Groundbreaking Celebration Held For Maywood Supportive Living

Rains held off long enough on June 23 to brighten Celadon Partners, LLC groundbreaking celebration of Maywood Supportive Living. Celebrated in tandem with COVID-19 precautions, the festive outdoor event recognized the major historic redevelopment of a five-story, 133,000-square-foot supportive living facility for seniors located at 316 Randolph Street in Maywood, Illinois. In attendance were state and local dignitaries including Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, Illinois Deputy Governor Sol Flores, former Village of Maywood Mayor Edwenna Perkins, and current Maywood Mayor Nathaniel George Booker. The event was complimented by live music and refreshments.

Maywood Supportive Living represents a $50 million investment in Maywood and features the adaptive re-use of the former Baptist Retirement Homes. The property, which was added to the State of Illinois’ National Register of Historic Places in 2017, will be fully renovated into a supportive living facility for seniors age 65 and up. When completed, Maywood Supportive Living will offer 100 units of supportive housing, a commercial kitchen, dining room, resident lounge, game room, movie theater room, general store, a library, beauty shop, exercise room, wellness rooms and exam rooms. The project will create 130 temporary construction jobs and 70 permanent jobs.

"With the onsite staff that will be here," Speaker Welch told the crowd, "our seniors will be able to get all the support they need and most definitely deserve.”
Groundbreaking Celebration Held For
Maywood Supportive Living, (cont.)

Project developer Celadon Partners, LLC received the SLF certification from the State of Illinois and will operate the facility consistent with State regulations. Celadon, which has completed seven affordable housing redevelopments throughout Illinois, will partner with a local nonprofit partner and will have referral programs with Hines Veterans Administration Hospital and Loyola Medical Center, both in Maywood.

There will be as many as 110 beds in the 100 units (83 studio and 17 one-bedroom units) and each will include a full bath, kitchenette with refrigerator, microwave, cabinets and sink, and in-unit nurse call system. Group and individual programming will be led by staff and local partners offering social services and events for residents. Other assistance will include activities for daily living, including medication management, housekeeping and laundry.

“Affordable and supportive senior housing is a key component of making the [senior] stage of life possible for all of our residents, regardless of their socioeconomic means,” added Deputy Governor Flores. “For more than 15 years, this historic building has been vacant, sitting idle, waiting for a new purpose once again. Eighteen months from now this building will be beautiful and ready to serve its residents thanks to continued perseverance from the community and stakeholders.

CCLF provided Celadon Partners a $5,000,000 predevelopment loan to Maywood Supportive Living. Celadon also received financing for the project from the Illinois Housing Development Authority, a 4% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and Historic Tax Credit equity from NDC, and Illinois Donation Tax Credit equity from US Bank. Celadon Partners is a repeat CCLF borrower.

“Thank you CCLF for being there for us when we needed you,” said Aron Weisner, Consultant for Celadon Partners. “The CCLF team quickly worked with us to get through the approval process. [The CCLF] team and product are one-of-a-kind and make complicated and unique projects like Maywood Supportive Living possible. Thank you for your continued partnership and for being there for the Chicago development community.”

“Our missions are aligned around high quality affordable housing and community development and it is pleasure to help Celadon move its developments forward,” noted CCLF President Calvin L. Holmes. “Together, we will make Chicagoland a more equitable home for all of us.”

CCLF Awarded CDFI Fund’s Rapid Response Program Grant

On June 15, CCLF was awarded a grant of $1.826 million from the CDFI Fund’s Rapid Response Program. The awards were announced by Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House with U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen, Senator Mark Warner (D-VA), Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Opportunity Finance Network President and CEO Lisa Mensah.

In total, the U.S. Treasury awarded $1.25 billion in grants to more than 800 community lenders headquartered in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico. The grants will be made through the Treasury’s CDFI Rapid Response Program and will provide necessary capital for CDFIs to respond to economic challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in underserved communities.

“These awards provide CDFIs with an unprecedented level of flexible capital to help distressed and underserved communities across the country take meaningful steps towards recovering from the debilitating economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said CDFI Fund Director Jodie Harris. “CDFI RRP awards will enable CDFIs to help businesses keep their doors open, help families make ends meet, and help maintain important community facilities during this difficult time.”
Chicagoland Opportunity Zones Consortium Launches LinkedIn Page

The Chicagoland Opportunity Zones Consortium launched its LinkedIn page in June 2021. The page was designed to further connect and educate developers, business owners, small business capital resources and investors about the Opportunity Zones incentives in Chicago and suburban Cook County.

Planned content includes educational opportunities, project highlights and LinkUps. To follow the site, visit www.linkedin.com.

CCLF Joins NALCAB

CCLF became the newest member of the National Association For Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB) in June. The NALCAB member network includes over 130 nonprofit organizations serving Latino communities throughout the United States, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Members of the NALCAB Network invest in their communities by building affordable housing, addressing gentrification, supporting small business growth, and providing financial counseling on issues such as credit building and homeownership. A majority of the people served by the NALCAB Network are low- to moderate-income individuals who are immigrants, or the children of immigrants.

Rehab Begins on Rebuild Property

July 12 brought the Kick-Off/Demo Day for a property under the Chicago Neighborhood Rebuild program. Located at 7222 S. Vernon in Chicago’s Park Manor neighborhood, the site is the first rehab of a CCLF-acquired property then sold to a developer participating in the Chicago Neighborhood Rebuild Program.

Originally built in 1914, the 1,914 square foot, two-story home had been neglected and abandoned for more than 10 years. Original architectural features are still embedded within the home awaiting restoration, including stained glass windows, hardwood floors and a full basement.

CCLF purchased the property then sold it to Rosie Investment Corporation as part of the Rebuild Program. The Rebuild Program, a collaborative effort among CCLF, the City of Chicago, the Cook County Land Bank Authority, Community Investment Corporation, The Safer Foundation and Cara, works to facilitate the acquisition and redevelopment of single family and two-flat vacant or abandoned properties for new homeowners in higher crime areas within the 7th, 10th and 11th Police Districts. Properties in other low- to moderate-income communities may be accepted into the program.

“This is the first property where CCLF did the actual acquisition and financing, which makes this project unique,” explained Sean Harden, CCLF’s Technical Assistance and Special Initiatives Consultant. “We analyzed what the area value is, what the cost of rehab is and what the cost of acquisition is. We ensured there is a certain margin the developer can achieve throughout the project otherwise a property like this would just sit abandoned, bringing down the neighborhood. We put this project out for bid and Rosie Investment Corporation won the bid.”

“This CCLF was amazing to work with during this process,” explained LeVar Love, owner of Rosie Investment Corporation. “This is the first project with CCLF. I am happy to work with CCLF because the team was patient and provided ideas to help us get to today.”

On-hand for the Kick-Off/Demo Day was a team from Workforce Solutions which provides job-training opportunities to youth and ex-offenders. Workforce Solutions was a huge collaborator on this project starting interior demolition of the property as the festivities and tours wound down.

“This is the biggest property on the block,” said Harden. “But it’s abandoned, and it has brought down the entire neighborhood. The goal is to create a trickle-down effect where we’re targeting these types of projects that, when finished, will inspire and enhance a neighborhood.”
CCLF’s 2021 Annual Stakeholders Meeting Highlights
Resiliency During the Pandemic

On June 17, CCLF held its Annual Stakeholders Meeting virtually for the second consecutive year. Funders, investors, borrowers and supporters joined to learn how their funding and partnership increased CCLF’s social impact in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods during the COVID-19 pandemic and the fund’s plans post-pandemic.

The program included live reports and presentations of borrower projects that demonstrate CCLF’s perseverance and community outreach during the unprecedented challenges of 2020. Featured borrowers, presented through video segments and a live presentation, included The UPS Store Woodlawn, Momentum Coffee and Co-working and Amped Kitchens (see sidebar at right).

CCLF Board Chair Matt Reilein opened the program via a video greeting. “This pandemic threatened to erase 30 years of community development efforts CCLF and our borrowers have planted to transform neighborhoods, but with your help capital continued to flow where it was needed most,” Reilein stated. “Thank you to the many investors, funders, individual donors, partners and customers that provide the motivation to help correct decades of disinvestment in communities of color.”

Lycrecia Parks, Vice President of Portfolio Management, served as Virtual Emcee for the 2021 Annual Stakeholders Meeting. Transitioning between segments, Parks presented CCLF’s 2020 portfolio performance. “No one person, one thing or organization could pull us out of the pandemic. But together, we made it! We are still here!” Parks told the virtual audience.

“CCLF partnered with various organizations, municipalities, and financial institutions to provide COVID-relief assistance,” Parks continued. “Through those partnerships CCLF was able to provide $1.5 million through the Together Now program; $1.3 million through the Chicago Small Business Resiliency Fund; $9 million through the Cook County Community Recovery Fund; and $9.7 million through the Business Interruption Fund. Those partnerships provided a total of $21.4 million in COVID-relief.”

“Through thoughtful underwriting and consideration,” Parks later shared, “CCLF closed 48 loans totaling over $24 million in fiscal year 2020, $9.5 million was for facilities; $6.6 million for housing loans; $6.9 million for Commercial Retail; and $1 million for Social Enterprises.” She added, “CCLF ended fiscal year 2020 with 179 loans outstanding, totaling over $96.8 million. As of the end of the first quarter of 2021, CCLF had 184 loans outstanding totaling over $99 million. We are nearing a portfolio of $100 million outstanding. This is certainly a milestone for CCLF!”

In her final segment Parks informed the audience of CCLF’s portfolio quality and how the pandemic affected its borrowers. “We agreed to offer loan payment forbearance in three-month increments. The team pivoted and started calling the most at-risk borrowers to gather data and make decisions. We learned that about 15% of CCLF’s borrowers actually needed assistance and the team was there to provide it. To date, about 97% of the borrowers have commenced with their loan payments and the remaining 3% are nearing the end of their loan forbearance. Based on the information collected, those 3% should be financially stable enough to start remitting their loan payments as scheduled.”

CCLF Borrowers Show Resiliency During 2021 Annual Stakeholders Meeting

Borrower profiles were the highlight of the Stakeholders Meeting, allowing CCLF borrowers a chance to tell their stories and their experience working with CCLF during the challenges of 2020.

CCLF borrower, The UPS Store Woodlawn, was a featured presentation during the meeting. CCLF provided a $225,000 construction/mini-permanent loan to Generation I owned by Rex and Monica Ingram to purchase the equipment and provide working capital to open the UPS Store. The store, occupying 1,700-square-feet of space in Woodlawn Station, opened just as the effects of the pandemic was rising.

Momentum Coffee and Co-working, an additional featured borrower, also shared their experiences. CCLF provided a small business loan to Tracy Powell and Nikki Bravo of Ignite Technology & Innovation to purchase the equipment and provide the working capital to open the coffee shop and coworking space, located in the South Loop. Ignite Technology & Innovation was also the recipient of a small business loan through CCLF’s partnership with the City of Chicago through their Chicago Small Business Resiliency Fund program.

Mott Smith, founder and principal of Amped Kitchens Chicago rounded out the
As a result of the payment forbearance assistance and all the other COVID-19 financial assistance programs provided, CCLF ended fiscal year 2020 with zero percent delinquency,” Parks added. “This held true through the first quarter of 2021 and to date.”

In 2020, CCLF’s Board of Directors approved a new four-year strategic plan with the goal to double CCLF’s asset size. Bob Tucker, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Programs introduced the four focus areas of the plan. The first focus area is Invest in the Community. “We will be increasing our access to capital and utilizing even more disadvantaged business enterprises in our work,” Tucker explained. “With our new plan we will be more intentional in fulfilling our geography – increasing our reach and impact in suburban geographies and in Latina/o communities. We will also step up our policy agenda, advocating for the people and communities we serve.”

“Our second area of focus is to Invest in Community Developers and Service Providers,” Tucker continued. “We will build out a collaboration with service providers and also enhance our own customer service experience. We will expand our technical assistance to reach further and go deeper.” The third focus area of the strategic plan is to Invest in Our People. Tucker noted, “We are very proud of the fact that our organization looks like the people we serve, and we want to be an employer of choice in Chicagoland.”

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“In a highly informative presentation, Dowell explained “CCLF ended fiscal year 2020 with $121 million in total assets supported by $32 million in net assets. Many of you – our funders and investors – called us very early in the pandemic to ask what support was needed and you responded with additional grant funding, waived or reduced interest, covenant waivers, and relaxed restrictions on grants. All of this support is what enabled CCLF to end the year with a surplus.”

“CCLF also received a clean audit opinion with no findings and maintained its AA, three-star Aeris® rating and for the first time received a policy plus rating,” Dowell added.

CCLF President, Calvin L. Holmes, rounded out the agenda thanking funders for their dedicated support throughout 2020. “Our donors and investors supported our technology upgrades in our last strategic plan which allowed for a smooth transition to remote working,” Holmes said. “Our donors and investors supported building our assets to $100 million dollars which allowed us to offer loan payment forbearance. Our donors and investors are true partners that worked alongside CCLF to support our customers during the pandemic.”

Holmes further lauded CCLF’s PPP Pop Up Virtual Call Center, “With the help of the Call Center,” Holmes said, “26 participants were successful in securing a PPP loan. Those loans totaled nearly $1 million and averaged just over $38,000.” He also acknowledged the Chicagoland COVID-19 Community Resource Guide which helps navigate the myriad of grants, loans and other resources available from public and private sources.

CCLF’s 2021 Annual Stakeholders Meeting may be viewed at www.cclfchicago.org.
Held virtually on June 3, LISC Chicago presented the 2021 Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards (CNDA) Gala honoring the work of non-profit and for-profit developers in building communities in Chicago-area neighborhoods. The event, hosted by ABC-7’s Samantha Chapman, featured remarks from Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle with entertainment provided by DJ LadyD and the House-O-Matics Footwork Crew.

Among the notable celebrants, Claretian Associates earned The Chicago Community Trust Outstanding Community Plan Award for the “We’re Steel Here!” plan in the South Chicago neighborhood. The “We’re Steel Here!” plan calls for the redevelopment of South Chicago into a 21st century community, with diverse and vital industries, residents and activities.

Sponsored by Claretian Associates, the plan envisions nine inter-connected projects to bring housing, recreational space, workforce development programs, and new commercial corridors to the community. Immediate implementation of the plan includes the opening of the Salud Center, including a performance venue, gym and other recreational activity spaces, along with the renovation and opening of a long-closed YMCA into 100 units of affordable apartments. Plans also call for a New Homes for South Chicago program, through which large single-family homes will be transformed into two-flat homes. Executive Director of Claretian Associates and CCLF Board Member Angela Hurlock accepted the award during the CNDA Gala.

CCLF-funded Oso Apartments earned Third Place for the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Architectural Excellence in Community Design. Jaime Torres Carmona of Canopy/Architecture +Design accepted the award for the property, developed by the Evergreen Real Estate Group and located in the Albany Park neighborhood.

Completed in 2019, the Oso Apartments offers homes for singles and families featuring bright yellow sunscreens and Juliet balconies. An architectural highlight of the building is a mural entitled “Community Diligence” by Chicago artist Miguel A. Del Real, designed to connect the interior and exterior lobby gathering spaces while reinforcing the notion of the power of community.

The Cook County Land Bank Authority and its Executive Director, Rob Rose, were recognized with the Richard M. Daley Friend of the Neighborhood Award. Founded by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and Cook County Board Commissioner Bridget Gainer, the CCLB acquires properties and works with small developers and potential homeowners to reinvest in Chicago-area neighborhoods. In less than a decade, the Land Bank has acquired more than 2,000 properties, sold more than 1,000 and helped returned more than $14.5 million to the tax rolls.

CCLF’s Releases 2020 Annual Report: Made For This

CCLF has released its 2020 Annual Report, entitled Made For This. Presented as an interactive digital document, Made For This highlights CCLF’s response to the multiple crises of 2020 as the fund continued lending to social enterprise, community facility, affordable housing and commercial retail projects.

The Report’s digital platform outlines CCLF’s 2020 financial results, features an interactive map of CCLF’s Chicagoland loans, and includes profiles of CCLF borrowers and their projects – BSD (Building Self-Determination), The UPS Store Woodlawn, Bubbly Dynamics and ILRE.

Made For This was designed and developed by Blue Daring, a Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE), in conjunction with Calvin L. Holmes, CCLF President; Juan Calixto, Vice President of External Relations; and Pamela Graves, Marketing and Communications Manager. Digital development was made possible by Blueshoon and select photography was provided by Steve Becker Photography and Ana Miyares Photography, LLC.

The 2020 Annual Report is available at www.cclfchicago.org.
Credit Memos: CCLF Lends $4.2 million in 2nd Quarter 2021

Thanks to the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights through its Pro Bono Works program for identifying all pro-bono legal services provided by law firms below, except where noted.

Ba-Ron Chicago Burgers LLC ($712,508); BarPull Company LLC ($1,477,450); Chase NMTC Pullman Investment Fund ($1,463,890) received a total $3,653,848 for the acquisition and ground-up construction to transform a previous brownfield site into a Culvers restaurant in Pullman community. Through a New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) structure, these loans are part of CCLF’s Activate Retail® Program. Thanks to Dan Krause, Lynn Donohue and Edward Lam of Kraus Lam LLC for serving as legal counsel on this transaction.

KMW Communities LLC received a $410,000 mini-permanent loan for a 16-unit residential building in the Woodlawn neighborhood.

Tom’s Place received a $120,000 construction loan for the equipment purchase and rehab of a vacant commercial space in the New City (Back of the Yards) community. This space will be home of Tom’s Place, a start-up breakfast restaurant. Thanks to Francis L. Keldermans of Holland & Knight LLP for serving as legal counsel on this transaction.

CCLF President Continues FIRSTHAND Discussion

CCLF President, Calvin L. Holmes, joined community leaders on June 30 for WTTW’s FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty-A United Front Against Poverty panel discussion. Holmes joined Jackie Rosa, Director of Community Engagement at United Way of Metro Chicago, Sara Reschly, Director of Community Partnerships at Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, and FIRSTHAND documentary subject Melissa Fonseca for the virtual event, produced in partnership with WTTW and the United Way of Metro Chicago.

Moderated by FIRSTHAND executive producer Dan Protess, the panel discussed how local institutions and leaders can work together to coordinate community-based networks that connect resources with strategies so all Chicago families are able to thrive and grow to their full potential. The panelists used real-life examples to emphasize the theory that long-term, place-based, coordinated investment in communities can help lift people out of poverty.

Interspersed in the discussion were segments from the FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty documentary series. The series, which included community discussions, expert talks and an online discussion guide, first debuted in January 2021. Holmes appeared in the series alongside five community and thought leader experts addressing the issues surrounding poverty and possible solutions. His talk, “Money With Attitude,” may be viewed at www.interactive.wttw.com/firsthand.
Thank You to Funders and Investors

For their recent investments, CCLF thanks: Advocate Aurora Health, Chicago Community Trust, First Eagle Bank, Lincoln Stannard, The Northern Trust.


Staff and Board News

In July, CCLF Board Member Dorothy Abreu was promoted to Senior Vice President and Relationship Manager for PNC Public Finance. Also in July, Abreu was named one of Crain's Chicago Business' 2021 Notable Minorities in Commercial Banking.

Angela Dowell, Chief Financial Officer, has been named a 2022 Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow. Using the city of Chicago as a classroom, LGC Fellows learn through interactions with private, public, and nonprofit decision-makers, and work as a group to develop critical thinking, analytical, governance and leadership skills.

On June 15, Wendell Harris, Vice President of Lending Operations, participated in Austin United Alliance's panel discussion, “A Blueprint for Accessing the Capital We’ve Been Waiting For.” Moderated by CBS-2 Chicago's Dorothy Tucker, the event provided an in-depth discussion on the racial wealth gap impacting Austin and other West side Chicago communities. Harris then joined CCLF's Sean Harden, Technical Assistance and Special Initiatives Consultant, on June 16 for “Let’s Rebuild Chicago.” The event offered Real Estate Developers, Contractors, Buyers and Real Estate Agents a chance to learn about the benefits of participating in the Chicago Neighborhood Rebuild Program.

David Feinberg joined CCLF as the Director of Coaching and Knowledge Transfer in June. David is responsible for the strategic implementation of CCLF's technical expertise and special programs to build community development capacity and support Chicagoland’s thriving communities. Prior to joining CCLF, David held positions at IFF, as an LSC representative and a state commissioner. He holds an MPL from the University of Southern California, a Master of Public Administration from Arizona State University, a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Unit Planning from Arizona State University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Non-Fiction and Jewish Studies from Hampshire College.

Naomi Bolden joined CCLF in June as Executive Management and Administrative Coordinator. In this role, Naomi provides administrative and operational support to the President, COO/EVPP, and CFO. Naomi is a graduate of Northern Illinois University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. While in college, she served as president of the student body, interned with the City of DeKalb’s community development department and interned with the Washington D.C. office of U.S. Senator and Democratic Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL).

Darryl Flenoy joined CCLF in June as Technical Assistance Coordinator. Darryl brings over 20 years of real estate investment and program management experience to CCLF, having held multiple positions of leadership and program management that dispensed over $385 million monthly. Darryl has completed the Philadelphia Doctorate Course, obtained a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Illinois Institute of Technology and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bradley University.