



Barbara Crain Major is a community organizer with over 40 years of experience in local, national, and international community development efforts. In the 1970s, she worked with the Institute for Juvenile Justice and assisted in the development of a Juvenile Justice Code for the State of Louisiana. With the Louisiana Hunger Coalition, she petitioned the Federal government to ensure the availability of nutritious school breakfasts for low-income children and advocated for the rights of food stamps recipients to a safe and sanitary place to apply for aid. At this time she also began working as a Core Trainer for the People's Institute, conducting undoing racism workshops both nationally and internationally.

In the early 1980s, Dr. Major became assistant director for Bread for the World in Washington, D.C., where she helped to craft international food policy before returning to New Orleans to organize tenant unions against rent and utility spikes with the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice. She was the founder and lead organizer of the St. Thomas-Irish Channel Consortium, which created a national model for comprehensive, strategic community development that organized and educated citizens on both grassroots and policy levels. Later,

under her tenure as Director of the St. Thomas Community Health Clinic, the clinic became the first in the country to declare racism a healthcare issue. It also became a community center for the people of the former St. Thomas housing development, helping citizens organize for better health and safer living conditions, and against violence.

After Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Major founded Citizens United for Economic Equity, a local Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) created to help storm-affected businesses recover. She continues to work as an organizing consultant and an anti-racism trainer. She has also been part of numerous boards and committees, holding positions on the RTA Board (where, as Chair, she oversaw the development of small and disadvantaged business policy that is a model for the region), the NORA Board, and The Bring Back New Orleans Committee, among many others. Dr. Major was the named defendant in *Major v. Treen*, the 1983 federal class-action lawsuit that created Louisiana's first black majority congressional district. In addition, she is a nationally recognized speaker on issues of race, health, and economic equity, and has received numerous awards, including Women and Business's "Woman of the Year" in 2001.