WE SEE THE FUTURE DIFFERENTLY
CPEX brings people, culture, and planning together to make great communities happen.

2016 was a challenging year for many Louisianians. CPEX’s expertise and commitment to community-driven planning was called upon to help chart a path forward.

In 2016, CPEX worked to empower Louisianians to look at their community through fresh eyes.

“For ten years, CPEX has challenged and inspired Louisianians to envision the potential in their communities.

As a Member, you see the possibilities unlocked by a well-planned future. Thank you for investing in our mission.

Your membership is vital to our success. We hope you’ll continue to share our vision and renew your gift in 2017.”

Cordell Haymon // Senior Vice President, SGS Petroleum Service Corp.; CPEX Board Chair
“We choose to work with CPEX because their team of professionals offers expertise tailored to meet our needs and help us prosper.”

Mayor Barney Arceneaux // City of Gonzales
Great Neighborhoods and Quality Places

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE:
Since our founding in 2006, CPEX has coordinated 43 planning efforts in 18 communities across the state. CPEX supports community planning and implementation efforts by providing expertise and technical assistance.

Bringing Plans to Life
CPEX worked with the rapidly-growing town of Gonzales to implement the comprehensive plan we developed with them in 2015. The plan incorporated elements of CPEX’s Louisiana Land Use Toolkit, resulting in flexible codes and regulations tailored to the community’s specific needs and vision.

Creating High-Value Footprints
CPEX led St. James Episcopal church and school in developing a campus plan that reflects an integrated community environment and maximizes the long-term return on investment of their unique downtown location over the next 20 years.

Demonstrating Walkability
CPEX worked with the City of Baton Rouge to engage Perkins Overpass merchants and residents in a temporary transformation, turning the popular retail and dining hub into a pedestrian and bike-friendly destination. The Better Block BR: Perkins Overpass demonstration attracted hundreds of people eager for more mobility options. Their feedback will inform future improvements to increase safety for all users and stimulate economic growth.
“Bike/walkability is THE most important thing Baton Rouge could do. It would spread and make everything about Baton Rouge better.”

Doug Moore, Bike Baton Rouge // Better Block BR: Perkins Overpass

Photo credit: Downtown Development District
Advancing Passenger Rail
CPEX supported the multi-state Southern Rail Commission in planning and promoting a two-day inspection train tour that demonstrated strong public support for restoration of passenger train service along the Gulf Coast. More than 300 local, state and Congressional leaders (including Federal Railroad Administration Administrator Sarah Feinberg and LA DOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson) joined the tour, and thousands of supporters greeted the train at each of the 14 stops between New Orleans and Jacksonville, FL.

Advocating for Regional Priorities
CPEX provided guidance and staffing to Capital Region Industry for Sustainable Infrastructure Solutions (CRISIS), a coalition aimed at identifying solutions to the region’s transportation crisis and advocating for data-driven project prioritization and funding. In its 2nd year, the group also conducted a regional project analysis to identify priorities and worked closely with Governor Edwards’ Transportation Task Force to propose workable solutions. Two of CRISIS’s priority projects were approved for funding in 2016.

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE:
Since 2006, CPEX’s advocacy has advanced multi-modal policy for Louisiana, and today, the LA DOTD and three communities have adopted Complete Streets policies, encouraging consideration of cyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and travelers of all abilities in street design.
“CPEX is an invaluable asset for Louisiana communities as we wrestle with the spatial implications of social inequality and sustainable land use development. With CPEX leading the way, we are poised to become a model for how planning can improve the health and vitality of metropolitan regions.”

Christopher J. Tyson // Newman Trowbridge Distinguished Associate Professor of Law, LSU Law Center
Preparing for the Future
Following unprecedented flooding in August, CPEX jumped into action, coordinating with FEMA and advising state and local leadership on resilient recovery. CPEX is collaborating with five of our hardest-hit communities to incorporate resilience strategies into their implementation and recovery plans, helping them to prepare for projected increases in heavy rain events.

Creating Resources for Resilience
CPEX worked with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority as they prepared the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, which includes flood risk mitigation recommendations from CPEX’s View from the Coast report released in 2015.

Informing Community Risk Reduction
Only 25% of Louisiana parishes and 8% of municipalities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System (CRS). To highlight the benefits and opportunities to better manage land use and development through participation in the program, CPEX published an issue brief that demystifies the CRS process and explains how participation can benefit communities and individuals alike.

Resilient Communities

Seeing the Big Picture:
For the past ten years, CPEX has led efforts to build resilience focused on reducing flood risk as we face sea level rise, land subsidence, and heavy rain events. CPEX has published community resources and worked with four municipalities and four parishes to address coastal flood risk reduction through planning and implementation.
Designing Safer Communities

The summer of 2016 brought Baton Rouge’s geographic and racial divides into stark contrast. With support from the Walmart Foundation, CPEX partnered with the City and Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Initiative to host an intensive two-day “Community Safety by Design” training, engaging stakeholders from the Baton Rouge Hope Zone in creating safe spaces that reduce crime by enhancing visibility and promoting community interaction.

Connecting Stakeholders with Experts

The Louisiana chapter of the American Planning Association selected CPEX’s Louisiana Smart Growth Summit for its 2016 Excellence Award for Education & Advocacy. After 54 Louisiana parishes went underwater, the 2016 Summit featured relevant topics with a keynote address by Governor John Bel Edwards and a plenary by Harriet Tregoning, head of long-term disaster recovery planning for HUD.

Empowering Elected Officials with Smart Growth Strategies

In a year noted for devastating flooding and heartbreaking violence in Baton Rouge, CPEX released a mayoral platform of policy and program objectives to engage candidates in conversations about smart growth, planning best practices, community cohesion and ongoing implementation of the FUTUREBR plan. Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome referred to almost every point in CPEX’s platform during her inaugural remarks.

Civic Engagement and Education

SEENING THE BIG PICTURE:

For more than a decade, CPEX has led the charge for an engaged public and educated leadership equipped with good information and effective policies to plan for a better future.
Initiated a 5-year strategic planning process, to keep CPEX at the forefront of the statewide planning and remain nimble to respond as our landscape changes – to evolve in service of our mission to empower Louisiana communities to be great.

“I am passionate about CPEX’s work because I have witnessed both overwhelming successes achieved through careful planning and smart growth, as well as scenes of blight and abandonment as a result of no planning or poor planning. CPEX sheds a light on the benefits that thoughtful, coordinated planning brings to our region.”

John Paul Funes // President/CEO, Our Lady of the Lake Foundation; CPEX Board Member
“CPEX will play a vital role in the Mayor’s goal of spurring development and redevelopment efforts across East Baton Rouge Parish by engaging diverse citizens and organizations in planning for our future.”

Donna Fraiche // Shareholder, Past Nominating Chair, Baker Donelson; Co-Chair Mayor President Sharon Weston Broome Transition Team; CPEX Board Member
VISION MEMBERS

LEVEL TWO: $25,000+
Lane Grigsby
Cordell and Ava Haymon
Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation

LEVEL ONE: $10,000+
Roberta A. Guillory
L’Auberge Casino and Hotel Baton Rouge
Dee Dee Reilly

LEVEL TWO: $5,000+
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana
Robert Burgess, St. Elizabeth Hospital
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Lipsey’s, LLC
Jennifer Eplett and Sean E. Reilly
SGS Petroleum Service Corporation
Stantec Consulting
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R.W. Day and Associates
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Alice and Bob Greer
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Kracke Consulting
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Nancy Bogan
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Jim and Janie Brandt
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Cameron Parish Police Jury
John K. Carpenter and John Sylves
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Charlotte Johnson
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L. Paul Krueger
John and Debra Thomas
Susan Turner and Scott Pudiin
Robert Tyler, Sva Grant
Andrew and Danielle Vignes

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Nancy Bogan
Dr. and Mrs. Timothy C. Bowlin
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BREC Foundation
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Hansell and Ben Schulz
Linda and John Span
Alexandria Trust, Urban Focus
Success Labs
John and Debra Thomas
Susan Turner and Scott Pudiin
Robert Tyler, Sva Grant
Andrew and Danielle Vignes

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26
CPEX STAFF

Ryan Benton     Project Manager
Haley Blakeman, AICP, PLA   Director of Implementation
Jennifer Stenhouse David, AICP   Director of Development
Rachel DiResto, AICP   Project Manager
Jeannette Dubinin   Executive Assistant
Heather Finke
Alicia Hawkes
Jessica McKelvie Kemp, PhD  Vice President, Policy + Advocacy
Lauren Michaud Knotts
Camille Manning-Broome   Senior Vice President
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Elizabeth "Boo" Thomas, FASLA

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THE FUTURE IN FOCUS