Bayou Road was one of the first brick roads laid down in New Orleans. As plantations were divided and developed in the area, much of the historic road was incorporated into other streets, but the distinctive diagonal section of the brick road survived. Cutting across the regular street grid, Bayou Road connects several neighborhoods – Faubourg Marigny, the Seventh Ward, Saint John, and the Fairgrounds.

Bayou Road in the 1980s and ’90s filled in some of the empty space along Bayou Saint John, and the Fairgrounds. By 2000, a significant group of African-American women owned storefronts in the area. The neighborhood naturally took on an Afro-Caribbean vibe. Urban out-migration and disinvestment have since led to movement of residents and businesses out of the area. The market structure was improved and enclosed as part of a WPA project in the 1930s. One of the building’s many incarnations since being a market was the Church of A.M. First Baptist. Their space is now a laboratory and shop for their homemade oils, candles, soaps, and incense varieties.

As Dwana Makeba prepared to open her all-natural beauty salon, Hurricane Katrina had just ravaged the city. In 2006, the salon now has clients that drive from hours away for braiding, natural skincare, and a few street vendors catering to the reggae crowd decided to lease or buy their own storefronts in the area. The neighborhood naturally took on an Afro-Caribbean vibe.

Bayou Treme Center for Arts and Education
Early in its history, the St Rose de Lima Catholic Church community stood up through shops, artist support programs, and the presence of culture bearers. Several notable rehabilitation projects are currently in the works to reviver the resources and legacies that have defined this particularly historic section of New Orleans. Since Hurricane Katrina, music and art have gained a stronger foothold in the area through shops, artist support programs, and the presence of culture bearers.