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For Immediate Release

HANO Hosts Resident Workgroups for its Choice Neighborhood Initiative B.W. Cooper/Earhart Transformation Plan

New Orleans, LA, (September 3, 2024) -On August 28 and 29, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) hosted a series of workgroups for residents and stakeholders to provide input in the future of the B.W. Cooper/Earhart community. Topics included housing, neighborhood development, transportation, educational opportunities, employment prospects within the community, health service, and public safety.

In 2023, HANO was one of nine agencies in the country that was awarded a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to develop a plan to address affordable housing, neighborhood needs, and resources for residents. The B.W. Cooper/Earhart Transformation Plan is bringing together former B.W. Cooper residents along with current residents of Marrero Commons and the surrounding neighborhood to work with service organizations, businesses and non-profits to develop a comprehensive approach to transform the area.

“I would like to thank the B.W. Cooper community residents for participating and sharing ideas as we move forward with the next stages of neighborhood improvements,” said HANO Executive Director Evette Hester. “B.W. Cooper and the Earhart neighborhood have been a very important part of our city’s affordable housing blueprint. HANO will continue to work tirelessly for its residents and strive to improve their quality of life.”

The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant also provides funding for an Early Action Project that can be built within the next year. Earlier this summer, residents were able to view different types of light art sculptures. Once an artist is chosen, residents will be able to see renderings and give input on sculptures that they would like to see installed along South Galvez Street near Earhart Boulevard. The residents have indicated that the sculptures should not only showcase the talent of local artists in the neighborhood, but also provide a better sense of security through additional lighting on the street.

The completed B.W. Cooper/Earhart Transformation Plan is currently being developed by Collabo, HANO’s urban planning partner, and will be presented to the public later this year.

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About The Housing Authority of New Orleans

The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) is focused on providing affordable housing opportunities for low-income residents of the city of New Orleans while laying the foundation for economic sustainability. HANO serves approximately 22,000 low-income families through a combination

of their Housing Choice Voucher Program and public housing units. HANO also serves public housing needs for the elderly, disabled, and veterans. Visit hano.org to learn more.