



ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTMAKERS ASSOCIATION

## **DRAFT VISION STATEMENT**

### **2013 Fall Retreat**

Against the stunning backdrop of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, the 2013 EGA retreat will incorporate EGA's priority themes of constituency building and global engagement. With strong influences from Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean, New Orleans is arguably the most "global" city in the United States. And with the diverse interests of tourism, fishing, shipping, and energy at play throughout the Gulf Coast, environmental progress hinges on the ability to engage a wide range of constituencies.

The 2013 Program Committee aims to build upon what we learned at Mohonk last year, continuing to adapt our strategies to embrace the changing demographics of the United States and the entire world. From climate change to clean water, from food and agriculture to community health, we need solutions that incorporate the voices of people most affected by environmental issues. As states in the Northeast continue to recover from Hurricane Sandy, we'll gather in New Orleans for a timely discussion on building resilience in the face of our changing climate.

Louisiana's Gulf Coast region underscores the connections between the health of the environment, the economy, and human communities. Many residents are still dealing with the devastation following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the disastrous Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, and ongoing impacts from "cancer alley," an 85-mile stretch of the Mississippi River loaded with petrochemical waste from industrial polluters. These burdens not only damaged critical ecosystems, they disproportionately affected poor people and communities of color. This fall, we will have the opportunity to learn more about these challenges which are mirrored throughout the world, while also gaining insights from efforts to create inclusive, collaborative solutions.

The 2013 retreat will provide an opportunity to connect with colleagues in a unique place that has many lessons to share and opportunities to inspire. Attendees will:

1. Engage with peer funders from across the U.S. and abroad;
2. Hear local, national, and international voices on the main stage and in concurrent sessions;
3. Discuss political developments over the course of the past year that have an effect on our work;
4. Strengthen relationships while enjoying the region's legendary food, music, arts, and culture!