



Allison DeJong, AICP



Experience Profile

Allison DeJong, AICP, is a planner and policy researcher at the Water Institute, where she supports people and communities adapting to climate change using frameworks and approaches from urban planning and economics. She has over 10 years of experience in planning and policy advocacy, working across disciplines to achieve material gains for coastal residents, businesses, and communities. At the Institute, DeJong develops planning, policy, and regulatory applications and connects science to decision-making on many kinds of projects, including long-range planning efforts like the Louisiana Watershed Initiative and the Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force.

DeJong joined the Institute after three years as Senior Water Manager for Propeller in New Orleans, where she coached small businesses in the coastal and urban stormwater sectors to define their market opportunities, increase revenue and contracts, and grow their social and environmental impact. Prior to that role, she spent nearly six years as a planner at GCR, Inc., in New Orleans, where she was a key member of the community resilience team that worked with states and municipalities to secure \$240 million in funding from HUD’s National Disaster Resilience Competition. She developed benefit-cost analyses for those proposals and created analyses of demographic and labor statistics for a wide range of plans and studies, including public transit, economic development, and small area plans. She also co-authored and developed facilitation plans for the City of New Orleans’ first-ever economic development strategy, ProsperityNOLA.

DeJong holds a BA in Economics from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from Louisiana State University. She is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Company Role

Planner

Project Role / Focus Areas

- City and Community Planning
- Adaptation and Resilience
- Technical Communication for Non-Technical Audiences
- Decision Support Tools
- Strategic Planning
- Policy Research

Education

- Master of Business Administration, Louisiana State University, 2015
- Bachelor of Arts – Economics, University of Notre Dame, 2007

Registration / Certification

- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

Professional Experience

The Water Institute of the Gulf	2019-Present
• <i>Planner</i>	
Propeller: A Force for Social Innovation	2016-2019
• <i>Senior Water Manager</i>	
GCR, Inc.	2011-2016
• <i>Planner/Senior Planner</i>	
Second Harvest Food Bank	2010-2010
• <i>Public Policy Coordinator</i>	
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans	2007-2009
• <i>Development Assistant</i>	

Selected Projects

USACE Research and Development Strategic Plan (2021)

US Army Corps of Engineers

The Institute worked with the USACE Chief Scientist and Director of the Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) to develop a strategic plan for research and development across all of USACE. Allison worked with the interdisciplinary team to facilitate, write, present, and deliver a beautiful and actionable strategic plan to USACE.

Louisiana Watershed Initiative (Ongoing)

State of Louisiana

The Institute is providing technical and programmatic support to the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI), a suite of related efforts to improve the way residents and governments understand, address, and respond to flood risk across the state of Louisiana. Allison is leading The Institute's work to conduct economic analyses and policy research for mitigation methods and development standards, such as freeboard and no net fill, and connecting the Institute's role in LWI's data and modeling efforts to statewide policy and regulatory planning. She is also developing a decision support framework for the program, outlining the users, uses, and decisions that need support from flood risk models or other tools. The Institute's planning and policy role strengthens LWI by emphasizing regional and watershed-based collaboration, coordination, governance, coalition-building, and decision-making.

Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force (Ongoing)

Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities

The Institute is advising the Governor's Office through a one-year planning process to support the Climate Initiatives Task Force in developing a roadmap and specific actions to meet the state's ambitious goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, set through an Executive Order of Governor John Bel Edwards. This effort engages more than 135 multidisciplinary experts across the Task Force, four Advisory Groups, and six Sector Committees, as well as the public, throughout a transparent and collaborative planning process grounded in a Structure Decision Making (SDM) framework to ensure that competing priorities are fairly considered. This structured process will advance the Task Force's discussions and assist in bringing its diverse membership to consensus on fundamental objectives, goals, and ultimate outcomes. Allison is leading the emissions pathway modeling portion of the planning team's work; she has conducted analyses and presented on emissions modeling to the Task Force to inform their decision making and further the policy design of the actions and strategies.

Resilient Houston (2018-2020)

Rockefeller Foundation, the City of Houston

The Institute oversaw a multidisciplinary team of experts to support the City of Houston in the development of a comprehensive resilience strategy in support of the City of Houston's participation in 100 Resilient Cities (now the Global Resilient Cities Network). The work aims to enhance the city's long-term vision to build resilience to the shocks – such as hurricanes and rainfall flooding – and stresses that can weaken the fabric of a city. Allison reviewed and edited the final document and served as a thought partner to the Institute's team at the end of the process.

Startup and Growth Accelerator Programs

Propeller: A Force for Social Innovation

Recruited and coached over 25 companies in Propeller's Startup and Growth Accelerators to define their market opportunities and increase their revenue, contracts, and social impact; these companies raised over \$1M in revenue and financing from 2016-2019.

National Disaster Resilience Competition

GCR, Inc.

Co-authored applications, supported community engagement, and prepared benefit-cost analyses for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#) (NDRC), resulting in four awards totaling more than \$240 million in CDBG-NDR funds. Developed financing strategies for City of New Orleans NDRC projects, which include innovative water management interventions in the Gentilly neighborhood.

ProsperityNOLA

GCR, Inc.

Co-authored [ProsperityNOLA](#), the city of New Orleans' first-ever Strategic Plan for Economic Development, implemented by the New Orleans Business Alliance. Coordinated the planning process, including the 75-member Strategic Advisory Council, five subcommittees, and two working groups. Conducted industry cluster analysis for New Orleans' competitive strengths.