



# United Teachers of New Orleans

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## **Bricolage Academy Educators Present Petition for Union Recognition**

*New Orleans, LA* – Last week, teachers and school employees at Bricolage Academy submitted a petition to the schools’ board of directors requesting voluntary recognition of their union with the United Teachers of New Orleans.

The petition, which was submitted to the board on Wednesday, February 24 , was signed by 80% of eligible faculty and staff. These educators, collectively known as Bricolage Academy Educators United (BAE United) submitted the following Mission Statement as part of their petition to the school:

*Bricolage Academy Educators United (BAE United) is dedicated to advancing educational equity by placing antiracism at the forefront of our student-centered work. BAE United values the expertise of those working directly with students in order to integrate design-thinking into everything we do. As Bricolage grows, formal systems of collaboration among teachers, students, families and administration will strengthen our community in service to our goal: to be a school where everyone gets what they need to become innovators who change the world.*

BAE United hopes to use the process of collective bargaining to create formal mechanisms for collaboration on educational excellence and advocate for the rights of educators and their students in a way that reflects the needs of the community they serve.

“Bricolage is the best version of itself when teachers have a strong voice and when we work together with students, families, administration, and other community members,” said Ashley Clay a second grade teacher at Bricolage Academy

“We have good teachers, we want to keep good teachers. Our teachers deserve a voice and to feel their opinions matter. They deserve the peace of mind that united representation will give them. Bricolage administration has done an amazing job in making the vision of Bricolage a reality by hiring teachers who align with Bricolage’s core values. Recognizing our teachers’ union is an opportunity to truly live our mission, improve our school and further enrich our children,” said Keri Blouin, a parent of 5th and 2nd grade students at Bricolage

By coming together to negotiate as equals with members of the administration, BAE United hopes to propel Bricolage Academy forward and lead the way as progressive educators in the City of New Orleans.

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