

GULF SOUTH OPEN SCHOOL OVERVIEW

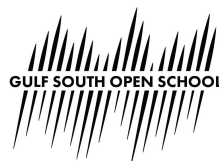
The Gulf South we live in today is neither just nor sustainable. But there are people and organizations throughout the region who are showing us how to care for earth, water, ourselves, and other species; and who are showing us through writing, art, music, and direct action how we might work towards more just policies, systems, and environments.

Our goal is to help make sense of the myriad activities and possibilities that are available to us. We are seeking the common threads that connect us across different scales, geographies, communities, and issue areas. We are supporting each other in embracing complexity, tension, nuance, and change. We are building shared language, knowledge, and practices that can sustain us in the seasons ahead.

The Gulf South Open School is an exploration of how we, residents of the Gulf South, can come together to learn, explore, and create in the face of climate change, sea level rise, land loss, and environmental injustice. We invite you to join us in hands-on activities, site visits, environmental stewardship, community dinners and conversations, and celebrations.

We're thinking about what an "open school" is in relation to these values:

- **Place** – Our activities take place at specific sites of learning and exchange throughout the city. We seek to approach places in ways that foster curiosity and wonder as well as familiarity and safety.
- **Time** – Our activities are part of an intergenerational flow of learning, action, and reflection. They constitute a rhythm and cycle, and take place in concert with changes in season, climate, and social context.
- **Access / Cooperation** – Our activities are free and all are welcome. Be a co-creator, a fellow student, a fellow teacher. Please join! We seek to provide food, child care, and language access as part of each event.
- **Flow(ing)** – Our activities cross lines and boundaries, whether those are disciplinary, experiential, or spatial.



This spring, we are kicking things off this spring with the themes of:

- March / Welcome
- April / Acknowledging Land and Water
- May / Infrastructure and Justice
- June / Repair and Prepare

Our partners are

- Rebecca Snedeker, Regina Cairns, Denise Frazier
- Amy Lesen, Antioch University Leadership and Change Program
- Shana M. griffin, PUNCTUATE
- Monique Verdin, Land Memory Bank & Seed Exchange
- Aron Chang, Katie Fronek, Jihad Doucette, Jo Farley, Nicolas Holmes, Quanita Kendrick, Civic Studio / Water Leaders Institute
- We are connected to the Mississippi River Open School / Anthropocene Commons, and this pilot is funded by a Mellon Humanities for All Times grant.

Our public activities include

- **Explorations** – GSOS partners will lead smaller place-based explorations and hands-on activities in relation to the topics and themes of the month and season.
- **Celebrations** – We will come together for larger gatherings at sites throughout the city at key moments to co-create possible futures, foster collective action, and engage in environmental stewardship.
- **Community Tables** – To wrap up each month, we will gather at Civic Studio (1626 S. Rampart) for dinner, conversation, and creative responses to topics and prompts specific to the month and season.

You can engage with us through:

- **Sites of Learning and Exchange** – we are building activities and resources relating to sites around the city that we believe are amazing places to engage the past, present, and future of New Orleans, Bulbancha, and the Gulf South.
 - **Guides** are artist/educator/community leaders with deep connections to each site who
- [#GulfSouthOpenSchool](#) on social media
- [GSOS Resource Library](#) – Access links to project websites, readings, and resources that relate to open schools and this season's theme, topics, and sites of learning and exchange.

