

Hurricane Katrina Assistance for the Design Community

The IIDA Texas – Oklahoma Chapter (as well as the rest of the gulf coast) have been monitoring Hurricane Katrina and the devastation that it has created. The latest news that we have heard is that it may take many months for people to be able to get back to the devastated areas. Additionally, many are out of work and don't know if they have a job to go back to. As an organization, we are in the process of working with design firms and industry members to identify temporary positions for evacuated professionals.

How can YOU participate?

Interior Design and Architecture, Facilities Management Groups, and Industry Representatives

1. Determine if you have a need for contract / temporary help and what level of skills and experience are needed.
 2. Write up a short job description. Please make sure to include the following:
 - Title the position with the following: "Contract Work for Katrina Evacuees"
 - Give a short description of what skill set & experience level you are looking for. It also may be helpful to identify how long this position will be around. You can go to the Jobs page on the IIDA TX – OK web site at www.iida-texas.org for examples
 - Provide a contact at your firm for people to contact.
 3. Send the job description via E-mail (chapter@iida-tx-ok.org) or traditional mail to the IIDA Chapter Administrator, Jeanne Chizzonite.
 4. The potential employees will need to contact the firms as defined on the job listing.
 5. Once the position has been filled, contact IIDA Chapter Administrator, Jeanne Chizzonite again to let her know to take it off the web page.
- ** Please be aware that many professionals were not able to bring business suits and work portfolios when they evacuated. Your understanding of this situation would be appreciated.

Dislocated Professionals:

1. Go to the Jobs page on the IIDA TX – OK web site at www.iida-texas.org and look for positions with the listing "Contract Work for Katrina Evacuees" and see which would be most appropriate for you.
2. Contact the potential employer as directed in the posting.
3. Each employer will have a different set of requirements to follow, but we would recommend a resume and a list of references.

Dislocated Students:

1. Most Big 12 Universities as well as Rice and University of Houston are opening their doors to displaced evacuees. They are offering in-state tuition costs, and trying to waive many of the entry fees. We recommend that you contact the admissions department at the university that works best with your particular situation.

The IIDA TX – OK Chapter feels strongly that working together through these tough times helps people keep their dignity, benefits the industry and helps to give back to the community at large. We would appreciate your help with this endeavor.