



CHICAGO HOUSING
AUTHORITY™

NEWS FROM THE

CHA

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO :

Dear Friends,

As the summer draws to a close, students head back to school and we all prepare for fall, I want to share a few reflections on where we've been and where we're going.

It's been a busy year. The redevelopment of Lathrop Homes, one of the CHA's oldest housing sites, is progressing well, and residents will soon be moving into newly rehabbed units. We're also pleased to see the substantial progress on our co-located housing and Chicago Public Library branch developments, one of which has been nominated for a world architecture prize.

As proud as we are of these bricks-and-mortar accomplishments, the real test of success is their impact on peoples' lives.

We're especially excited to talk about what residents have achieved this year – from discovering new skills and hobbies like beekeeping, to increasing incomes and buying homes. The activities of our young people are especially encouraging. This summer CHA youth were engaged in a variety of summer jobs, from career-building programs to documentary filmmaking, as well as internships at the CHA.

Most exciting, as always, was our annual Take Flight sendoff for college-bound students, a number of whom received scholarships from the CHA and our partners. The early August event brought together incoming freshmen with CHA students who have already graduated from college and are beginning vibrant careers at some of our nation's finest institutions.

This fall, we look forward to seeing more families moving in at Lathrop, the reopening of which coincides with the historic development's 80-year anniversary, and we continue our investment in housing across the city as we lay the foundation for the future of Chicago public housing.



Sincerely,
Eugene E. Jones, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



CHA STUDENTS PAID FOR SUMMER JOBS THAT TEACH REAL CAREER SKILLS

A partnership with DePaul University's Center for Cinematic Arts is putting cameras in the hands of CHA youth and preparing them for careers in filmmaking and broadcasting. The Documentary Filmmaking for Girls program was one of nine summer employment opportunities offered this year to 2,400 youth through CHA programs and partnerships.

As part of the DePaul workshop, professional filmmakers teach CHA high-school students the basics of documentary production, including theory, aesthetics, technical skills, and perspective. Armed with cameras and professional equipment, the students examine their own communities and explore the social issues that concern them most.

Participants say they're learning valuable communications and teamwork skills, and gaining confidence – as well as a paycheck. "We see this as an investment in our young people, preparing them to thrive," said Ebony Campbell, CHA's Director of Youth Opportunity. "We want to help them get their first job."

Other examples of summer employment opportunities include:

- **Chicago Police Department Neighborhood Youth Corps:** Students explore careers in law enforcement through field trips, service projects, and mentorship from police officers.
- **"Hammer, Meet Nail" Design into Action:** Participants work with artists, architects, and community members to transform the Washington Park lodge into a community art space.
- **Safe Summer Peace Ambassadors:** Teens learn strategies for resolving conflict and reducing violence in their communities through reflection, talking circles, and youth engagement.

CHA is a partner in Mayor Rahm Emanuel's One Summer Chicago program, which this year provided a record-high 32,000 jobs and internships to youth – more than double from when the program first began in 2011. The six-week program, comprising paid internship and career-building programs, provides youth with valuable work experience while keeping them safe and engaged during the summer months. Last year, participants worked more than 366,000 hours and earned over \$2.7 million in wages.

[Click here to see a CBS2 segment on the Documentary Filmmaking for Girls program.](#)

[Check out the highlights of summer youth employment in this video.](#)



COLLEGE-BOUND CHA STUDENTS “TAKE FLIGHT”

Each year, dozens of students leave their CHA home and head off to college to pursue careers, new skills and independence.

This year, a record 175 of these students were recognized at the eighth annual “Take Flight College Send-Off” at the Harold Washington Library Winter Garden on Aug. 1.

Students and families gathered in the sunny auditorium to celebrate their success with camaraderie and a pizza lunch, receiving advice from CHA alumni, staff and supporters. They also scored complimentary dorm-room essentials, furnished by Bed Bath & Beyond.

This year’s graduates are headed to 60 colleges, including Ivy League and Big Ten schools, to pursue subjects ranging from liberal arts to molecular biology. They join a cohort of about 7,000 CHA students enrolled in post-secondary programs last year.

Among the youth in attendance was Kayla Sullers, a recent high school graduate from Lake Parc Place, whose mother brought pom-poms and cheered alongside other proud parents. She’s heading to Grambling State, a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in Louisiana, where she’ll study mass communication and get involved in campus life.

“I plan to take over the communications department and become the go-to photographer and videographer for campus events,” Sullers said. “Eventually I’d like to become an executive producer for I Heart Radio or one of the big-time networks.”

She has every reason to aim high. Earlier this year her film was honored at the Chicago International Film Festival’s CineYouth competition, and she’s already networking. After the Take Flight event, Sullers personally connected with NBC 5’s Zoraida Sambolin, the day’s MC, for advice on media careers.

Other speakers included former CHA residents and college graduates who went on to careers with BMO Harris and Comcast, two sponsors of CHA’s education programming. They offered valuable advice for any prospective college student: stay focused, build a support system on campus, ask for help.

“The resources and opportunities CHA has given me, I’ll use a lot of that in the fall and I’ll call home for help,” Sullers said. CHA’s college counselors are available to students throughout their college years.

SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, CHA has awarded scholarships to 220 students, selected from a pool of 510 applicants in the program’s most competitive year to date. Awardees received a total of \$250,000, which included 200 awards of \$1,000 each and 20 awards for \$2,500 each. Since program’s inception five years ago, CHA has awarded \$1.2 million to 1,100 students attending nearly 200 schools nationwide.

Another group of CHA residents received scholarships from The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation at an event at Savoy Square on July 25. The awards, totaling \$81,000, represent the nonprofit’s largest award in Chicago to date.



CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY ON LIBRARY/HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

CHA's collaboration with Chicago Public Library (CPL) – an innovative, ambitious effort to combine new housing developments and library branches – is gaining international recognition for civic architecture.

Construction on the three developments is making steady progress: Northtown Apartments and Branch Library in West Ridge, Taylor Street Apartments and Roosevelt Branch Library at Roosevelt Square in Little Italy, and Independence Apartments and Branch Library in Irving Park.

The design of the Northtown housing-library development, by architecture firm Perkins+Will, has already attracted international recognition as a finalist for a civic design award at the World Architecture Festival, in Amsterdam this fall.

“Our design for a public library-housing building maximizes the potential of the interaction between public and private uses,” says Ralph Johnson, the firm’s global design director. “The housing and library are enriched by each other’s presence, and the dialogue between community and privacy are inherent in the design to create a dynamic and urban, mixed-use building.”

Chicago is among the first cities to explore this type of model, merging mixed-income housing with the education and tech resources of community libraries, anchoring and enriching neighborhoods.

The three new library branches are on track to open this December, with completed housing units to follow in early 2019.



CLYBOURN 1200 RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATION, ENGAGEMENT

On the edge of the neighborhood long dominated by Cabrini-Green, a sleek new mixed-income development is gaining positive national attention.

Clybourn 1200 is a joint project between CHA, Brinshore-Michaels and the resident-led nonprofit Cabrini-Green LAC Community Development Corporation. Opened in May 2017, it includes public housing, affordable and market-rate units, plus community spaces and compelling resident programs, which include an on-site garden and apiary.

The development is one of 36 finalists in *Affordable Housing Finance* magazine’s 14th annual readers’ choice awards. Nominated in the mixed-use category, the 157,000-square-foot development was specifically recognized for its innovative design, mixed-income resident integration, and community partnerships.

Winners, determined by public vote this summer, will be announced in September and honored at AHF Live: The 2018 Affordable Housing Developers Summit, in Chicago.

Read more about Clybourn 1200 in Affordable Housing Finance.

SPECIAL RESIDENT PROGRAMMING/ROUNDUP

Summer is the perfect time for residents of all ages to get outside, learn new things, and enjoy time together. Here are some of the open-air activities offered this summer.

CHA BRINGS CODE ON THE ROAD

CHA partnered with **Chicago City of Learning** – an online platform that connects youth to out-of-school learning opportunities – to teach basic coding and interpersonal skills to young CHA residents.

The Mobile Design Labs are vans outfitted with laptops, mentors, and free coding activities, now closing in on their third annual summer tour of parks, libraries, and back-to-school events in neighborhoods all over the city. One of the vans has been entirely devoted to CHA resident events, hitting more than 30 CHA sites and city parks.

With CCOL and CPS, CHA has also hosted the “Be a CHAnge-agent” summer challenge, taking place in all nine CHA Digital Resource Centers. Participants who complete coding activities on CCOL’s site and demonstrate specific interpersonal skills, such as defusing conflict and listening to others, have the opportunity to earn tech prizes for their schools.

The program is designed to give the next generation of entrepreneurs the digital tools they need to pursue creative projects, wherever their passions take them: design, broadcasting, robotics, and more.



TRAVELING AQUARIUM VISITS ALTGELD GARDENS

The Shedd Aquarium’s “Traveling Aquarium” set up shop at Altgeld Gardens one Friday in July, bringing the excitement of one of the nation’s top aquatic institutions to families on Chicago’s Far South Side. The event drew 975 children and adults, the largest turnout in the exhibit’s two-week Chicago tour.

Visitors admired the marine life inside the 25-foot mobile aquarium, participated in hands-on activities, and learned about the environmental consequences of plastic waste and other issues affecting watery habitats from experts in the field.

Check out the video here.

CHA SENIORS GET DOWN AT MUSIC FEST

As music fans flooded Grant Park for Lollapalooza in early August, CHA seniors had a music festival of their own.

The CHA’s South Side Senior Summer Music Festival – one of three planned music events across the city – drew a crowd of about 500 seniors to Ada S. McKinley Apartments. The annual senior music festivals are lively, fun events where seniors celebrate summer and show off their dancing talents. It’s a favorite event for CHA staff as well, who get to spend the day enjoying the music and fun.



Mayor Rahm Emanuel dropped by for a visit, and the TV cameras caught him busting a move alongside CHA residents.

Check out the video here.

PUERTO RICO EVACUEES FIND SHELTER WITH CHA'S HELP

Nearly a year after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, CHA is proud to have worked with the City of Chicago, the Puerto Rican Agenda and United Airlines to take supplies back to some of the hardest-hit areas of the island. The program was part of a huge effort to provide services and to meet the needs of those who were affected by the disaster.

From November to May, a Hurricane Resource Center set up in the Humboldt Park Fieldhouse helped connect over 1,700 evacuees (representing more than 900 families) to services and housing. Housing partners included the Housing Authority of Cook County and the DuPage County Housing Authority.

About a dozen Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants in Puerto Rico were able to transfer their vouchers to Chicago, or are in the process of transferring and leasing locally. More than 123 evacuees have leased units through the Disaster Victim's Waitlist, a list specifically created to serve victims of federally declared disasters.

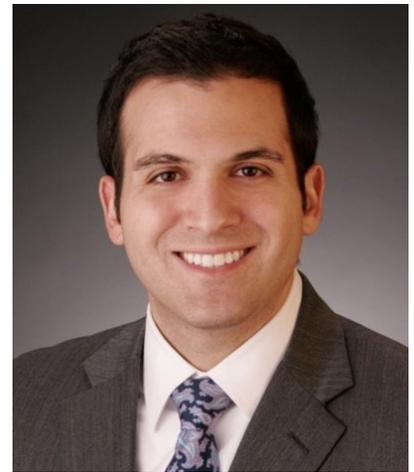
CHA BOARD WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS



Debra Parker



James Matanky



Bill Thanoukos

In July, the CHA Board of Commissioners welcomed three new board members appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Debra Parker is the first Board member to represent Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants. A member of the HCV Participant Council and past vice president of the Altgeld Gardens Local Advisory Council, Parker spent a decade with architecture firm Holabird & Root before starting her own consulting firm, which helps minority-owned small businesses with architectural administrative tasks, licensing, and permits.

James Matanky is the chief executive officer of Matanky Realty Group, a commercial real estate firm. He oversees the organization's development, management, brokerage, and consulting divisions. He has mentored local retail development and served on the Commissioner's Advisory Panel for the Chicago Building, as well as on the Illinois Food Marketing Task Force. He is a multiple recipient of the Chicago Neighborhood Developer of the Year.

Bill Thanoukos is the co-owner and operator of the Greek Kitchen chain and Hub's Restaurant. An attorney, he was director of government affairs for BMO Harris Bank and chief of staff to City Treasurer Stephanie D. Neely, from 2007 to 2010. There, he worked on a series of community outreach programs promoting small businesses and financial literacy for youth and adults. Thanoukos began his career as an assistant in Mayor Richard M. Daley's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs from 2007 to 2009.

"We are pleased to welcome three commissioners to the Board, including a new Commissioner who will represent HCV residents for the first time," said Board Chairman John T. Hooker. "I look forward to collaborating with the new commissioners in helping CHA provide housing and create opportunity."