



NOCWOC'S History

The New Orleans City Workers Organizing Committee is building off the decades long work of union activism and organizing since the 1990s. See the following timeline to understand where we've been so we can learn where we're going.

Pre-NOCWOC

Mid-1990s

- **SEIU 100** founded here for CNO (City of New Orleans) workers
 - Was for Blue collar workers in the trade unions - both private & public
 - Did organizing drive & got contract w/ Marc Morial (executive branch)

Turn of the Century

- The union reorganized to become **SEIU 21 LA**
 - Contract renewed on periodic basis w/ subsequent mayoral administrations
 - not through elections via state processes, as is normally done

2016

- The union signed the last bargaining agreement with Andy Kopplin, former CAO under Mayor Mitch Landreiu
 - This constituted the last official bargaining agreement between the union, which was employee-led, and the City

2018

- The union (still **SEIU 21 LA**) went into receivership, which is when oversight of union operations returned to national control
 - This basically meant that the union was effectively dead

2019

- AFSCME 17 worked with national **SEIU** to take over bargaining unit
 - Transfer was unfinished project; Workers were never informed of such
 - Union dues were still collected, but workers went unrepresented

2019-On

- After SEIU 21LA was transferred to AFSCME Council 17, the mayor's office continued to refuse recognition of the union and its bargaining agreement by never responding to requests.

NOCWOC & Beyond

March 2020

- **NOCWOC** created in response to COVID-19 Pandemic related issues
 - Founded by New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) workers and other employees in other departments

June 2020

- The NOPL HR Director informed workers AFSCME 17 did not have a contract
 - Conversations stopped between the union and workers
 - Cessation of soliciting SEIU cards

August 2020

- Mayor & CAO spearheaded plan to defund the library by getting an ordinance passed to place Proposition 2 on the December 2020 Ballot
 - The proposition would have reduced NOPL funding by 40%, a massive blow to City Workers in the midst of a global pandemic

October - December 2020

- NOCWOC founded the Save Your NOLA Library Campaign with NOLA DSA and Friends of the NOPL
 - The coalition quickly amassed 30 partners + 1000s of supporters
- NOCWOC, as part of the Save Your NOLA Library Campaign, wins the Dec. 5th election with No on Prop 2 winning 56% of the vote

April 2021

- NOCWOC launches the Third Thursday Monthly Open House Meetings
 - This build solidarity across departments & gets City Workers involved

August 2021

- NOCWOC hosts Rally for \$15 Min. Wage w/ City Workers for City Workers
 - ≈100 attendees, including Councilmembers, Step UP, & IAFF 632
- Through this organizing, NOCWOC WON with Council passing an ordinance effectuating the \$15 minimum living wage for City Workers.

October - December 2021

- NOCWOC entered Phase 2 the Save Your NOLA Library Campaign by getting a new millage on the ballot reinstating full funding for the NOPL
- NOCWOC, as part of the Save Your NOLA Library Campaign, wins the Dec. 11th election with Yes on PW Prop, winning 70% of the vote



So Get in touch with us today!

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