



**A Truly Sustainable Culture that is Environmentally Conscious & Socially Just**  
 The Noisette Foundation was a catalyst for collaborative neighborhood restoration in North Charleston. The Foundation identified local community strengths, listened closely to residents and promoted successful local projects. It studied persistent social problems and worked to enhance neighborhood problems solving through research, advocacy and the development of relevant solutions.

# Noisette Foundation (N Charleston, SC)

CityCrafting 2.0 “Deweese in the City”



**CityCraft Services:** CityCrafting Phase 1 & 2 Discovery & Implementation Framework, Community Engagement & Planning, Phase 3 Long Term Implementation

**Program Areas:** Arts & Culture, Education, Social Justice, Economic Development, Human Health, Environment

The Noisette Foundation (now The CityCraft Foundation) was a 501-C-3 community foundation established to support the implementation of the Noisette Community Master Plan. Partnering with the City of North Charleston, South Carolina the Noisette Community Master Plan set forth a vision for “a vibrant, healthy city embracing its heritage and celebrating its role in the community, ecosystem and marketplace.” The master plan acts as a physical blueprint for building healthy communities. The Noisette Foundation was formed in 2004 to ensure that this vision is kept and that no one is left out of the process. The vision set out to design a healthy pathway for all citizens from conception to death so that they are able to achieve their highest potential in all aspects of their lives. The neighborhoods of North Charleston must offer each citizen a healthy pathway to lifelong learning, career development, housing, an appreciation for our coastal environment, local art

and culture and the deep satisfaction that comes from contributing to one’s community through service in the interest of others.

The Master Plan required a new set of institutions that were organized to support a sustainable culture, which respected and served long term the health of the economy, environment and the social fabric of the community. These institutions needed to subscribe to the core elements of Socially Durable Communities and the Principles of Sustainable Partnering of Resources outlined in the Master Plan. These institutions were guided by and supported collaboration not competition, a connected and involved community, community harmony not divisiveness, the importance of connection to the natural world, and the necessity of each member being knowledgeable of the historic legacy of the Noisette Community.

## Incubator Programs

If the Foundation in collaboration with the community believed it was necessary to build a new model to address a systemic problem then they created an incubator initiative to research and design long term holistic solutions. Some of these programs may fail and others that are successful and prove their viability will be spun out as new non-profit community assets or merged with an existing organization. The Foundation nurtured and assisted these programs until they could be self-sustaining.

## Associate Programs

Associate programs can be former incubator programs of the Foundation or existing non-profits that are considered critical to the Foundation's program areas and support the long term economic, social and environmental health of our communities. Collaboration and partnership with a commitment to a sustainable future was a fundamental consideration for any program to become an associate of the Foundation.

## Core Programs

The Foundation was designed to address long term challenges to healthy non-profits. Core programs are a result of identifying the systemic challenges in the community, the key elements that are needed to create a healthy pathway from conception to death for all citizens and guests as well as determining if existing resources are present to solve the challenge either by itself or with additional support or whether new resources are required. Each core program builds community capacity, creates long term financial resources for initiating and supporting incubator and associate programs, and grows resources for the community to organize its time, talent and treasury contributions.



◀ The Foundation became a National AmeriCorps Center placing 50 VISTAs each year in host sites.

Additional Noisetette Foundation & Program info can be found at: [www.citycraftfoundation.org/about-us/history/](http://www.citycraftfoundation.org/about-us/history/)

### Teaching science concepts through art

What turns children on to science?  
 "Some kids get excited about facts," says Kevin Kurtz, an educator and author of children's books on scientific themes. "But many other children respond on an emotional level; they need stories to get excited about science. I think it's fundamental human nature to respond to stories."  
 In his book, *A Day in the Salt Marsh*, for young readers (grades 1-3), with illustrations by Connie Powell, Kurtz takes children on an observational tour of coastal wetlands.  
 Kurtz explains in rhyme how salt-marsh grass, *Spartina alterniflora*, survives its harsh environment:  
 The cordgrass drinks saltwater as the wind blows it about.  
 The leaves hold in the water, but spit the salt back out.  
 His book describes the salt marsh's changes from morning to evening, and from high tide to low



**CONNECTIONS.** Marie Nichols, an art teacher at the Charleston County School of the Arts, and her students assemble this 8-by-20-foot mural of Noisetette Creek. The mural was commissioned by the Michaux Conservancy and the Ashley-Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium to help students combine their artistic skills with knowledge of local ecology. The mural is mounted outside

▲ The The Michaux Conservancy was established in 2003 to educate communities about their natural ecosystems and how these systems work and benefit human health. Michaux's goals include reconnecting the local population with nature, promoting environmental responsibility, and increasing



**SC STRONG**  
 SUSTAINING, TEACHING, REBUILDING OUR NEW GENERATION

◀ SC STRONG is a replication of a model for ex-offenders, substance abusers, and the homeless, known as Delancey Street- a highly successful organization with decades of experience, considered to be one of the most successful economical and innovative approaches to reducing recidivism while providing skills and resources needed. SC STRONG offers training in construction, furniture restoration, landscaping, and culinary arts/catering.

The Sustainability Institute ("SI") was founded to empower South Carolinians to conserve energy and reduce their environmental footprint. SI creates market transformation for energy efficient and sustainable buildings through a well-tested combination of community education and outreach, innovative direct services, and workforce training. SI's programs and services aim to alter market behavior and systematically drive consumer demand for energy efficient homes and commercial buildings by removing barriers for customers and by developing a robust infrastructure of trained and certified professionals to meet demand and to perform quality energy improvements. The Energy Conservation Corps (ECC) is a national model and award-winning, AmeriCorps affiliated program that recruits, trains, certifies, and provides job placement services in the energy efficiency industry. The ECC consists of two programs, one that serves the Veteran's population and one that serves at-risk young adults aged 18 - 25.

