

VOLUNTEERISM & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT:

# Carol McMichael Reese, Ph.D.

Tulane University School of Architecture  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Carol McMichael Reese (Ph. D., University of Texas at Austin, 1992) is an art historian who has taught since 1999 in the School of Architecture at Tulane University, where she is the Mary Louise Mossy Christovich Professor. At Tulane she offers courses on art, architectural, and urban history, focusing particularly on the Americas. Before coming to Tulane, she taught at the University of California in San Diego, UCLA, the Southern California Institute of Architecture, and the University of Maryland in College Park. Reese is a co-author of "Object, Image, Inquiry," a study of the working methods of art historians published by the Getty Information Institute; the author of "Paul Cret at Texas," an award-winning study of university planning and architectural representation in the early twentieth century, and "The Architect's Sketchbook," a study of imaging techniques in contemporary architectural practice. Her current research includes studies of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Latin American architecture and urbanism, particularly in Argentina, Mexico, and Panama.

One focus of Reese's civic engagement has been her involvement with Tulane's Center for Public Service. Since 2003, she has developed required Service Learning components for five of her regularly offered courses and has placed approximately 150 Tulane students with community organizations in New Orleans and directed their endeavors in several independent research projects. Following Tulane's post-Katrina reorganization in Fall 2006, she was appointed by the provost to serve on the Executive Committee of the newly formed Center for Public Service, which implements the university's undergraduate Service Learning requirement.



She continues to serve on the Center's Executive Committee. The Center's work visibly represents the university's fundamental aspiration post-Katrina to ensure that public service is a core pedagogical value of the institution. Today, 2,835 Tulane students are engaged in 219 Service Learning courses at home and abroad with 300 community partners.

Reese has also been active in promoting the sustainable revitalization of New Orleans. She has raised \$50,000 to support a community outreach coordinator at Longue Vue House & Gardens, whose primary task has been to engage in the resuscitation of the Pontchartrain Park and Gentilly Woods neighborhoods. She is the co-organizer, with Michael Sorkin and Anthony Fontenot, of Project New Orleans, which was designed to gather, analyze, disseminate, and evaluate the very large number of official, semi-official, community, and individual responses to the physical rebuilding of the city following Katrina. In Fall 2006, Project New Orleans presented an exhibition of the work of twenty-three U. S. schools of architecture dedicated to the city's reconstruction at New Orleans' African-American Museum. Project New Orleans continues as a website and will host an international conference at Tulane to analyze New Orleans' rebuilding process on October 9th and 10th, 2009, titled "New Orleans under Reconstruction, the Crisis of Planning."