



c/o College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Sciences  
Howard University - School of Architecture and Design  
2366 6<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. - Room 100  
Washington, D.C. 20059 202.686.2780 www.noma.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 18, 2010

## **NOMA launches Service in Solidarity to join others in providing assistance to disaster-stricken Haiti.**

**Washington, DC, January 18, 2010** – The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), in partnership with The NOMA Foundation, Inc. – a 501c3 tax-exempt affiliate - is launching ***Service in Solidarity*** to join others providing assistance to disaster-stricken Haiti in response to the recent devastating earthquake. Immediately, this effort will outreach to NOMA members and other design professionals encouraging donations of money and material resources channeled through any of the credible relief agencies available, including those listed below. Like all other concerned citizens of the world, we feel compelled to act with urgency and immediacy. Accordingly, we have launched ***Shelter in Solidarity***, which will collect donated tents purchased by members, and arrange for them to be shipped to Haiti for distribution by relief agencies on the ground.

Looking ahead toward Haiti's short, mid and long-term future, NOMA will focus on providing technical assistance, planning and development efforts that will follow after the rescue and retrieval efforts, provide services and expertise in the rebuilding efforts, urban design and planning and will utilize the services of our members who have specific experience with design in disaster-stricken areas, as well as in seismic regions. To support these redevelopment efforts, NOMA has begun the process of gathering and inventorying the resources (human, material and monetary) available from within our membership ranks that can be assembled and quantified, so that we can offer legitimate, credible assistance either directly to the Haitian government, or in partnership with our sister organizations, some of whom already have infrastructure on the ground.

What is particularly meaningful about The National Organization of Minority Architects is the unique solidarity that we, as people of color (including those members who are, themselves Haitian) share with the Haitian people of the Diaspora. NOMA recognizes and salutes Haiti's longstanding history of independence and would consider it an honor to be called to service. NOMA fully understands and appreciates that Haiti was 'the first independent nation in the Americas, the first post-colonial independent Black-led nation in the world, and the only nation whose independence was gained as part of a successful slave rebellion.' We fully respect the dignity of the Haitian people and are willing to serve at the express invitation of the Haitian government and its people, most immediately.

Friends, in times of crisis, it is vital that we come together and serve others in need. We are extremely proud of our colleagues at the American Institute of Architects, Architecture for Humanity and all of our sister organizations that moved to immediately place resources into action to offer assistance to Haiti. NOMA stands with them as we all endeavor to make a positive impact, now and into the future.

### **About NOMA and The NOMA Foundation, Inc.**

*"NOMA's mission is to champion diversity within the design professions by promoting the excellence, community engagement and professional development of its membership."*

The National Organization of Minority Architects was created in 1971 to: Foster communications and fellowship among minority architects; Form a federation of existing and proposed local minority architectural groups; Fight discrimination and other selection policies being used by public and private sector clients to unfairly restrict minority architects' participation in design and construction; Act as a clearing house for information and maintain a roster on practitioners; Promote the design and development of living, working, and recreational environments of the highest quality; Create and maintain relationships with other professionals and technicians whose work affects the physical and social environment; Encourage the establishment of coalitions of member firms and individuals to form associate and joint venture relationships; Speak with a common voice on public policy; Work with local, state, and national governments on issues affecting the physical development of neighborhoods and communities; and Be an effective source of motivation and inspiration for minority youth.



The NOMA Foundation, Inc. was established to assist the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) in the development and operation of charitable, historical and educational programs. All programs undertaken by NOMA shall comply with such standards as to make them exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501c3 of the IRS Code, as amended.

**Contact Information:**

**R. Steven Lewis**, NOMA President  
National Organization of Minority of Architects (NOMA)

Address:

NOMA c/o College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Sciences  
Howard University - School of Architecture and Design  
2366 6th Street, N.W. – Room 100  
Washington, D.C. 20059  
Telephone: 202.686.2780  
Email: [info@noma.net](mailto:info@noma.net)  
Website: <http://www.noma.net>

**Ways you can help:**

➔ [Architecture for Humanity](#)

848 Folsom Street  
Suite 201  
San Francisco, CA 94107-1173

➔ [American Red Cross](#)

➔ [Salvation Army](#)

➔ [Clinton Foundation Haiti Earthquake Relief](#)

➔ [U.S. Green Building Council](#)

➔ [United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund](#)

➔ [Haitian Earthquake Relief Facebook Page](#)

**Related Links**

➔ [The White House Blog](#)

➔ [MSNBC](#)

➔ [U.S. Agency for International Development](#)

➔ [Center for International Disaster Information](#)