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Terrance Osborne Exhibit Pays Tribute to the City that Inspires Him



Artist Terrance Osborne recently held a successful exhibit at Xavier University.

Story and Photos by Makenna Mincey
Data News Weekly Contributor

Terrance Osborne's "Private Works" exhibit comes as a full circle moment in many ways. The internationally acclaimed New Orleans native who graduated from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and Xavier University's Fine Arts Department always finds his way back home. The rich culture of the city continues to be the driving force of his works today, and with each piece, a story of this unique place comes to life before the viewer. In this intimate collection on display at Xavier's Art Gallery, featured pieces like "Rebirth" depicts the leader of the New Orleans Band of the same name, Phil Fraser. There is "Belle of the Ball" depicting a woman and her love for Mardi Gras, and "Solidarity," which represents unity between people of different backgrounds, among many others. Osborne said this collection on public display emphasized his feelings of nostalgia and joy in being able to share his work with the community and the city he loves. "I'm honored to be here, you know? I love that I'm in New Orleans and I can still visit my alma mater," Osborne said at the opening of the exhibit on Jan. 12th. "I feel like Xavier [and] my peers who I graduated with, they came back and supported me. My teacher told me that would happen when I was at Xavier and it's happening, so you know it's beautiful to be back and it's amazing because everybody looks so young, and I thought I was grown at the time when I was here at Xavier," Osborne said. Anne Smith, the Director of the Xavier's Art Gallery, highlighted the significance of the exhibit being at an HBCU and honoring an alumnus of that HBCU. "It's really great you know because HBCUs are important institutions and HBCUs had the Art Departments that welcomed African American students ...when other institutions didn't and the majority of the HBCU Alumni are doing really well," Smith said.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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The reach of Osborne's Artwork is nationwide and global, with its distinct colorful styles and tributes to the iconic look of New Orleans. Community members and art enthusiasts also gathered to experience Osborne's works up close with the artist. Kenneth Wynn, a fan of the artist, travelled from Oakland,

Calif. to view the exhibit. Despite just landing in the city, Wynn said he was full of energy and fully immersed in the gallery experience.

"It's just how he captures the culture and how he captures the essence and spirit of the people, and then interprets it in such a vibrant way," Wynn said. "It speaks to the



spirit of the city. It speaks to the spirit of the people and if you have any connection to the city or don't have any connection to the city you're drawn to the work because... it just jumps off of the surface."

Winn added. Osborne said his goal to showcase the collection of "Private Works" at the Xavier Exhibit was to inspire the next generation of artists just as he was inspired. He shared an anecdote about visiting the Gallery of Richard Thomas as a N.O.C.C.A Student and how it impacted him, saying that he saw "himself" in the artwork.

He later discovered that Thomas had studied under the same professor he was studying under at Xavier, the late John T. Scott. The multigenerational connection is something that he is reminded of now that he owns his own art gallery here in the city. "Hopefully they see me and see themselves," Osborne said.

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Southern University Living Legends Recognition Ceremony Honoring Fred J. Johnson Jr.

Southern University Living Legends Recognition Ceremony Honoring Fred J. Johnson Jr. was hosted by Dr. Clyde Robertson on Friday, January 12th, 2024, from 3:00 P to 6:00 pm.

The ceremony was held at Millie Charles School of Social Work @ SUNO, 6801 Press Drive, New Orleans, LA.

Living Legends Honored Fred J. Johnson for a lifetime of impacting the New Orleans community. Many from the business, civic, cultural community, and family were gathered for this amazing celebration.

Among the local officials attending were Councilmembers Oliver Thomas and Eugene Green. In attendance also was State Senator Joe Bouie who presented Mr. Johnson with a State Senate Resolution and Data News Weekly was there!!!



Councilmen Oliver Thomas, Fred Johnson, and Councilmen Eugene Green



Michele Brierre, Fred Johnson, and Todd Henry.



Fred Johnson and friends.



Fred J. Johnson, Jr.



Fred Johnson at the podium.



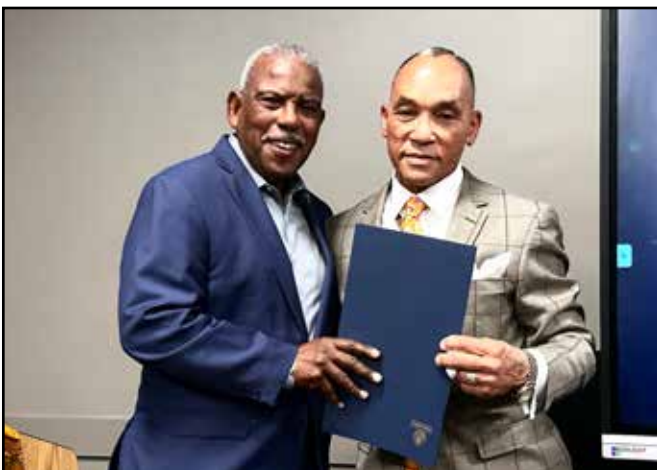
Tracey presenting Fred with an award.



Demetria Mercadel presenting Mr. Johnson with an award from Congressman Troy Carter.



Edwin A. Lombard former Clerk of Criminal District Court



State Senator Joe Bouie presenting Fred with a State Senate Resolution.



Musician Michael White and Congo Man.



Willie Adams

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Black Excellence Ruled the Night at the 2024 Emmys

Shenelle Genai
The Root

On Monday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Black Excellence took Center Stage at the 75th Annual Emmys.

Winners like Quinta Brunson, Ayo Edebiri, Trevor Noah, RuPaul, and Niecy Nash-Betts took home the gold and made history in their own way. Specifically, Brunson and Edebiri made history being the only two Black women to take home the awards in the comedy category in the same year. Brunson also cemented her name in the history books as the second Black Actress to win in that category and the first one in more than 40 years (the first and only actress to ever do so was Isabel Sanford in 1981.) As for Edebiri, she became the third Black woman to win for her category—previous winners include Jackee Harry (1987 and Sheryl Lee Ralph (2022).



Niecy Nash left; Quinta Brunson, and Ayo Edebiri.

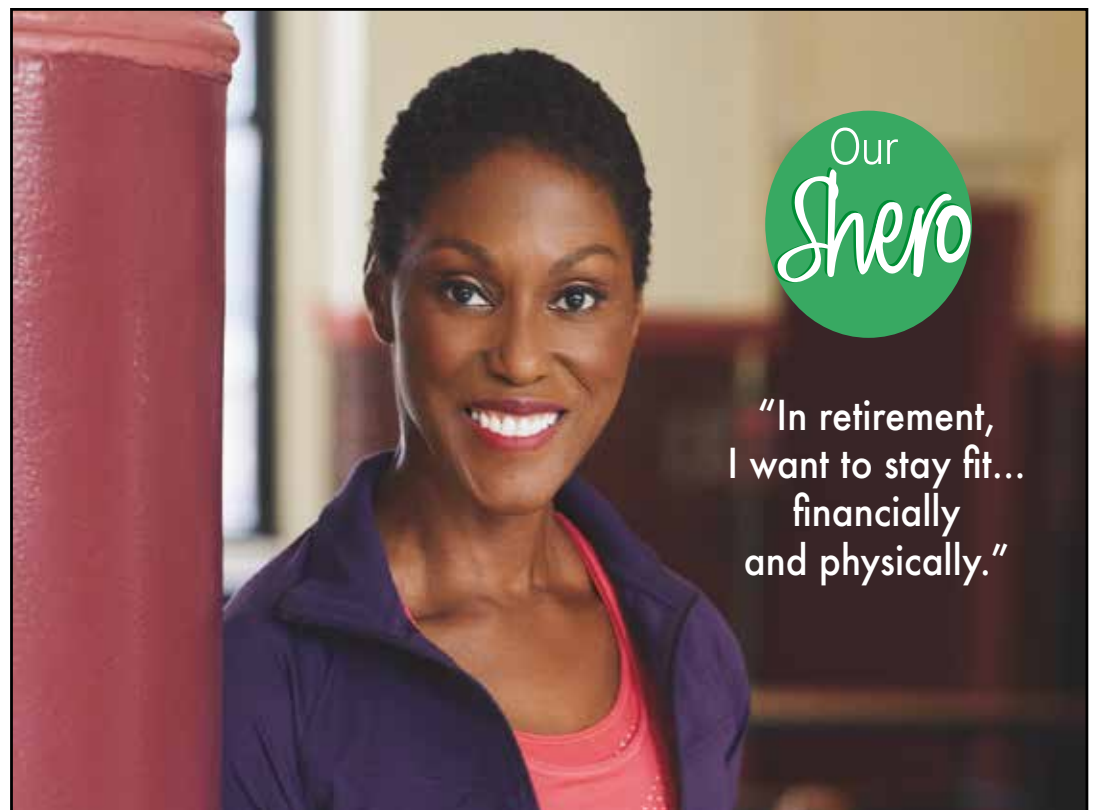


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Congressman Troy Carter Demands Fair Congressional Maps

Data News Staff Edited Report

Recently, Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-La.) held a press conference with the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC) expressing their united commitment to work with the Louisiana Legislature and Governor Landry to develop a constitutional map that contains two majority-minority Congressional Districts. Congressman Carter's remarks as prepared for delivery are below:

"Hello and thank you. I am so glad we are here together. I know there is a lot going on right now and some members may be in meetings or in transit given that the session is about to start. It's always a pleasure to come home to the building where I began my elected service. We are gathered here on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – because of the past. We are also here, however, because of the present and the future.

"We are here because the Supreme Court has stated: Louisiana has an unconstitutional congressional



sional map. We have been given an opportunity to correct this and look to the future.

"It is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and, though I know it was chosen because it was the earliest pos-

sible time to call for this session, it would be irresponsible of me not to acknowledge Dr. King's Legacy. So, to begin, I will simply say as he did 'the time is always ripe to do right.'

"Today, Louisiana has an oppor-

tunity for a fresh start. The opportunity to craft fair Congressional Districts that allow all of its people to meaningfully participate in the elections of those who represent them. For nearly two years, I have consistently called for the creation of a second majority-minority district. Math is math and 1/3 of the population deserves the opportunity to fairly elect a candidate of their choice. The courts have spoken, and they have given us the opportunity to draw constitutional districts ourselves. The time is clearly ripe to do what is right.

"I served in this body, and my experience is that everyone here loves Louisiana and wants to do the right thing. This is an opportunity for the legislature to prove that when right is staring us in the face, that they will do the right thing. In my heart I know my friends throughout this building will.

"I know there will be external pressures to continue to delay this past the next election. I know those pressures can seem all consuming, and that kicking this back to the courts might seem politically

expedient. Elected officials have multiple obligations. Politics does matter. Ideology does matter. But nothing matters more than doing what's right. This is our responsibility, not the judiciary. Don't leave it to them. Math is math.

"I stand here with my friends from the Legislative Black Caucus to firmly state that we are unified and ready to work with anyone who is working to create a map that establishes two majority-minority districts that give Black Candidates a meaningful opportunity to win. While we know there will be multiple maps presented, working together we can craft the best map to accomplish our shared and sacred goal.

"We all know that Dr. King said, 'a right delayed is a right denied.' The Supreme Court has ruled that Louisianians have already had their right to fair maps delayed in one election. I am hopeful that the entire legislature came here today to protect everyone's voting rights. I know, working together, we can do the right thing. God bless you and thank you."

State & Local News

Mayor Cantrell Appoints Terry Davis as the New Director of the Mayor's Office of Communications

Data News Staff Edited Report

Last week, Mayor LaToya Cantrell announced the appointment of Terry Davis as the new Director of the Mayor's Office of Communications. Director Davis will begin his tenure as the Lead Communications and Public Information Officer for the City of New Orleans effective Jan. 15th.

"Mr. Davis brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this role, and we look forward to the diverse contributions that he will bring to the City of New Orleans," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "He has an extensive background in City Government Service as a trusted advisor and in multiple roles at City Hall, in addition to more than 25 years of experience as a media relations professional. He is a well-



Terry Davis

known community advocate, and we welcome his experience to effectively and transparently communicate the City's priorities and goals to Meet Our People Where They Are and continue to Do the Work

to Move Our City Forward Together."

"I thank Mayor Cantrell for this opportunity, and I am more than humbled and honored to work to support the Mayor's People-First Vision for the City of New Orleans," said Davis.

Davis brings a combined 25 years of experience as an Executive Manager in government, media, creative entertainment and community affairs. His multi-media experience includes work in film, television, radio and print. His previous roles at

City Hall includes both Interim and Deputy Director of Communications, Deputy Chief of Protocol, Executive Producer of City Events and Cultural Arts and Liaison for City Special Events.

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Civil Rights Icon Andrew Young Reflects On Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy And America's Progress On MLK Day

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Senior Correspondent

As the nation commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, civil rights icon, diplomat, and former Atlanta mayor Andrew Young reflected on King's legacy and progress in America since the 1960s.

One of the last surviving members of King's inner circle, Young, sat down for an exclusive interview on PBS-TV's *The Chavis Chronicles* with National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., where he shared valuable insights into his historical journey as a leader of the civil rights movement and his own enduring legacy.

"I do this," Young said, reflecting on challenging injustices like the false arrest and imprisonment of the Wilmington Ten in the 1970s, "because it's the right thing to do. I wasn't being militant or outspoken I was trying to get people to see just what it is."

From his beginnings in segregated schools in New Orleans to his early graduation from Howard University and later studies at Hartford Theological Seminary, Young's commitment to justice emerged during his time as a pastor in southern Georgia. Organizing voter registration drives in the face of death threats, he played a crucial role in the campaigns leading to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Elected to congress in 1972, Young became the first African American representative from the Deep South since Reconstruction. His legislative efforts included establishing the U.S. Institute for Peace, The African Development

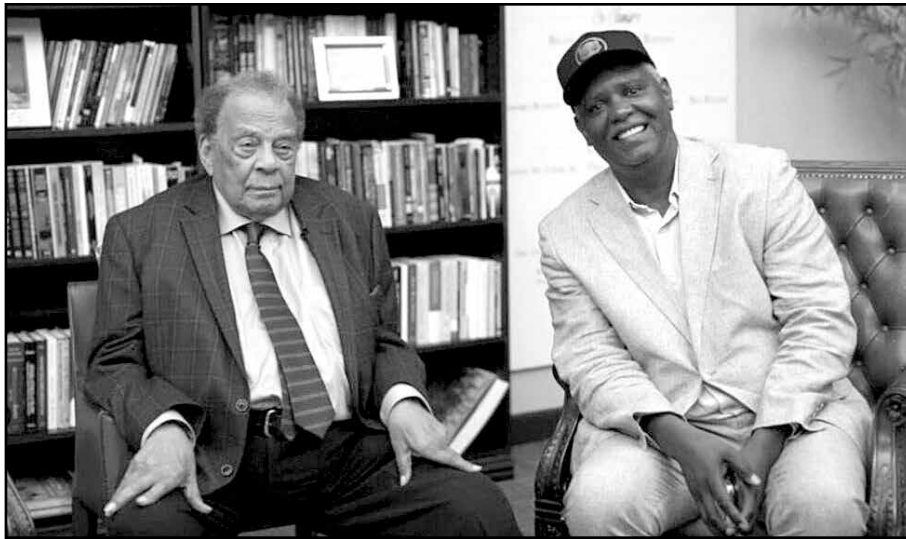
Bank, and the Chattahoochee River National Park. He left an indelible mark on the city by negotiating federal funds for vital infrastructure projects in Atlanta.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Young as the first African American Ambassador to the United Nations, where he played a crucial role in shaping U.S.-Africa policy based on human rights. His efforts contributed to ending white-minority rule in Namibia and Zimbabwe.

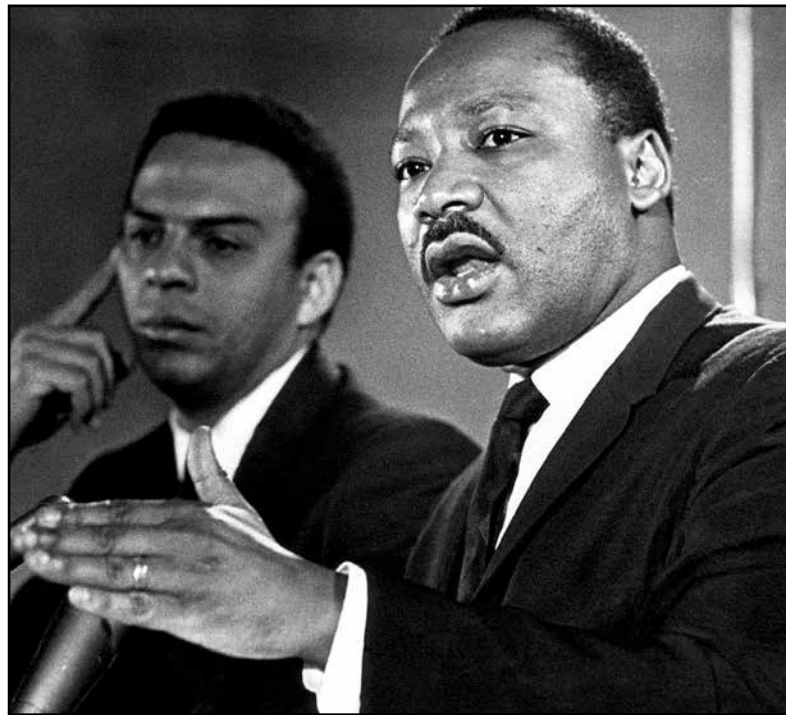
Reflecting on his experiences, Young shares poignant moments during the interview, including facing violence during the Civil Rights movement. He recalls, "When the Klan came marching down in the community, they wanted to provoke a fight. They had guns under their sheets in Lincolnville, Florida," he noted. "The same Black folks who got beat up with me said they had the love of Jesus in their hearts; that spiritual witness of nonviolence and forgiveness moved the Congress, and the next week they passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act."

Assessing the progress in civil rights, Young emphasizes the strides made, saying, "If anybody says things are no better now than they were then, they don't understand how well we have it now." He acknowledges the challenges but underscores the opportunities for education and progress.

As Young reflects on Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, he interprets it as a call for equal opportunity. "We are no longer slaves; we have



Civil Rights Icon Andrew Young and NNPA Senior Call respondent, Stacy Brown.



equal opportunity to make this a great nation if we are able to work hard. The educational opportunities are opening up," says Young. He acknowledges the partnership with white folks that contributed to Atlanta's success.

Young said he remains optimistic about the nation's future, echoing Dr. King's words: "It's inevitable to me that this nation, as Martin Luther King said, will live out, one day, the true meaning of its creed."

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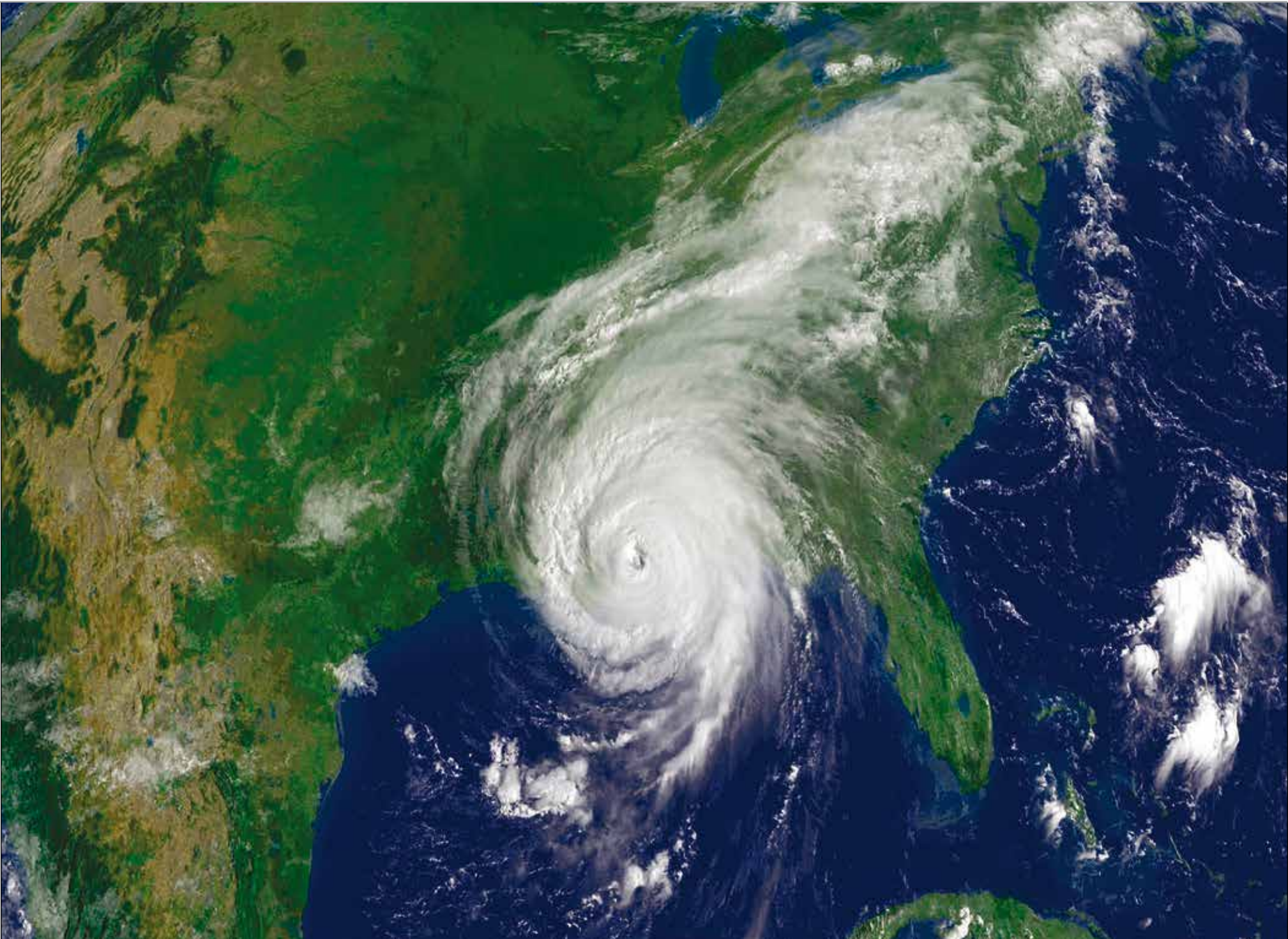
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