

Allison Haertling, MURP, AICP  
Planner/Research Scientist  
The Water Institute  
2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 310  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
Tel. No. (310) 985–2483  
Email: [ahaertling@thewaterinstitute.org](mailto:ahaertling@thewaterinstitute.org)

## **EDUCATION**

|                           |                 |                                                                  |                            |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| University of New Orleans | New Orleans, LA | Urban and Regional Planning; Environmental and Hazard Mitigation | MURP, 2020                 |
| University of New Orleans | New Orleans, LA | Disaster Management and Community Resilience                     | Graduate Certificate, 2020 |
| New York University       | New York, NY    | Theatre                                                          | BFA, 2004                  |

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Climate adaptation and resilience, climate migration, community and stakeholder engagement, insurance policy, hazard mitigation, water resources management, and ecosystem restoration.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

|                                                                                            |                            |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| The Water Institute                                                                        | Planner/Research Scientist | 2024–Present |
|                                                                                            | Associate Planner/RA       | 2021–2024    |
| University of New Orleans Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology (UNO-CHART) | Research Associate         | 2020–2021    |
| Coastal Science Assistantship Program, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority        | Graduate Assistant         | 2019–2020    |
| University of New Orleans                                                                  | Graduate Assistant         | 2018–2019    |
| University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy                       | Administrative Assistant   | 2007–2018    |

## **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), 2022–Present
- Louisiana Floodplain Management Association (LFMA), 2021–2024

- ULI Louisiana Diversity Committee, Co-Founder and Board Member, 2019–2021
- American Planning Association (APA), 2018–Present

## **TRAINING COURSES**

- Structured Decision Making, 2023
- Project Management, 2022
- FEMA Certificate: Mitigation Planning for Local and Tribal Communities, 2019

## **NOTABLE PROJECTS**

### **Planner, Capacity Building to Enhance Tribal and Regional Resilience** Current *United Houma Nation*

Provide Louisiana’s largest Native American Tribe, the United Houma Nation (UHN), with proposal development, technical assistance, and project management support to implement the Tribe’s five-phase Hazard Mitigation and Tribal Resilience Plan, which includes 1) fortification of the UHN Resilience Hub, 2) creating Satellite Hubs, 3) strengthening communications, 4) economic development, and 5) community-led migration. In addition to retrofitting buildings for wind and energy resilience to serve as community hubs during storms and blue skies, the plan focuses on engaging community members in each of the six southeast Louisiana parishes of the UHN service area to build the Tribe’s capacity to lead climate adaptation efforts.

### **Lead Planner, Enhancing the Resilience of Southeast Louisiana’s Asian American Fisherfolk Communities** Current

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

Co-develop a comprehensive, industry-specific climate adaptation plan with southeast Louisiana’s fishers, shrimpers, and processors to protect and support the Asian American fisherfolk that comprise a large percentage of the state’s seafood industry.

### **Investigator, Community-Led Migration Legal Frameworks & Approaches** Current

*Community Resilience Center at The Water Institute*

Investigate legal and policy barriers to community-led migration to understand and improve existing climate migration policies, bureaucracy, and practices while working towards larger transformational changes.

### **Lead Planner, Facilitator/Installations, Energy and Environment Technology Innovation Strategy (TIS) and TIS Implementation Plan (TIS-IP)** 2023–2025

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

Developed the TIS and subsequent TIS-IP in partnership with USACE to support the Army in meeting current and projected modernization requirements, and to ensure that installations and field operations can sustain and integrate the technologies necessary to face the toughest challenges related to IE&E. The TIS and TIS-IP were developed in close coordination with the Directors of the Environmental Laboratory (EL) and Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) of the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), as well as other key USACE personnel, with direct input from the Chief of Engineers and Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA), IE&E.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <p><b>Public Engagement Facilitator, Planner/Long-term Strategic Water Sustainability Planning</b></p> <p><i>Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission (Baton Rouge, LA)</i></p> <p>Researched and synthesized water resource management plans from across the U.S. to develop a strategic plan for the Capital Area. Co-facilitated public engagement efforts and reported on knowledge of the groundwater geology and saltwater intrusion issues associated with the Southern Hills Aquifer System in the Baton Rouge area. Information provided by this project will be used to make critical aquifer management decisions.</p> | 2022-2025 |
| <p><b>Investigator, Advancing Coastal Resilience in Walton County</b></p> <p><i>Walton County, FL</i></p> <p>Researched existing plans, policies, and programs to develop a report assessing Walton County's current state of resilience.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2023-2024 |
| <p><b>Planner, Resilient Mobile</b></p> <p><i>City of Mobile, AL</i></p> <p>Co-developed a citywide Resilience Assessment and Plan in collaboration with local stakeholders to set a baseline understanding of the city's resilience and develop an actionable plan to ensure that all members of the community are poised to thrive in the face of increasing challenges and changes in the environment, climate, and economy.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 2022-2024 |
| <p><b>Planner, Resilient Jacksonville</b></p> <p><i>City of Jacksonville, FL</i></p> <p>Provided planning, coordination, and research support throughout an 18-month planning process to develop a comprehensive resilience strategy for the City of Jacksonville that includes actions to build resilience at the individual, neighborhood, citywide, and regional scales.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2022-2023 |
| <p><b>Community Engagement Coordinator and Facilitator, Investigator/ Developing Equitable Outcomes to Climate Hazards and Other Disasters</b></p> <p><i>National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Gulf Research Program</i></p> <p>Facilitated scenario-building workshops with residents of four coastal communities in Louisiana to explore the potential sociocultural and economic impacts of nonstructural mitigation at the household and community levels. Conduct qualitative data analysis to inform a customized resilience index and decision support tool for use by participating communities.</p>          | 2022-2023 |
| <p><b>Investigator, Policy Research to Improve the Evaluation of Nature-Based Solutions in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Program</b></p> <p><i>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i></p> <p>Researched existing evaluation methods for feasibility studies to recommend an approach to better understand and consider the economic, environmental, and social benefits of nature-based solutions in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 2021-2023 |
| <p><b>Policy Analyst, Planning and Policy Research for the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI)</b></p> <p><i>Louisiana Office of Community Development</i></p> <p>Supported The Water Institute's planning and policy role in LWI through researching mitigation strategies, development standards, long term funding sources, regional watershed governance, and how recent changes to the National Flood Insurance Program and its Community Rating System would impact communities and local governments.</p>                                                                                                                          | 2021-2022 |

**Community Engagement Coordinator and Facilitator, Investigator/Federal  
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP)** Current  
*FEMA*

Coordinate and facilitate resilience meetings with communities in various watersheds throughout FEMA Region 6 in support of Risk MAP program implementation. Activities performed by the Institute under the CTP program include implementation of flood risk mapping through watershed discovery projects, special communication projects, and creation of training materials for university engineering students and local engineering practitioners.

**PUBLISHED WORKS**

**Peer-Reviewed Publications**

- Genc, U., Johnson, D.R., Fischbach, J.R., Grismore, A., Haertling, A.O., Hemmerling, S., Kane, P. (2025). Evaluating critical and essential service access vulnerabilities. *Environmental Research Letters*, 20, 084060.
- Hemmerling, S. A., Haertling, A., Shao, W., Di Leonardo, D., Grismore, A., & Dausman, A. (2024). “You turn the tap on, the water’s there, and you just think everything’s fine”: a mixed methods approach to understanding public perceptions of groundwater management in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA. *Frontiers in Water*, 6, 1289400.
- Haertling, A.O. (2020). Paradox in the bayou: Development and displacement in America’s wetlands (Publication No. 2814) [Master’s thesis, University of New Orleans]. University of New Orleans Theses and Dissertations.

**Technical Reports**

- Fischbach, J. R., Dalyander, S., McHugh, C., Dejong, A., Littman, A., Haertling, A., & Bond, C. A. (2023). *Enhancing benefits evaluation for water resources projects: Towards a more comprehensive approach for nature-based solutions* (Case study analysis results and recommendations) (p. 241). Baton Rouge, LA: The Water Institute of the Gulf. Produced for and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Engineering with Nature Program.
- DiLeonardo, D., Dausman, A., Clark, R., Runge, M., Dalyander, S., Hemmerling, S., Grismore, A., Haertling, A., Bienn, H., Afinowicz, J., Taucer, P., Skipwith, J., Tsai, F., & Shao, W. (2022). *Long-term strategic plan for the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission* (Final Report No. 2A) (p. 405). The Water Institute. Prepared for and funded by the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission.

**Published Plans – Contributing Author**

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (2024). *Installations, Energy, and Environment Technology Innovation Strategy* (p. 48). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Developed in partnership with The Water Institute.
- The City of Mobile. (2023). *City-Wide Resilience Assessment: An Assessment of Mobile’s Resilience*. Produced by The Water Institute in partnership with Sea Grant, Mississippi State University, Volkert, Ephriam and Associates LLC, Waggoner & Ball, and Moffatt & Nichol. Prepared for and funded by the City of Mobile, AL.

**Conference Proceedings and Presentations**

- Haertling, A., Billiot, M., Favre, D. (2024). *Addressing climate change inequity through frontline community-led adaptation and relocation*. [Presentation]. National Adaptation Forum, St. Paul, MN.
- Haertling, A., Genc, U., Johnson, D., Fischbach, J., Hemmerling, S., Grismore, A., Kane, P. (2024). *Incorporating equity and social vulnerability into the design of flood risk mitigation strategies*. [Poster Session]. National Adaptation Forum, St. Paul, MN.
- Haertling, A. (2022). *More than you ever wanted to know...about water*. [Pecha Kucha Presentation]. Louisiana Smart Growth Summit, Baton Rouge, LA.