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NEWSletter



THE UNITED VOICE FOR SAFE, FAIR AND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR TWO DECADES

Need for MHC continues

by Jane Walsh
Former MHC Executive Director

There is a lot to celebrate about the 20 years the Metropolitan Housing Coalition has been bringing together the broad range of partners and individuals calling for safe, decent and affordable housing in our region. However, we don't have much time to get carried away with the good work we've accomplished together in this coalition. Because today, **20 years after our founding, the need for a consistent and broadly supported campaign for affordable housing is more urgent than ever.** Today, as millions of dollars of new federal funding flow into the city and the unemployment rate sits at 10% and rising, we need a persistent and effective voice demanding more responsive policies and more basic decency in our hometown. And we have it — MHC.

It's a real shame that in 20 years we haven't solved our most pressing housing problems. Over 7,000 children in Louisville are marked "homeless" on the Jefferson County Public School rolls. There is still an unending waiting list of families who qualify for housing assistance — but can't get it. In 20 years, wages have not kept up with the costs of housing — even in a city with an "affordable" housing market.

The great thing about living in Louisville, however, is that I have no reason to be alone in my frustration, or despairing about our capacity as a community. Instead, I can add my voice to the chorus of voices that make up the Metropolitan Housing Coalition and continue to insist that we do better. And I can count on MHC to throw a good celebration or two as well. **I'll see you on June 4 at our Annual Meeting!** 🏠

Meet our keynote speaker, Michael Bodaken:

Discuss the impact of federal stimulus funds on Affordable Housing

Please join the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and MHC for a rare opportunity to meet **Michael Bodaken, president of the National Housing Trust Fund/Enterprise Preservation Corporation** and the keynote speaker of the 2009 MHC Annual Meeting. He is excited to meet community members to discuss innovations in policies and practices using new federal stimulus funds the morning of the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in learning the impact of these funds on existing and future affordable housing, housing preservation, energy efficiency retrofitting, and community revitalization, then this

meeting is for you!

The National Housing Trust/Enterprise Preservation Corp. engages in preservation policy and affordable housing lending and development. Under his leadership, the organization has become a leader in the field of affordable housing preservation.

Don't miss this important meeting to be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Louisville Branch National City Tower, at 101 S. Fifth, Suite 1920. A continental breakfast will be served. To register, call Emily Lape at 502-568-9282. Advance registration is required by May 29. 🏠



Vacant properties! Who would think this would cause such excitement here in Louisville?

One of the many interesting projects administered by the Kentucky Center's ArtsReach program,

which is part of the California Collaborative, is a revitalization program focused on the California neighborhood and funded by a Community Foundation of Louisville Change Makers Grant. In addition to numerous other arts activities, ArtsReach is providing a series of ongoing photography workshops for youth in and around the California neighborhood to explore their community and the art of photography.

Abdul Sharif, an organizer for the Louisville Urban League, is a freelance photographer. Abdul is teaching the students to photograph their community while taking a close look at both the vacant properties and positive activities to revitalize the neighborhood. You can see some of his photos on vacant properties throughout Louisville at <http://www.pbase.com/abdulsharif/boards>.

MHC learned of this project and immediately approached Mr. Sharif and Julia Youngblood, Director of ArtsReach and Community Arts Education of the Kentucky Center for the Arts, to pursue the possibility of showing these photos as part of the Reclaiming Vacant Properties national conference. 🏠

Metropolitan Housing Coalition

P.O. Box 4533 • Louisville, KY 40204-4533 • PHONE (502) 584-6858 • FAX (502) 452-6718 • www.metropolitanhousing.org



Federal Stimulus Plan:

Homelessness & Housing

The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) is part of the federal stimulus plan. Louisville will get \$4.8 million to help people pay their rent, utilities and/or moving costs. The household must have an income below 50% of Area Median Income and either be homeless or be at the point that they would be homeless without this help.

While the federal program allows assistance to be paid up to 18 months, the local proposal limits help to six months. Back rent is allowed. Mortgage payments are not allowed. The household is also offered support services such as case management, budget and credit repair, legal services related to the housing and assistance in finding a more affordable rental unit.

MHC advocated for some provisions, most notably, that the allocation between the assistance and the services be weighted towards assistance (\$2.8 million for assistance and \$1.6 for services). The details of the program will evolve, but the point of contact for anyone needing help will be the Neighborhood Places. The program should be up and running in a matter of weeks.

Keep apprised of all the stimulus money and plans at www.louisvilleky.gov/recovery. 

*Are you interested?
Want to get involved?*



Consolidated Planning Community Forums

Are you interested in affordable housing, economic opportunity and suitable living environments for Louisville neighborhoods?

Then you are interested in Consolidated Planning!

Community residents are invited to attend a forum to discuss needs and identify priorities for Louisville Metro Government and its use of U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds from 2011 to 2015.

Q: How do I get involved?

A: Attend a community forum and share your opinion.

Q: What will I be asked to do?

A: Complete a community needs survey, identify areas of Louisville that you believe should be targeted for HUD funding, and share your thoughts about Louisville Metro Government's housing and community development activities.

Q: What will I learn? What is a Consolidated Plan? What are some of the programs and services it includes? Who may be eligible?

A: The Community Forums are organized by Metro Council Districts to help answer some of these questions. Please plan on attending one of the following:

➤ **Districts 2, 8, 9, 10, 15 & 21 — Saturday, May 16 at 10am** in the school cafeteria of Our Mother of Sorrows, 760 Eastern Parkway

➤ **Districts 12, 13, 14 & 24 — Monday, June 1 at 6pm** at Firefighters Hall, 400 Bakers Lane

➤ **Districts 11, 20, 22, 23 & 26 — Tuesday, May 19 at 6pm** at Fern Creek Community Center, 6104 Bardstown Road

➤ **Districts 7, 16, 17, 18 & 19 — Tuesday, June 9 at 6pm** in the gymnasium at the Berrytown Family YMCA, 1300 Heafer Road

➤ **Districts 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 — Thursday, May 21 at 6pm** at the NIA Center, 2900 West Broadway

➤ **District 25 — Tuesday, June 16 at 6pm** at Jewish Hospital Medical Center Southwest, Doug Hawkins Community Room, 9700 Stonestreet Road

Visit us on the web

If you are interested in Community Development, visit our website at www.metropolitanhousing.org and download "Community Development Block Grant Funds: A Tool for Neighborhoods." We designed this tool back in 2004, but have dusted it off because it is still very relevant to our community work.

SCHEDULE *of* EVENTS

May 29 & 30 — *Land, River and Peoples: Louisville Before the Civil War*, UofL's Ekstrom Library, Chao Auditorium, Friday, 8:30am–5 p.m. and Saturday, 9am–12:30pm. A contemporary look at many facets of antebellum Louisville.

May 30 — Street Health Fair at Presbyterian Community Center, 731 S. Hancock, 10am–2pm. Join Women In Transition and partners to talk about health in our communities. Call WIT at 636-0160 for more information.

June 1-3 — National Vacant Properties Campaign, Reclaiming Vacant Properties at Galt House East. Visit www.reclaimingvacantproperties.org for registration information.

June 2-3 — Safe Place Implementation Training in Louisville. This two-day session prepares organizations to implement Safe Place as a community youth outreach, education and runaway prevention program. For more information, call Susan Harmon, National Safe Place, at 1-888-290-7233.

June 4 — Metropolitan Housing Coalition Annual Meeting, 5pm social hour followed by 6pm program and dinner. Louisville Hyatt Downtown, 320 W. Jefferson. Single tickets are \$50; table of 8 seats is \$500. Join over 400 housing advocates, key decision makers, and active community members to hear keynote speaker Michael Bodaken, President of the National Housing Trust, speak about the importance of safe, fair and affordable housing. Call MHC at (502) 584-6858. (See reservation form on the back page.)

June 9 — Fair Housing Coalition Meeting, 2–3pm. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty.

June 16 — Citizens Group on Vacant Properties Meeting, 5:50–7:30pm, Presbyterian Community Center, 731 S. Hancock.

June 18 — Nonprofit Housing Alliance Meeting, 1–2pm, New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty.

June 24 — Housing Partnership's 5th Annual Champions of Homeownership Luncheon at 11:30am at the Seelbach Hotel in downtown Louisville. This annual event designed to recognize those individuals, corporations or entities that have gone the extra mile to promote or preserve homeownership opportunities in our community. Past award recipients include Brown-Forman Corporation, Habitat for Humanity Louisville, Norton Healthcare and Metropolitan Housing Coalition. The 2009 honorees include Mayor Jerry Abramson, David Armstrong, Christine Johnson and the first class of Bingham Fellows. Each of these people is being honored as a founder of The Housing Partnership 20 years ago. For sponsorship opportunities or to purchase a table, call Linda Holland at 814-2714.

July 31–August 2 — Kentucky Social Forum in Berea. Contact kentuckysocialforum@gmail.com.

October 2 — ACLU Bill of Rights Dinner. Save this date! More details to come. Keynote speaker for this annual event will be Morris Dees from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

*Way to go,
Louisville!*



Louisville lands the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference

The national conference of the National Vacant Properties Campaign, Reclaiming Vacant Properties, is being held at **Galt House East, June 1–3**. MHC is on the Host Committee and will participate in a mobile workshop entitled **Neighbors and Neighborhood Associations' Take on Vacant Properties: Lessons from Louisville**.

We also worked with Metro Council members to obtain scholarships for approximately 30 neighborhood activists to attend. Many of these activists have been working on vacant properties with the MHC-initiated local citizens group which has been active nearly two years. Having educated and energized citizens concerned about vacant properties, both lots and buildings, should assist Louisville Metro in addressing the issues caused by these properties. Additionally, members of this group have assisted Louisville Metro in planning Louisville's program under several stimulus programs designed to stabilize neighborhoods.

Reclaiming Vacant Properties offers three days of workshops and other events intended to help transform communities across the nation. There will be small training seminars, interactive breakout sessions, plenaries and networking opportunities. There also will be an Exhibitor Hall and Poster Gallery available. Once the conference is over, you will hear more about what citizens learned and what they plan to do about vacant properties in our community. Those interested in the conference should go to www.reclaimingvacantproperties.org. 



P.O. Box 4533
LOUISVILLE, KY 40204-4533

Return Service Requested

HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY ... Need for MHC Continues
... Meet our Keynote Speaker, Michael Bodaken ... Vacant
Properties! Who Would Think This Would Cause Such
Excitement Here in Louisville? ... Federal Stimulus Plan:
Homelessness & Housing ... Consolidated Planning
Community Forums ... Schedule of Events ... Louisville
Lands the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference ...
MHC Annual Meeting Reservation Form

*MHC's monthly newsletter is
underwritten by a grant from*



----- ✂ Fill out form and mail it in to the MHC office today! -----

• **FOUNDATION SPONSORS \$7,500**— Two central eight-seat tables with company name, opportunity to speak at the event, display banner at the event on the stage, large font program mention, full first-page ad in program, title sponsor listing in all press releases, recognition in MHC publications, plus much more.

• **CORNERSTONE SPONSORS \$4,000** — Two central eight-seat tables with company name, half-page in program, display banner at the event in social area, recognition from the podium, recognition in media and press releases, plus much more.

• **KEYSTONE SPONSORS \$2,500** — One eight-seat table, one-quarter page in program, display poster on stand in social area, recognition in MHC newsletter and website, plus more.

• **GROUNDBREAKING SPONSORS \$1,000** — One eight-seat table, listing in program, recognition in MHC newsletter, plus more.

• **TABLE SPONSORS \$500** — Listing in program and one eight-seat table.

**20th Annual MHC Annual Meeting Sponsorship Levels & Benefits
RESERVATION FORM**

**YES, I/we will sponsor MHC's 20th
Annual Meeting on June 4, 2009!**

- _____ Foundation Level \$7,500
- _____ Cornerstone Level \$4,000
- _____ Keystone Level \$2,500
- _____ Groundbreaking Level \$1,000
- _____ Table Level \$500
- _____ I can't sponsor, but will purchase _____ tickets at \$50 each.

Please mail form and check for full amount to: MHC, PO Box 4533, Louisville KY 40204-4533. For more information, please call the MHC office at (502) 584-6858.

YES, I/we will purchase an ad in the program!

- _____ I will purchase a full page ad in the program for a cost of \$1,000
- _____ I will purchase a one-half page in the program for a cost of \$500
- _____ I will purchase a one-quarter page in the program for a cost of \$100



Contact name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____