



Dr. Joy Banner, Ph.D

Dr. Joy Banner is Co-Founder and Co-Director of The Descendants Project, a nonprofit foundation committed to the liberation of the Black descendant community through the dismantling of inequitable and discriminatory economic, environmental, and social systems inherent in the violent legacies of slavery. After earning a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, she taught business communications, marketing, and entrepreneurship at the university level where she advanced to Chair of the Management program. Joy is a proud member of the local descendant community with rooted ancestry that can be traced to the 18th century. The folklore, narratives, and resourcefulness of her community elders and ancestors are the inspiration for the collective and collaborative philosophy of The Descendants Project, in service of the community's health, wellness, and most importantly, happiness. As part of this work, Dr. Banner is on the front lines of the struggle against environmental racism in the form of petrochemical plants along Louisiana's River Road, otherwise known as "Cancer Alley." Dr. Banner is the former Director of Communications and descendant of people enslaved at Whitney Plantation, the only plantation museum in Louisiana that centers the lives of the enslaved. In her spare time, she enjoys writing screenplays, biking on the levee, and taking care of her fur baby, Louie.



Susan Turner

Susan Turner, FASLA, is professor emerita of the School of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University, where she served as interim director, graduate program coordinator, and associate dean of the LSU College of Design. She is currently principal of Suzanne Turner Associates, a firm specializing in cultural resource history and management, community preservation planning, and landscape design. Turner has a long-standing interest in the preservation and interpretation of historic and cultural landscapes. Among her projects are Shadows-on-the-Teche in New Iberia and the Hermann-Grima House in New Orleans in Louisiana and

Bayou Bend Gardens and Rienzi in Houston, and Drayton Hall near Charleston (with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates). She has consulted on historic landscape projects in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Illinois. She has authored many book chapters and journal articles, and is co-author of *The Gardens of Louisiana: Places of Work and Wonder* (LSU Press, 1997).



Angela Kyle

Angela Kyle is a native of the Gulf South working in the sustainability, urban strategy, and community design and development arenas. In her current role as Vice President in JLL's sustainability consulting practice, she leads business development efforts focused on building strategic client relationships. As a social entrepreneur in 2012 she co-founded Play Build, a placemaking non-profit in New Orleans focused on transforming vacant lots into playgrounds. In 2021 she founded Jennie's Legacy to promote the Black history of iconic Pensacola waterway, Carpenter's Creek. Named for Kyle's great-great grandmother, Jennie Hudgins, Jennie's Legacy was established to advocate for the equitable restoration of this cultural landscape, currently under threat from decades of environmental degradation and overdevelopment. Angela holds an undergraduate degree from Brown University, an MBA and an MS in Journalism from Columbia University, and an MS in Sustainable Real Estate Development from Tulane School of Architecture. A dual citizen of the US and the UK, she is a member of Urban Land Institute, the National Organization of Minority Architects, the trans-Atlantic leadership network, the British American Project.