



# RELAY OF VOICES

*The Great River Run*



An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a network of channels and distributaries flowing into a larger body of water. The land is a mix of brown and green, indicating different vegetation and soil types. The water is a deep blue-green color. The text "running home" is written in a white, cursive font across the center of the image.

*running home*

# RELAY IS


AN APPLIED ARTS RESEARCH PROJECT

**AN EXPEDITION ON FOOT FROM THE  
HEADWATERS TO THE MOUTH OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER.**

# RELAY IS

THE PRODUCT OF OVER EIGHTEEN MONTHS  
OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY  
VICTORIA BRADFORD AND HER TEAM OF  
ATHLETES AND ADVISORS.

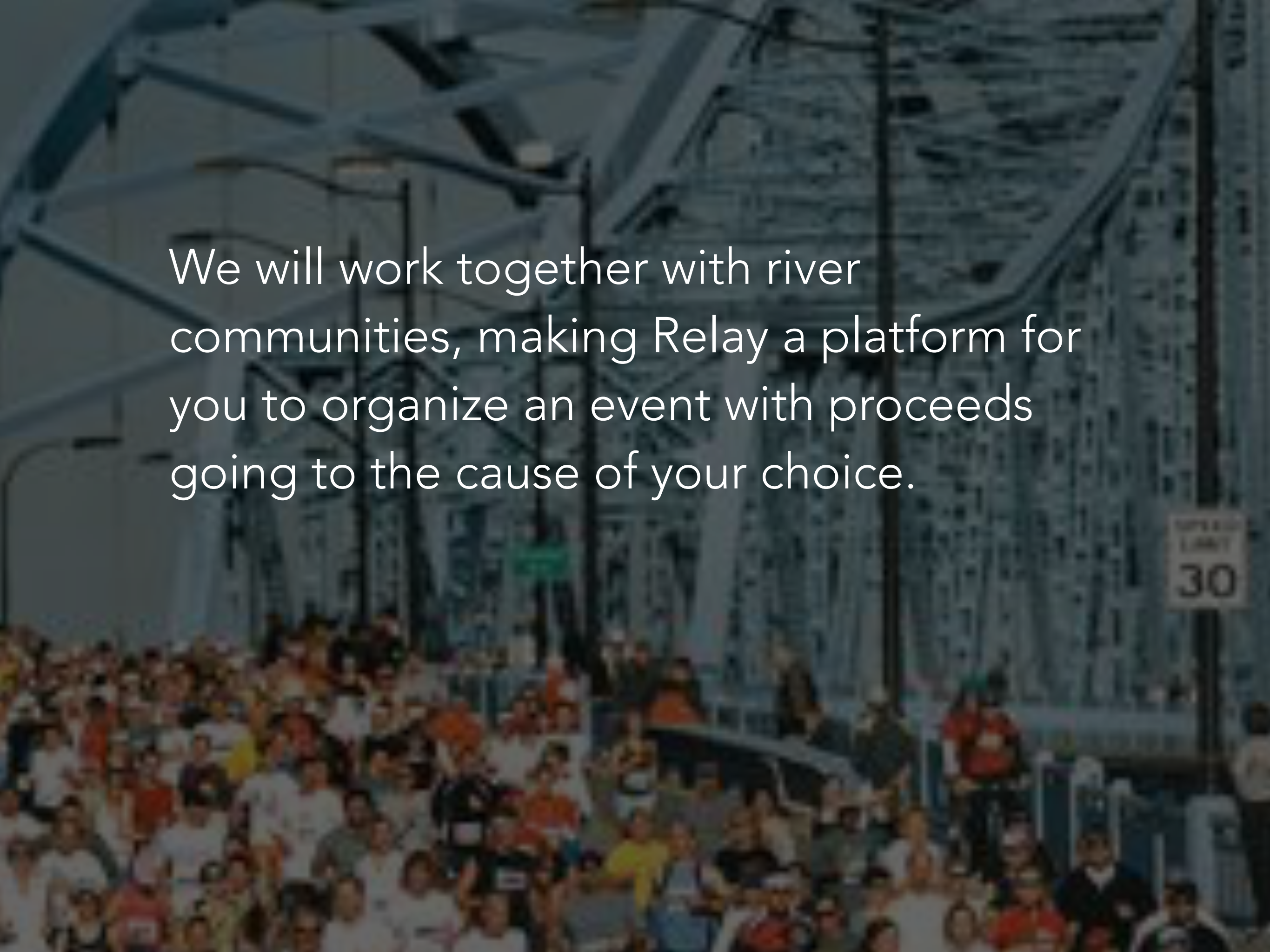
VISION

An aerial photograph showing a residential area that has been completely inundated with floodwater. The houses, which appear to be single-story structures with various roof colors, are surrounded by deep, dark water. The trees, mostly green, are also partially submerged, with only their upper canopies visible above the water level. The overall scene conveys a sense of significant flooding and displacement.

We will create a national spotlight on the Mississippi River region, emphasizing its diversity and importance from the Headwaters in Minnesota to the Mouth in Louisiana by running a 2,300 mile relay race through over 100 communities in 100 days.

A group of people are running in a large, dimly lit indoor space, possibly a gym or a community center. The room features a series of white columns and a polished floor that reflects the light. The runners are in various stages of their stride, and their shadows are cast on the floor. The overall atmosphere is one of movement and activity.

We will use new methods of research to understand the **human dimension** of life on the water by listening to human movement and everyday behavior, partnering with the **Water Institute of the Gulf** to integrate our research with ecological findings.

An aerial photograph of a city street filled with a large crowd of people, likely a marathon or a community event. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

We will work together with river communities, making Relay a platform for you to organize an event with proceeds going to the cause of your choice.



# Relay is an expedition

We want to learn, grow, experience the truth of things, and have fun as well! We want to spend time with you and come to know your story through dance, movement, conversation, and running with residents along the River.

BACKGROUND



Victoria Bradford | A House Unbuilt



THE ROUTE

# MERGING TWO PATHS —ONE MADE FOR BIKES AND ONE MADE FOR CARS— FOR TRAVEL ON FOOT



# 100 COMMUNITIES

FROM APRIL 27-MAY 26, 2018, WE WILL MAKE AN ADVANCE TOUR TO VISIT THE 100 COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED AS "RALLY STOPS" ALONG THE RELAY ROUTE.



# 100 DAYS OF RUNNING

STARTING IN SUMMER/FALL OF 2019, SIX MEN AND WOMEN WILL SET OUT ON THIS AMBITIOUS JOURNEY FROM THE HEADWATERS TO THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

# SCENARIO 1

We'll arrive in your community around 3 o'clock in the afternoon and invite local contacts to gather or host an event in a public park or open space to welcome us. We will invite those gathered to join us in our final laps, walking and running. Together we will keep moving as we "listen" to the voices from our previous destination along the route.



# SCENARIO 2

With the help of our local contacts, we'll connect with specific, individual residents in each community whose voices can connect us to the River. We are looking to spend a few hours with them, watching and witnessing their everyday lives through "movement interviews."



# SCENARIO 3

Each community will send us off to our next destination with a collective energy. At our "morning movement," your community can come warm up with us around 7 o'clock as we process the stories gathered the day before from their citizens. Then we'll invite you to join us as we walk, jog, and run further downriver.



# BONUS

Some communities may invite us for an extended stay, or perhaps a late night, where we will create a performance that relays the many stories from communities upriver of your own. In collaboration with local partners, we'll create an event that connects your arts community with our new body of research, similar to work we are creating for the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.



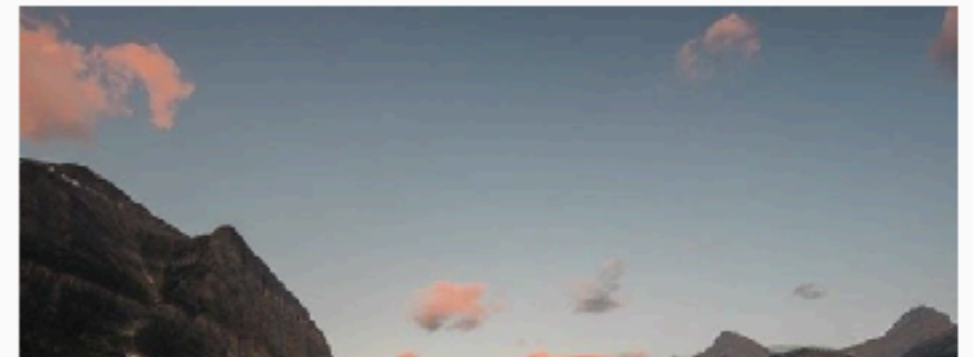
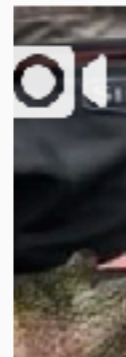
MAKE RELAY YOURS

# SOCIAL MEDIA:

Through social media such as hashtags **#theriveriscalling** and **#relayofvoices** on Instagram, Facebook advertising, and our own regular blog posts we will be putting a spotlight on each community we stop in and run through letting the whole country see the frontier spirit of the communities that call the Mighty Mississippi home.

## #theriveriscalling

15,259 posts



# PARTICIPATION:

We invite you to run or walk in this relay connecting with others down the River.

Run the entire 2,300 miles as a supported ultra marathon relay or pick up a few miles here and there when we are in your region. **Details on individual participation coming July 2018.**

Also, if you are not an athlete yourself, you can still **sponsor** a person who wants to participate!





# COMMUNITY CAUSES:

Work with your community to offer a platform to run with us for a cause or charity of your choice that benefits your local community. Emphasize how movement/exercise through running, walking, and dancing will strengthen your community's well-being and mental outlook.



At the 2020 MRCTI Conference in Bemidji, MN, Relay will share your voices, the collective, unjudged, human story of the River through a culminating exhibition including film, visual displays and performance. We invite you to not only help shape this final product but participate in how it comes to life.

*124 Cities, 10 States, 1 River.*

# MISSISSIPPI RIVER CITIES AND TOWNS INITIATIVE

*MRCTI Infrastructure Platform*

*Capitol Meeting Press Release*



BUILDING ENGAGEMENT

# RELAY'S 10-STATE VIRTUAL RACE SERIES THIS JULY

Run your own race, at your own pace, in your own time



# RACING THE ROUTE IN 2018

The Relay Team will participate at nationwide running and multisport races.

Races include The Louisiana Half Marathon in Baton Rouge, LA; The Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle, The Chicago Triathlon and the Chicago Half Marathon in Chicago, IL; the Grandad Half Marathon Relay in LaCrosse, WI; the Run-4-Troops Marathon Relay in Dubuque, IA; and the Get-in-Gear Half Marathon in Minneapolis, MN



# MOVEMENT INTERVIEWS

In the field, we will listen, observe, and ask questions. But we will also focus in on gestures, rhythms, behaviors, actions, routines, and rituals that become evident during the interview. We will ask to witness everyday activities, to be invited into someone's life and world as much as possible.



BUILDING SUPPORT

# CURRENT PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

- Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
- The Water Institute of the Gulf - Baton Rouge, LA
- Center for River Studies - Baton Rouge, LA
- Coastal Sustainability Lab - Baton Rouge, LA
- 3Arts - Chicago, IL
- Chicago Dancemakers Forum - Chicago, IL
- High Concept Labs - Chicago, IL



# CURRENT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## MINNESOTA

Lake Itasca, Park Rapids, Bemidji, Bena, Deer River, Grand Rapids, Jacobson, Aitkin, Brainerd, Little Falls, Rice, Elk River, St. Cloud, Monticello, Minneapolis, St. Paul, La Crescent

## WISCONSIN

Prescott, Bay City, Nelson, Fountain City, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Grandad Half Marathon

## IOWA

New Albin, Harpers Ferry, Clayton/Guttenburg, Dubuque, Run-4-Troops Marathon, Bellevue, Clinton, Davenport (Quad Cities), Muscatine, Oakville, Burlington

## ILLINOIS

Moline (Quad Cities), Nauvoo, Quincy, Grand Tower, Thebes, Tamms, Mounds City/Mounds, Chester, Wolf Lake, Union County/Jonesboro, Cairo

## MISSOURI

Hannibal, Louisiana, Clarksville, Elsberry, Winfield, Ashburn, St. Charles, Arnold, Festus (Twin Cities), Ste. Genevieve

## KENTUCKY

Wickliffe, Hickmann

## TENNESSEE

Tipton County/Covington, Memphis

## ARKANSAS

West Memphis, Helena-West Helena, Eudora

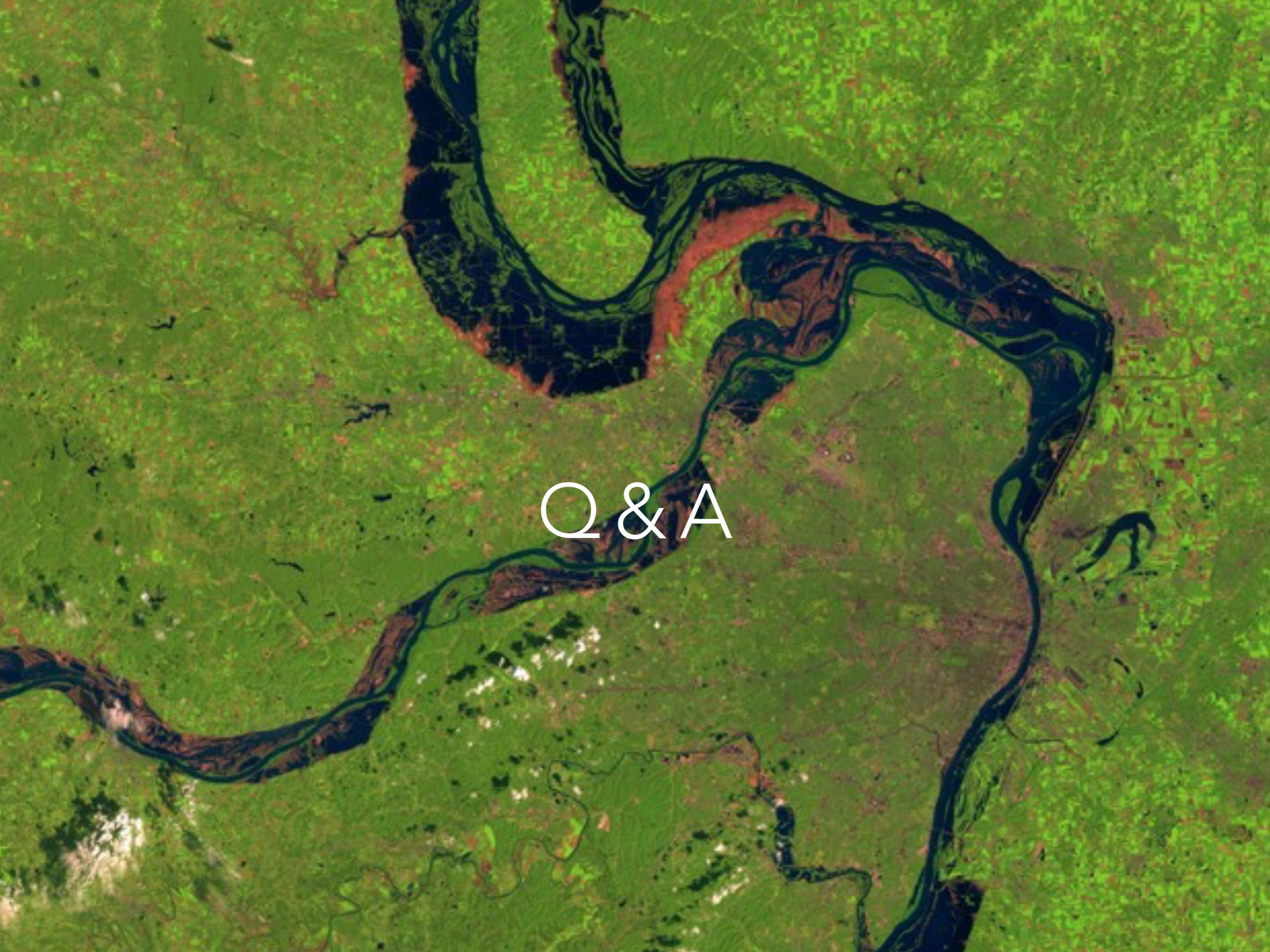
## MISSISSIPPI

Port Gibson, Natchez

## LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge, River Region, Kenner, New Orleans

and more to come!



Q & A

THANK YOU

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PLEASE BE IN TOUCH!



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ALSO ON SOCIAL!



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RELAY OF VOICES

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