolling!

This spring, we re-launched a program that was interrupted by the pandemic: BASIN+! This newest iteration of our youth program, [BASIN \(Building Active Stewardship in New Orleans\)](#), is inspired by a parent who wanted more opportunities for their middle school-aged child.

BASIN+ strives to introduce middle-schoolers to job training, internship, and career opportunities in the green sector, as well as provide opportunities for them to get civically engaged and follow their own, related interests. We're excited to see what these kids are passionate about and how they want to affect the world around them.

BASIN+ is a no-cost program, offered one Saturday a month at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. It is open to all youth ages 11-14. Register on [our website](#), and come on out to our May 10 session!

BBC Radio features the Front Yard Initiative

New Orleanians spend a lot of time pondering the big questions around climate resilience and climate justice. The depth of local knowledge was on full display during a tour on a chilly Saturday in late February with [Alasdair Cross](#) and [Helen Czerski](#) of [BBC](#) Radio 4's [Rare Earth](#) program. They interviewed homeowners, contractors, engineers and faith leaders about community-led, nature-based responses to New Orleans'— and Louisiana's— rainwater management and climate justice challenges. We'll be sure to share a link when the show airs.

Thanks to Meagan Williams of the [Office of Resilience and Sustainability](#), [Front Yard Initiative](#) participants Al Duvernay III and Anthony Davis, Rev. Gregory Manning of Broadmoor Community Church and [Together New Orleans](#), and green contractors Arien Hall and Luisa Aballe, owners of stormwater management company [Mastodonte](#).



Meet
StayLocal Program Assistant
Megan Lauand

intern@staylocal.org



Sustainable Spotlight: Green Business Ingenuity

From green infrastructure companies to diverting waste from landfills, New Orleans businesses not only meet market demands but also champion sustainability. To highlight the independent local businesses that prioritize both entrepreneurship and environmental conservation, StayLocal has launched Sustainable Spotlight, a new consumer awareness campaign.

StayLocal is shouting out those businesses on social media so you can support them and tell others about local, green innovations. To help us emphasize the role that independent business owners play as initiators of change in our communities, we're thrilled to introduce you to our talented new intern and StayLocal Program Assistant, Megan Lauand.

Megan is a native New Orleanian pursuing an undergraduate degree in Design and Environmental Studies from Tulane University, and comes from a family of small business owners. Her time with us is part of Empowering Businesses for a Greener Tomorrow, our year-long initiative with [GREEN Hospitality](#) supported by the U.S. Consulate General of Hong Kong and Macau.



U.S. Consulate General
Hong Kong and Macau

Want to suggest a business on which to shine the spotlight? Please let us know by emailing Megan at intern@staylocal.org.

Board Member Spotlight



Meghan
Garhan

Meghan Garhan: Cultivating Nature's Harmony in New Orleans

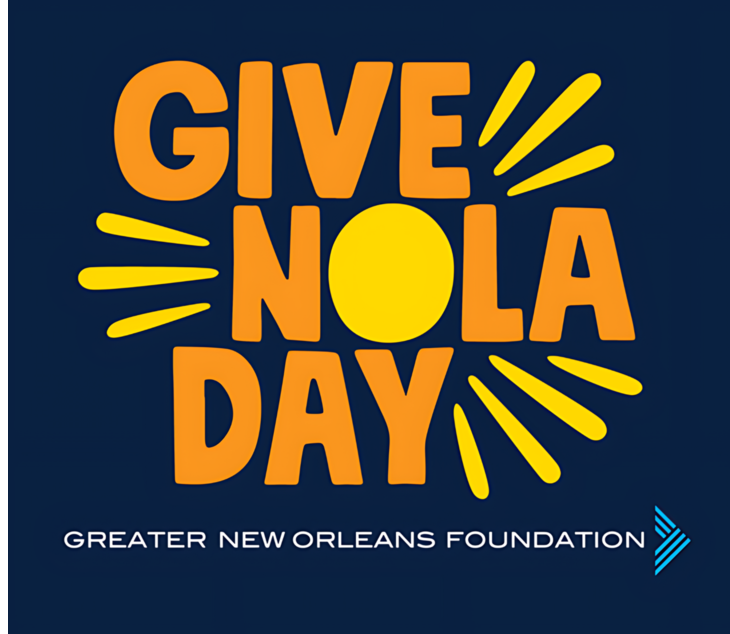
Meghan Garhan, Urban Conservancy [board member](#) since 2022 and current Vice President, believes that all things are interconnected. She effortlessly weaves the threads of environmental stewardship and community engagement into the fabric of her daily life.

Meghan was inspired by her own experience as one of the first participants in the [Front Yard Initiative \(FYI\)](#) in 2017. Since then, Meghan has championed the removal of excessive concrete, transforming barren spaces into thriving ecosystems through the application of nature-based solutions. “FYI’s multifaceted and engaging approach stuck with me,” says Meghan, who continues to advocate for it with friends and neighbors who also experience flooding and/or have large amounts of concrete on their property.

[Read more >>](#)

GiveNOLA Day is right around the corner!

Early giving begins on April 26, and GiveNOLA Day is May 7. We appreciate your support!



Visit Our GiveNOLA Page

Our Initiatives

We create projects to meet the needs of our constituents; that's how [FYI](#), [BASIN](#), and [StayLocal](#) came about. Sometimes we just lend a hand to get big ideas off the ground. [The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans](#) and the [Lafitte Greenway](#) are examples of our collaborative efforts.



Learn more

The generous support of our funders makes our work possible. We want to give a special thanks to the [Greater New Orleans Foundation](#), the Ella West Freeman Foundation, Hash House Harriers, Cox Communications Community Grant, Harrah's Community Support Grant, the U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong and Macau, and you, our all-important [individual donors](#).

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