



Ogden Museum of Southern Art hosted the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum's *A City of Neighborhoods!*

The [Ogden Museum of Southern Art](#), a Smithsonian Affiliate in New Orleans, Louisiana, hosted the [Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum's](#) award-winning and nationally recognized workshop, [A City of Neighborhoods](#), during a week-long program that gives educators the tools to integrate the principles of design and experiential learning into any existing curriculum.

A City of Neighborhoods encourages teachers to see themselves as designers as they engage in the design process through active observation, discussion, and critique. The workshop invites a variety of community leaders—teachers, architects, designers, civic leaders and others—to work together to extend the classroom into the community. Design education is then brought into a neighborhood, in this case, New Orleans' Ninth Ward. Each day educators benefited from lectures, symposia and workshops by local community leaders.

"We've really enjoyed the opportunity to make local partners, particularly the Ogden. It allows local teachers to connect to the museum in a different way as well as exposing teachers from across the country to a new museum," said Caroline Payson, Director of Education, Cooper-Hewitt.

On the first day, workshops focused on the design process. Each teacher was grouped with other educators from a different field, which resulted in a cross-discipline conversation. The group then traveled to the Lower Ninth Ward to identify a design challenge through interviews, sketching, and photography. With found objects, primary-source-documents, maps and other materials they proposed a design solution for the problem identified. The groups gave oral presentations, followed by lively analysis and evaluation. Participants learned ways to promote innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving across the curriculum.



Throughout the week, the teachers learned how to study the process of design and use it to teach from local examples. "The Ogden is pleased to host *City of Neighborhoods* ... we are able to expose local teachers to two examples of excellent architectural design, the nineteenth-century library by Henry Hobson Richardson and the contemporary Stephen Goldring Hall by Errol Barron, and ... establish connections with local teachers and schools that can lead to further collaborations," said Kate Barron, Education Coordinator at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art.

Caroline Payson, Director of Education and Kim Robledo-Diga, Professional Development Manager at Cooper-Hewitt, spearheaded this workshop. To learn more about the professional development programs offered by the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum and to see if it is coming to a city near you, click [here](#). Educational resources related to design education are available [here](#). If you have further questions, you can contact your Smithsonian Affiliations contact or Cooper-Hewitt's Kim Robledo-Diga at digak@si.edu.

