

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain and/or a Wetland**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals,

This is to give notice that **HUD under 24 CFR Part 58** has determined that the following proposed action under **Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program (RCIP) Project Number 55LDRC6501** is located in the **Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain**, and **Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government (TPCG)** will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the **floodplain** and the potential impacts on the **floodplain** from the proposed action, as required by **Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690**, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is **7928 Main Street in Houma, Terrebonne Parish**. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using a **0.2 percent flood approach**. The proposed activity involves the acquisition and renovation of an existing **±5,865 square foot unoccupied building for the re-establishment of a permanent site for the Finding Our Roots: African American Museum**. The rehabilitation will include reinforced concrete and durable materials, built to resist high wind loads, and designed for resilience. Additional improvements include removing outdated electrical wiring and plumbing, removing or rebuilding interior walls to facilitate an intentional flow for patron experience, and construction of display features for artifacts that must be protected from physical touch. The Finding Our Roots Museum will offer indoor exhibition space for artifacts and educational spaces that honor the contributions of African American educators and inventors. The project will not expand the building footprint and is within **Zone X, 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard in a Coastal Zone**.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in **floodplain** and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the **floodplain**, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the **floodplain**. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about **floodplain** can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in **floodplain** it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by **TPCG** at the following address on or before **April 3, 2026**:
terrebonneenvironmental@westwoodps.com. A full description of the project may be reviewed below.

Detailed Scope of Work

Instructions:

- All required fields are marked with an *.
- Given you have the proper permissions, use the **SAVE** button to save information and calculate data on each page.
- Save at least every 30 minutes to avoid losing data.

Please fill in the following sections or attach a detailed scope document.

Provide a detailed description of the scope of work (what you are planning to do). The detailed scope of work must describe existing conditions, the change being implemented, as well as the expected outcome. Recommended elements include but are not limited to:

- **Project Context** - Is this part of a larger plan/project? Is it separate, in the sense that it doesn't rely on those other projects and does not trigger CDBG requirements on the other parts of the plan/project?
- **Target Beneficiaries/Area** - Who are the beneficiaries? What are the benefits to Low- and Moderate- Income families? How does the project improve those members of protected classes, vulnerable populations, and underserved communities from the risks identified? Describe how this project addresses citizen input received during the citizen participation process.
- **Description of Construction/Rehabilitation Involved** - How intrusive is the proposed construction? Is there earthwork involved? Internal and/or external construction? For rehabilitation, is the expansion of the footprint greater by 20%? (Purpose is to determine the level of environmental review required.)
- **Mitigation Plan** - Describe how the design of the project considers and/or proposes a mitigation plan to minimize damage in the event of future disasters.

The Finding Our Roots African American Museum and non-profit is the only institution of its kind in Terrebonne Parish. The re-establishment of a permanent site for the Museum is a stand-alone project but plays a key role in supporting other TPCG RCIP projects with similar intentions to promote community and economic revitalization in downtown Houma. It will complement other TPCG RCIP projects, including the STEAM Center and the Complete Streets project aimed at improvements to pedestrian access routes, safety and streets infrastructure.

Museums are integral to serve communities in maintaining accurate historical records, stimulating community involvement, and educating community members of all ages. Historical records, artifacts, and stories can be lost in areas that experience frequent storms. The Exhibits to be housed at the Museum aim to engage patrons of all ages, providing more details than can be included in a traditional curriculum. The Museum will support genealogy research, cultural celebrations and events.

Terrebonne Parish has prioritized the new permanent location of the Finding Our Roots Museum to support the revitalization of downtown Houma as well as providing a key educational and community resource that will serve the nearby area urban households, comprised of a high density of multifamily affordable units and small businesses. The primary beneficiaries are those households in walking distance to the downtown, in an area that meets the Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) threshold of over 51% based on ACS data.

Citizen input for the RCIP Recovery Proposal demonstrated support for improvements to quality of life for residents, more education opportunities, and economic growth. Citizens were engaged through public meetings, surveys, social media, and email. Residents spoke to their desire for improving quality of life in Houma and "reminding people of their reason to stay." Citizen participation included support for programming to assist children with their educational development. One shared a desire for "a place that everyone knows is there, and that is the place to go." Survey results showed recreational improvement funding with 54% of voters naming it as a high priority.

The scope of the project includes the acquisition and rehabilitation by TPCG of an existing commercial building to serve the needs of the permanent Finding our Roots Museum. The rehabilitation will include reinforced concrete and durable materials, built to resist high wind loads, and designed for resilience. Additional improvements include removing outdated electrical wiring and plumbing, removing or rebuilding interior walls to facilitate an intentional flow for patron experience, and construction of display features for artifacts that must be protected from physical touch. Renovations will also include adjusting existing rooms to accommodate classrooms, exhibit space, offices, and a research room equipped so that patrons may leverage electronic resources to discover information about their own ancestry, including Native American as well. Exhibits and classrooms will be equipped with audio/visual equipment to facilitate an interactive museum experience for patrons. The Museum also aims to incorporate the use of technology to captivate the attention and enjoyment of young visitors.

A gift shop will feature locally produced goods and art. The gift shop will feature minority-owned small businesses and books published by local African American authors. This will generate economic development for the local business owners.

Mitigation efforts include ensuring that all new installations meet high building quality and resiliency standards and mitigate against any future damage from storm or hurricane events. This current building has demonstrated strength in the face of recent storms and will be made stronger with the improvement work proposed in this project. The building footprint will not be expanded.

*

Upload Description

Describe plans to incorporate resilient building codes into the project.

- Is there a tie to the State plans?
- Estimate the projected risk from natural hazards that can be influenced by climate change.
- Estimate the projected risk using building materials.
- Assess the benefit measures through verifiable data.

The Museum is directly connected to the objectives in Chapter 6: Essential Community Design in the "Terrebonne Parish Comprehensive Master Plan" and will be one of the "various interpretive programs and features throughout...such as the creation of community-based programs..." recommended in the Plan.

The Terrebonne Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan provides the guidelines of building codes that ensure future development does not increase hazard losses and create resiliency in all facilities that support entities, utilities, support services, equipment, and personnel. Action 1.4.1 "Identify vulnerable historic and cultural resources, and opportunities to protect and/or relocate historic assets threatened by sea level rise" is one of the steps the Terrebonne Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines applicable to this project.

The projected risks from natural hazards such as wind damage, flooding and physical and economic damages due to power interruptions or loss has increased by nearly double with the impacts of climate change contributing to more frequent and severe storms in the Gulf that impact vulnerable homes and businesses in Terrebonne Parish. The 2020 hurricane season saw the most landfalling tropical cyclones in a single season with 5 total storms. In terms of wind speed, Hurricane Ida was among the highest in history. These improvements will be designed to improve resilience against the damaging effects of natural disasters, and the impact of climate change affecting storm severity and frequency.

Another relevant action is 4.1.6: Flood proof public buildings vulnerable to flood damage that cannot be relocated. The benefit measures to be assessed through verifiable data include the number of public facilities improved and the number of days to re-open after declared storms.

Describe acquisition involved, if applicable.

- Describe the type of acquisition i.e. demolition, disposition and/or easement.
- Does the acquisition relate to a mitigation activity?
- Is this a purchase or long-term lease?
- Who is the current owner/tenant?
- What is the size of property?
- Are there any improvements?

A preferred commercial building is identified, and preliminary discussion with the private owner indicates a willingness to sell. Once the RCIP application is approved, TPCG will engage an appraiser and begin the ERR process to determine if the building is suitable to purchase. The building will be acquired by TPCG at fair market value as determined by the appraisal. The building will then undergo improvements and renovations suitable to Museum operations. The full building is estimated at 22,000 square feet.

Are agreements in place for receivership of the properties? Yes No

Describe long-term plans for purchased properties. Include information regarding what entity will own and maintain the purchased properties, the inspection process, and if there is clause for wear and tear.

TPCG will retain ownership of the property and enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Finding our Roots non-profit Board of Directors that will detail the terms of operations.

Provide a brief description of how you plan to carry out the long-term operations and maintenance of the project.

The subrecipient agreement between TPCG and The Finding our Roots Board of Directors will dictate the terms of long-term operation and maintenance.

Applicant:

Project Name:

Project #:

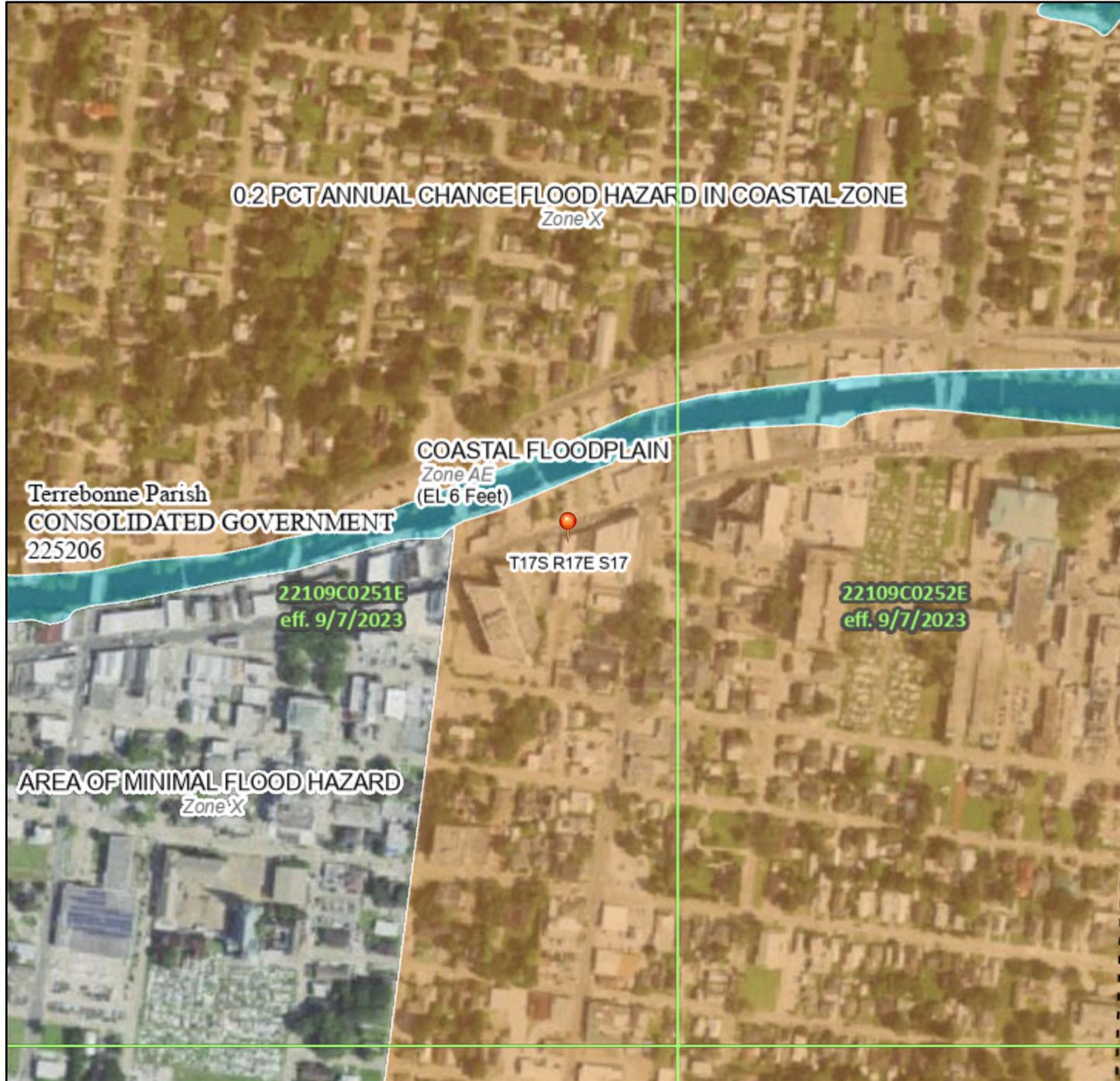
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government TER Finding our Roots Museum

RCIP-LDI-Terrebonne Parish-TER
Finding our R-0012

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMMette



90°43'30"W 29°36'8"N



1:6,000

90°42'52"W 29°35'36"N

Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map 2023

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) <i>Zone A, V, A99</i>
		With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i>
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile <i>Zone X</i>
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. <i>Zone X</i>
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee <i>Zone D</i>
OTHER AREAS		NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
		Effective LOMRs
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard <i>Zone D</i>
		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES		20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance
		17.5 Water Surface Elevation
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
MAP PANELS		Coastal Transect Baseline
		Profile Baseline
		Hydrographic Feature
		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped
		The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.



This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on **3/17/2026 at 3:36 PM** and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.