

A LOUD COLOR (6:34 minutes)
Directed & Produced by Brent Joseph
Winner of the Legacy Award



About the Film

I was asked by Tim Ryan at NOVAC (a nonprofit video access center in New Orleans) to contribute to a series of short films he was producing. He wanted to provide a local voice to the endless Katrina coverage that was filling the airwaves in the wake of the hurricane. 60 Minutes had just run a story that called New Orleans a "sinking ship." There was a sense of hopelessness in the mainstream media coverage and Tim wanted a group of local filmmakers to go out and find stories of people who were determined to fight the difficult odds and rebuild the city.

My intended audience comprised of people who cared about the struggle for education in minority neighborhoods as well as those interested in post-Katrina New Orleans. In the end, the film was made as a grassroots effort to inform people of the courage and determination of New Orleanians to strengthen their community.

This film follows Louis Harding as he rebuilds the community center he opened just one month before Hurricane Katrina hit and destroyed his work. Despite the setback, 72-year-old Harding refuses to give up on his mission to combat poverty in New Orleans. He discusses the importance of history, heroes and self-esteem in the black community and explains why making his dream a reality is more important now than ever before.

Filmmaker Bios

Brent Joseph, Producer & Director

New Orleans native Brent Joseph has worked on both documentaries and fictional films for over ten years. He co-edited MTV's "True Life: I'm Living in Iraq," which won the 2005 Edward R. Murrow award for Best TV Network News Documentary. He worked as assistant editor on several films including Larry Clark's *Bully*, Lodge Kerrigan's *Keane* and David Fincher's upcoming film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. Joseph directed, photographed and edited another film about Hurricane Katrina entitled *Holdout*. He has been living in Austin, Texas, since the storm.

Take Action

Friends of New Orleans (<http://www.friendsofneworleans.org>)

Declare your support and become a Friend of New Orleans! Find people across the globe dedicated to the building efforts and learn what else you can do to assist the city.

African Americans.com (<http://www.africanamericans.com>)

Learn more about African American history, business and culture from this extensive source of documents, articles and links!

Color of Change (<http://www.colorofchange.org>)

Make government more responsive to the concerns of Black America! Select an issue and send out letters to your senators through Color of Change.

Youth Noise (<http://www.youthnoise.com>)

Join discussions and debate current events, history and issues of importance to you! Find organizations from the online database and become actively involved in your community.

For more information about *A Loud Color* and the other films from the eighth annual Media That Matters Film Festival, visit www.mediathatmattersfest.org or contact us at festival@artsengine.net.