



Greetings,

I am a 2021 graduating senior at Edna Karr High School, and I am asking you to join the movement alongside young people like myself and commit to implementing the New Orleans Youth Master Plan solutions.

Last year, New Orleanians of all ages gathered to co-create the first phase of a [Youth Master Plan](#)—a comprehensive roadmap pointing towards a future with more just and equitable outcomes for my peers. Participants were guided by [a new vision for New Orleans crafted by us](#), the youth of this city, which showcases our creativity, resiliency, and wisdom.

Before I joined the Youth Master Plan development process as a [Youth Advisory Board member](#), I never thought there was something a person my age could do to improve our city. But I quickly learned that *we are part of the solution, not the problem, and there is no future without us*. Our [refusal to accept the status quo](#) by letting harmful stereotypes determine our future was key to creating our city's first-ever Youth Master Plan.

Youth across our city and all over the world are already working to define ourselves. We are envisioning and creating our own futures. What could really set this moment in New Orleans apart would be the commitment from people of all ages to work alongside young people to take action.

Will you join young people like myself, along with adult partners, as we build a new future with the Youth Master Plan?

We understand that there are many already working separately to combat the issues we face every day here in New Orleans. We are calling on people of all ages, from all neighborhoods, and across all sectors, to work better together and turn Youth Master Plan solutions into action.

New Orleanians my age will inherit the challenges of today. It is essential that the community listens to and supports young people like myself from a place of partnership, respect, and power-sharing while lifting up youth leadership. We are ultimately working towards centering youth success, birth to 24 and beyond.

Please join us as we work to implement our New Orleans Youth Master Plan. [Click here to express your commitment.](#)

Thank you,
Lauren (Cloud) Benn, Youth Advisory Board Member of CYPB

