



**Latino Community of Interest**  
**Report on the Latino Community Survey**  
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and  
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## Latino Community of Interest Survey Report

### I. Methods

The Community of Interest pilot project was created as part of the Committee for a Better New Orleans' (CBNO) Citizen Participation Project (CPP). The objective of the CPP is to educate the public on the best practices of civic engagement structures around the world and advocate for the adoption of a robust citizen participation program in New Orleans. After much research into these global and national best practices, over 200 New Orleans residents gave input into a model for structured Civic Engagement for the city. The Community of Interest component of the model was created in response to a shortcoming that many other cities had identified in their own Citizen Participation structures. That is the fact that while neighborhoods are a logical focal point for organizing citizens, there are many communities that exist within a city without a centralized geographical basis. These groups, whether based on religion, ethnicity, affinity, or shared interests, are integral to creating and maintaining a civically engaged city. Many individuals who are involved in these types of groups do so instead of participating in neighborhood groups and associations.

According to a study conducted by the Neighborhood Partnership Network, less than 10 percent of New Orleans' residents participate in Neighborhood Associations. So while most cities in the US have citizen participation structures that revolve around neighborhood groups, such systems would fail to reach a large segment of the population in New Orleans. Thus, the team of citizen volunteers who designed the CPP model that CBNO delivered to the City Planning Commission added the Community of Interest concept "in recognition of the fact that there are many people in New Orleans who DO participate in community but DO NOT participate at the neighborhood level."<sup>1</sup> In addition to benefitting those individuals who do not participate in neighborhood associations, the community of interest concept provides numerous benefits to the larger community. For example, the Community of Interest section of the CPP model points out: "providing the greatest possible number of New Orleans residents with information about projects, programs and issues that will impact their lives, and with the opportunity to present their viewpoints in the public discourse prior to city government decision-making, can only ensure a more inclusive and collaborative city. In addition, many of the individuals and organizations that will engage in the CPP via the Communities of Interest have particular information and expertise that will be highly valuable to neighborhood associations as they confront the questions that impact their quality of life. Fostering communication citywide and providing additional resources to neighborhoods and community groups is another substantial benefit of this new component of the CPP."

The Latino community in New Orleans was identified as an important example of the Community of Interest concept by CBNO and Puentes New Orleans. This population is growing rapidly. According to the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, the Latino population in New Orleans increased by 57%<sup>2</sup> from 2000 to 2010. Still, this population remains somewhat invisible to local government, and a variety of issues, such as racial prejudices and lack of language access, inhibit Latinos

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<sup>1</sup> New Orleans Citizen Participation Program Model

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gnocdc.org/HomeownershipHouseholdMakeupLatinosAndVietnamese/index.html>

from participating in city government or at the neighborhood level. By collecting data on this population, their attitudes and participation habits, CBNO and Puentes hoped to understand how to build a more inclusive participation structure as well as to identify the resources most needed by this community and some strategies for better connecting specific communities to those resources.

In order to collect this data, CBNO and Puentes hosted 11 community meetings, where we gave a presentation in Spanish on civic engagement and the CPP concept. Following the presentation, we distributed a thirty-six question survey, in Spanish, to willing individuals. The survey focused on personal identity, reasons for participating, and attitudes towards city issues, city government and neighborhood associations. The survey was designed by staff at Puentes and CBNO with input from various individuals familiar with the target population and civic engagement practices; in particular, individual meetings were held with a variety of prominent Latino community leaders, which helped greatly to inform the entire survey process. CBNO and Puentes met with faculty from the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Loyola University during the design phase of the survey to discuss content and delivery methods. We also invited feedback from local church leaders and members of the New Orleans Coalition for Open Governance. In some cases, we did not give a presentation but went to locations where our target population would already be and asked them to fill out the survey. We received a total of 71 completed surveys. Our target population was broad, and included anyone who identified as Latino. By distributing the surveys at churches, community meetings, foreign consulates and English as a Second Language classes, we accessed a population sample that was already more likely to be civically engaged in some way or interested in community issues. A complete list of distribution sites is included in the appendix.

In conducting our survey, we operated under the assumption that any information gathered is useful and would do something to better inform city government and the public about populations who are not as visible at neighborhood-based community functions. However, there is room for improvement in both the survey and the delivery methods. The biggest challenge in this project has been getting individuals to turn out for events. In order to address this, we attempted to be strategic about the time and location of events, ensuring they were conveniently located at a time when the greatest variety of individuals is able to attend. In addition, we used pre-existing Latino communities and social networks to advertise events to individuals who already have some level of engagement in local communities. While convenient, this approach had a noticeable effect on the data. For example, we distributed surveys at the Honduran consulate, but not the Peruvian consulate. Thus it is impossible to tell from our data whether Hondurans actually make up the majority of Latinos in New Orleans, as indicated by our survey or if it simply a result of uneven sampling. According to information collected by the GNOCDC in 2010, 1/3 of Latinos in New Orleans are Mexican, and the other 2/3 are “other Latinos” with a large percentage of those being Honduran.<sup>3</sup>

Another significant hurdle to our work is language. While CBNO recognizes the importance of language access and inclusiveness in community organizing, the pilot project coordinator’s understanding of Spanish was at a beginner’s level. As a result, the tasks of translating key documents,

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gnocdc.org/HomeownershipHouseholdMakeupLatinosAndVietnamese/index.html>

as well as outreach and presentations to primarily Spanish speaking groups, became the sole responsibility of Puentes. While the work could be streamlined if both groups operated bilingually, this barrier mirrors the language obstacle that exists at the neighborhood level and highlights the lack of language access within many nonprofit organizations as well as city government. There is an opportunity here to create strategies for improving language access and increasing communication across language barriers that can be applied to the CPP in New Orleans, as well as in other cities struggling to improve the inclusiveness of their own CPP structures.

In regard to the survey questions themselves, we struggled to maintain a balance between precise questions that would yield meaningful information and questions that were simple enough to be understood and quickly answered by a variety of individuals with a range of literacy and language skills. In some questions, we gave ranges that were too wide as answer options. 36% of survey respondents selected “falta de tiempo” (lack of time) as a reason for not participating in civic affairs. This begs the questions of what takes up the majority of people’s time. Our suspicion is work is a major factor in this. When we asked how many hours per week individuals worked, 58% of respondents chose “21 – 40”. While this indicates that most respondents work full time, that range is too large to tell whether that is the primary use of people’s time. Finally, education and income level are two key pieces of data that were left off the survey altogether. This decision was made primarily because it was felt that including these questions would tend to make respondents unnecessarily uncomfortable; however, the quality of the data was reduced by this decision.

The biggest fault in terms of the survey design was the resource chart included on the last page. This chart listed 24 resources or city services and asked people to indicate where they received those services from, their friends and family, their neighborhood, their government, or whether they did not receive them and didn’t need them or, most importantly for our purposes, whether they needed them but did not receive them. Unfortunately, almost no one filled out this chart. Those who did tended to check all of the boxes in one column, leading us to suspect they had not actually read the chart. Several factors could have played in to the failure of this section. The fact that this was the last page may indicate respondents felt tired of the survey by the end of it and the whole thing may have been too long. Additionally, the large number of boxes and amount of small text on that page may have been visually overwhelming for people, especially those with limited literacy. In the future, it would be useful to collect this resource information as part of a separate initiative.

## II. Findings

One finding of the survey, as indicated by the biographical information collected from participants, is that the term “Latino Community” is insufficient and incorrect. We received responses from men and women, ranging in age from 18 to 65+ and originating from twelve different countries, though primarily from Honduras and Mexico, followed by Nicaragua, Brazil and Guatemala. These individuals work in a more than seven different career fields, though the majority are employed in either construction, maintenance or housekeeping. Their mastery of Spanish and English also covers a wide range. These diverse responses indicate that there is not one homogenous “Latino community” but

many unique communities whose members identify as Latino. The multiplicity revealed in our small sample attests to a greater diversity throughout the city.

Another important point indicated by the survey results is the fact that the Latino populations in New Orleans are not transient. This disturbingly common misconception is sometimes used as a justification for not making greater efforts to reach out to these communities. It is true that many of our survey participants are recent arrivals to New Orleans; 45% said they had been in the city for six years or less. This is consistent with a survey done by the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, which notes a spike in the Latino populations in New Orleans since Katrina.<sup>4</sup> However, it is also clear that the majority of these individuals have long term plans to remain in the city. 22% of survey participants stated that they only planned to be in New Orleans for 10 years or less, while 34% plan to stay and 34% have no plans to leave. While, the majority of survey participants (84%) stated that their country of origin was “very important” to them, 87% said that they are also concerned about the future of Latinos in New Orleans. This is supported by the fact that when asked if they considered New Orleans their home, 79% of survey participants responded “Yes”. 67% of survey participants responded that their reason for being in New Orleans was to work, 29% because of family and 22% because of church involvement.

Another key point demonstrated by the survey results is that the issues identified are in line with those commonly expressed by across the city regardless of people’s geographic location or ethnic identity. With the exception of immigration, which 79% of survey participants stated they were concerned about, the primary issues that people indicated they were concerned about, such as education (67%), healthcare (58%) and employment (55%), correspond to the concerns commonly expressed at general community meetings. This indicates both a great need and a great opportunity for partnerships across Latino and non-Latino communities to address these shared issues.

Additionally, the changes survey respondents indicated that they would like to see in their community are consistent with answers given by primarily non-Latinos in a survey conducted after Katrina by Tulane University. Participants of our survey stated that they would like less crime (59%), more/better schools (54%), more/better parks (43%) and community centers (43%) and better access to healthcare (38%). This correlates with preferences expressed in *Urban Residents’ Priorities for Neighborhood Features: A Survey of New Orleans Residents After Hurricane Katrina*, where “Low crime rate” was given an average of 4.62 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important. In the Tulane survey, “Good schools” was given a priority of 4.42, “Health clinics” a 3.47, and “parks or playgrounds” a 4.05. 36% of participants in our survey also said they would like to see less blighted properties; one of the most commonly identified and widely discussed issues in New Orleans. It is essential to recognize that the concerns of the Latino communities in New Orleans are for the most part the concerns of the general population. Thus, these groups do not require that extra attention be given by city government to culturally specific issues but that more inclusive steps be taken to incorporate these community into the mounting discussions around these issues.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gnocdc.org/HomeownershipHouseholdMakeupLatinosAndVietnamese/index.html>

Based on our motives for conducting this survey, we were unsurprised to discover that the survey results indicate that these groups are not successfully incorporated in current civic engagement structures. Most survey respondents had little knowledge of Neighborhood Associations, and reported having very little interaction with city government. However, this disconnection goes beyond lack of information or interaction. The results of our survey indicate feelings of distrust or alienation from city government. 37% of participants responded that they did not feel that city government was honest, while 40% said they were unsure. 49% said that they did not believe city government cared about the Latino community, with 26% being unsure. Similarly, 42% said that city government did not care about them personally, while 35% were unsure. These existing negative attitudes indicate that significant work needs to be done by city government to reach out to these populations.

### III. Recommendations

One of the best ways for city government and neighborhood associations to gain trust and build relationships with excluded groups is to provide them with access to resources that reflect their expressed needs, rather than those perceived from the outside. In the same way that many of the issues survey respondents identified as important matched up with what other surveys have identified as concerns of the larger community, many of the needs identified by survey respondents mirror those expressed by other groups. When asked what changes they would like to see in their community, survey participants responded with “less crime” (68%), “more or better health clinics” (59%) and “more or better schools” (54%). Unemployment, discrimination and lack of transportation were three of the most common responses to the question “What is your biggest difficulty in New Orleans?” The most common answer to this question, though, was “falta de información/ servicios accesibles en mi idioma” (lack of information/ services in my language), given by 53% of respondents.

Again, language access presents itself as a real barrier to participation for Latino residents. While 85% of survey participants have a complete understanding of written and spoken Spanish, only 25% have the same mastery of English, with the largest subset (48%) understanding either a little or no English. Based on this information, it is clearly impossible to create an inclusive system of participation without taking steps to address this language gap. One easy way to do this is with translated documents, including information from city government and neighborhood notices. In fact, when asked what would motivate their participation in the community, 51% of survey respondents chose “translated documents,” while 49% selected “interpreters at community meetings”. Additionally, “more attention to issues important to me” was the third most common response (45%); this response is particularly worth considering when compared to answers to the question “What issues concern you?” where “Language Access” was the 4<sup>th</sup> most common response, selected by 49% of survey participants.

Another commonly selected response to the question “What would motivate you to participate in your community?” is “better notice of meetings and events.” This aligns with verbal complaints heard by CBNO staff and volunteers at numerous community meetings in New Orleans. It is also a problem commonly cited in case studies of other citizen participation programs around the country. Some approaches taken by other cities to improve communication include community newsletters, phone

trees, and public signage.<sup>5</sup> Based on the current lack of involvement as well as adverse attitudes toward city government existing within certain communities, extra consideration needs to be given to outreach strategies in order to assure more inclusive and effective public meetings and events. According to the survey, 63% of respondents get most of their information on city services from TV and 44% get this information from the radio. The newspaper and city website were tied for third with 38% each, while neighborhood notices were selected by just 11% of respondents.

In addition to considering the sources people go to for information, it is important to acknowledge the types of civic activities people are currently participating in. This is a good way to build more significant participation upon existing foundations. While only 12% of survey participants said that they had attended a city meeting, and only 28% answered that they had gone to a community meeting, 51% said they had visited the public library. The public library, then, would be a good location to distribute community information and possibly host meetings.

These outreach methods will take work, on the part of the city, neighborhoods and individual citizens. A common response to such suggestions is to simply refer individuals to their neighborhood associations. However, 76% of survey participants responded that there either was no neighborhood association in their neighborhood or they did not know if there was one. Because there are approximately 270 neighborhood associations throughout the city of New Orleans, it is likely not an issue of too few neighborhood associations, but rather too little information about them and their meetings. Of those respondents who said there was a neighborhood association in their area, 72% responded that they were not a member. Finally, when asked whether the neighborhood association in their area represented their interests, 77% responded “no” or “I don’t know.” This information clearly indicates that relying on neighborhood associations alone to represent all New Orleans residents is an ineffective way to build a civic engagement structure.

It is the hope of CBNO and Puentes that equipped with this information, both city government and neighborhood associations will be able to take steps to create more inclusive participation systems. Without significant effort on the part of these existing structures, citizen engagement in New Orleans will continue to exclude large portions of the population. The consequences of this exclusion could result in disenfranchised citizens, with a lack of trust for government and a reluctance to participate in programs with the potential to improve the city for everyone.

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<sup>5</sup> Berry, Jeffrey M., Kent E. Portney, and Ken Thomson. *The Rebirth of Urban Democracy*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 1993; City of Portland. *Guidelines for Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, Neighborhood Business Associations, Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries, Alternative Service Delivery Structures, and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement*. December 18, 1997. Pgs 1-26.

Below is the survey, with responses, in Spanish; the English version follows the Spanish version.

## 71 responses

For some questions, people may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

### Sexo

hombre 32 45%  
mujer 39 55%

### Estado civil

soltero 21 30%  
casado 30 43%  
divorciado 7 10%  
viudo 2 3%  
unido 9 13%

### Edad

8-24 6 9%  
25-30 14 20%  
31-40 21 30%  
41-50 11 16%  
50-60 10 14%  
60+ 7 10%

### ¿Cual es su país de origen?

México 18 26%  
Ecuador 1 1%  
Panamá 1 1%  
Honduras 32 47%  
USA 1 1%  
Nicaragua 5 7%  
El Salvador 1 1%  
Brazil 4 6%

Venezuela 1 1%  
Guatemala 3 4%  
Cuba 1 1%  
Colombia 1 1%

### ¿Como domina el español?

completamente hablado y escrito 60 85%  
hablado, no escrito 6 8%  
escrito, no hablado 0 0%  
entiendo poco 5 7%  
no entiendo español 1 1%

### ¿Domina bien el inglés?

completamente hablado y escrito 18 25%  
hablado, no escrito 8 11%  
escrito, no hablado 4 6%  
entiendo poco 27 38%  
no entiendo inglés 7 10%

### ¿Cuanto tiempo ha vivido en Nueva Orleans?

menos de un año 8 12%  
1 - 6 años 22 33%  
6 - 10 años 19 28%  
más de 10 años 18 27%

### ¿Cuanto tiempo planea estar en Nueva Orleans?

menos de un año 3 5%  
1 - 6 años 11 17%  
6 - 10 años 3 5%  
más de 10 años 4 6%  
planeo quedarme 22 34%  
no sé 22 34%



¿Considera Nueva Orleans su hogar?

Si 48 79%  
No 6 10%  
No sé 7 11%

¿Cual de las siguientes razones mejor explica porque usted vive en Nueva Orleans?

nací aquí 1 1%  
mi familia vive aquí 20 29%  
trabajo aquí 46 67%  
la cultura de la ciudad 11 16%  
involucrado con la iglesia 15 22%  
acceso a recursos 6 9%  
no sé 0 0%  
Other 12 17%

¿Que tan importante es su país de origen?

muy importante 56 84%  
algo importante 9 13%  
un poco importante 2 3%  
nada importante 0 0%

¿Esta usted preocupado por el futuro de la comunidad latina en Nueva Orleans?

Si 54 87%  
No 2 3%  
No sé 6 10%

¿En que industria trabaja?

Servicio de comida 4 6%  
Construcción/Mantenimiento 27 41%  
Hospitalidad 4 6%  
Educación 0 0%  
Gobierno 3 5%  
Trabajo domestico 17 26%  
Other 13 20%

¿Cuantas hora trabaja a la semana?

no trabajo 12 18%  
1 - 20 6 9%  
21 - 40 38 58%  
41 - 60 10 15%  
más de 60 0 0%

¿Se siente apreciado por su empleador?

Si 39 65%  
No 6 10%  
No sé 14 23%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

¿Que temas le preocupan?

educación 45 67%  
ambiente 21 31%  
justicia social 27 40%  
equidad salarial 18 27%  
servicios de salud 39 58%  
abuso domestico 12 18%  
inmigración 53 79%  
religión 13 19%  
acceso al lenguaje 33 49%  
justicia criminal 17 25%  
vivienda justa 19 28%  
desarrollo económico comunitario 19 28%  
abuso a sustancias 12 18%  
deportes/recreación 10 15%  
ancianos 14 21%  
seguridad publica 24 36%  
empleo 37 55%  
transportación 18 27%

Por favor indique las actividades cívicas que usted ha participado

registrarse para votar 7 16%  
votar 10 23%  
atender una reunión municipal 5 12%  
atender una reunión de la comunidad 12 28%  
contactar a alguien de la municipalidad 4 9%  
contactar al alcalde 3 7%  
visitar la municipalidad 3 7%  
visitar la biblioteca pública 22 51%  
visitar la página web de la ciudad de Orleans 13 30%  
solicitar permisos municipales 8 19%  
llamar a la policía o algun otro servicio de emergencia 14 33%

Si no participa cívicamente, ¿porqué no?

falta de tiempo 14 36%  
todo esta bien como esta 4 10%  
no tengo interés 4 10%  
participacion no tiene ningun valor para mi 0 0%  
no sé 5 13%  
Other 15 38%

¿Vives en la parroquia de Orleans?

Si 31 57%  
No 22 41%  
No sé 1 2%

¿Existe una asociación de vecinos en su vecindario?

Si 15 24%  
No 27 44%  
No sé 20 32%

Si es si, ¿es usted un miembro?

Si 7 14%  
No 36 72%  
No sé 7 14%

¿Cree que la asociación de vecinos representa bien sus intereses?

Si 12 23%  
No 10 19%  
No sé 31 58%

¿Se siente bienvenido en su vecindario?

Si 47 76%  
No 3 5%  
No sé 12 19%

Si este no es el caso, ¿por qué?

crimen 12 55%  
edificios inseguros 9 41%  
mucha basura y desperdicio 6 27%  
policía/autoridades locales 6 27%  
estado de documentación 8 36%  
falta de protección 10 45%  
vecinos no amigables 6 27%  
calles mal atendidas 13 59%  
racismo 10 45%  
Other 3 14%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

¿Participa en reuniones o grupos en su vecindario?

Si 15 25%  
No 44 75%  
No sé 0 0%

¿Ha prestado servicios de voluntariado en su vecindario?

Si 16 27%  
No 43 73%  
No sé 0 0%

¿Que cambiaria en su comunidad?

mejores/más escuelas 30 54%  
mejor/más clinicas de salud 33 59%  
menos crimen 38 68%  
menos propiedad abandonada 20 36%  
más/mejor tiendas 14 25%  
mejores caminos 24 43%  
más iglesias 20 36%  
más parques/edificios recreacionales 24 43%  
acceso a comida saludable 21 38%  
más centros culturales/comunitarios 24 43%  
Other 5 9%

¿Cree que la alcaldía/municipalidad se preocupa por la comunidad latina?

Si 16 25%  
No 32 49%  
No sé 17 26%

¿Cree que la alcaldía/municipalidad es honesta?

Si 15 23%  
No 24 37%  
No sé 26 40%

¿Cree que a las autoridades municipales les interesa su bienestar?

Si 16 25%  
No 27 42%  
No sé 23 35%

¿Cree que la municipalidad entiende los temas que usted cree importante?

Si 14 23%  
No 27 44%  
No sé 21 34%

¿De donde obtiene información sobre servicios y la municipalidad?

página de internet de la ciudad 24 38%  
periódico 24 38%  
televisión 40 63%  
radio 28 44%

amigos/familia 19 30%  
avisos vecinales 7 11%  
ninguna 3 5%  
Other 1 2%

¿Que lo motivara para participar en su comunidad?

acceso a tutores educacionales 21 43%  
acceso a consultores 12 24%  
intérpretes en reuniones municipales 24 49%  
documentos traducidos 25 51%  
mejor notificaciones de reuniones y eventos 21 43%  
talleres de participación cívica 17 35%  
más atención a temas que me importan 22 45%  
Other 4 8%

¿Que lo motivara para participar cívicamente?

para ayudar a gente 36 63%  
para mejorar la ciudad 36 63%  
para proteger mis derechos 29 51%  
para conocer miembros de la comunidad 25 44%

para asegurar transparencia del gobierno 17 30%

para representar las necesidades y deseos de mi familia 37 65%  
Other 7 12%

¿Cual es su mayor dificultad en Nueva Orleans?

falta de transportación 12 24%  
falta de apoyo familiar 11 22%  
desempleo 23 45%  
discriminación 20 39%  
familia/ salud personal 14 27%  
problemas financieros 13 25%  
discriminación de salario 17 33%  
abuso domestico 4 8%  
falta de vivienda adecuada/ segura educación inapropiada 6 12%  
falta de comida nutricional 8 16%  
encontrar cuidado infantil 7 14%  
abuso de sustancias 6 12%  
falta de seguridad personal 11 22%  
falta de información/ servicios accesibles en mi idioma 27 53%  
Other

## 71 Responses

For some questions, people may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

### Sex

male 45%  
female 55%

single 30%  
married 43%  
divorced 10%  
widowed 3%  
together 13%

### Age

18 to 24%  
25 to 30 20%  
31-40 30%  
41-50 16%  
50-60 14%  
60 + 10%

### What is your country of origin?

Mexico 26%  
Ecuador 1%  
Panama 1%  
Honduras 47%  
USA 1%  
Nicaragua 7%  
El Salvador 1%

Brazil 6%  
Venezuela 1%  
Guatemala 4%  
Cuba 1%  
Colombia 1%

### How fluent are you in Spanish?

Fully, spoken and written 85%  
spoken, not written 8%  
written, not spoken to 0%  
I understand some 7%  
I do not understand Spanish 1%

### How fluent are you in English?

Fully, spoken and written 25%  
spoken, not written 11%  
written, not spoken 6%  
I understand some 38%  
10% do not understand English

### How long have you lived in New Orleans?

less than one year 12%  
1 to 6 years 33%  
6 to 10 years 28%  
more than 10 years 27%

How long do you plan to be in New Orleans?

less than one year 5%

1 to 6 years 17%

6 to 10 years 5%

more than 10 years 6%

34% plan to stay

not know 34%

Do you consider New Orleans home?

Yes 79%

No 10%

Do not know 11%

Which of the following reasons best explains why you live in New Orleans?

I was born here 1%

my family lives here 29%

I work here 67%

the culture of the city 16%

involved with the church 22%

access to resources 9%

not know 0%

Other 17%

How important is your country?

very important 84%

somewhat important 13%

a little important 3%

not important 0%

Are you concerned about the future of the Latino community in New Orleans?

If 87%

No 3%

Do not know 10%

What industry do you work in?

Food service 6%

Construction / Maintenance 41%

Hospitality 6%

Education 0%

Government 5%

Domestic work 26%

Other 20%

How many hours work per week?

do not work 18%

1 to 20 9%

21 to 40 58%

41 to 60 15%

more than 60 0%

Do you feel appreciated by your employer?

Yes 65%

No 10%

Do not know 23%

What issues concern you?

education 67%

environment 31%

Social Justice 40%

Pay equity 27%

health services 58%

domestic abuse 18%

immigration 79%

Religion 19%

language access 49%

criminal justice 25%

fair housing 28%

Community Economic Development 28%

substance abuse 18%

sports / recreation 15%

elderly 21%

public safety 36%

employment 55%

transportation 27%

Please list civic activities you have participated in"

register to vote 16%

vote 23%

attend a town meeting 12%

attend a community meeting 28%

contact someone from the municipality 9%

contact the Mayor 7%  
visit the municipality 7%  
visit the public library 51%  
visit the website of the city of Orleans 30%  
apply for municipal permits 19%  
call the police or some other emergency service 33%

If not civically involved, why not?  
lack of time 36%  
all is well as this 10%  
I have no interest 10%  
participation has no value for me 0%  
Do not know 13%  
Other 38%

Do you live in the parish of Orleans?  
Yes 57%  
No 41%  
Do not know 2%

Is there a neighborhood association in your neighborhood?  
Yes 24%  
No 44%  
I do not know 32%

If yes, are you a member?  
Yes 14%  
No 72%  
Do not know 14%

Do you think the neighborhood association represents well your interests?  
Yes 23%  
No 19%  
I do not know 58%

Do you feel welcome in your neighborhood?  
Yes 76%  
No 5%  
I do not know 19%

If this is not the case, why?  
crime 55%  
unsafe buildings 41%  
too much trash and waste 27%  
police / local authorities 27%  
36% immigration status  
45% lack of protection  
27% unfriendly neighbors  
59% unmaintained streets  
45% racism  
14% Other

Do you participate in meetings or groups in your neighborhood?  
Yes 25%  
No 75%  
Do not know 0%

Have you served as a volunteer in your neighborhood?  
Yes 27%  
No 73%  
Do not know 0%

What change would you like to see in your community?  
better / more schools 54%  
better / more health clinics 59%  
less crime 68%  
less abandoned property 36%  
More / better stores 25%  
better roads 43%  
more churches 36%  
more parks / recreational buildings 43%  
access to healthy food 38%  
more cultural centers 43%  
Other 9%

Do you think that the city / municipality is concerned with the Latino community?  
Yes 25%

No 49%

Do not know 26%

Do you think that the city / municipality is honest?

Yes 23%

No 37%

Do not know 40%

Do you think that the municipal authorities are interested in your well being?

Yes 25%

No 42%

Do not know 35%

Do you think the city understands the issues that you feel are important?

Yes 23%

No 44%

Do not know 34%

Where do you get information about city services?

City website 38%

newspaper 38%

TV 63%

radio 44%

friends / family 30%

neighborhood ads 11%

none 5%

Other 2%

What would motivate you to participate in your community?

access to educational tutors 43%

access to counselors 24%

interpreters in municipal meetings 49%

translated documents 51%

better notification of meetings and events 43%

civic participation workshops 35%

more attention to issues I care about 45%

Other 8%

What are the best reasons to participate civically?

to help people 63%

to improve the city 63%

to protect my rights 51%

to meet members of the community 44%

government to ensure transparency of 30%

to represent the needs and wishes of my family 65%

Other 12%

What is your greatest difficulty in New Orleans?

lack of transportation 24%

lack of family support 22%

unemployment 45%

discrimination 39%

family / personal health 27%

problems financial 25%

wage discrimination 33%

domestic abuse 8%

lack of adequate shelter / safe inappropriate education 12%

lack of nutritional food 16%

lack of Child Care 14%

substance abuse 12%

lack of personal security 22%

lack of information / services available in my language 53%

Other 16%

#### Survey Distribution Sites

Consulate General of Honduras  
2 Canal St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130

St. Anna's Episcopal Church  
1313 Esplanade Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70116

Esperanza Charter School  
4407 S. Carrollton Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70119

John Dibert Community School  
4217 Orleans Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70119

Church of Christ  
Catholic Charities ESL class  
4540 Carrollton Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70117

Tulane University  
Catholic Charities ESL class  
1229 Broadway St.  
New Orleans, LA 70118

Consulate General of Mexico  
901 Convention Center Blvd, Suite 119  
New Orleans, LA 70130

St. Anthony of Padua ESL classes  
4601 Cleveland Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70119

ICP International Ministries  
8033 Chef Mentuer Highway  
New Orleans, LA 70126