DR. BRICE MILLER’S ROLE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH AND DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

January 25, 2016 - The Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking announces the expanded role of Dr. Brice Miller focusing on Community Engagement, Outreach, and Diversity Initiatives at Taylor and the Tulane School of Architecture. In this new role, Dr. Miller will engage with and develop a wide range of initiatives related to diversity, outreach, and community engagement. Dr. Miller will continue as an Adjunct Lecturer in the Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship program (SISE), and as a consultant working on Engaged Communication and Marketing for Taylor.

As a nationally recognized community and cultural engagement specialist, and internationally-performing jazz musician, Dr. Miller provides experience with local, state and federal agencies, international partners, not-for-profit organizations, and businesses to facilitate collaboration within the university community, among students, faculty, staff, and community members.

“Although New Orleans is considered a hotbed for social innovation and social entrepreneurship, there still exists a multiplicity of ways to mend the historical disconnect between universities and communities. I see a need to forge engagement beyond the campus and into the community in refreshing and socially innovative ways,” Miller said. “To do this, I will apply best practices in community engagement and outreach to enhance interdisciplinary and partnership synergies throughout the portfolio of existing collaborations. I will serve as a critical resource to develop and implement intercultural communication strategies that strengthen faculty, staff, and student competence and engagement.”

Before coming to Tulane, Dr. Miller served as an assistant director in the division of Community Affairs at the University of Alabama, where he led community engagement, outreach, and diversity initiatives both on and off campus. Many of his initiatives were nationally recognized as Engaged Scholarship Best Practices by the National Outreach Scholarship Conference and Center for Community-Based Partnerships Engagement Awards Program, including the UA Community Culture Festival and campus-based Real Talk and Community Conversations (intercultural conversations). Miller lectured on issues of engaged scholarship, intercultural communication, and building more democratic communities through the humanities.

Drawing on interdisciplinary approaches, Dr. Miller utilizes creative tools such as digital storytelling, music, and performance arts as forms of communication for driving conversations on resilience and for engaging stakeholder support. In his recently completed dissertation and forthcoming book, “Feet Don’t Fail Me Now: Brass Bands in Post-Katrina New Orleans,” Miller explores the impact of Hurricane Katrina and the resilient strength of the city’s residents and musicians.

Dr. Miller holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. with a concentration in higher education administration, cultural anthropology, and ethnomusicology from the University of Alabama; a Masters of Educational Administration and Leadership from Xavier University of Louisiana; and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, also from Xavier University.