



Louisville Metro Efforts to Address Vacant Properties

by *Mary McGuire, Department of Codes & Regulations*

This past year, Louisville Metro was fortunate enough to receive a Bloomberg Philanthropies grant. Similar to the other cities that received a Bloomberg Philanthropies grant, Metro's goal is to implement innovative solutions to urban challenges and embed strong performance management in city government practices. The Louisville Innovation Delivery Team (IDT) is utilizing various problem-solving techniques to generate unique approaches for Louisville's challenges. The Vacant Abandoned Properties (VAP) Initiative is working cooperatively with the IDT to find innovative solutions to the problem of vacant abandoned properties.

Additionally, Mayor Fischer has supported an abatement lien foreclosure pilot program by budgeting \$125,000 to cover the cost of 100 foreclosure filings over the next year. The goal of this pilot is to return abandoned properties to productive use. Along with these targeted foreclosures, Metro will continue its active demolition program, exploring ways to make this a more effective tool.

Mayor Fischer continues his support of volunteer efforts in the community, including the Brother's Keeper Program within the VAP Initiative that assists with mowing/cleaning abandoned properties.

Mary McGuire will speak about these new programs at the Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign- August 21, 5:30 p.m., at Presbyterian Community Center, 701 S. Hancock Street.

Breaking News on Foreclosure Settlement

On July 30, Attorney General Jack Conway, Mayor Greg Fischer, and Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) announced the distribution of \$19.2 million from the national mortgage settlement moneys received by Kentucky.

Funds allocated to Louisville include : \$750,000 to the Louisville Metro Vacant Abandoned Property Initiative to support foreclosing on the city liens held on vacant properties to return them to productive use; \$500,000 to the Metro Targeted Demolition Program that addresses the problem of blight by removing deteriorated structures that have been abandoned; \$250,000 to the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund to create a loan fund for rehabilitation of vacant properties into housing for low- and moderate-income people; \$250,000 to Legal Aid Society to provide foreclosure prevention services and to assist homeowners navigating foreclosures; and KHC funding for Louisville housing counseling agencies and the Kentucky NeighborWorks Alliance, which includes two Louisville non-profits- New Directions and the Housing Partnership, Inc.

Thanks to Everyone Who Attended the 2012 MHC Annual Meeting!

The 2012 MHC Annual Meeting, held at the fabulous Kentucky Center for African American Heritage on June 26, was a great success! Over 300 people saw Dory Rand, President of the Woodstock Institute, give a powerful Keynote presentation entitled "Preserving Communities in the Wake of the Foreclosure Crisis." Thanks to Dory for traveling to Louisville to share her expertise on responding to the impacts of vacant properties and foreclosures on low-income communities, particularly how they affect their economic security.

Thanks also to Mayor Greg Fischer and Christa Robinson of Congressman John Yarmuth's Office for speaking at the meeting. We appreciate your leadership on affordable housing and community development issues.

We also want to especially thank our event sponsors!

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- Priddy, Cutler, Miller & Meade, PLLC- The Labor Law Firm- program ad
- 21C Museum Hotel- donation of Dory Rand's accommodations.
- Lisa Oechsli- Solidarity Photography- donated event photography

Thanks also to all of our event volunteers! You helped make the evening a great success.

MHC Board of Directors

A 20-member volunteer Board of Directors oversees MHC's work. Board members are appointed for three-year terms that can be renewed, allowing for 6 consecutive years of service. MHC staff wishes to thank our board members for their dedicated support of MHC and the time they generously commit to serve on the board.

At the 2012 Annual Meeting, MHC welcomed Aukram Burton as the newest member of our Board of Directors. Aukram currently works as the Multicultural/Diversity Specialist in the Department of Diversity, Equity and Poverty Programs for Jefferson County Public Schools. His educational background includes studies at the New England School of Photography. He received his B.A. in Art with a concentration in African and Asian Studies, and a M.Ed. in Instructional Design from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Aukram was awarded a research fellowship from the Community Fellows Program in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research focused on community development and education in Boston's African-American community. Aukram also works professionally as a photographer and film/video producer through his company RAM Images.

Six board members have generously renewed their board membership for a second term. We greatly appreciate their continued service. They are: Dr. Renee Campbell, Wesley House; Dan Forbis; Adam Hall, Fifth Third Bank; David Ritchay, Housing Partnership, Inc.; Peter Wayne, Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs; and Faith Weekly, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, who serves as MHC's Treasurer.

Michael Gardner of New Directions Housing Corporation exited the MHC board when his term of service ended on June 30. We thank Michael for his support, hard work, and dedication to MHC, which have been vital to our accomplishments.

Tell Your Fair Housing Story

Have you faced housing discrimination in Louisville Metro? If your right to fair housing choice was illegally limited because of race, color, national origin, sex, familial status, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity—we want to hear your story. The University of Louisville Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research is preparing a 20-year action plan to affirmatively further fair housing in Louisville in partnership with MHC and the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission.

Hearing your story will help us identify existing barriers to fair housing choice in Louisville and inform our proposals to remove them for the future. To tell your story, contact Amber Duke at the Anne Braden Institute by email at AGDUKE01@louisville.edu or 852-6142.

Anne Braden Documentary Film Premiere & Portrait Unveiling

There are three events the week of August 26 honoring civil rights and housing activist Anne Braden.

Louisville Premiere of Anne Braden: Southern Patriot

August 26, 3:00- 5:00 p.m.

Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, Russell Hall
1701 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., Louisville, KY

Anne Braden: Southern Patriot is a first person documentary about the extraordinary life of this American civil rights leader and Louisville native. (<http://media.gfem.org/node/10765>) Braden was hailed as a white southerner who was "eloquent and prophetic" by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his 1963 Letter from Birmingham Jail. When charged with sedition for attempting to desegregate a Louisville neighborhood in 1954, Braden used the attack to embrace a lifetime of racial justice organizing matched by few whites in American history. Ostracized as a "red," she fought for an inclusive movement community and mentored three generations of social justice activists.

Unveiling of Robert Shetterly's Portrait of Anne Braden

August 28, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Louisville Metro Hall
527 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor

The portrait of Anne Braden by Robert Shetterly, known for his "Americans Who Tell the Truth" series, will be the latest addition to the acclaimed collection of over 190 paintings (<http://americanswhotellthetruth.org>). The works incorporate quotes from noted Americans who have stood up for their principles into their portraits. Portrait subjects include Muhammad Ali, Sojourner Truth, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Anne Braden's portrait will be included in an "Americans Who Tell the Truth" exhibit at the Muhammad Ali Center entitled "Muhammad Ali & the Civil Rights Movement." The exhibit will feature 40 portraits from the collection and will run from September 1 to November 11. *An opening reception for the exhibit will be held on August 30 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Ali Center, 144 N. Sixth Street.*

Donate Materials that Help the St. John Center Provide Day Services for Homeless Men

The Center is in great need of the following items: bar soap, white crew length athletic socks, sugar, creamer, papers towels, toilet tissue, 50-gallon drum liners, and 13-gallon trash bags. For more information, call 568-6758 or email findhope@stjohncenter.org. Drop off donations at 700 East Muhammad Ali Blvd. between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Schedule of Events

August 14- Fair Housing Coalition Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty Street, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

August 14- Education & Advocacy Committee Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty Street, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

August 21- Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign. Mary McGuire of Louisville Metro's Vacant, Abandoned Properties Initiative will speak about the city's new programs to address vacant properties. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 S. Hancock Street, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

August 11- Bank On Louisville Start Fresh Class. Completion of this free course provides a Start Fresh Certificate. Present your Start Fresh Certificate to a Bank On participating banks or credit unions. This will get you on your way to establishing a bank account and on a pathway of improved financial success. Please RSVP to attend by calling 458-8840 x1384. NIA Center, 2900 W. Broadway, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Start Fresh classes will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

August 13-17- Housing Partnership, Inc. School Supplies Drive. This Drive will benefit children living in HPI's rental communities. You can help with your donation of school supplies. Volunteers are also needed to help us distribute supplies. Help HPI provide a fresh start this school year for hundreds of children living in their communities. Contact Kim Happel at khappel@wearehpi.org or 814-2730 for a list of needed supplies or to volunteer for the drive. HPI Partridge Pointe Community, 3701 Dena Drive.

August 15- Bank on Louisville Anniversary Party. Come celebrate Bank On efforts to help the unbanked and the under-banked gain access to mainstream financial services. For more information, call 574-5156 or email bankonlouisville@louisvilleky.gov. Mayor's Gallery, 527 W. Jefferson Street, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

August 16- Network Center for Community Change Network Nite. Enjoy a family dinner while networking with your community and learning about events and opportunities. For more information, call 583-1426 or email jpotish@makechangetogether.org. The Academy at Shawnee, 4018 W. Market Street, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

August 20- Deadline for Nominations for Center for Nonprofit Excellence 2012 Pyramid Awards for Excellence. The Pyramid Awards for Excellence are designed to recognize the essential value of our region's nonprofit sector. These awards are presented each year during the Center for Nonprofit Excellence nonprofit leadership conference, which will be held on October 9. Center for Nonprofit Excellence recognizes and celebrates commanding contributions by nonprofit members in six areas: Collaboration, Diversity, Governance, Leadership, Social Innovation, and Vision. To make a nomination, go to http://www.cnpe.org/assets/556/Pyramid_Awards_2012.pdf

August 25- Home of the Innocents 7th Annual Big Ol' Backyard BBQ. Roll up your sleeves and help yourself to savory BBQ, gourmet side dishes, and desserts galore! Chow down with four-star chefs as they step out of their kitchens and fire up the grills in the park-like backyard at Home of the Innocents! All proceeds benefit Home of the Innocents. For more information go to www.bigbackyardbbq.com. Home of the Innocents Backyard, 1100 E. Market Street, 5:30 p.m.

September 11-12- Kentucky Housing Corporation Affordable Housing Conference. Features informative sessions on: energy awareness; homeownership education and counseling; homeownership project management; multifamily production, specialized housing, and other topics. For more information go to <http://www.kyhousing.org/conference/kahc2012.aspx>. Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport, 830 Phillips Lane.

September 15- Network Center for Community Change 1st Annual Chill for Change Old School Block Party. This fundraising event features food and music by the Unlimited Show Band, Cosa Seria, and Lastru (DJ Dr. Keith Look). Tickets available as of August 3. For more information, go to www.makechangetogether.org or call 583-1208. The Quonset Hut, 599 Rubel Avenue, 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

September 22- ACLU of Kentucky Reproductive Freedom Project Fall Celebration. For more information, contact Michael Aldridge at michael@aclu-ky.org or 581-9746. Green Building, 732 E. Market Street, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

October 8- Deadline to Sign Up for 2012 Project Warm Weatherization Blitz. This is a free service for senior citizens or people with disabilities on fixed incomes. Volunteers will install clear, interior window covers on Saturday, November 3rd and Saturday, November 10th, 2012. Do not delay in enrolling, as this program depends on volunteers so there's no guarantee that everyone will be served although every effort will be made to do so. Apply online at <http://www.projectwarm.org/>. For more information, call Project warm at 502-636-9276, or email info@projectwarm.org

October 9- Center for Nonprofit Excellence 12th Annual Center for Nonprofit Excellence Leadership Conference. Luncheon features Keynote Speaker Andy Goodman and the presentation of the Pyramid Awards for Excellence. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.cnpe.org/learning/signature-seminars-and-events/cnpe-nonprofit-leadership-conference-and-awards-luncheon/> Rivue - West Tower, Galt House Hotel, 140 South 4th Street. Conference 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Luncheon 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

October 20- ACLU of Kentucky Bill of Rights Dinner. This year's keynote speaker will be the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, Bryan Stevenson with special guest Stephen Bright, President of the Southern Center for Human Rights. For more information, contact Michael Aldridge at michael@aclu-ky.org or 581-9746. Location and time TBD.

October 27- 9th Annual Home Run Race. A scenic 10K run or 5K run/walk benefitting the Home of the Innocents. For more information or to register, go to www.homerunforkids.org. Bernheim Forest, Highway 245, Clermont, KY. Registration- 7:45 - 8:15 a.m. Race- 9:00 a.m.

Habitat for Humanity's New Portland ReStore is now open! The ReStore sells donated furniture, appliances, building materials and landscaping to provide a sustainable income for Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville. When you donate your gently used materials, you help us build decent affordable housing in the Metro Louisville area. For more information, go to <http://www.louisvillerestore.com>. Habitat Portland ReStore, 1631 Rowan Street.

Join MHC or Renew Your Membership Today!

Make your donation online at www.metropolitanhousing.org or mail this form to MHC, P.O. Box 4533, Louisville, KY 40204-4533.

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MHC does not share members' contact information with any other entities.



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