

# News & Views

## PUBLICLY SPEAKING

### A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) continues to work tirelessly to build strong and vibrant communities that uplift the lives of the families and individuals who call HACP housing “home.” From bringing resources directly to residents’ doorsteps, to empowering people with the tools they need to thrive, the HACP is continually deploying new resources in an effort to improve our residents’ quality of life.

The HACP staff continues to maintain many of the wellness services put into place in order to protect our communities from COVID-19. Resident check-ins, onsite access to vaccinations and various resource deliveries that have been in place since

the beginning of the pandemic continue. Our staff continues to face the challenges with strength and determination, maintaining our focus on the well-being of our residents. Whether it includes food drop-offs with 412 Food Rescue, establishing linkages with essential services such as tax preparation assistance and eviction prevention support, or providing access to opportunities for employment and education, the HACP staff works tirelessly toward the goal of ensuring that our residents have access to the resources and tools needed to thrive.

The HACP knows we need strong community partners and resilient coalitions to build the neighborhoods of tomorrow. “It truly does take a village.” That’s why we’ve been working hard to cultivate and maintain productive relationships with government agencies, community groups, and private funders. It’s these partnerships that lead to successes like the new housing and medical center in Lincoln-Lemington. It’s these partnerships that empower residents to get certified as Pharmacy Technicians, as we have seen with many residents who complete the training program offered through our unique collaboration with CVS Health.

And, it’s the village approach that has the HACP on the cusp of completing the transformational Choice Neighborhoods Initiative in Larimer/East Liberty. The HACP is also moving full speed ahead with plans for transformational community change in Allegheny Dwellings and Bedford Dwellings.

We also understand that community is more than just a place to live, it’s a support system that helps you thrive. The HACP has been strengthening these supports in neighborhoods across the City. At the Bedford EnVision Center, we set up a tax-preparation workshop, making sure that residents received all the tax benefits they qualified for. In Northview Heights, new buses will transport young residents to the Boys & Girls Club programming, giving them access to a wealth of recreation and wellness activities.

The HACP is committed to using every resource and tool at our disposal – even inventing some – to build a better future for our communities and all Pittsburghers. Whether it’s something personal to include empowering a resident to share her art with the community and make something special, or something ambitious like joining the Green Building Alliance’s Pittsburgh 2030 District and reducing the region’s emissions, the HACP is “doing the work” to make Pittsburgh a better City for all.

Caster D. Binion  
Executive Director

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh  
Summer 2022

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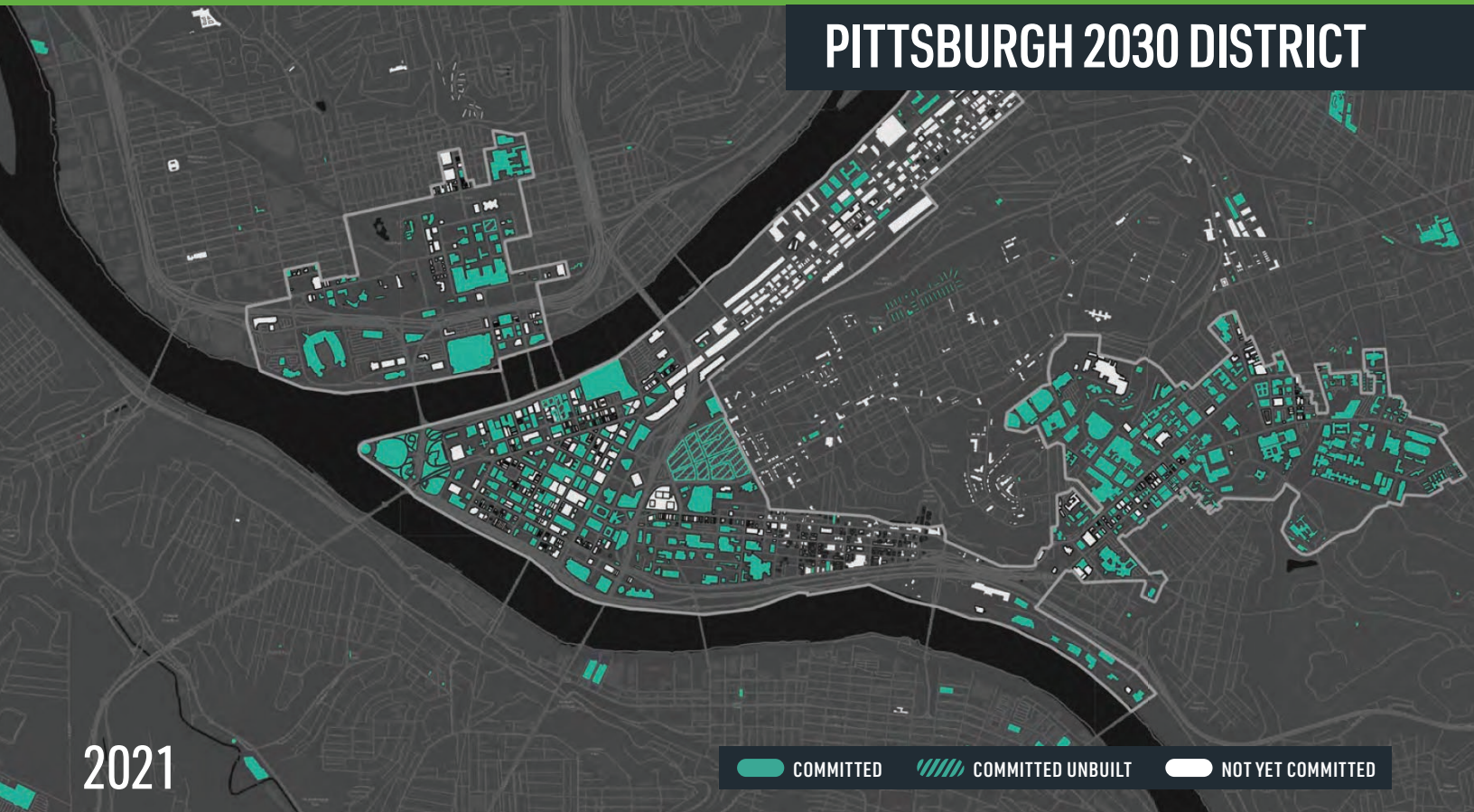


# HACP Makes Commitment to Sustainability,

## Joining Green Building Alliance's 2030 District



### PITTSBURGH 2030 DISTRICT



This year, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) joined the ranks of the Green Building Alliance's Pittsburgh 2030 District. By joining this collective of property owners, HACP reaffirms its commitment to the environment and sustainability.

As part of the 2030 District initiative, HACP will be making voluntary changes in order to reduce carbon emissions, energy usage, water usage, and emissions from transportation by the year 2030.

"This is the next step," said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. "We've been working hard to make our buildings and developments more eco-friendly, but this will bring that commitment to the next level."

HACP pledged to reduce carbon emissions for existing buildings by 50-65%, and keep new construction carbon neutral by 2030. Joining the Pittsburgh 2030 District further empowers HACP to reduce its energy and water consumption

and make its operations more efficient. This will both modernize HACP's property portfolio and save money in the process.

"It's a big win for everyone," said Mr. Binion. "It's a win for us. It's a win for the city. It's a win for our residents. And, it's a win for the planet."

Being a major player in the Pittsburgh 2030 District allows HACP to form new partnerships and connections with like-minded property owners and developers in the region. With new access to monthly discussions, performance inspections, and peer networks, HACP will be able to build on its success and enhance its role in moving Pittsburgh forward into a more sustainable future.

"We're a leader in the region, and we take that seriously," said Mr. Binion. "That's why we're at the forefront of eco-friendly development. It's going to take all of us, but we're ready to do our part to build a greener future for the Pittsburgh region."



# HACP Resident SiRoya Mitchell

## Shares Her Art, Resilience

Dozens of children have laughed and learned at the ABK Learning & Development Center since it opened its doors at its Bedford EnVision Center location some three-plus years ago. Despite the colorful energy and enriching atmosphere inside ABK Center, the exterior of the building never really reflected the vibrancy of ABK's programming. That's now changed, thanks to HACP resident SiRoya Mitchell, who recently completed a series of painted murals for the young learners at the ABK Learning and Development Center.

"I took my time getting to know them and what they like," said Ms. Mitchell about collaborating with the young residents on the design of the new mural. "It tells a whole story. I have Marshall from *Paw Patrol* at the fire hydrant. *Monsters, Inc.* is there to remind them never to be afraid of the dark. *The Minions* point to the exits where you need to go in a fire. And the forests just give it a calming feeling."

Ms. Mitchell was connected with the ABK Learning & Development Center after an HACP employee noticed her art during post-repair inspections.

"He walked up to me and I thought something was wrong, that I was in trouble," Ms. Mitchell said. "But he just wanted to ask about my art and suggest I do something for the community."

The inspector informed Ms. Mitchell that Lesely Crawford, the director of the ABK Center, was looking for a muralist. She was then able to connect with Ms. Crawford at the Bedford EnVision Center. Together, they made plans for murals and started to engage the students to see what they would want. This both enabled Ms. Mitchell to share her art, and empowered her with income and qualifications.

"Not only did I get to paint for those children, but I also got someone who invested in me," she said. "I got my daycare certifications working there. I got paid to paint and these certifications. Truly a blessing."

Sharing her art with the community, especially youth, meant a lot for Ms. Mitchell, who got into art as a way to cope with



Ms. Mitchell's art brings color and energy to childrens' days.

Working with the students themselves, Ms. Mitchell determined what would bring these young learners the most meaning and joy.

difficulties in her own childhood. Her grandmother in particular encouraged her to explore this outlet for expression. She shared art books with Ms. Mitchell, as well as bought canvases and other art supplies.

"It was a gateway for me," she said. "I started painting my dreams. I started painting my nightmares, and they became beautiful pieces of art."

Ms. Mitchell recalls a specific moment in her youth that she really felt the power of art. Her grandmother showed her an antique book of art, featuring painters like Picasso. One painting brought her to tears, and, crying, she realized how art can be healing.

"I want people to have that sense of overcoming things," said Ms. Mitchell. "That's why I do this for the community," she said.

SiRoya Mitchell channels herself into her art, and she wants to share it with the community.





# Graduation Season at HACP: Residents Complete CVS Pharmacy Technician Program and Forge New Careers

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) proudly joined its residents in celebrating their graduation from the CVS and Ebenezer Outreach Ministries Pharmacy Technician Program. Over the course of eight weeks, and concluding in March 2022, HACP residents learned and trained in a custom-built model CVS pharmacy. By the end of the training course, participants received their pharmacy technician certification.

“I just feel like my life has been rejuvenated,” said Carla, an HACP resident who was valedictorian of the graduating class. “My resume has been awesomely updated. The opportunities that are being offered to me are amazing. I’m confident that my financial, personal, spiritual wellbeing will be uplifted in the coming weeks.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought on employment challenges for many, including Carla, who has a degree in biotechnology. She was able to move forward despite the difficulty of finding a job in her field when she was directed to Lloyd C. Wilson, Jr, HACP’s Resident Employment Coordinator. With Mr. Wilson’s guidance, Carla was able to complete the Pharmacy Technician program, and many doors are now open to her. Carla plans on continuing her education and taking her national licensing exam in May, then begin working at one of the many pharmacies that have interviewed her.

“It’s the first time in my life that I ever went to a job developer and they actually listened and put me in a place I wanted to be,” Carla said. “I’m very grateful for that. Very grateful for meeting him. Very grateful for the chance and then rolling with it.”

Eight other residents completed the program, for a total of nine HACP graduates. HACP’s Resident Employment Program was the driving force behind this, as it encouraged residents to pursue their goals. While HACP residents have participated in this program before, the number this year has more than doubled.

“It is so wonderful and exciting to see people succeed,” said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. “We’re over the moon that we were able to connect this group with an opportunity to set out on a path to true upward mobility.”

The Resident Employment Program coordinates professional development resources, job fairs, apprenticeship opportunities, and more for HACP residents. The Pharmacy Technician Program is just one of many opportunities that residents have found through this important resource. In fact, the Resident Employment Program has helped more than 200 people find employment.

“This is what we do,” said Michelle Sandidge, Chief Community Affairs Officer at the HACP. “Self-sufficiency is at the heart of everything that we do as a housing authority and this program is a fantastic example of our organization’s commitment to empowering residents and connecting them with the tools needed to thrive.”

Residents that are interested in finding out more about the Resident Employment Program and potential employment opportunities can contact Lloyd C. Wilson, Jr. at [lloyd.wilson@hacp.org](mailto:lloyd.wilson@hacp.org) or 412-643-2835.

2022 graduates celebrate their accomplishment.



Residents show off their diplomas in front of the replica CVS pharmacy they trained in.





# Joan King's Homeownership Journey with HACP, ELDI and Partners Shows That Homeownership Has No Age Limit



The property Ms. King found had everything she needed.



Ms. King was able to achieve her homeownership goals with the URA and HACP's assistance.



Everyone celebrated when Ms. King closed on her home in March 2022.

Joan King's first idea of homeownership came straight from the traditional script: marry a man, settle down, buy a house.

"I was raised at a time when the assumption was that I would have a husband with money, and we would have a house together. The specifics of that were vague, but that's what women did." However, as King shared, "That's not how it turned out."

Instead, at the age of 65 and with a limited, fixed income, she now is the proud owner of a two-bedroom, one bath home in East Liberty's central Enright Court.

King's journey to homeownership was anything but conventional, but with a lot of dedication—and some help from East Liberty Development Incorporated (ELDI), the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA), the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), and other important community organizations and agencies—she was able to realize her dream.

When King found out that her landlady was retiring and selling the property a few years back, she decided to start looking for a home to purchase. After an unsuccessful search with a realtor, she heard about ELDI's Affordable Homeownership Opportunities program and got in touch with affordable homeownership specialist Mary Hester. Ms. Hester guided King to an affordable unit in Enright Court on East Liberty Boulevard.

"We toured the property, and she loved it," Hester explained. "It has a private backyard with a fence—it was everything she needed."

Due to the fact that King had a very low income, she needed a lot of subsidy to bridge the gap between her mortgage pre-approval and the house's price tag. That's where the URA and HACP came in: King was recommended for a new pilot program called Own Pittsburgh, a collaboration between the URA and HACP.

Through this program, King was able to secure \$90,000 in grants and subsidies through the URA and HACP. As a result, she did not have to tap into her 401k to secure the house and her monthly mortgage payment is under \$300, less than she was paying at her previous apartment.

King closed on her home on March 11, 2022. It was a joyful day, with many of the partners who helped her get there in attendance.

"HACP is pleased to have been able to support Ms. King in her efforts to attain the dream of homeownership. We look forward to continuing our work with the URA and partner organizations like ELDI to further expand homeownership opportunities for working class Pittsburgh residents," said Caster D. Binion, Executive Director of HACP.

The Home Ownership program at HACP is designed to provide low-to-moderate income families' the financial literacy and financial assistance needed to purchase a home within the city limits of Pittsburgh. The program also provides assistance with closing costs: participants may receive closing cost assistance of up to \$7,000.

For more information about HACP's Home Ownership program, contact HACP at: [home.ownership@hacp.org](mailto:home.ownership@hacp.org).

# Just Harvest & HACP Work Together to Help Residents File Taxes and Maximize Returns

It's a cold Saturday morning in February as Barbara Coffee, Community Program Liaison at the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), opens the doors to the Bedford EnVision Center in the Hill District. Along with knowledgeable volunteers from Just Harvest, Ms. Coffee sets up for a day of helping as many as 30 people fill out their tax forms for free. Over the course of the next four months, hundreds of Pittsburgh residents will visit the EnVision Center for support with their tax returns.

Brought to HACP over a decade ago, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, administered through Just Harvest, has allowed over 70,000 people to file their taxes for free. The annual program begins in January and runs until the end of the tax season.

"We help residents file their taxes for free," said Winter Ebbs, one of Just Harvest's tax reviewers. "We want to keep money in the pockets of the citizens."

HACP's mission has always been to connect its residents to impactful resources. This partnership with Just Harvest is yet another way in which HACP is serving its community. The initiative reduces the barriers often involved in filing taxes: confusing forms, expensive filing services, and a lack of access. HACP residents are grateful for the service, and feel more comfortable knowing that the person preparing their taxes is someone committed to the community.

"It is so good to have this program here," said one resident after finishing her tax forms. "It really means a lot."

During the appointment, volunteers work diligently with residents in private rooms to ensure the program participants maximize their return. The program capitalizes on residents' earned income tax credits, resulting in higher refunds. The money saved through this initiative empowers people to do things like get up to date on payments, make car repairs, pay off debts, and build their personal savings.

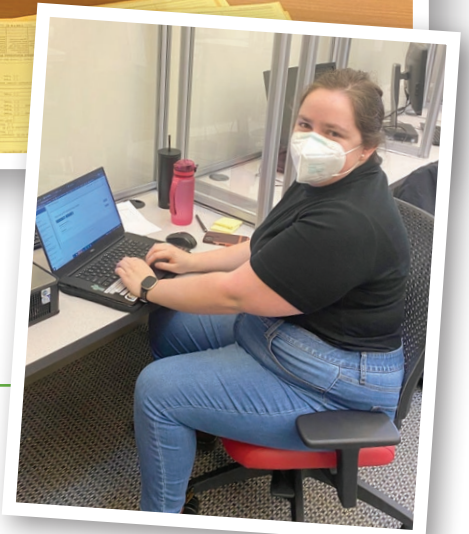
In 2022 alone, the Bedford EnVision Center Just Harvest site helped 291 residents earn a total of more than \$1 million in refunds and credit amounts.

"I thought it was important for this program to be in HACP's communities," Ms. Coffee remarked. "Just Harvest wants to help low-income people, and here they were."

Just Harvest is a non-profit organization whose main mission is to end hunger in the Pittsburgh area. Through partnerships with businesses and community members, Just Harvest has been able to lift more people out of poverty than any other non-profit in Pittsburgh. Their annual tax program helps Pittsburgh's low-income residents maximize their finances, save money, and take advantage of other poverty-combatting services.



Ellyana, a Just Harvest intern, sets up the greeting table to welcome program participants.



Emma, a tax preparer with Just Harvest, gets ready for residents to arrive.

**“I thought it was important for this program to be in HACP’s communities. Just Harvest wants to help low-income people, and here they were.”**





# New Buses in Northview Heights Set to Connect Young Residents with Boys & Girls Club Programming

Officials present community leaders with the awarded funds for youth transportation.

HACP residents, staff, partner organizations and a host of public officials gathered in Northview Heights in mid-April to celebrate the announcement of a new service that will greatly enhance recreational opportunities for community youth. With a new infusion of \$250,000 from state, local, and private partners, Northview Heights was set to receive brand new buses to transport young residents back and forth to Boys & Girls Club of Western Pennsylvania (BGCWPA) programming.

“We’re here,” said Pittsburgh City Councilman Bobby Wilson, who represents the Northside and Northview Heights. “Because of all the leaders of the Northside that came together and figured out how to address the challenges here. Nothing gets done without a great partnership with the Housing Authority.”

Northview Heights is physically isolated from the rest of the City, and it can oftentimes be difficult for residents to access resources and programming, especially young residents. The HACP has worked in years’ past to bring these resources and programming directly to the community, like establishing the Creative Arts Corner and fresh food drop-offs with 412 Food Rescue. However, the addition of the Boys & Girls Club buses will open up a variety of new opportunities for Northview residents.

This new partnership will continue those efforts by bringing buses into the community to transport young residents to engaging and enriching programming with the BGCWPA.

As speakers noted, this will give people the opportunity to access things like after-school programs, summer camps, leadership training, and more.

“We’re excited to learn about what your kids here are interested in,” said Dr. Lisa-Palmieri, President and CEO of BGCWPA. “And build programs for the community.”

In addition to connecting young residents with enriching programs, this innovative partnership will include a workforce development component to help people obtain their Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) to drive the new buses. That means this partnership will help uplift the entire community.

“We are quite literally,” said Michael Huwar, President of People’s Gas, one of the private partners, “putting students and residents on the path to a brighter future.”

As the event progressed, residents made clear that this new partnership would be transformational. Young residents will be granted new experiences, opportunities, and skills that they otherwise would not have had access to.

“It is an honor and a joy. I’m crying tears that our kids will be able to access more than just Northview,” said Valerie Lauw, a member of Northview Heights’ Tenant Council. “We have been working hard and it is a joy and an honor that this is just the beginning for what is possible for all children throughout this city.”

Resident leader Valerie Lauw speaks about the positive impact the new buses will have on the Northview Heights community.



Residents and stakeholders celebrate their new partnership.





# HACP, Partners Celebrate Legacy of Mary Peck Bond and Opening of Senior Housing at The Lemington

In the late 1800s, Mary Peck Bond, an esteemed member of Pittsburgh's Black community, established the Lemington Elder Care Services (LECS) home. Perched upon a hill overlooking the rest of the City, LECS was the first home in the United States to address the healthcare needs of elderly Black women. Over the decades, the site, as both the LECS home and the Lemington Home for the Aged, served hundreds and hundreds of women and empowered people to age with dignity.

Now, HACP has partnered with Beacon Communities, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Allegheny County, DollarBank, and RedStone Servicer to reinvigorate this historic site and give it a new chapter. Newly-renovated after years of sitting vacant, The Lemington now provides 54 units of affordable senior housing to the Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar community.

"We're able to provide for our people," said Michael A. Polite, Senior Vice President of Development at Beacon Communities, "a place where you can move in, live within your means, and as your needs change, the property accommodates them. That's a wonderful thing and a great resource."

The \$16.5 million redevelopment included the replacement of all the major mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in the building, as well as a new roof, additional on-site parking, cutting-edge stormwater management, and the construction of new entrances. A variety of entities provided the funding that made this redevelopment possible, both public and private, including HACP, PHFA, and DollarBank.

"The fact is," said Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, "this had a lot of support because it is the right thing to do."

On top of the much-needed affordable senior housing, The Lemington also hosts the East Liberty Family Health Care Center (ELFHCC) on the first floor of the building. This new



Development partners and community stakeholders cut the ribbon for The Lemington.

space for ELFHCC includes both a dental and health clinic, connecting residents and other community members with critical services like medical care, dental care, behavioral health services, a pharmacy, and more.

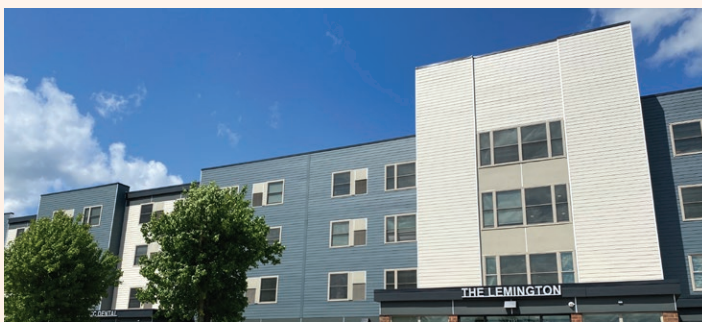
"Affordable senior housing is so important," said State Sen. Lindsey Williams, who represents the area. "It allows people who have dedicated their lives to the community to remain in the community they love and frees them from the burden of caring for a whole home. This place can grow with them. With the East Liberty Family Health Center, I don't know where else you get something like this in the City."

In a City with stark disparities in health outcomes and availability of service, this redevelopment has been transformational, giving low-income elderly Pittsburghers access to resources they may not have been able to access otherwise. This makes a huge difference in a neighborhood and community that has been left behind in the past and sends a clear message that HACP and its partners are here to uplift every single community in the City, no matter how small or isolated.

"The Housing Authority is always trying to find a way to push affordable housing," said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. "This system we set up, to make this happen today, is unique to Pittsburgh. There's always a gap in funding and we can provide for that gap. So if your imagination involves affordable housing, come and see us."

By bringing together housing and healthcare, HACP and its partners are forwarding their commitment to building strong and vibrant communities that meet residents' needs on multiple fronts. More than that though, this new chapter for The Lemington is continuing and expanding Mary Peck Bond's legacy, something that residents and staff are quick to remind people of. In fact, the street that The Lemington sits on was renamed Mary Peck Bond Place in her honor.

As Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey put it, "Today, she's smiling."



The Lemington continues Mary Peck Bond's legacy and provides more than 50 units of affordable senior housing to the Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar community, as well as easy access to medical and dental services.



## DEVELOPMENT VISION

Collaborate to foster community activity



### ACTIVATE THE CORNER

The unique corner geometry establishes a new gateway to the Hazelwood business district with a nod to new development diagonal to the site.

### CELEBRATE HISTORY

A corner plaza honors the memory of Hazelwood residents at a prominent community crossroads through public art.



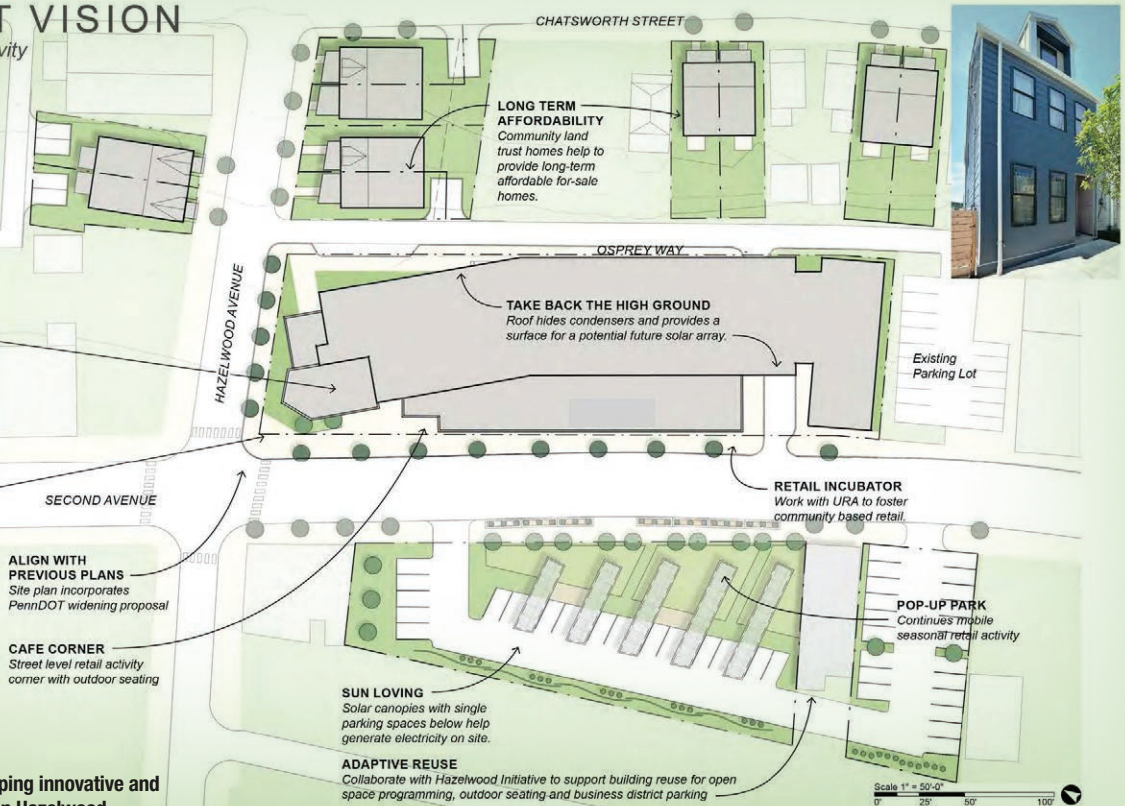
### ALIGN WITH PREVIOUS PLANS

Site plan incorporates PennDOT widening proposal

### CAFE CORNER

Street level retail activity corner with outdoor seating

HACP's funding will go towards developing innovative and transformative initiatives like this one in Hazelwood.



# HACP Board of Commissioners Award \$15M in PBV & Gap Financing to Select Affordable Housing Developers

During its June 2022 meeting, the HACP Board of Commissioners approved conditional commitment of 171 Project-Based Vouchers (PBV) and \$15,070,000 of Gap Financing loans for a select group of developers to expand affordable housing options throughout the City. The decision will create more than 350 mixed income units in neighborhoods all across Pittsburgh, including the Hill District, Hazelwood, and Perry South among others. 171 (48%) of these units will receive HACP PBV subsidies.

The \$15,070,000 will be distributed across seven affordable housing developments located throughout the city, including the following:

- \$4,860,000 – Hazelwood Green, Hazelwood
- \$2,700,000 – Oakland Pride, Oakland
- \$2,250,000 – Letsche School, Hill District
- \$1,920,000 – 4800 Block of Second Avenue, Hazelwood
- \$1,350,000 – North Homewood, Homewood
- \$1,000,000 – 2159 Centre Ave, Hill District
- \$990,000 – Legacy Village, Perry South

Established in December 2015 by the HACP and its development instrumentality, ARMDC, the PBV/Gap Financing Program encourages all levels of affordable developers including community-based organizations to invest in their communities by preserving and developing affordable housing. The program offers vital support to qualified organizations by providing both development financing and project-based operating subsidies.

“Using all of the tools available to expand affordable housing in Pittsburgh is critical for us to build a city where everyone can thrive,” said Mayor Ed Gainey. “This program creates more opportunities to expand affordable housing, so everyone can continue to live and work in Pittsburgh—and ensure that we bring affordability to more neighborhoods, help rebuild communities, and connect people to new areas of economic opportunities.”

**“Using all of the tools available to expand affordable housing in Pittsburgh is critical for us to build a city where everyone can thrive.”**





The healing conversation started with a presentation from Vanessa Mayers-Snyder about trauma and its impacts.

# COVID-19 Wellness Workshop

## Talks Trauma, Healing, and Self-Care

Earlier this spring, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) and long-time partner the Center for Victims came together to host an important and healing seminar on how residents can take care of their mind, body, and spirit during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While HACP has hosted other impactful pandemic-response events, this one focused specifically on how residents can cope and care for themselves through the stresses and decreased mental wellbeing that the pandemic has wrought.

The event, which took place via Facebook livestream, was led by Ms. Vanessa Mayers-Snyder, MSW of the Center for Victims and attended by HACP staff and resident leaders.

“Throughout the pandemic, individuals that were already struggling with mental health issues were often isolated or were not having access to services,” said Ms. Mayers-Snyder. “During this time there are so many additional stressors on individuals, and you’re not alone.”

The COVID-19 Wellness Workshop was a conversation centered around identifying healthy coping strategies and self-care tips that attendees can use to work through any challenges the pandemic has caused or heightened. It

pointed residents to resources that are available to them if they are experiencing any serious mental health issues, victimization, or conflict.

“We are people on the ground to connect them to larger organizations and provide whatever we can while on-site,” said Ms. Mayers-Snyder.

Ms. Mayers-Snyder educated attendees on what trauma is, how it impacts mental health, and self-care strategies that can help them work through this challenging time. Looking through the lens of the pandemic, the conversation covered how COVID-19 has caused individuals trauma, how that’s impacted them, and the resulting mental health issues. By talking about what trauma is, and how affected people can cope with difficult experiences, HACP and the Center for Victims guided participants towards tangible improvements in their moods while also pointing them to other helpful resources.

As a social worker at the Center for Victims, Ms. Mayers-Snyder has been working with residents of HACP communities for nearly a decade. Prior to the pandemic,

*(continued on page 11)*

**“This partnership is powerful. It helps residents who have experienced trauma or conflict get the support and advocacy they need, and builds strength and resiliency in our communities.”**





As a group, participants toured and talked about the Center for Victims' display on trauma and healing.



Resident leaders like Bedford Dwellings' Gail Felton helped drive the conversation throughout the day.

she was on-site building relationships with residents and HACP staff. These connections have resulted in impactful services that HACP residents have access to within their own neighborhoods.

"This partnership is powerful," said Michelle Sandidge, Chief Community Affairs Officer of the HACP. "It helps residents who have experienced trauma or conflict get the support and advocacy they need, and builds strength and resiliency in our communities."

The Center for Victims is the only comprehensive victim services center that serves Allegheny County. HACP residents are able to use their resources if they are experiencing any

kind of victimization, conflict, or trauma. By partnering with this important organization, HACP is helping residents gain access to counseling, advocacy, emergency services, and more.

"We're trying to reduce the stigma around getting help," said Ms. Mayers-Snyder. "We want people to know that it's okay to get help." To get in contact with the Center for Victims, call their 24-hour Help Line at 1-866-644-2882.



You can watch the full conversation at:  
[bit.ly/HACP-CFV-Coping-With-COVID](https://bit.ly/HACP-CFV-Coping-With-COVID)



The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, ABK Learning & Development Center, and the Duquesne University School of Education were honored to receive the Response in Caring Award from the PA Early Learning Investment Commission (PAELIC) in recognition of the outstanding work our partnership has done in Bedford Dwellings and the Greater Hill District community. This partnership, tirelessly led by HACP, Duquesne's Dr. Christopher Meidl, and ABK's Lesely Crawford, has made high-quality, innovative early childhood education available to HACP residents and community members that work non-traditional hours. Representatives from PAELIC visited the Bedford EnVision Center to present the award and tour our facilities. As HACP and its partners look to the future, we hope to continue to serve as a national model for what expanding early childhood education can look like.



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## Summer 2022

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### Executive Director

Caster D. Binion

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Follow HACP on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/HACP1>

# Over \$1M in Assistance Funds Keeps People in Their Homes

HACP and its partners are proud to say that we've disbursed \$1,000,000 through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)! This huge accomplishment has kept countless people in their homes and is a testament to the hard work & commitment of this coalition of support.

A big thank you to all of our partners who have been working hard with us to make sure people get the assistance they need: Ursuline Support Services, ACTION-Housing, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Just Mediation Pittsburgh, and Rent Help PGH + Eviction Rapid Response.

If you applied for assistance through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and have not yet received funds, you can check the status of your application by calling 412-248-0021.

