

## EngageNOLA Action Team - Lunch Series

### The Training Ground Lunch Series\*

*\*title tentative*

Overview: The Training Ground Lunches are designed to bring together the best and the brightest of the next generation of leaders in the private, nonprofit, government, entertainment and activist communities. Young professionals from across the City will gather for lunch once a month (estimated time 1<sup>1/2</sup> hour) for nonstop dialogue, agenda-setting and networking.

Objectives: The objective of The Training Ground Lunches will be to: (1) facilitate discussion where participants will share strategies for civic engagement among young professionals in advance of the upcoming Mayor and City Council elections; (2) arm participants with the knowledge and tools they need to strengthen communities through policy advocacy; and (3) provide networking activities to harness power through unity.

#### Calendar of Events:

*\* Locations are tentative*

#### ***Training Ground Lunch Session #1***

Date: October 2009

Topic: *"The Impact of 2010 Elections on Economic Development"* -- A discussion on the impact the 2010 elections will have on economic development in the City of New Orleans

Location: Urban League Headquarters\*

#### ***Training Ground Lunch Session #2***

Date: November 2009

Topic: *"A True Needs Assessment"* -- A discussion of the major/critical needs of the City of New Orleans that must be addressed by the upcoming administration

Location: Urban League Headquarters\*

#### ***Training Ground Lunch Session #3***

Date: December 2009

Topic: Topic: *"There Is No Substitute for Experience -- Part 1"* -- A discussion on how the Mayoral candidates' experience matches up with the needs of New Orleans.

Location: Urban League Headquarters\*

#### ***Training Ground Lunch Session #4***

Date: January 2009

Topic: *"There Is No Substitute for Experience -- Part 2"* -- A discussion on how the City Council candidates' experience matches up with the needs of New Orleans.

Location: Urban League Headquarters\*

## Target Constituency:

- Young Professionals between the ages of 21 – 40;
- Target Number: 50 per lunch
- Racial Diversity in line with Orleans Parish figures (personal guesstimate):  
African-American – 40%, Asian-American 10%, Caucasian – 35%, Latin American – 10%, Other Groups – 5%

## Timeline

8/20 - Task Force Meeting to finalize plan  
8/27 - Finalize lunch series topics  
9/3 - Gather suggestions for panelist  
9/17 - Finalize panelist for October lunch  
9/18 - E-blast to promote lunch distributed  
10/15 - Finalize panelist for November lunch  
10/16 - E-blast to promote lunch distributed  
11/12 - Finalize panelist for December lunch  
11/13 - E-blast to promote lunch distributed  
12/9-12/11 – Qualifying for Municipal Races  
12/10 - Finalize panelist for January lunch  
12/11 - E-blast to promote lunch distributed

## Capacity:

Fred Neal Jr.  
Jaime Wright  
Jonah Evans  
Jade Russell  
Dwight Norton  
Jessica White  
**[OTHERS?]**

## Partnerships/Volunteers:

Training Ground Lunches are intended to be collaborative events hosted and sponsored by EngageNOLA and its supporting organizations, including the Urban League of Greater New Orleans Young Professionals, NOLA YURP, Social Entrepreneurs of New Orleans, Young Leadership Council, Puentes/Latin NOLA, 504ward, National Black MBA Association and others.

Five (5) volunteers are needed for each lunch session. Such volunteers will address marketing/RSVP, panelist bookings, programs, lunch donations and setup/logistics. We will coordinate with the Communications, Development and Outreach Committees for event promotion assistance, funding assistance and target audience suggestions, respectively.