

Rachel's Network 25th Anniversary Meeting
March 2025, New Orleans, LA

MONDAY, March 24 – Board of Directors and Catalyst Community

11am–12pm **Board of Directors Brunch & Coffee**
Evangeline Courtyard

12–3pm **Board of Directors Meeting**
Boiler Room

2:30–4:30pm **Catalyst Community Gathering**
Evangeline Hall

REGISTRANT AGENDA

Member and Catalyst Community Joint Programming

Member Programming

Catalyst Community Programming

MONDAY, March 24

6–8:30pm **Rachel's Network Member and Catalyst Community Reception and Welcome Dinner**
Chapel Club and North Veranda

TUESDAY, March 25 – Unless otherwise noted, all activities take place in Evangeline Hall or Courtyard

8–9am **Breakfast**

9–9:30am **Grounding in Place**
Learn about the history of Hotel Saint Vincent, the Lower Garden District, and New Orleans from 2024 Catalyst Finalist and [Claiborne Avenue Alliance Design Studio](#) Executive Director **Amy Stelly**.

9:45–11am **Story of Self: Welcome, Introductions, and Creation of Community Altar**
Bring a symbolic item or image that reminds you why you do or fund environmental and environmental justice work, something you are willing to temporarily lend to a community altar until Wednesday after breakfast. Plan to make a one-minute introduction about your contribution.

11am **BREAK**

11:15am–12:30pm **Story of Us: Community Building & Storytelling**

12:30–1:30pm **Social Lunch**

2–4pm **Story of Now: Shared Learning Sessions**

4–6pm **BREAK OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITY**
Relax or use Claiborne Avenue Alliance Design Studio Executive Director Amy Stelly's self-guided Lower Garden District walking tour to get to know the surrounding area better.

6pm **Cocktail Reception**

7–10pm **Rachel's Network 25th Anniversary Dinner & Catalyst Celebration**
Featuring a keynote presentation by [Taproot Earth](#) Co-Founder and Vision and Initiatives Partner Colette Pichon Battle and a performance by [Da Lovebirds'](#) Robin Barnes and Pat Casey.

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WEDNESDAY, March 26

Member Schedule - *Unless otherwise noted, all activities take place in Evangeline Hall*

8-9:30am	Breakfast Roundtables Informational conversations on various topics and projects. <i>Evangeline Hall</i>
9:45-11am	Cultivating a Sustainable and Generative Economy in New Orleans Featuring The Vessel Project Founder, Director, and CEO Roishetta Ozane and Healthy Gulf Chief Development Officer Erica Dourousseau.
11:15am-12:45pm	Funding Environmental Justice in Louisiana Featuring Foundation for Louisiana CEO & President Charmel Gaulden, 2030 Fund Partner Maya Winkelstein, and Greater New Orleans Funders Network Managing Director Alicia Oliver.
1-2:15pm	Social Lunch
2:15-4pm	Interactive Speed Learning with Gulf South Women Environmental Leaders Move through multiple small group conversations with regional environmental leaders to learn about their work. Topics may include water justice, petrochemicals, indigenous leadership, coastal resilience, and more. Featuring Louisiana Bucket Brigade Director Anne Rolfes, The Water Collaborative Development Director Michelle Bidwell, Land Memory Bank and Seed Exchange Director Monique Verdin, and Restore the Mississippi River Delta Campaign Director Simone Maloz.
4-6pm	BREAK OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITY Relax or walk nine minutes to the streetcar at St. Charles & Felicity (bring \$1.25 cash) and take the New Orleans RTA Streetcar to the Canal Street/French Quarter stop. Explore the French Quarter on your own, ending at Napoleon House for dinner.
6-7pm	Cocktail Reception <i>Napoleon House, 500 Chartres Street Rose and Pietro Rooms, Upstairs</i>
7-9:30pm	Keynote Dinner Featuring a presentation by Beyond Petrochemicals Campaign Executive Director Heather McTeer Toney and a performance by Cajun artists Adeline Miller and Amis du Teche. <i>Napoleon House, 500 Chartres Street Rosa & Pietro Rooms, Upstairs</i>

Catalyst Community Schedule

8-9:30am	Breakfast Roundtables Informational conversations on various topics and projects. <i>Evangeline Hall</i>
9:30am-12pm	Catalyst Community-Building Find Rachel's Network staff starting at 9:30am in the hotel lobby to taxi/rideshare in small groups to the Cabildo Museum for the exhibit "Botanica: Gardens, Landscapes, and Plant Medicines in South Louisiana." <i>The Cabildo Museum, 701 Chartres Street</i>

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12-1:30pm **Catalyst Community Closing Lunch**
Willa Jean, 611 O'Keefe Avenue

THURSDAY, March 27

7:30-8:30am **Breakfast**

8:15am-5pm **Field Trip: Environmental Justice in Louisiana**
Gather at 8:15am outside the hotel's Magazine Street entrance to board the bus (we recommend guests pack an umbrella, sunblock, water, bug spray, and a snack). Our first stop is a community visit with [Rise St. James](#) Founder **Sharon Lavigne** and her team, followed by a bus tour of Louisiana's "cancer alley." After a 12:30pm lunch at historic [Nobile's Restaurant](#) with [Descendents Project](#) Co-Founder and Co-Director **Jo Banner**, we'll tour the [Whitney Plantation](#), a museum that focuses entirely on the lives of the enslaved people who lived and worked on this former plantation.

7-9pm **Social Dinner**
Gris Gris, 1800 Magazine Street