

# ***Floodwall Cremation***

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## **1. ORGANIZATION**

NAME: State of Louisiana, City of New Orleans and Algiers Economic Development Foundation  
TYPE OF ADDRESS: 1300 Perdido Street, 2nd Floor, NOLA 70112  
PHONE: 504-658-1036 (District C Council Office)

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## **2. CONTACT PERSONS**

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ARTIST: Jana Napoli  
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## **3. EVENT/PROGRAM**

NAME OF EVENT: Floodwall Cremation at the Algiers Holiday Festival & Bonfire  
NATURE OF EVENT: Public Seasonal Presentation  
DATE & HOURS: December 3, 2011 : Bonfire at 8 PM. Festival from 5PM-9PM  
LOCATION: Algiers riverfront and levee, near the Ferry Landing  
CONSTRUCTION: ongoing viewing of construction by Fire Department through Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>:  
Daylight Hours.

ENTRANCE FEE: Free

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## **4. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **FLOODWALL: Cremation**

In the months that followed Hurricane Katrina, Jana Napoli drove through the devastation of New Orleans neighborhoods collecting drawers. She collected over 700 drawers of every utility and transformed them into the memorial FLOODWALL. The memorial saw several incarnations. In the Liberty Street Bridge overpass in New York City, overlooking Ground Zero, they became the juxtaposition of two American catastrophes. In New Orleans, FLOODWALL was set into a construction ten feet high, 120- feet long, and 30-feet wide, and served as a parallel installation of Prospect.1. Since then, the drawers have been reconfigured into memorials in Poland and Germany. Dancers have danced before the drawers, inspired by their physical intimacy; children of several countries have sat before them compiling lists of what possessions they would place in their own disappearing drawers. The travels of the drawers have embodied both the loss and catharsis of entire communities.

Now the drawers of Napoli's FLOODWALL are returning to New Orleans to be laid to rest. All 700 drawers will be burned in a pyre erected on the West Bank levee of the Mississippi River at Algiers Point. This location will serve to incorporate the failures of the levee-system in Hurricane Katrina's devastation. The physical sacrifice of FLOODWALL will bestow psychic cleansing. Where once the drawers stood as a testament of loss, of the silence that accompanies a return to the scene of tragedy, and the cost of our communities, their immolation will now serve as the final dissemination of collective illusions. FLOODWALL's burning will trumpet

the continued rebuilding of New Orleans, while resonating the persistent and unforgiving attendance of united bereavement. The configuring of the construction, which will be entitled: The FLOODWALL: Cremation, will be accomplished by the New Orleans Fire Department. The construction of the pyre will take three weeks, leading up to the igniting and final release, which will take place on December 3, at 8:00 pm.