

Barbara Lacen-Keller

5581 Maple Ridge Drive, New Orleans, LA 70129
Email: BLacenKeller@nola.gov; Phone: 504-516-6081

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Barbara Lacen-Keller is a lifelong community champion and civic servant. A culture bearer of renown, she is an unabashed living legend. Known as the “Mayor of Central City” Ms. Lacen-Keller is recognized throughout neighborhoods in New Orleans as a resource for citizen empowerment and continually seeks opportunities to forward her mission of social justice for all humanity. She is a natural leader, whose skills include exceptional written and oral communication, excellence in organization and motivation, and high-proficiency in fundraising and facilitation.

EDUCATION

Southern University at New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana: Bachelors of Arts, May 1988

New Orleans Skill Center, New Orleans, Louisiana: Graduate, May 1977

EXPERIENCE

Dryades YMCA, New Orleans, LA: 2020 – present

As President of the Board, leads the leadership transition and operational restructuring of 115-year-old community anchor organization.

Mayor’s Office of Culture Economy, City of New Orleans: 2018 – 2020

As Constituent Engagement Specialist, provided community outreach and served as the cultural liaison for the Office of Neighborhood Engagement, Intergovernmental Relations (IGR), City Council, Indigenous Social and Parading Organizations, and convener of Monthly Town Hall Meetings.

New Orleans City Council District B and At-Large, New Orleans, LA: 2006 – 2018

As Director of Constituent Services, responsible for the receipt and communication of citizen concerns and representing the district at city, business and community meetings. Coordinate and conduct neighborhood and city-wide meetings with a goal of ensuring constituents’ viewpoints are considered when working with the Councilperson for a safer, cleaner, more economically viable city.

Great Expectations, Inc., New Orleans, LA: 2003 – 2005

As Consortium Coordinator, recruited and nurtured the involvement of representatives in the Great Expectations Consortium and acted as a liaison between the Consortium, its committees and Great Expectation’s personnel to assure that the community’s viewpoints were considered and applied to the organization’s goals and operating principles. Coordinated Consortium educational programming, meetings and events, also preparing minutes and summary notes for the organization’s official records. Contributed articles to the Great Expectations newsletter

highlighting the Consortium's activities. Performed clerical duties such as composing, typing, faxing, copying, and transcribing; ensuring all Consortium minutes, records and other important organizational documents were maintained in a confidential filing system.

City of New Orleans Traffic Court, New Orleans, LA: 2001 – 2003

As DWI Clerk, was the custodian of defendant records. Filed motions, set and reset trials, scheduled appointments for defendants with probation and other supportive services. Kept records of fines paid, subpoenaed officers and witnesses for trials, and prepared arrest attachments.

O.C. Haley Boulevard Merchants Association, New Orleans, LA: 2000 – 2001

As Executive Director, responsible for the daily operations of the center. Recruited businesses and organizations to become members of the Merchants Association, developed a business training and resource center for the merchants, and coordinated activities to involve the community. Compiled the organization's forms, reports, and statistical data and assisted in developing proposals for funds.

New Orleans Health Corp., New Orleans, LA: 1992 – 2000

As Clinic Administrator, responsible for the successful operation of the Central City clinic. Monitored and evaluated clinic activities and performance of 23 staff persons, developing strategic short-and long-range plans for individual and organizational excellence, while securing and maintaining clinic supplies and equipment. Participated in grant and proposal writing and assisted with the development and implementation of a quality assurance program to assist the agency in tracking and monitoring the goals and objectives of their federal grants. Provided capacity building training to staff based on audits and chart reviews. Maintained effective working relationships with the Advisory Committee and NOHC Administration, while participating in ongoing collaborative initiatives with neighboring agencies and community members.

ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Board of Directors

Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale, Chaplain, Board of Directors

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Member

Israelite Baptist Church, Pastor Support & Youth Ministries, Governmental Liaison, Mass Choir

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Member

Black Organization for Leadership Development, Member

Great Expectations Inc., Past Board Member and Treasurer

City of New Orleans Enterprise Congress, Member

National Council of Negro Women, Member

New Orleans Social Aid and Pleasure Club Task Force, Founder

Central City Partnership, Co- Founder and Chairperson

Café Reconcile, New Orleans Board of Directors, Past Chair

Dryades YMCA, Board Chair

New Orleans City Council on Aging, Board of Directors

Gathering of the Sisters, Founder

City of New Orleans, Master Plan Advisory Committee, Districts 25 & 26, Subcommittee Chairperson

Someone Who Cares Inc., Member

Armstrong Family Services, Board of Directors, Past Chair

Urban League, Member
Independent Women's Organization, Membership Committee
Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee, Member
Democratic State Central Committee, District 103, Member
National Slave Ship Museum, Vice Chair
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Member
Original New Orleans Lady Buck Jumpers, Member
American Heart Association, Go Red Women Luncheon, 2011 Co-Chair
Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, Co-Chair
Tremé/7th Ward Cultural District, Sponsorship Coordinator, Festival Co-Producer
Preservation Resource Center, Board of Directors African American Heritage Committee, Chair

HONORS, AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

2015 Community Service Award, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
2015 Women of Excellence Award, Paris Soul Café
2011 Champion for Children, Children's Defense Fund
2011 Community Champion, Chaka Khan Foundation
2009 Freedom Sisters, Ford Motor Company
2004 Women's Empowerment Award, City of New Orleans, Mayor C. Ray Nagin
2003 Role Model Award, Y.W.C.A.
2001 Spirit of Greatness Award,
2000 Martin Luther King Jr. Torch Bearer, New Orleans
2000 Community Service Award, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority
1999 Trail Blazer Award, Data New Weekly
1999 Medal of Honor, City of New Orleans, Mayor Marc Morial
1997 Citizen Committed to Central City Award, R.E.A.L
1996 Tribute to Black Women Community Leaders, National Council of Negro Women
1995 Woman of the Year, Black Social Workers
1994 Leader, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,
1997 Celebration of Women Week Honor, Y.W.C.A.
1996 Title I Barbara Andrews Award, Orleans Parish Chapter I
1988 Executive Board Member of the Year, Orleans Parish Chapter I
1987 Most Congenial Parent, Andrew J. Bell Junior High School
1986 L.E.A.P. Parent Advisor of the Year, Orleans Parish School Board
1985 Outstanding Parent, Orleans Parish Chapter I
1984 High School Volunteer of the Year and Parent of the Year, Orleans District PTA

REFERENCES

Ms. Stacy Head, Councilmember At-Large, City of New Orleans, shead@nola.gov

Ms. Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, CEO, Ashé Cultural Arts Center, adecclesiastes@ashenola.org

Mr. John Georges, Chief Executive Officer, Georges Enterprises, info@georgesenterprises.com.

Further information and additional references furnished upon request.