



NEW BEGINNINGS

AN UPDATE ON THE CLARKSDALE HOPE VI REVITALIZATION

CLARKSDALE HOPE VI INITIATIVE UNDERWAY LOUISVILLE METRO HOUSING AUTHORITY HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY



Pictured from left to right: Tim Barry, LMHA Executive Director; Sheila Etchen, Director of Policy and Programming, KY Housing Corporation; Krista Mills, Field Office Director, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development; Congresswoman Anne Northup; Manfred Reid, Chair, LMHA Board of Commissioners; Mayor Jerry Abramson; Metro Councilman Willie Bright; and Willie Jones, The Community Builders Inc./Clarksdale HOPE VI On-Site Developer Partner.

In December, Mayor Jerry Abramson, Congresswoman Anne Northup and other dignitaries broke ground for the first phase of construction for the Clarksdale HOPE VI revitalization.

"This is our second opportunity in Louisville to completely reinvent a neighborhood and to create an environment that seeks and encourages diversity," Abramson said. "We have shown the world how a successful HOPE VI grant can work at Park DuValle, and we are ready to prove we can do it again."

Louisville received two \$20 million HOPE VI grants for the Clarksdale redevelopment from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Congresswoman Northup was instrumental in securing the grants.

"This groundbreaking marks the beginning of a long-overdue improvement in the quality of life

for Clarksdale residents, and will be a tremendous boost to the overall downtown area. Clarksdale now joins the rest of downtown as a new center of growth and activity in Louisville," Northup said. "I am pleased to have helped secure this important federal grant."

Located on approximately 21 acres (4.5 city blocks), the first phase of the revitalization will include both homeownership and rental opportunities. Bounded by Clay, Jefferson, Liberty and Jackson Streets, Phase I has a budget of \$136,500,000. The new mixed-income community will have a variety of housing types including single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, apartments and condominiums. The Community Builders, Inc., will partner with the Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) as the on-site developer partner for the revitalization effort.

LOUISVILLE A NATIONAL LEADER IN REVITALIZATION



A Message from Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson

Some cities can only dream of the progress we are making together here in Louisville. You make that progress possible by being a part of the important network of neighborhood residents, organizations, businesses, and local, state and federal agencies who are working together to make the Clarksdale HOPE VI revitalization a reality.

This new neighborhood is being built as our downtown is growing and thriving, bringing more Louisvillians downtown. The Clarksdale HOPE VI revitalization will not only transform the Clarksdale neighborhood by drawing a mix of individuals and families from all walks of life, it will have a ripple effect of new growth and investment in surrounding areas.

This ripple effect is already evident as scattered site housing is being built or rehabilitated, improving neighborhoods throughout the community. The revitalization also has sparked residual benefits such as the renovation of historic buildings like St. Peter Claver, and it will soon further invigorate the neighborhood by providing residents with opportunities for employment and job skills training.

True progress is rarely easy, and it will take continued hard work over the next several years to complete this revitalization. But, change is already clearly visible, and we'll see more progress in 2005. I thank each one of you for the role you are playing in keeping us moving forward. I want you to know that you can count on me to remain engaged and committed throughout this revitalization which is so important to Clarksdale, its surrounding neighborhoods and our entire community.



CELEBRATION SETS STAGE FOR CONSTRUCTION TO GET UNDERWAY



*A Message From
Tim Barry,
LMHA Executive
Director*

It was an exciting moment on

December 9, 2004, to share the stage with Mayor Abramson, Congresswoman Northup, Councilman Bright, LMHA Board Chair Manfred Reid, and others to celebrate our progress and to break ground on Phase I of the revitalization. I'd like to extend my thanks again to them and to you for your dedication to the revitalization effort. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank the Lincoln Elementary School Choir for performing at the ceremony – you were definitely a wonderful addition to the festivities!

It took years of planning and analysis, but the physical work of the revitalization is now well under way. While the tasks of demolition and construction moves ahead, our top priority will continue to be ensuring smooth relocations for Clarksdale residents. As this process moves forward, our Relocation and our Community and Supportive Services staff will stay in close touch with residents before, during and after relocation. And, our developer partners, The Community Builders and East Side Partners LLC, will continue to monitor the building and renovations on- and off-site.

We are proud to be expanding the supply of quality, affordable housing throughout our community. And, we look forward to continuing to work with you, and sharing the successes we'll see throughout the year.



MAKING WAY FOR A NEW DAY



Over the past few months, Louisville residents have watched as the Clarksdale landscape has changed almost daily. As residents are relocated, block by block buildings are coming down to make way for the new apartments, condominiums, and single family homes. The last two blocks of Phase I to be demolished are located between Liberty, Muhammad Ali, Clay, and Jackson Streets.

As the demolition work continues, the infrastructure work, which includes the new sewer systems, water, gas and electric, and telecommunications services, now begins. "This revitalization project is a carefully coordinated system of work including planning, assigning tasks and executing the plan," said

Bernard Pincus, LMHA HOPE VI Coordinator. "To stay on schedule, communication is the key between everyone involved. Our on-site developer partner, The Community Builders Inc., and the demolition and construction vendors have been doing a great job."

CLARKSDALE HOPE VI REVITALIZATION EAST/WEST STREET ELEVATION

Jefferson, Liberty, and Muhammad Ali will be lined with large scale buildings reminiscent of Market Street or other apartment buildings on traditional Louisville boulevards.



COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (CSS)

PROVIDING HELP TO RESIDENTS “ANY WAY THEY CAN”

Help comes in the form of providing comprehensive case management from CSS Coordinator Camille Robinson and staff from Louisville Metro Human Services (LMHS). Ms. Robinson and the Case Managers provide an array of services and programs including Family Self-Sufficiency, computer education and training, job placement, adult education classes, scholarship programs, and variety of youth resident programs.

“Our primary goal is to provide services and programming that not only meets the immediate needs of Clarksdale residents, but also helps to prepare them for the future,” said Robinson. Financial skills workshops were conducted for residents to help them make the best use of their relocation money. Families located in the Phase II area recently attended an open house where they signed up for Family

Self-Sufficiency classes, GED training, and Section 3 employment opportunities.

As the Case Managers complete the needs assessments for residents in Phase II, they continue to stay in touch with residents who have already been relocated. “It’s important that these individuals and families know that we’re still here to help in any way we can,” said Robinson. “We want to make sure they are successful in the transition to their new homes and continue to help if any other services are needed to improve their lives. We’re committed to our work, and committed to being there for the residents now and in the future.”

The on-site Clarksdale CSS office is located at 700 Ballard Court. The CSS staff can be reached at (502) 569-6015.



Pictured from left to right are Camille Robinson, Gary Lyons, Teshanna Brown, Mariana Lemieux, Nancy Carrington and Deborah Bailey-Roberts.

CSS RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT:

“MISS RUBY” ROSS



At the age of 61, Ruby Ross has begun working on her GED with the support of the Clarksdale CSS staff, family and friends. “Miss Ruby”, as she is fondly called, has overcome personal challenges and a fear of fractions to work towards earning her GED. Her “can do” spirit and enthusiasm has not only spurred her along the way, but also inspired fellow Clarksdale residents to follow in her footsteps.

Once she completes her studies, Miss Ruby hopes to start her own business. “Miss Ruby has given her friends and neighbors at Clarksdale hope,” said Nancy Carrington, LMHS Case Manager. “She has demonstrated that you can do almost anything if you put your mind to it. We are so proud of her!”



NEW LMHA BOARD MEMBERS NAMED



Cynthia Adelberg

Four civic and community leaders have been appointed to the LMHA Board of Commissioners. They are **Cynthia Adelberg**, Executive Director of The Clifton Center; **Bryan Cole**, Acting Labor Relations Specialist, U.S. Postal Service; **Stuart Frankenthal**, Entrepreneur; and **Rose Livingston**, Human Resources Specialist, Jefferson County Public Schools.

"We are pleased to have these outstanding civic and community leaders serving on our Board of Commissioners," said Tim Barry, LMHA Executive Director.



Bryan Cole

"Overseeing the work of the Housing Authority is of particular importance during this time of so much change. Each of them brings a wealth of knowledge and commitment to providing housing for those in need in our community."

Ms. Adelberg and Ms. Livingston will serve until August 15, 2005; Mr. Cole and Mr. Frankenthal will serve through August 15, 2006. Continuing board members include Board Chairman Manfred Reid, Sr., David Howard, Jr., Thelma Martin, Bobby Shore, and Charles Horton who represents Mayor Abramson.



Stuart Frankenthal



Rose Livingston

STAY IN TOUCH...

STAY ACTIVE

*A message from
Metro Councilman
Willie B. Bright, District 4*



Dear Friends,

First, I want to thank all of the Clarksdale residents for their ideas, suggestions, and input during the planning and redevelopment process of the HOPE VI project. I want to welcome future residents to the Phoenix Hill neighborhood and to the district. I am looking forward to sharing this new beginning with you and your families. To those residents who have moved outside the district, I will miss you. Please keep in touch and become active in your new neighborhoods and districts.

As the HOPE VI project moves forward, please rest assured that my staff and I will continue to be available to listen to all your concerns, ideas and recommendations for strong consideration by the Clarksdale Neighborhood Advisory Council. Your feedback is important. I believe that Clarksdale's revitalization is one of many important initiatives currently underway in our city. Together, we can help make this project a success!

Clarksdale Hotline:

(502) 569-6677

For any questions or concerns regarding the Clarksdale HOPE VI Revitalization.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY, CONTINUED

LMHA has provided relocation assistance to each of the 728 families that lived in Clarksdale. The redevelopment will replace each affordable housing unit in Clarksdale – either within the new neighborhood or elsewhere in the community.

The site has been designed with a focus on quality and value of housing, as a new downtown neighborhood. The design also integrates Active Living, a community-wide, health-awareness program, with pedestrian-safety features and attractive destination planning, such as small parks throughout the redeveloped area. The site's design also encourages a level of density that will contribute to the vibrancy of the neighborhood.

"We expect the area to attract additional services and amenities due to the increase in pedestrian traffic and number of residents nearby," Abramson said.

HOPE VI began in 1992, as an effort to eradicate severely distressed public housing. Revitalization focuses on physical improvements, management improvements and social and community services.

Scheduled for completion within five years, the Clarksdale HOPE VI revitalization will ultimately result in about a \$190 million investment through a public-private partnership to build more than 180 homes for people to buy and 530 apartments for rent in the new mixed-income community.



GET UP, GET OUT, GET MOVING ALL ABOUT



If you live in the Clarksdale, Shelby Park, Smoketown and Phoenix Hill neighborhoods, ACTIVE Louisville is working to get the word out about the importance of developing a healthy and active lifestyle. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ACTIVE Louisville is a local partnership comprised of Louisville Metro government, LMHA and a variety of local health and fitness agencies all aimed at encouraging the target neighborhoods, as well as the community at-large, to "get up, get out and get moving all about." The initiative is part of Active Living by Design (ALBD), a national program established to create, enhance and promote environments that make it safe and convenient for people to be more physically active.

"Getting the message out about the importance of getting physically active is our first priority," said local ACTIVE Louisville Program Coordinator Nina Walfoort. "Our efforts include organizing events and developing programming; giving presentations for neighborhood groups, churches and community organizations; developing and distributing informational flyers, posters and fitness fact sheets; and, promoting media coverage of program activities to encourage participation and community support."

In the fall, ACTIVE Louisville held a "Worldwide Day of Play" at Meyzeek

Middle School in conjunction with the local "Tap into Fitness" program and the Nickelodeon Network. About 100 kindergarten through eighth grade students, and their parents, took part in a variety of fun and physically challenging activities including sack races, relay events and hula-hoop contests. The event, which also included a healthy cooking demonstration by the Coachlamp Restaurant and martial arts demonstration from the Newburg Tang Soo Do Karate Club, was designed to emphasize children's right to play, and the importance of physical fitness and healthy lifestyles.

ACTIVE Louisville is made possible by a five-year ALBD grant of \$200,000 funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The initiative will help reshape the way that planning, policy and physical development occurs within the Louisville Metro area.

For more information, visit the web site at www.activelivingbydesign.org or contact Nina Walfoort at (502) 561-5122.





Clarksdale HOPE VI Revitalization
P.O. Box 1418
Louisville, KY 40201-1418

REVITALIZATION SPARKS MAJOR CLEAN UP



The revitalization of the Clarksdale neighborhood sparked an almost year-long project for LMHA staff involving almost 2,000 boxes of records, spanning more than 65 years. Clarksdale Building 55 had become the agency's storage facility with staff sending files and equipment there for years that literally began to pile up. When demolition of the building was scheduled as part of the revitalization effort, LMHA staffers Alan Farley, Designer Technician, and Les Payton,

Construction Manager, took on the monumental task of coordinating the clean up effort.

"I didn't know what we'd be dealing with," said Farley. "However, armed with Les's historical knowledge, we were able to go about the task very methodically." The job posed several problems including an incredible amount of dust and mold, as well as the sheer volume of paper and old, obsolete equipment. It took several

months for LMHA staff members, from throughout the agency, to carefully look through their department's documents and materials.

When it was all said and done, 753 boxes were relocated to new records retention vaults, 300 were sent to a waste disposal site, and the contents of 929 boxes were shredded. There were many items of historical significance that were kept including photos of the neighborhood dating back to 1938. All records with personal information that were not needed were destroyed. Farley explained that he and Payton spent a great deal of time last year coordinating the project and organizing what was kept into a system of records that LMHA staff can now easily access. Payton added, "We were glad to be part of the project. Once complete, it gave us a real sense of accomplishment!"