Dear friends,

As 2017 unfolds, and with spring upon us, I’d like to share with you some of CHA’s highlights from the first few months of the year.

From partnerships that are bringing new housing to neighborhoods across the city to new programs for seniors, families and youth, we are steadily working to increase opportunity in Chicago. In these pages you’ll read of the exciting new partnership with the Chicago Public Library to create co-located libraries and housing; the selection of developers for the next phase of development of the former Cabrini-Green; upcoming job and scholarship opportunities for youth, and a new set of programs and activities as we kick off CHA’s “Year of the Senior” which will bring programming and learning opportunities to CHA’s nearly 20,000 senior residents and vouchers holders.

As always CHA’s comprehensive work would not be possible without your support, and I look forward to another year of meaningful conversation and collaboration.

Sincerely,
Eugene Jones Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
2016 was a year of hard work and innovation at the CHA. We accelerated development and renewal while also enhancing programming and opportunities that ensure the well-being of CHA residents and voucher holders. To learn of our progress on housing and advancements in programming over the last year, please read our annual report.

WATCH NOW: CHA 2016 Recap

WINNING DESIGN FIRMS SELECTED FOR CO-LOCATED HOUSING LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS

CHA, the Chicago Public Library and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development have announced the three architecture firms that will work with communities to design co-located housing and library developments in three Chicago communities.

“We are fortunate to have award-winning and internationally recognized firms designing the next great civic projects here in Chicago. We are one of the first cities using this type of model between housing and libraries to benefit and beautify our neighborhoods.” - Mayor Rahm Emanuel

Learn more
DEVELOPERS FOR NEXT PHASE OF CABRINI GREEN REDEVELOPMENT SELECTED

The CHA Board of Commissioners has approved the selection of Texas-based Hunt Development Group for the next phase of the ongoing redevelopment of the former Cabrini-Green site at Larrabee Street and Clybourn Avenue. Hunt was selected from a group of five respondents and will serve as the Master Developer in collaboration with Imagine Group and Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives. Hunt has extensive experience developing retail and commercial spaces in mixed-use buildings in Chicago and across the nation, and Hunt’s plan for the 6.9-acre site will bring more than 480 units of mixed-income housing, 32,900-square feet of retail space, 1.2 acres of public open space and will include a 21-story residential tower and several connected mid-rise buildings and low-rise townhomes.

Learn more

CHA gives Texas developer green light to build homes on Cabrini-Green site
Corilyn Shropshire | Tribune

MOVING TO WORK ANNUAL PLAN APPROVED

CHA’s 2017 Moving to Work (MTW) Annual Plan has been approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allowing the agency to move forward with innovative and cost-saving initiatives. Plans include measures that would make it easier for residents to enroll in Family Self-Sufficiency programming, provide incentives to landlords in Opportunity Areas to provide voucher holders with greater access to the rental market and provide program-based assistance that helps families access affordable housing and remain stably housed.

Learn more

CHA NETS ALMOST $100,000 IN SAVINGS WITH TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM ENCOURAGING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

CHA has realized nearly $100,000 in savings as part of the rehab of public housing units through a federal Energy Policy Act tax incentive that encourages the installation of energy efficient measures. The tax code provision encourages building owners to incorporate energy efficiency measures in the design and construction of public and private buildings. CHA’s Investment Division has regularly pursued these benefits on rehab projects throughout its portfolio and the efficiencies are paying off.
CHA AWARDED EFFICIENT LIVING GRANTS

CHA was recently awarded two grants that will fund energy efficient measures such as LED lights, furnaces and programmable thermostats at CHA properties. Both the Efficient Living Electric Grant of $280,775 and the Efficient Living Gas Grant of $277,416 are provided by the Illinois Energy Now Efficient Living: Public Housing Authority Energy Program and will help the Authority implement energy cost reduction measures that will improve the quality of life for CHA residents and families.

RETAIL ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS BANNED FROM CHA PROPERTIES

CHA recently joined with the City and the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) to declare all retail electric suppliers are banned from soliciting on CHA properties as they have displayed aggressive and predatory practices that are detrimental for CHA residents. Over time, Attorney General Lisa Madigan and CHA have received a series of complaints with Mayor Emanuel affirming that, “electric suppliers have preyed upon CHA residents by illegally gaining access to buildings and going door-to-door to residents falsely claiming rates will not go up.”

CHA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CHA kicked off Black History Month in early February at CHA headquarters with what was a month-long celebration of the important contributions made by African-Americans. A committee coordinated events that highlighted the influential themes of: History of Black Visual Arts in Chicago, History of Black Politics in Chicago, History of Black Performing Arts in Chicago, and The African Diaspora. Events included recitals, discussions, paintings, performances, speakers, genealogical talks and historical discussions.

Representatives from the DuSable Museum of African American History, Black Metropolis Convention and Tourism Council, Black Quilters Guild, eta Creative Arts Foundation and the African American Genealogical and Historical Society joined the celebration as guest speakers throughout the month.
Amber Jones, CHA’s most recent CHAngemaker, was researching jobs when she came across information about Jobs Plus, the federal job training opportunity based right in her backyard - Altgeld Gardens. Jobs Plus is a place-based workforce development strategy for public housing residents funded through HUD and to-date there have been over 265 placements.

“I jumped on it because it was a gift; the tuition was free, and in five years, I plan on being set in a career. I plan on being a homeowner and financially stable for me and my children.” – Amber Jones

Learn more

2017 PAID SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES for CHA Youth & Young Adults

Application available on MARCH 13 | The deadline to apply is MAY 14

ELEGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

• A current Chicago Housing Authority resident
• Between the ages of 13 - 24
• Currently enrolled in at least 12 years of school or no more than 24 years old by June 2017
• Agree to participate in an intensive, paid and/or job readiness training

TO APPLY YOU WILL NEED

• CHA Child ID number (if a minor)
• A current, unexpired photo ID
• Most recent transcript
• Two letters of recommendation (one from a teacher)
• Social Security number

HOW TO APPLY

Visit the online application at https://youth.thecha.org

DEADLINE

May 14, 2017

APPLY NOW: SCHOLARSHIPS AND PAID SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

The 2017-2018 CHA Scholarship Application is now OPEN through May 17th 2017. Be one of more than 200 scholars to receive a scholarship this coming academic year with awards ranging from $1,000 to $2,500. APPLY NOW!

Applications for CHA’s Paid Summer Youth Opportunities are also now available through May 14. With opportunities to work, learn, create and develop skills at local businesses, universities, nonprofits and government institutions in Chicago, there’s something to meet the interests of all youth and young adults ages 13 – 24. The deadline to apply is May 14th. Apply now: https://youth.thecha.org

Last summer, nearly 3,000 youth engaged in paid summer opportunities earning more than $2.9 million in wages, and this year you can be a part of the learning and earning.

SUNNY BREAK CHALLENGE

Explore the digital world and learn to code over Spring Break, April 7 – April 16, with Chicago City of Learning’s online learning playground. Free games, challenges and coding exploration will be available to all youth and families at CHA’s eight Digital Resource Centers all Spring Break long.

Find a Digital Resource Center near you!