



NEW BEGINNINGS

AN UPDATE ON THE CLARKSDALE HOPE VI REVITALIZATION

LOUISVILLE RECEIVES HOPE VI GRANT – REVITALIZATION TO PROVIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES

Great news came this spring with the announcement by U.S. Rep. Anne Northup and Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson that the city will receive \$20 million to begin the revitalization of the Clarksdale community.

The HOPE VI Revitalization grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will allow Louisville to begin replacing the 63-year-old Clarksdale housing complex with a new neighborhood of houses and apartments serving people with a range of income levels. The project is modeled on the award-winning Park DuValle

neighborhood in Louisville's West End.

"Being awarded this grant is the direct result of Representative Northup's leadership, a compelling proposal from the Housing Authority, and a proven track record with Park DuValle," Abramson said at a March press conference. Willie Bright, District 4 Metro Council member, was also on hand to praise the collaboration that led to this accomplishment.

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) will use the \$20 million grant to leverage more than \$100 million in tax credits and federal and private funds to help pay for the revitalization.

The transformation will come in two phases. Phase I – covered by this grant -- will focus on the 417 housing units within a four-block area bounded by Muhammad Ali Boulevard and Jefferson, Jackson, and Clay Streets.

LMHA PREPARES FOR PHASE II APPLICATION

LMHA will apply for a second \$20 million HOPE VI grant later this year to begin Phase II of the revitalization. Phase II encompasses the area east of Clay Street. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is expected to release a Notice of Federal Assistance (NOFA) by early fall, which will contain guidelines and deadlines for applying for the additional funding to complete the Clarksdale revitalization.



DREAMING BIG AND DOING THINGS RIGHT

A Message from Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson



In 1994, I worked with the federal government and the Housing Authority of Louisville on developing a roadmap for rebuilding one of our community's most important and historic neighborhoods.

That roadmap became the catalyst for what has been a \$200 million investment of public and private funds in the revitalization of Park DuValle. Today, nearly 10 years later, Park DuValle is a model neighborhood for our entire community – an example of what we can do when we work together toward a common goal for the common good of everyone.

Now, we're embarking on a similar journey in Clarksdale. Because of the hard work of many people – including the residents of Clarksdale – our community recently received a \$20 million HOPE VI federal grant to invest in the revitalization of Clarksdale.

That success would not have been possible without the involvement of, and support from, Clarksdale residents and neighborhood leaders. And it would not have been possible without the proven record of success that this community has consistently delivered on neighborhood revitalization efforts.

The fact is that this community has been a trailblazer in the area of creating affordable, mixed-income housing.

Working with residents and community leaders in Park DuValle, we transformed one of the most impoverished areas of our community into a neighborhood of pride and a national model for mixed-income housing.

Now, with your help, your commitment and your leadership, we're being trailblazers again – this time in Clarksdale.

In the process of transforming a neighborhood, we'll help transform lives for the better. And we'll help transform an entire community – our hometown – into place where we all can take great pride.

PARTNERSHIP: THE HEART OF OUR SUCCESS



*A Message From
Tim Barry,
LMHA Executive
Director*

Hard work and a record of success. That's what got

us to this point and that's what will ensure a win-win for the Louisville community and Clarksdale residents in this ambitious neighborhood revitalization effort.

I would add one more important element to our success: partnerships and collaborations beginning first and foremost with the residents. Many individuals and organizations played major roles in the development of this successful effort. We'll need those partners and the continued cooperation more than ever now that the revitalization has become a reality.

Much of the Clarksdale revitalization plan reflects what residents told us they wanted and needed in housing and in a neighborhood including a strong emphasis on quality, design and construction. Residents have been major partners in the vision and the plan.

Our work is just beginning. This is when a vision on paper takes shape and the work becomes visible. The LMHA staff stands ready to respond to any and all concerns, every step of the way.

Residents, I encourage you to stay involved and informed. Attend your Council meetings, watch for information we will be providing regularly and call if you have questions. We will begin resident interviews very soon to determine your needs and desires, and to help you choose new housing at the proper time.

We will continue to work hard to make the Clarksdale revitalization plan a reality. And, we will depend on all our community partners – most importantly residents -- to help us in this process.

REVITALIZATION INCLUDES HISTORIC PRESERVATION

As part of Clarksdale revitalization, historic St. Peter Claver Church will be renovated for use by the Sheppard Square Resident Council. YouthBuild, a local nonprofit organization that combines job training with construction work, will renovate the facility. They've hired Kersey and Kersey, a local architectural firm, to design the new site. Donated to LMHA by the Archdiocese of Louisville, the facility will house the Council's offices, training rooms, meeting rooms, and a "dress for success program". Two preliminary designs were recently reviewed by members of Sheppard's Resident Council, YouthBuild and LMHA staff. The final design is expected in early summer.

USE OF DONATED COMMUNITY CENTER

Subject of Upcoming Meeting

A design charette (a "brain storming" event to discuss design options) is tentatively scheduled for early July to share ideas for renovating and using the old Presbyterian Community Center that has been donated to the LMHA. George Unseld, former City Alderman and current District 6 Metro Council Member, provided funds to be used towards the site. For information call the Urban Design Studio at 587-7015.

CLARKSDALE RESIDENT INTERVIEWS UNDERWAY

In July, LMHA staff began conducting interviews with the Clarksdale residents who will be impacted by the first phase of the revitalization effort. During the interviews, LMHA staff are reviewing the relocation process and procedures, and discussing the various housing options and relocation opportunities that will be made available to residents prior to demolition and construction.

Those options and opportunities include moving to:

- New on and off-site replacement units
- Existing scattered sites
- Other public housing developments.

These interviews will continue until LMHA has contacted all the residents who will be impacted by the revitalization.

LAND USE COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK

The Clarksdale Land Use Committee has been established to review the entire area targeted for revitalization. This group will explore potential redevelopment of vacant lots and options available to address problem sites.

The committee is meeting twice a month and is currently focusing on the Smoketown and Shelby Park neighborhoods.

CLARKSDALE RESIDENT COUNCIL TAKES OFFICE

Congratulations to the following individuals who have been elected to serve as Clarksdale Resident Council members! These individuals will serve the needs of Clarksdale residents, making sure to keep them informed of activities and programs within the development. Residents may contact council members with questions or concerns by calling 569-2382.

Gordon Stoudemire	President
Dianne Adams	Vice President
Janiesa Harris	Treasurer
Shirley Evans	Member
John Crawford	Member



HUD OFFICIALS MEET WITH RESIDENTS—REVIEW PROCESS, ENCOURAGES INVOLVEMENT

During the first official site visit since the HOPE VI grant award, HUD officials recently met with Clarksdale residents at the East Louisville Community Center and urged them to continue to participate in the revitalization process. This neighborhood transformation is “all about you,” said Oscar Rider, a HUD technical advisor for the Clarksdale project, while explaining the various opportunities residents can take advantage of to stay involved and informed as the HOPE VI process moves forward. Rider added, “This is an opportunity to think about what you want and work to accomplish it.”

LMHA Executive Director Tim Barry and Diana Pack, representing the local HUD office, then fielded questions from the audience that primarily focused on relocation and communication. Both Barry



and Pack emphasized that everyone will be consulted individually to determine their specific relocation needs and to discuss other services, such as education or job search help. “We are so excited about this opportunity to work with you to improve your neighborhood and our entire community,” said Pack. “We’ll do everything we can to ensure a smooth transition.”

This official HUD site visit was required to begin the first steps of revitalization. In addition to the resident meeting, the HUD officials also toured the area and met with local staff.

to determine if the method would work for the entire area. YouthBuild participants will perform the work with technical experts on-site. Recovered building material will be sold through a retail facility operated and maintained by YouthBuild.

LMHA has applied for additional funding from HUD of approximately \$3.7 million that can be applied towards demolition and deconstruction costs. Notice of both grant awards is expected soon.

A MESSAGE FROM METRO COUNCILMAN WILLIE BRIGHT, DISTRICT 4

I am happy to have this opportunity to share my enthusiasm and excitement about the Clarksdale HOPE VI Revitalization. Nowhere in our city is such an ambitious neighborhood redevelopment plan in place.



The purpose of this newsletter is simple, but important. It’s intended to provide our community with the best information possible as we move forward, and it’s one of many ways you will learn about the progress of this effort. We learned a lot through our work in Park DuValle, but Clarksdale will present its own unique opportunities and challenges. I believe that’s what we’re all working hard to achieve in Clarksdale, to create a new development that will benefit people from all walks of life and income levels. I feel confident that with our combined efforts and energies we will be successful!

As the District 4 Metro Councilman, I’m proud and honored to be a part of the Clarksdale HOPE VI revitalization. Please feel free to contact me or my Legislative Assistant, Margaret Harris, at 574-3453. We’ll be happy to assist you in anyway. I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Clarksdale Hotline:
(502) 569-6677

For any questions or concerns regarding Clarksdale HOPE VI Revitalization.

LOUISVILLE PROMOTES CONSERVATION, TRAINING IN REMOVING OLD BUILDINGS

The Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center (KPPC) at the University of Louisville has applied for funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a pilot deconstruction project at Clarksdale.

The purpose of this study is to develop a method for tearing down the old structure that is environmentally sound, and that provides on-site training for workers and reuses building materials. If funded, this initial project would focus on one building within Phase I as a test





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MAKING IT HAPPEN COMMUNICATION CENTRAL

*Vikki Stone: LMHA Public
Information Officer*

“As the LMHA Public Information Officer, my job is to not only build a network of individuals who will come together to share information about the Clarksdale revitalization, but also keep communication channels open throughout the course of the revitalization effort,” said Stone. “The creation of the Clarksdale HOPE VI Neighborhood Advisory Council is an important first step in this process.”



The Clarksdale HOPE VI Neighborhood Advisory Council (CNAC) is comprised of individuals who live and work within the area or are involved in some aspect of the revitalization effort. The Council, which will initially meet monthly, will be patterned after a

similar community-based group that was developed for the Park DuValle Revitalization.

Vikki added, “Providing this regular vehicle for communication will help us get the good word out about this project, and provide us with the opportunity to address any concerns.” For more information contact Vikki Stone at vstone@hal1.org or by phone at (502) 569-3421.

LOUISVILLE METRO HOUSING AUTHORITY CREATED BY CITY-COUNTY MERGER

This spring, the Mayor and Metro Council approved the creation of the Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA). The merger combined the Housing Authority of Louisville and the Jefferson County Housing Authority. Tim Barry, former Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Louisville, was named Executive

Director of the new agency. Cathy Hinko, who served as Executive Director of the Jefferson County Housing Authority, has been named Director of Strategic Planning. The Boards of Commissioners have also been merged.

WHAT IS HOPE VI?

HOPE VI is a federal program created in 1992 as a result of recommendations by National Commission on Severely Distressed Public Housing, which was charged with proposing a National Action Plan to eradicate severely distressed public housing. The Commission recommended revitalization in three general areas: physical improvements, management improvements, and social and community services to address resident needs. Administered by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, HOPE VI was honored with national recognition as a recipient of an Innovations in American Government Award.