



CHICAGO HOUSING
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NEWS FROM THE

CHA

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO :

Dear Friends,

As we head into a new year, it is my pleasure to reflect on some of CHA's accomplishments in 2017 and preview changes to come in 2018.

Last year was busy and productive. We've accelerated the pace of building and acquisition of housing while paying equal and important attention to the employment, education and social needs of CHA residents and our shared communities.

With a new mixed-use development in Rogers Park and three new library-housing developments under construction, we are bringing housing and amenities to neighborhoods by partnering with private developers and municipal agencies.

Our work this year will reflect our commitment to providing services and opportunities to seniors while expanding youth activities and ensuring that people of all ages have access to new educational resources that create opportunities in every stage of life.

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



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Jones, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Sincerely,
Eugene Jones, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



NEW CHA/CPL DEVELOPMENTS WILL HELP FOSTER COMMUNITY

On January 28th, Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined CHA and Chicago Public Library (CPL) to announce the beginning of construction on three innovative co-located housing and library developments.

The City and elected officials joined members of the community and development partners to break ground on the new Taylor Street Apartments and Roosevelt Branch Library. Construction has also started on the other two co-located developments – the Independence Apartments and Independence Branch in Irving Park and the Northtown Apartments and Northtown Branch in West Ridge.

“When we unite the strengths of our neighborhood libraries with great housing that is affordable and accessible, it is truly the best of both worlds,” said Mayor Emanuel. “Chicago is breaking the mold of what world-class libraries and housing can look like, and staying at the cutting edge of creating shared spaces that bring communities together.”

Each of the three co-located developments brings mixed-income housing and community anchors to their respective neighborhoods. The Taylor Street Apartments and Roosevelt Branch Library continue the redevelopment of the Roosevelt Square mixed-income community and bring a total of 73 apartments, including 37 CHA units, 29 affordable units and seven market rate units. The Independence and Northtown apartments will each provide a total of 44 senior apartments, including 30 public housing and 14 affordable apartments at each site.

“Libraries serve as community anchors, making knowledge and learning accessible for everyone,” said CPL Commissioner Brian Bannon. “The new co-located libraries will help to sustain strong neighborhoods, and provide a place for all community residents to gather, share and succeed.”

In addition to providing a gathering space for community residents, each library branch will offer a variety of programs and services to serve residents of all ages. Library staff will be trained to connect job-seekers to career services provided by workforce development organizations and educational institutions as well as provide trainings on resume writing, interview prep and industry-specific skills. Children and families will have access early childhood learning spaces, the Teacher in the Library program and the YOUmedia program, which provides teens access to technology, resources, and classes that inspire creativity and learning. Branches will also provide computer classes and one-on-one coaching to develop technology skills in adults and seniors.

Click to learn more

New Development Pairs Public Housing, Library with Aim of Fostering Community

Chicago Tribune, Elvia Malagon



MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT WILL BRING AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND A NEW TARGET STORE TO ROGERS PARK

In November, CHA joined Mayor Rahm Emanuel, representatives of Three Corners Development/Iceberg Development and members of the community to break ground on a new mixed-use, transit oriented development that will bring more than 100 new apartments and a Flexible Format Target store to Rogers Park.

“This is another example of how the partnerships CHA has forged with developers and the community are bringing new housing and other amenities to our neighborhoods,” said CHA CEO Eugene Jones, Jr.

Located just steps from the CTA’s Loyola Red Line Station, the seven-story Concord at Sheridan, will include 111 apartments, 30,000 square feet of retail space and 125 below-grade parking spaces. Sixty five of the apartments will be supported by CHA’s Rental Assistance program, guaranteeing long-term affordability, and the remaining apartments will be market rate rentals.

The development is expected to create 450 construction jobs, and Target is committed to hiring locally, which is expected to generate 80 permanent jobs.

The project is predicted to be complete in early 2019.

[Click to learn more](#)

Mixed-use, mixed-income development officially breaks ground in Chicago’s Rogers Park

By Jay Kozlarz



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

CHA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

CHA residents and participants in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program have until **May 16, 2018** to apply for one of 220 college scholarship awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500!

Details:

- CHA is awarding 200 scholarships at the \$1,000 level and 20 scholarships at \$2,500.
- Applicants must be listed on a current CHA lease and can include current high school seniors, undergraduate and graduate students continuing their studies, or adults seeking to start a post-secondary program in the fall of 2018.
- A 2.0 GPA is required, with a 2.5 GPA or higher recommended for all applicants.
- If applicants have previously received an award through this program and will be continuing your studies this Fall, they will need to reapply in order to receive sustained support.
- Applications can be submitted online, and all application materials (including transcripts and personal essays) must be received by the **May 16th deadline**.

To learn more about CHA Scholarship opportunities, [click here](#).

To apply now, [click here](#).

Important note: if you are enrolled or plan to enroll in one of the Chicago City Colleges, CHA has a separate partnership directly with City Colleges that will allow CHA residents to attend their colleges for little or no cost, after financial aid is applied. Due to this special agreement, CHA residents attending one of the City Colleges of Chicago are not eligible to receive the CHA Scholarship and need not apply.

For more information on CHA's partnership with Chicago City Colleges, [click here](#).

In the last four years, the Scholarship Program has provided support to more than 560 students, totaling over \$1 million in college scholarship awards.

But CHA's Scholarship is about more than just numbers... CHA resident Ahriel Fuller says much of her success would not have been possible without help from CHA. While Fuller received federal aid for her college tuition, her CHA scholarship helped her pay for living expenses, like meal plans and textbooks.

"I just kept reapplying, and I received the scholarship each time I applied," Fuller said. "I don't know if I would have successfully graduated without financial help from CHA, and for that I am truly forever grateful."

Fuller graduated cum laude in 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Dominican University, with plans to attend law school at either Georgetown or Howard University this year.

As it did in Fuller's case, the CHA scholarship can help turn dreams into reality. "We encourage all students – whether pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees – to apply for this scholarship," said CHA CEO Eugene Jones, Jr. "It could make a difference in your college journey."

If you are interested in supporting this program, please consider donating to CHA's Scholarship program Springboard to Success, which not only helps CHA students pay for their textbooks and meal plans, but also funds college counseling sessions and hosts career networking events.

[Click here to securely donate to CHA's Scholarship fund.](#)



KEEPING UP WITH CHA COLLEGE STUDENTS

On January 9th, more than 150 young people from the CHA spent one of the last days of their winter break planning for their summer and their future. At an afternoon networking session they met with representatives from leading corporations to learn about internship opportunities and build relationships that will help them forge future careers.

The CHA attendees were among recipients of college scholarships awarded through CHA's Springboard to Success - a program launched in 2014 to help CHA residents and voucher holders prepare for, attend and succeed in college.

"CHA created this program because as successful as we might be in providing access to quality housing in neighborhoods, residents need post-secondary education," said CHA CEO Eugene Jones, Jr. "By providing financial resources to help young people go to college as well as establishing connections with companies and leaders, we are investing in the students' future and the future of the city."

The representative organizations at this event included: Chicago Equity Partners • RSM • Presence Health • Golden Apple Foundation • The Alford Group • U of C Institute of Politics • Microsoft • First Eagle Bank • Kellogg Company • Addus Homecare • Chicago Urban League • Cabrera Capital Markets • Chicago Community Trust • United Way of Metro Chicago • BMO Harris Bank • iHeart Media • Greenwood Project • AT&T and The Chicago Bulls

Networking Event Tailored To CHA College Students

By Bob Roberts

"I'M MOVIN' ON UP!" FIRST CHA RESIDENT MOVES INTO RENOVATED FANNIE EMANUEL APARTMENTS

Otis Lewis was the first resident to move into the renovated Fannie Emanuel Apartments in the Garfield Park community in December.

"When I saw this apartment, I thought I was George Jefferson," Lewis said. "I told my friends, 'I'm movin' on up!'"

Completed in December, Fannie Emanuel features 180 one-bedroom apartments with contemporary kitchens and baths, a private resident garden and fitness center and a rooftop deck with scenic views of Garfield Park and downtown Chicago.

Lewis, 72, retired a decade ago after 45 years, first as a laborer, then a janitor. He had been living in Irene McCoy Gaines Apartments, another CHA senior housing development in Garfield Park, since 2008.

"I've got nothing bad to say about Irene McCoy Gaines Apartments; with the rent you pay, you can't find another place that good," he said. "But when CHA came and sent a bus for us they picked us up and took us to Fannie Emanuel. They showed us the apartments on the 19th floor. I fell in love with them."

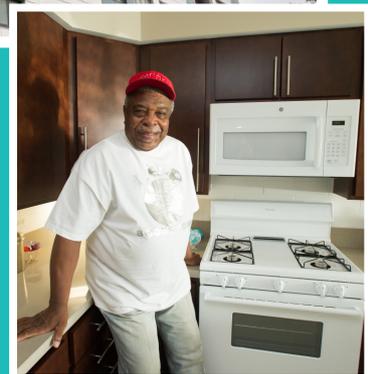
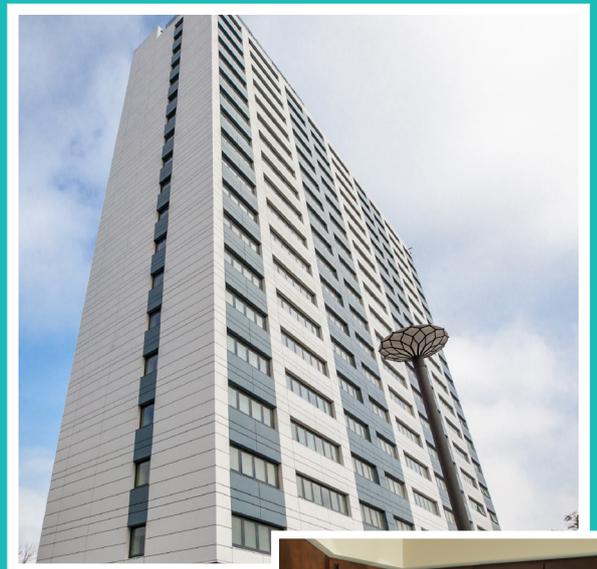
"I like everything," he said. "The bathroom, the kitchen, the living room, the bedroom. I can control my own heat and air."

Lewis is happy in retirement, with friends and family (three daughters and one son) that visit him often.

He spent his first night in his new home on Dec. 13.

"I slept like a baby," he said.

To learn more about the Fannie Emanuel property, [click here](#).



CHANGEMAKER MICHELLE MURRAY

Tasked with caring for three siblings after her mom fell ill, 15-year-old Michelle Murray assumed the parenting duties: cooking, cleaning, homework and paying bills. She was also forced to address eviction issues, and she consequently formed relationships with landlords and office managers. She became so knowledgeable in the business of property management that, a few years later, she was offered a job as an administrative assistant at a development management company, Tria Adelfi.

Today, Murray and business partner Julia Foust own Tria Adelfi, which recently partnered with St. Edmund's Redevelopment Corporation to develop St. Edmund's Oasis, a mixed-income community in the Washington Park neighborhood.

"I had a hard time growing up," Murray said. "So, for me, the best fulfillment I can get out of this job is being able to help others become self-sufficient."

Murray grew up in Dearborn Homes and Stateway Gardens with one brother and two sisters. Her brother Centrale recently earned his Master's in engineering and currently serves in the Navy. Murray's sister Samantha graduated with a degree in marketing, and Nikia is passionate about development, just like her older sister.



CHA BRINGS TOGETHER YOUNG TALENT FOR ANNUAL SUMMIT, POWER TO THE YOUTH

On December 2nd in partnership with Mikva Challenge, CHA hosted the annual Youth Summit, Power to the Youth. At the Summit, hundreds of youth came together to share ambitious ideas, participate in collaborative activities and engage in meaningful discussions.

This year's Summit differed from any other, as the activities and discussions were entirely youth-led. "The CHA Youth Council came together and they told us what they wanted this day to be about," said Ebony Campbell, CHA Director of Youth Opportunities.

CHA's young talent chose to spend the day examining the critical role of young people in historic movements and discussing how to take advantage of such opportunities when they arise today.

"In the two years that I've been here, I've seen a lot of youth step up and speak their voices," said Jaquion Dotson, who attended the Summit. "There are some youth who are scared, but if you give them a little push, they're able to come out and talk about what they want to talk about."

In addition to having meaningful discussions, youth also engaged in collaborative activities to enhance their leadership skills, and they learned about new opportunities at CHA's Youth Resource Fair.

[Click here to learn more about other CHA youth opportunities.](#)

[Click here to watch the Youth Summit YouTube video.](#)



YEAR OF THE SENIOR COMES TO A CLOSE WITH CHA'S SENIOR GALA

2017 was CHA's Year of the Senior, and what better way to celebrate than with a gala?

On December 9th, CHA hosted its annual Senior Gala, a tradition that began in 1983. The Gala, which regularly sells out within days of tickets going on sale, is a hallmark CHA event.

"All year long, people ask when the Senior Gala will be, where it will be and when tickets will be on sale," said Andy Teitelman, Director of Senior Services and Health Initiatives at CHA. "It's not simply an event on December 9th; it's in everyone's spirit all year long."

This year, the event drew one of the biggest crowds with 1,700 seniors coming together for a night filled with food, fun and entertainment courtesy of George Wallace.

"The Gala makes the seniors feel appreciated, and it gives us something nice to do," said Brenda Dean-Dixon, who attended the event. "You get a chance to dress up and come out to a nice hotel. I mean what more could you ask for?"

This year's Gala differed from others, though, as it closed out a year-long celebration of CHA seniors, which included CHA's inaugural Senior Symposium where 1,000 seniors enjoyed a day of learning, discovery and engagement and CHA's first Day of Service for Seniors where CHA staff fanned out across all 44 senior residences.

Health and wellness was also a focus of CHA's Year of the Senior celebration with the completion of "Check. Change. Control." – an American Heart Association program that taught CHA seniors about healthy eating, exercise and how to manage their blood pressure.

CHA's seniors have a lot to be proud of this year, and they certainly enjoyed their celebration.

[Click here to watch a video of the Gala and relive the fun.](#)