CPEX brings people, culture, and planning together to make great communities happen.

CPEX staff have expertise in community resilience, visionary collaboration, and creative design solutions.

In 2017, we brought that expertise to bear, encouraging Louisiana residents to believe in the power of their vision for the future of our communities.
Since our founding, CPEX has encouraged Louisianians to believe in the power of a shared vision to transform a community. In 2017, we maintained our commitment to applying best practices and innovative problem-solving.

As we turn our sights to the future, CPEX’s horizon is bright. In 2018, we wish our founding President and CEO, Elizabeth “Boo” Thomas, well in her retirement, and usher in Camille Manning-Broome’s leadership. The Board of Directors, Camille, and I commit to honor your trust as CPEX members every day advocating for a well-planned Louisiana.

Thank you for your membership — it is vital to our mission. We hope you’ll continue to support our important work in 2018.

Cordell Haymon // Senior Vice President, SGS Petroleum Service Corp.; CPEX Board Chair
“For twenty years, the Center for Planning Excellence has engaged neighborhood, community, and national leaders to articulate a vision and specific ideas to create a more livable and equitable Baton Rouge.”

JENNIFER EPLETT REILLY, CIVIC LEADER
Advising leadership
Seeking expertise in building community resilience, CPEX was called on by local, state, and Congressional leaders. Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome sought CPEX’s participation on her transition teams for Flood Recovery, North Baton Rouge, and Metropolitan Organization. CPEX staff also advised Governor Edwards’ administration and Congressman Graves’ office on strategies to support resilient long-term recovery.

Showcasing opportunity
With a focus on reducing disparities in North Baton Rouge, CPEX brought the attention of various funders and its own board members to issues and opportunities for future growth and development in the area, and continues to foster collaboration in support of a comprehensive approach for North Baton Rouge.

Convening for Smarter Cities
The 12th annual Louisiana Smart Growth Summit partnered with Baton Rouge’s Smart City committee to feature a day-long track showcasing advanced technology applications to address various urban and rural challenges. Our largest crowd yet heard keynotes focused on building great places to live regardless of zip code and capitalizing on common civic assets to benefit all residents. Sessions presented solutions for flood recovery and coastal adaptation strategies, combating blight, fostering connectivity via accessible transportation systems, and the economic case for smart growth.
Great Neighborhoods and Quality Places

“I had an exceptional experience working with CPEX. Their team took a comprehensive approach to making our downtown more walkable, coordinating the community and vested partners in order to address connectivity. We are very pleased with the results and are beginning to implement some of the plan’s recommendations.”

MAYOR MIKE COOPER, COVINGTON
Crafting safe, connected corridors

Covington engaged CPEX to create a Traffic Calming and Connectivity Plan to improve walkability and safety on Boston Street, Covington’s main thoroughfare. Through community engagement and meetings with city leadership, the team identified a larger challenge of traffic congestion and lack of connectivity downtown. In light of these considerations, the resulting plan suggests a combination of programmatic and design recommendations to address these challenges within the city center.

Demonstrating complete streets for healthy, active lifestyles

CPEX teamed with the LSU AgCenter’s Healthy Communities Coalition to conduct site visits and gather resident input concerning active living in Tensas, St. Helena, and Madison Parishes. Temporary demonstration projects showcasing the infrastructure needed to prioritize safe, healthy walking were held in Talullah, Greensburg, and St. Joseph, Louisiana.

CPEX outlined bike and pedestrian improvements best suited for rural areas, and developed guides to support the coalition in each community in taking steps to make these improvements.
Focus on the Long-Term

Flood Response: Building a More Resilient Future

In the wake of disasters, CPEX supports Louisiana communities and residents in building resilience that reduces risk and vulnerability over the long-term.

“CPEX helped us bring national and local experts to the table to define resilience for Lafayette, and to identify opportunities across agencies to realize our vision for this community.”

MAYOR JOEL ROBIDEAUX, LAFAYETTE

Connecting residents to resources

In partnership with Congressman Garret Graves’ office, CPEX presented the City of Gonzales with the USDA’s Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which is being used for the first time in Louisiana. City staff engaged CPEX to guide homeowners in the flood-prone Silverleaf neighborhood through the process of determining property values and considering buyout options.
Aligning priorities for sustainable infrastructure
With funding from the Greater New Orleans Foundation and in partnership with Mayors Sharon Weston Broome and Joel Robideaux, CPEX conducted “Resilient Infrastructure Workshops” to identify common resilience values for capital improvements in Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Mayors and Councilmembers joined key staff from city/parish transportation and drainage, planning, recreation and parks, school systems, and redevelopment agencies as well as community stakeholders. Participants developed a framework for interagency collaboration to evaluate projects for resilience and the potential for multiple community benefits.

Tools to inform resilient decision making
CPEX published the Rising Above series of policy papers to inform and support community leaders statewide in ongoing flood recovery efforts and long term resilience. Produced with support from the Walton Family Foundation, McKnight Foundation, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the series highlights best planning practices and implementation tools that state and local leaders can use within Louisiana’s geographic, regulatory, political, and cultural context.
“Through our strategic planning partnership with CPEX, especially with the LA SAFE Program, St. John the Baptist Parish is primed to grow smarter and to better adapt to the changing environment. CPEX is helping us realize the VISION for our Parish through meaningful engagement with our residents.”

Natalie Robottom, St. John the Baptist Parish President
STAFF ACCOLADES

Camille Manning-Broome presented at the 3rd Annual European Climate Change Adaptation Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in June. She spoke about “Seizing the Moment: Unplanned Resilience Planning” as part of a panel titled “Making decisions with multiple stakeholders for long-term resilience.” While in Scotland, Camille and Jeannette Dubinin, Director of Coastal Programs at CPEX, also participated in a workshop on “Making Space for Coastal Adaptation” at Glasgow University. Camille and Jeannette lead CPEX’s Coastal and Resilience Program.

Haley Blakeman was sworn in as Vice President of Communications for the American Society of Landscape Architects at the professional association’s annual meeting in Los Angeles in October. A certified planner and landscape architect, Haley is a Vice President at CPEX.

Ryan Benton completed licensure requirements to become a Professional Landscape Architect through the Louisiana Horticulture Commission. Ryan joined CPEX as a Designer in 2014 and is now a Project Manager.
“The STAC Pilot Project has provided a great opportunity to grow in our understanding of the ways we can remove barriers to health and encourage active transportation, and the attention we as a community need to pay to make that possible.”

MICHAEL TIPTON, PRESIDENT, BCBSLA FOUNDATION
Coupling collaborations and data to reduce fatalities

Baton Rouge Sustainable Transportation Action Committee (STAC) (a joint initiative of CPEX and AARP) developed a Pilot Project using data and citizen input to address unsafe pedestrian, bicycle, transit and ADA-compliant infrastructure in the Florida/Foster corridor. Fostering collaboration among the City, MetroCouncil, CATS, DOTD, Planning Commission, and other area stakeholders, STAC produced recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, and a Complete Streets Toolkit to support future efforts. Several recommendations were championed by Mayor Broome at the national “Mayors’ Institute for City Design” as a critical project for reducing the divide between North and South Baton Rouge.

Using data for regional mobility

The Capital Region Industry for Sustainable Infrastructure Solutions (CRISIS) coalition (co-founded by CPEX, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and the Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance) released the Capital Region Mobility Strategy (CRMS). The CRMS aligns the region’s short- and long-term strategies with broader regional transportation goals including safety, resilience, and economic development.

Engaging employers for transit

CPEX partnered with transit advocacy group Ride New Orleans to host two workshops engaging major employers in the development of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)’s 20 year Strategic Mobility Plan. The workshops highlighted the role of the business community as champions for quality transit.
“CPEX offers thoughtful, technical expertise to communities facing unique challenges, from disaster recovery planning to adaptation strategies for coping with coastal land loss. We invest in CPEX because they bring guidance and best practices to local and state leaders as well as the nonprofit and private sectors.”

ANDY KOPPLIN, PRESIDENT AND CEO
GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION
Guiding resident-led adaptation

CPEX is leading the drafting of adaptation strategies for 6 parishes through the Louisiana Strategic Adaptation for Future Environments (LA SAFE) program of the LA Office of Community Development and Foundation For Louisiana. As lead consultant for Terrebonne and St. John the Baptist Parishes, CPEX engaged more than 500 residents. The resulting strategies, to be released in 2018, outline community-driven strategies, positioning each parish to receive funding for multiple benefit projects, reduce exposure to flood risk, and improve quality of life.

Harnessing international expertise for Louisiana’s coast

CPEX’s Rising Above Symposium gathered residents and leaders from 3 communities facing coastal land loss adaptation challenges to envision solutions for their futures. More than 50 participants including stakeholders from Buras, Chauvin, and Thibodaux, international experts and state policy makers workshopped evidence-based “horizon planning.” The Symposium was developed and led by CPEX with support from Greater New Orleans Foundation, Foundation for Louisiana and the Kresge and McKnight Foundations. The Symposium’s proceedings manual will provide guidance to the three communities as they implement these strategies.
Planning Pays Off

Implementation Updates

Planning focuses on the long game. The following initiatives are the result of planning efforts CPEX has led in recent years.

“I bring the CPEX [Jean Lafitte Flood Preparedness] Toolkit with me everywhere. It makes it so easy for people to see how they can protect their property from flooding. It helps us with reducing our flood insurance premiums and preserves our culture and way of life here in Lafitte.”

**YVETTE CRAIN, FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR, JEAN LAFITTE**

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Building a sustainable future

In 2013, CPEX worked with Jean Lafitte to develop a Town Resilience Plan. “Jean Lafitte Tomorrow” recommended focusing development in low-risk areas while also enhancing the town center. In 2017, the community cut the ribbon on a new auditorium that will create a more walkable town center while encouraging private sector development and improving the quality of life for residents. CPEX also worked with Jean Lafitte to develop a Flood Emergency Preparedness Plan and Flood Preparedness Toolkit.
Penning policies for progress

Gonzales engaged CPEX to develop a master plan for growth in 2015 and again to advise on zoning code updates in 2016. The plan recommended creating new zoning categories to allow smarter development within the city. In 2017, Gonzales created a "main street district" to encourage and facilitate safe pedestrian access and connectivity along Burnside Drive. The city began the master planning process for a new rail station. The city also approved employment district zoning, allowing for research and development uses, and light manufacturing and retail uses.

Fostering Government Street Placemaking

With support from Baton Rouge and other partners, CPEX facilitated a "Better Block" demonstration on Government Street in 2013, highlighting the potential for enhanced safety for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians while providing improved access to businesses and institutions.

CPEX remained engaged with city, state, and community stakeholders to advance the residents’ wishes to make those demonstrated changes permanent. Since Better Block, area home values have risen dramatically and 40 new businesses have popped up along Government Street. Soon, families will be able to access these businesses safely, whether in their cars or on foot.
VISION MEMBERS

LEVEL TWO: $25,000+

Cordell and Ava Haymon
Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation

LEVEL ONE: $10,000+

Roberta A. Guillory
The John A. Thomas and Elizabeth “Boo” Thomas Family Fund
Our strong financial position is the result of a diversified business model that includes mission-driven consulting revenue, restricted program grant funding, event sponsorships and membership support.

In 2017, we added 22 new members, for a total of 174.

Total Revenue - $1,622,117
* 2017 Income & Expenses are unaudited
LEADERSHIP

LEVEL TWO: $5,000+

BASF
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana
Robert Burgess, St. Elizabeth Hospital
Charles W. Lamar III, Charles Lamar Family Foundation
Lipsey’s, LLC
Jennifer Eplett and Sean E. Reilly
SGS Petroleum Service Corporation
Stantec Consulting
John G. Turner and Jerry G. Fischer

MEMBERS

LEVEL ONE: $2,500+

AARP Louisiana
Anonymous
Business First Bank
Capital Area Finance Authority
Douglass Stewart Coleman
Cathy Coates and Brian Hales
Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc.
ExxonMobil Baton Rouge
Fishman Haygood, LLP
Donna D. Fraiche, Baker Donelson
Robert Schneckenburger, Hancock Whitney Bank
Jones Walker, LLP
Manship Media - Richard F. Manship, Douglas L. Manship Jr., David C. Manship, Dina Manship Planche
John and Virginia Noland
Our Lady of the Lake Foundation
Republic Finance, LLC
Beth and James Ruiz
Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann
Stonehenge Capital
Taylor Porter
WHLC Architecture
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

LEVEL TWO: $2,500

St. John the Baptist Parish

LEVEL ONE: $1,000

City of Alexandria
City of Gonzales
City of Thibodaux
Lafayette Consolidated Government
Town of Jena
West Baton Rouge Parish Council
FOUNDATION MEMBERS

LEVEL THREE: $1,000 +

American Institute of Architects - Louisiana Chapter
Mary Kay and Terrell Brown
Beverly and Dudley Coates
Cox Communications
Linda and John Davies
in honor of Cordell Haymon
Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance, Inc.
Alice and Bob Greer
Home Bank
Kean Miller LLP
John and Susan Kelliher
Kidder & Schultz Certified Public Accountants
Alden and Margaret Laborde Foundation

Patrick J. Mascarella
McMains Family Fund
Roger and Marcia Moser
Moyse Family Foundation
Jay and Elizabeth Noland
Onsite Design + Development
Phelps Dunbar LLP
Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers
Red River Bank
River View Development
Alma Lee, H.N. and Cary Saurage Fund
Hank and Laurie Saurage
Craig and Lynne Smith
Stephen and Martha Strohschein
Anne and Andy Thomas
Joanna Wurtele

LEVEL TWO: $500+

AECOM
Bardwell Homes
Danielle and Tim Basilica
Baton Rouge Growth Coalition
BREC Foundation
Crompion International
Helena R. Cunningham, National Housing Consultant Services
J. Daniels, Partners Southeast
Anne and Peter Davis
John and Marty Engquist
Brian and Barbara Haymon
Fran and Leroy Harvey
Hearin Properties
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Heymsfield
Jessica and Duncan Kemp
Kevin and Debbie Knobloch
Latter & Blum Property Management
Polly and Conville Lemoine
LUBA Casualty Insurance Company
Bettsie Baker Miller
Neil Erwin Law, LLC
Dyke Nelson, DNA Workshop
Provident Resources Group Inc.
Ritter Maher Architects
Charles E. Schwing
Mike Sullivan, AIA - Looney Ricks Kiss/ LRK L.L.C.
Wampold Companies
FOUNDATION MEMBERS

LEVEL ONE: $250+

Copper and Frank Alvarez
Brian Andrews, E. J. Ourso College of Business at LSU
Glenn and Jennifer Angelle, Angelle Architects
Jefferson Angers
Anonymous
Arnold & Associates Interiors Inc
Ascension Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Bailey
George Bayhi
George and Terri Bell
Lance Bennett
Ken Best
Nancy B. Bogan
Aza and Tim Bowlin
Jim and Janie Brandt
John and Beth Brantley
Stephen C. Braud / Ballay, Braud & Colon, PLC
Camille Manning-Broome and Devin Broome
Carole Anne Brown
Burns & Co. Inc./Realtors
Cameron Parish Police Jury
Capital Heights Neighborhood Association
Pat and Annah Cave
Renee Chatelain, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge

Linda and Kelwin Clark
Charles and Peggy Coates
Janet Tharp and Clif Coffey
Commerce Title & Abstract Co.
Concordia - Architecture | Planning | Community Engagement
Ann Connelly Fine Art
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LA 1 Coalition
La Capitol Federal Credit Union
Julie and Felix Lee
Robert and Judith Levy
Karen and Cornelius Lewis
Chris and Canette Liddy
Jeannine and Tim Lomax
Louisiana Good Roads & Transportation Assn. - Kenneth Perret
Louisiana Purchase Real Estate Services, LLC
Anne and Paul Marks, Jr.
Frank and Kathy McArthur
Andrea and Wally McMakin
Dr. Kenya LeNoir Messer
Grey Mullins
Stephen and Heather Moret
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One Acadiana
Pat O’Neil-Moergeli
Percy, Lanoux & Mumphrey
Power Coalition
Hugh W. Raetzsch, Jr.
Reed Hilderbrand LLC
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Linda and John Spain
Luci Sposito
Deborah Sternberg
Success Labs
John and Debra Thomas
Robert R. Twilley
Stafford Wood
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Ryan Benton  | Project Manager
Haley Blakeman, AICP, PLA  | Director of Implementation
Jennifer Stenhouse David, AICP  | Director of Development
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Jeannette Dubinin  | Project Manager
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Executive Vice President, Baton Rouge Area Foundation
President/CEO, CPEX
Executive Director, SeaGrant Louisiana
“Designing for walking scale, as opposed to car scale, is a challenge in Baton Rouge, but one that has the power to transform the city into a more vibrant and accessible one. This change in scale is successful through the support of the community and the careful planning work CPEX provides.”

Joshua L. Hoffpauir, Owner, Hoffpauir Studio