

OVERVIEW

Sankofa Community Development Corporation, founded in 2008, serves as a catalyst to revitalize New Orleans' Lower and Upper Ninth Ward and advances opportunities in the areas of urban revitalization, education, health, and economic development.

GOALS

- Create access to healthy food and improve the disproportionately higher than average health risks that exists within this community.
- Rebuild the devastated neighborhoods that were inundated by flood waters after the federal levee failures, which occurred during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.
- Redress many of the major problems that afflicted the Lower and Upper Ninth Ward areas before toxic flood waters obliterated their infrastructures.
- Enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Lower and Upper Ninth Ward and create a thriving community.

PROBLEMS

- **Limited Access to Healthy Food** – There is a lack of readily accessible fresh produce and other wholesome foods for children in families living in the Lower and Upper Ninth Ward. There are no grocery stores in the Lower Ninth Ward that carry fresh vegetables and fruits, or within a 5 mile radius of the area on a major bus route. There is only one grocery store in the Upper Ninth Ward, with an inadequate amount of fresh food.
- **High Health Risk** – Louisiana's Second Congressional District, which includes New Orleans and the Ninth Ward, a predominately African American population, has the nation's second worst life expectancy rate, with a prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, and obesity in the population.
- **Insufficient Infrastructure** – Eradication of pervasive blight is needed. The Lower Ninth Ward is a disaster-stricken area that has had a very minimal amount of redevelopment of homes and small businesses since the Hurricane Katrina disaster and a large number of vacant, blighted properties.
- **Leadership Skills for Youth** – Many youth are in need of entrepreneurship skills and workforce training, as they are the future community stakeholders.

SOLUTIONS

- **Support Community Accessibility to Healthy Food** – Continue the Sankofa Farmers Market and Sankofa Gardens programs to support consumption of a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy, which can help reduce cholesterol, decrease hypertension, and obesity in the population.
- **Increase Community Involvement** – Provide educational resources to Lower and Upper Ninth Ward residents on the benefits of consuming fresh and local produce, whole grains, and protein products. Support empowerment of residents as active participants in the development of their neighborhood as engaged community members and leaders in sustainable food systems.
- **Development of Vacant Land** – Transform vacant land in the Lower and Upper Ninth Ward into sustainable community gardens and mini urban farms that help to revitalize the areas and grow fresh vegetables and fruits.
- **Engage with Young Citizens** – Educate youth about leadership, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement through a school integrated gardening education program to help them understand their roles as significant stakeholders in the development of their community.



SANKOFA FARMERS MARKET

Located in New Orleans' Upper Ninth Ward, the Sankofa Farmers Market serves as a community anchor, supports local farmers and fishers, provides access to fresh local foods, stimulates economic activity, and empowers the community with information about the health benefits of fresh produce. Held every Saturday from 10am until 2pm, the Farmers Market hosts an array of local produce, baked goods, seafood, and plants, as well health screenings, cooking demonstrations, and educational activities for children.

SANKOFA GARDEN

AT KIPP RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL AT FREDERICK DOUGLASS

The Sankofa Garden at KIPP Renaissance High School at Frederick Douglass, located in the Upper Ninth Ward, fosters an appreciation for healthy, quality foods for children in New Orleans. Through an integrated school-based program, Renaissance students learn about gardening and the nutritional benefits of consuming fresh produce. They are also taught various financial literacy tools in order to manage a vendor booth at the Sankofa Farmers Market to sell the vegetables they grow.

SANKOFA GARDEN

AT 27 ST. CLAUDE COURT

The Sankofa Garden at 27 St Claude Court, located in the Lower Ninth Ward, will transform vacant, blighted and unused land into an urban agricultural space with edible plants and ornamental cut flowers. The garden will increase fresh food access in the area through the production of vegetables, fruits, and herbs; provide an educational space for youth and their families to learn nutritional ways to prepare fresh produce; provide opportunities for youth to obtain employment, entrepreneurship skills, and workforce training; support civic engagement and community involvement in the planning for neighborhood improvement; and help stimulate the beautification and development of the Lower Ninth Ward area. Two additional properties are presently being acquired in the Upper Ninth Ward for similar developments.