



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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January 17, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) would like to submit our concerns regarding the Beecher Terrace Redevelopment Project. Our comments are focused primarily on the two archaeological resources, 15Jf923 and 15Jf923.

Regarding 15Jf923, the archaeological features associated with the nineteenth century occupation of Beecher Terrace, we would like to see a thorough review of archival records relating to this archeological site. This would include documents such as historic maps, census data, and land records. The goal of this review should be to generate a narrative of this location as told via the archival record. We would also like to see the systematic sampling of the archaeological features within Beecher Terrace. The analysis of the materials from these excavations would work in tandem with the archival narrative to tell a more complete story of the history of Beecher Terrace and its inhabitants.

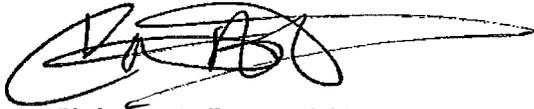
Regarding 15Jf924, the cemetery in Baxter Square Park, it is the OSA's opinion that the cemetery should be left intact and untouched. Signage discussing the presence of the cemetery, its role in the history of Louisville, and its place within the community should be designed and erected. If avoidance of the cemetery is not possible, then its removal should be conducted by qualified archaeologists. All human remains should be examined by a physical anthropologist, and reburial should occur as soon as feasible in an appropriate location near the current cemetery. A marker at the site of the new interments should be erected, and appropriate signage should be placed at the cemetery's original location.

In general, the OSA encourages the inclusion of the community as much as is feasible in the mitigation of the archaeological resources. Possibilities for inclusion would be having opportunities for residents to assist archaeologists, where possible, in the excavations. Staging public wash days near the site could be an additional component to the public engagement with the archaeological resources. A final possibility would be creating an 'artifact trunk' of examples of the kinds of artifacts found during excavations and a lesson plan for using the trunk in either a

classroom setting or as an activity at a community center. This would create a long-term vehicle for education about Beecher Terrace.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to reach out to me. We look forward to seeing how the final plan develops and encourage you to reach out to our office if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Pappas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christina A. Pappas, MA
Assistant Director
Office of State Archaeology
Christina.pappas@uky.edu
(859)257-8207

Neighborhood Planning & Preservation, Inc.

1527 Highlands Avenue P.O. Box 4731 Louisville, KY 40204 -0731 E-Mail: nppkentuckiana@gmail.com

January 17, 2018

Before addressing the information presented at the December 11th Consulting Parties meeting (i.e., the "Vision Russell" Section 106 process pertaining to Beecher Terrace), I should provide context. Though I had accepted the invitation to participate, I had decided not to attend. The City's abuse of "public participation" in recent years has been criticized by community members who, after "participating" in similar "processes" for other projects, felt exploited and/or ignored.

Such is the serious credibility problem that Louisville Metro has. It was only because several individuals from various communities—independent of one another-- urged me to be in attendance that I went.

So, I did attend the December 11th meeting and plan to attend all that remain. However, like other meetings of similar intent, the presence of Metro staff and various governmental officials far exceeded the number of community members who are genuine historic preservation/community advocates. The presentation and displays were compelling in what they did and did not represent. For example:

1. When Ms. Dunlap noted that Metro was "serious" about historic preservation, how could one not recall decades of aggressive demolition & other practices suggesting the contrary? Who can ignore the city's poor stewardship of historic structures it owns? What about the maze of confusion the community faces when seeking assistance from a city that claims to "love our history", but clearly doesn't? Within weeks of the December 11th meeting alone, dozens of demolition plans were announced for historic structures though out the Metro area—including the historic I. Willis Cole home in the Russell neighborhood. The major disconnect here is say it all.
2. On a positive note, it was gratifying to hear the various consultants (many from out of town) confirm what local historians, archaeologists, neighborhood advocates and preservationists had already expressed. The historic/architectural /cultural significance of Baxter cemetery, Our Merciful Savior, St. Peter's, the Baxter Community Center Building--and Beecher Terrace itself-- has always been a source of pride but now a source of worry.
3. Efforts to project a respect for Russell's history included slick publications, photographs, brochures for training programs gone awry, etc. Those who worked hard to make Russell a preservation district in 2003, those who have witnessed 'demolition by neglect' by speculators who neither live in the area or care, those who have made their home in a community, now destined to be destroyed...ALL are dismayed as more of the same occurs under the guise of respect for Russell history and "progress".

With identical fanfare, Iroquois, Clarksdale, Park-Duvall and Shepherd's Square were levelled and to what end? Crime, lack of economic opportunities, affordable homes for families—all remain serious deficits in neighborhoods destroyed and then made over. But beyond that, new construction that few will return to, historic names on street signs, banners and historic markers only underscore the permanency and depth of our collective loss. This is history our children should but will never know. It is a history the Russell neighborhood nurtured, despite chronic disinterest of those who now extol its richness---just as bulldozers were poised to erase what's left once and for all.

Sincerely,

Martina Kunnecke

Martina Kunnecke

Cc: file

Advocating for Louisville Metro neighborhoods and governmental accountability since 2003

It is up to all of us...

From: Charles Dorsey <dorseyphotos1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 2:12 PM
To: Johnson, Cynthia E
Subject: BEECHER TERRACE BOOK PROJECT

i'm writing to express my support of the proposed book project as a mitigation project for the beecher terrace redevelopment project. while i was unable to attend the consulting parties meeting on dec 17-2017 i'am familiar with the work of the louisville story program and believe that they would do a great job of leading a book project that would enable people with connections to beecher terrace (like myself i lived there for the first seven years of my life and have lived in russell for almost my entire life) to develop a book that documents the rich layers of history in that historic community. i have already had conversations with darcy thompson of the LSP about this project idea and am committed to collaborating with LSP should the project get funded. thanks bud dorsey

TO: Cynthia E. Johnson
Cinder Miller

FROM: Cheri Bryant Hamilton
District 5 Councilwoman

RE: Comments for Beecher Terrace project

DATE: January 17, 2018

As a Section 106 Consulting Party member I am extremely pleased to write in support of a book project proposed on the Russell area in conjunction with the Beecher Terrace Redevelopment Project by the Louisville Story Program. I am very familiar with the fine professional quality books that have been produced by Darcy Thompson through the Louisville Story Program (LSP). In 2014, LSP produced and published their first book, *Our Shawnee*, which was written by eight students from the Academy at Shawnee about their lives growing up in the Shawnee and Portland neighborhoods of West Louisville in the 5th District that I represent. This project promoted the students' personal growth and helped promote dialogue among residents all across this community. Their second book project was *I Said Bang! A History of the Dirt Bowl* in Shawnee Park, which started in 1969. The Dirt Bowl originators photographs and participants stories were included in the book. Several photographs of West Louisville events from the Dirt Bowl and *Our Shawnee* are memorialized in the windows of a new retail store on W. Market St. which were taken by the subject of their 3rd book published in 2017, *Available Light: Louisville Through the Lens of Bud Dorsey* about noted Louisville black photographer, Bud Dorsey.

I was born in the Russell neighborhood, attended Church of Our Merciful Savior on what was then W. Walnut Street, and have fond memories of going to the movies, and visiting my father's first medical office at 719 W. Walnut Street. I can say without hesitation that LSP will work with a sense of urgency and passion to record the proud history of the Russell neighborhood and the Beecher Terrace housing development present and former residents and the surrounding landmarks. The stories must be told, uncovered and celebrated. The legacy of West Louisville Russell's residents and its institutions, the struggles and triumphs must be more than just photographs of what was, but an oral history lesson or documentary which can be included in the cultural preservation of the legacy of the historic black neighborhood and preserved at the Louisville Central Community Centers and the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage for the entire Louisville community for generations to come to know their proud story.

I am confident that the book project proposed by Darcy Thompson and the Louisville Story Program will serve as a worthy mitigation project.

If you need any further information, please advise.

From: choice@lmha1.org [mailto:choice@lmha1.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:49 PM
To: Chloe Quiroga
Subject: New submission from Consulting Party Feedback

Name

Martina Kunnecke

Phone

(502) 295-1763

Email

nppkentuckiana@gmail.com

What mitigation activities would you like to see Louisville Metro perform to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? What new resources would you like to see created from this process?

Since "mitigation activities" are invariably promised but not delivered in West Louisville, a better course would be to engage local expertise to preserve, update and re-use what exists. Instead of "new resources" how about re-building the commercial capacity for local entrepreneurs that was lost with each wave of "urban renewal"? How about committing resources to help home-owners stay in and improve their properties? These represent ways to rebuild the community, revive and support the old Russell spirit. Offering frills that has no relationship to the community's heritage and promise is an empty gesture to the community that will be disrupted for years, uprooted and unlikely to be able to return.

What can Louisville Metro do to improve how we involve the community in historic preservation activities related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood?

The better question would be, what does the community have to teach Louisville Metro about historic preservation related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? Obviously a lot. Engage with the long-term leaders and community members who truly love Russell. Promoting Center for Neighborhood (employees? associates?) as the leaders for a neighborhood --that has long had its own-- is an insult to the community. Russell's own historic preservation efforts has never really has support from Louisville Metro. A flurry of hastily composed books and photos is no substitute for genuine support of a community whose history speaks for itself.

Your feedback and input are needed! You may share insights, comments or make suggestions on anything related to preserving the history and culture of Beecher Terrace or the Russell neighborhood.

Everyone agrees that improvements are needed in Beecher Terrace. But no one I have encountered have favored tearing Beecher Terrace down. The myth that demolition of housing projects and replacing them with massive development results in stronger, more prosperous or safer communities has been disproven numerous times (Clarksdale, Iroquois, Park DuValle and Shepherd's Square). In each case, the loss of history and culture could not be replaced by changing street names, promising a pool or erecting a new building. It is sensitivity and respect that helps preserve the history and culture of any neighborhood--not bulldozers and months of new construction. Not empty promises that no one will remember 5 years from now.

From: choice@lmha1.org [mailto:choice@lmha1.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 6:54 PM
To: Chloe Quiroga
Subject: New submission from Consulting Party Feedback

Name

Martina Kunnecke

Phone

(502) 295-1763

Email

What mitigation activities would you like to see Louisville Metro perform to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? What new resources would you like to see created from this process?

Since "mitigation activities" are invariably compromised and not delivered as intended in West Louisville, a better course would be to engage local expertise to preserve, update and re-use what exists. Instead of "new resources" how about focusing on empty lots in Russell to re-build the commercial capacity for local entrepreneurs that has eroded with each wave of "urban renewal"? How about committing resources to help home-owners stay in and improve their properties? These represent ways to rebuild the community, revive and support the old Russell spirit. Offering frills that has no relationship to the community's heritage and promise is an empty gesture to the residents who will be disrupted for years, uprooted and unlikely to be able to return.

What can Louisville Metro do to improve how we involve the community in historic preservation activities related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood?

The better question would be, what does the community have to teach Louisville Metro about historic preservation related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? Obviously a lot. Promoting Center for Neighborhood (employees? associates?) as the leaders for neighborhoods --that have long had their own-- is an insult to the community. Russell's own historic preservation efforts were never really respected by Louisville Metro--this administration nor the last. A flurry of hastily composed books at the 9th hour and photos of structures that have LONG needed care---is no substitute for the genuine support this community-- whose history speaks for itself-- has deserved but NOT had to date.

Your feedback and input are needed! You may share insights, comments or make suggestions on anything related to preserving the history and culture of Beecher Terrace or the Russell neighborhood.

- Everyone agrees that Beecher Terrace needs improvements. Having relative that grew up there, I have spent considerable time chatting to current and past residents. In fact, most of the signatures on NPP's petition to save the Water Company Building came from Beecher Terrace, Smoketown and other parts of Russell/Portland. This project frequently came up. No one we encountered favored tearing Beecher Terrace down. The historic significance of public housing in the black community as a positive is poorly understood outside the community.

The feeling that Vision Russell is being rammed through is prevalent. That being said, people in the area care about their neighborhood, its legacy . They are critical about the onslaught of downtown development that will not only continue to ignore their needs, but will now uproot them. They have Clarksdale, Iroquois, Park DuValle and Shepherd's Square as recent examples. In each case, the loss of history and culture was not satisfactorily 'mitigated' by changing street names, promising a pool or erecting a new building. It is ongoing sensitivity, community support and respect that helps preserve the history and culture.

From: kfields502@gmail.com on behalf of Kevin Fields <kfields@lccnews.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 7:48 PM
To: Johnson, Cynthia E
Subject: Russell book project by Louisville Story Program

Dear Cynthia,

I'm writing in my capacity as a Consulting Party, as someone who grew up in Beecher Terrace, and as someone who works full-time in the Russell neighborhood (as President and Chief Executive Officer of Louisville Central Community Centers) to share a comment regarding the Beecher Terrace Redevelopment Project for the current comment period.

Regarding mitigation ideas, I would like to register my support for a book project in which residents are provided the opportunity and necessary support to develop a professional-quality book that documents the incredible history of this community. I am familiar with the work of the Louisville Story Program, and think that they have the experience and skills to facilitate such a project culminates in a publication-worthy book that the community will be proud of for years to come. I also appreciate that the process by which the Louisville Story Program facilitates their book projects strengthen bonds within the communities with which they partner and creates new connections and opportunities for the authors and their families and neighbors. Furthermore, I am impressed with how they partner with educators to design companion curricula and facilitate the teaching of their books in schools in our community.

The Louisville Story Program's book *I Said Bang!: A History of the Dirt Bowl*--in which they spent two years working closely with 37 members of Louisville's playground basketball community to help them document their history--has been recognized by the American Association for State and Local History as one of two recipients for the prestigious History in Progress Award and one of four recipients of a Leadership in History Award in the community engagement category. That book was also recognized by the Kentucky Historical Society with a Kentucky History Award in the publication category. I am confident that a book project led by the Louisville Story Program would yield similarly excellent results and serve as a worthy mitigation project.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Kevin Fields

--

Kevin E. Fields, Sr.

President/Chief Executive Officer
Louisville Central Community Centers, Inc.
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Louisville, KY 40203



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Name
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What mitigation activities would you like to see Louisville Metro perform to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? What new resources would you like to see created from this process?
<p>Mitigation activities should focus on the social and cultural significance of historic resources throughout the Russell neighborhood, rather than relying solely on the high standards of physical, material integrity that are often central to traditional historic preservation practices. Based on my understanding of the Russell neighborhood, there may be fewer buildings with high architectural value and material integrity, but there are likely vast resources that reflect the neighborhoods broader heritage and cultural significance. In other words, mitigation activities should apply a broad understanding of heritage and historic resources and should actively work towards minimizing architectural bias.</p> <p>Understanding the specifics of the social and cultural significance must come from residents of Beecher Terrace and the larger Russell neighborhood. Engaging the community and asking these questions should extend beyond the Section 106 consulting parties' process. Metro should support and facilitate continued engagement around the historic, social, and cultural heritage within the neighborhood and should bring these questions/concerns to the community (through existing local organizations/initiatives), in addition to the ongoing section 106 process (where the onus is on residents to come to meetings and voice their opinion). Rather than relying on traditional windshield survey methods that require trained experts, resources identification should be rooted in community-based identification processes. Some potential models for this type of approach include the Detroit Historic Resources Survey (https://datadrivendetroit.org/detroit/2613/), Scout Muncie (https://scoutmuncie.wordpress.com/), and PlaceEconomic's ReLocal field survey tool (http://www.placeeconomics.com/resources/a-way-forward-strategies-and-tools-for-addressing-vacancy-in-little-rock/). In terms of new resources, I would also advocate for an extensive oral history project to gather information from neighborhood residents about important social and cultural heritage in Russell and understand how the process of preservation should be carried out in Russell to meet the specific needs of this neighborhood.</p>
What can Louisville Metro do to improve how we involve the community in historic preservation activities related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood?
<p>Nationally, historic sites related to African Americans and other marginalized groups are underrepresented. A potential model for documenting and prioritizing historic sites in African American communities is the Durham Documentation of African-American Historic Sites (http://preservationdurham.org/index.php/durham/african-american-heritage/). Los Angeles' SurveyLA project (https://preservation.lacity.org/survey) is another potential model, which highlights important thematic events that connect to African American history and culture.</p> <p>This Section 106 review process is an important opportunity to begin to think about how these sites are preserved, acknowledged, and celebrated in Russell, West Louisville, and Louisville Metro. Ideally, this preservation work in Russell, along with the work of other recent preservation initiatives in Louisville, could serve as a launching point for a broad-based initiative that prioritizes the</p>

From: choice@lmha1.org [<mailto:choice@lmha1.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 4:57 PM
To: Chloe Quiroga
Subject: New submission from Consulting Party Feedback

Name

Natalie Woods

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(502) 313-1425

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natalie.woods@lfpl.org

What mitigation activities would you like to see Louisville Metro perform to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? What new resources would you like to see created from this process?

Western Archives Digitization

To have all loose items digitized and made accessible to the public via a website dedicated to the Archives specifically and updated when new materials are added. This would require special equipment, such as a large scanner and possible computer software to scan each item that is currently stored in the Western Archives.

To help with the upkeep of the Archives, such as materials needed to use for the protection of items stored and to preserve them for future use.

Beecher Terrace Collection

To add information that is being collected currently during the Beecher Terrace project, to the archives, given that it is close proximity to the Western Library and is a part of its history as well.

Traveling or Remote Exhibits

To have a small collection of items from the archives that can be used for outreach purposes when speaking to others about what Western has to offer and to help advertise the existence of the Archives to the public.

What can Louisville Metro do to improve how we involve the community in historic preservation activities related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood?

Invest in making the Western Archives more accessible to the public in different formats. Also, taking data collected from Beecher Terrace and adding to the Western Archives to help make it accessible to the general public.

Your feedback and input are needed! You may share insights, comments or make suggestions on anything related to preserving the history and culture of Beecher Terrace or the Russell neighborhood.

The Western Archives are currently under utilized and I would like to see the profile raised and used more by the community at large.

I look forward to discussing these items further at the next consulting meeting.

Consulting Party Feedback

Use the spaces below or attach your comments to this form.



Your Name (please print): R.C. Weber

Phone: 502-836-7661

Email: 66c@weberconsulting.org

Responsibilities of a Consulting Party:

- Tell us why these Places are Important to you and the community,
- Share input and propose mitigation options that preserve the history or culture of the community,
- Share data (including photographs, documents, oral history, etc.),
- Participate/comment on documentation, reports and any other phases of the process,
- Review official documentation and draft reports within regulated timeframes;
- Assist in identifying other consulting parties.

What mitigation activities would you like to see Louisville Metro perform to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? What new resources would you like to see created from this process?

Appropriate marker at 12th/Broadway (NE corner) - see attachments. Commemoration is applicable, preservation is not.

What can Louisville Metro do to improve how we involve the community in historic preservation activities related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood?

Requesting community input is a good start.

Please Sign and Date below:

Signed: R.C. Weber Date: 12/11/17



Location: 12th/ Broadway (NE corner)

Historic importance: Site of one of the 20th century's most recognizable photos
(Breadline, Margaret Bourke-White, *Life*, 02/15/1937)

Current status: Stewart's Pawn Shop parking lot

Preservation: Not applicable. Broadway Liquors building is no longer standing.

Commemoration possibilities:

1. Historic marker
2. Reproduction of the billboard on the side of Stewart's Pawn Shop (with owner's consent)

Caveat: Check for any changes in location of 12th/Broadway intersection since 1937.

WAYSIDE CHRISTIAN MISSION
120 West Broadway
Louisville, KY 40202

P.O. Box 7249
Louisville, KY 40257-0249



Randall C. Webber, Ph.D., CBT
Director, Development
502-836-7661
randy.webber@waysidechristianmission.org

There's No Way Like the American Way: The Creation of an Iconic Image

In 1937, newspapers described important events primarily by textual means. Photographs, for most newspapers, served as ancillary material to illustrate the text and accentuate its dramatic features. The emerging medium of the news magazine, however, gave the visual aspect of communication a role equal to that of the text. This movement was led by *Life*, a magazine that published its inaugural issue only a few months before the flood.

On February 1, 1937, after the floodwaters subsided and relief efforts began in earnest, *Life* sent Margaret Bourke-White, the first photographer the magazine had hired, to Louisville to cover the devastation in the flood's aftermath. Some of Bourke-White's photos appeared in a feature story in the magazine's February 15, 1937 issue. Leading off the story was a photo of African American residents waiting in line at Broadway Liquors, 1133 West Broadway (northeast corner of 12th and Broadway), for assistance. Directly behind the line of applicants was a billboard showing a happy, apparently well-to-do, Caucasian family riding in a well-appointed vehicle. Above the family appeared the following caption: *World's highest standard of living: There's no way like the American way.* By the mid 1970's, this photo had become one of the most recognizable images of the twentieth century.

The image that eventually became famous was not Bourke-White's initial photo of the scene at Broadway Liquors. The three views available to me suggest that the famous image represents the culmination of a series of photos. The positions of the lady with a rectangular, wicker basket in two of the photos indicate that Bourke-White was driven westbound on the north side of Broadway. When her vehicle stopped on the 1100 block, she disembarked, walked westward along Broadway to a position roughly parallel to the store's corner post, and shot her first image (2/1/37-1). She then proceeded northbound on Twelfth Street and shot the famous photo with the billboard directly in the background (2/1/37-2). The next day, according to Getty Images' files, she returned and shot the same scene from a point in the intersection, placing the billboard in the background diagonally (2/2/37). The famous photo appears in the *Life* magazine on display, and the final one with the billboard in the background diagonally is exhibited on the wall.

On February 8, 1937, a local photographer with the surname Bailey, possibly *Courier-Journal* photographer George Bailey, shot a wide-angle view of the relief line (2/8/37) from the southwest corner. Bailey evidently approached the scene from a different direction, either northbound along 12th Street or eastbound along the south side of Broadway. This photo, exhibited here as well, provides a larger visual context for Bourke-White's closely framed images.

We thank the following organizations for their assistance with the Broadway Liquors portion of the exhibit:

- **Filson Historical Society**, which preserved the wide-angle image, made it available for display, and provided the tentative identification of George Bailey as the photographer,
- **Getty Images**, which preserved three of Bourke-White's images and made the 2/2/1937 photo available for display, and
- **YouthBuild Louisville**, which made its faculty and students available for the replication of the Broadway Liquors images at a building situated similarly on the northwest corner of College and Preston Streets.

WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING



THE FLOOD LEAVES ITS VICTIMS ON THE BREAD LINE

Floods have struck the Midwest in the last few days, and the people who have been left homeless and without food are now on the bread line. The floods have struck the Midwest in the last few days, and the people who have been left homeless and without food are now on the bread line.

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Name

Darcy Thompson

Phone

(502) 298-0238

Email

darcy@louisvillestoryprogram.org

What mitigation activities would you like to see Louisville Metro perform to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? What new resources would you like to see created from this process?

I would like to register my strong support of an in-depth effort to richly document the history of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood. I am particularly interested in seeing that work yield a publication-worthy book that can subsequently be read and discussed throughout Louisville for years to come, and I think it is important for such a book to be authored by people who have strong ties to that community.

I am the director of the Louisville Story Program, a nonprofit that partners closely with people in Louisville whose voices and stories we don't get to hear often enough to help them write and publish books about their lives and communities. We would be thrilled to facilitate the process for Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood: recruiting authors from the community, supporting their writing efforts, supporting their interviews with their neighbors, gathering historic photographs, collaboratively editing the raw material, and publishing and promoting the resulting book. We have very high standards, and we understand that in order to produce a world-class book that the Beecher Terrace community (and Russell community more broadly, and Louisville even more broadly) is proud of, a book that won't just sit on a shelf but that will be avidly read and discussed in people's homes, in local schools, and other places in our community for years to come, a lengthy, complex process in which we conscientiously build and maintain trust with our collaborators is necessary. We are prepared to lead this work.

The previous Louisville Story Program book project with the most similarities to a project like this is *I Said Bang!: A History of the Dirt Bowl*. That book was awarded two 2017 Leadership in History awards from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH): one for civic engagement (only four recipients nationally) and a History in Progress Award, which is the organization's highest honor other than their award for lifetime achievement. Our project was one of only two recipients of the HIP award in 2017, and the first Kentucky-based project to ever receive that award. In addition, the Kentucky Historical Society selected the book as a recipient of a 2016 Kentucky History Award in the publication category. We know what it takes to produce a book that meets such high bars of excellence in history, and would be honored to collaborate closely with community members on a book project about Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood.

What can Louisville Metro do to improve how we involve the community in historic preservation activities related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood?

(Note: I do not have a good understanding of what Metro Louisville is currently doing or has done in the past, so this is not a critique but rather a statement of what I think works.) Spend as much time as possible with people in the community, listening to what they have to say about what they think is historically significant and worth preserving in their communities. While hosting formal conversations is valuable, I suspect that Louisville Metro can get a lot of valuable input in other day-to-day contexts. If preservation initiatives align with the priorities and hopes of residents and barriers to participation are removed or reduced, community members are more likely to get involved.

Your feedback and input are needed! You may share insights, comments or make suggestions on anything related to preserving the history and culture of Beecher Terrace or the Russell neighborhood.

I would also like to express my support for better preservation of items currently stored in the Western Library archives, and for having those archives digitized and made accessible to the public. I also support the idea of developing a small traveling exhibit of items in the Western Library archive to help draw people to the library and its archives.

Consulting Party Feedback

Use the spaces below or attach your comments to this form.



Your Name (please print): Darcy Thompson

Phone: 502-8

Email: darcy@louisvillehistoryprogram.org

Responsibilities of a Consulting Party:

- Tell the us why these Places are Important to you and the community,
- Share input and propose mitigation options that preserve the history or culture of the community ,
- Share data (including photographs, documents, oral history, etc.),
- Participate/comment on documentation, reports and any other phases of the process,
- Review official documentation and draft reports within regulated timeframes;
- Assist in identifying other consulting parties.

What mitigation activities would you like to see Louisville Metro perform to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? What new resources would you like to see created from this process?

IN-DEPTH ENGAGEMENT WITH BEECHER TERRACE/RUSSELL RESIDENTS (AND PEOPLE WITH STAMPS TIED TO THE COMMUNITY) TO FACILITATE THEIR DEVELOPMENT OF A BOOK DOCUMENTING THE RICH LAYERS OF HISTORY IN THE COMMUNITY. CONCURRENT EXHIBIT, FILM, OR OTHER PROJECT WOULD ALSO BE WONDERFUL.

What can Louisville Metro do to improve how we involve the community in historic preservation activities related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood?

I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH CURRENT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIES, BUT IN GENERAL IT'S IDEAL TO SPEND LESS OF TIME REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY, AND SPEND LESS OF LISTENING-

Please Sign and Date below:

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 12/11/17



Feedback

Your feedback and input are needed!

You may share insights, comments or make suggestions on anything related to preserving the history and culture of Beecher Terrace or the Russell neighborhood.



I think it would be really exciting to have
any cultural / ~~art~~ historical mitigation projects (books,
exhibits, etc.) to be developed by residents of this
community.

I also think it would be great to identify a
document ~~site~~ that we can identify as overlooked
a front porch that was a major community hub
for example.





Consulting Party Feedback

Use the spaces below or attach your comments to this form.

Your Name (please print): Darnell A. Farris

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responsibilities of a Consulting Party:

- Tell the us why these Places are Important to you and the community,
- Share input and propose mitigation options that preserve the history or culture of the community ,
- Share data (including photographs, documents, oral history, etc.),
- Participate/comment on documentation, reports and any other phases of the process,
- Review official documentation and draft reports within regulated timeframes;
- Assist in identifying other consulting parties:

Residential Housing

What mitigation activities would you like to see Louisville Metro perform to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? What new resources would you like to see created from this process?

- 1 - Retention of Healthy, historic tree canopy at least on street and corner rights-of-way.
- 2 - Retention of at least 1 building as a historical reference/interpretation
- 3 - No expansion of Baxter Community Center, ^{piece} footprint in Baxter
- 4 - Maintaining existing building setback ^{Park (due to historic cemetery)} ^{residential feet ^{underneath} behind treescape,} ^{not set at sidewalk}

What can Louisville Metro do to improve how we involve the community in historic preservation activities related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood?

- 1) - Maybe by showcasing the Baxter Cemetery as a Metro Louisville tourist stop, and not just a historical marker point.
- 2) - Before these project housing residences became infamous for crime, they were a proud neighborhood. For those older residents who pass on stories to their kids, there should be physical references to that prior history.

Signed: Darnell Farris

Date: 1/15/2018

Submit this form to Cynthia Johnson Elmore at Planning & Design Services, 444 S. Fifth Street, Suite 300, Louisville, KY 40202
Email: Cynthia.Johnson@louisvilleky.gov Phone: (502) 574-2868





Feedback

Your feedback and input are needed!

You may share insights, comments or make suggestions on anything related to preserving the history and culture of Beecher Terrace or the Russell neighborhood.

- ① As for expansion of Baxter Community Center, instead of expanding the physical building, thought should be given to creating 'public annex buildings' on the commercial fringes of the development — within the project boundary.
- ② Baxter Park walking trail could have historical markers noting famous 'Louisvillians' or 'Events'. It is 'supposedly' an Olmstead Park Design, so (of course) landscaping or attention to the natural landscape created, should be highlighted.
- ③ The Muhammad Ali corridor boundary as the historical 'Old Walnut Street' corridor. This was a connecting commercial & residential street between downtown and West Louisville. The cultural impact was strained when Federal Urban Renewal tore down a lot of the building infrastructure during the 1960's - 1980's. A great neighborhood can only survive for so long without the 'connectivity' of its City Center.
- ④ Recognition of the newly created Russell Neighborhood Urban Renewal Design Guidelines, as aids in both development of new construction, and as guidelines for renovation of older, historic building stock.

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(over)

FEEDBACK (CONTINUED)

⑤ One of the elements which made our local Housing Authority so great over the years was to put people inside affordable housing units. These 1930's-1940's structures were built ahead of their time.

In none of the 'historical' housing projects, where ~~there~~ there any interpretation of the them carried forward to the newer, modern re-developments. The ~~failure~~ failure to institute this element hurts both the legacy of the local Housing Authority, and crippled the spirit of the once proud neighborhood these buildings formed.

"One cannot return to a neighborhood which is not there anymore...."

— Darnell Farris

⑥ An effort to form (or reinforce) social service expansion of buildable sites adjacent ~~to~~ to the two notable religious institutions within the Beecher Terrace boundaries:

- a. St. Peter's United Church of Christ
- b. Church of our ~~merciful~~ Merciful Savior
(locally listed Preservation site)

⑦ All commercial buildings along 12th-13th Street and along West Jefferson Street should be thought of as future residential support (if opportunity)

Darnell A. Farris
1/15/2018

(4)

FEEDBACK (CONTINUED)

(7) cont.

for purchase as part of this development.
~~hazardous~~ hazardous uses of existing commercial
entities should not be expanded so close to
residential

(8) Every opportunity to interpret site as
a tour route should be explored per
printed material labeled: Vision Russell,
A Roadmap for the Future

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Jamesetta Ferguson

Phone

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Email

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What are you commenting on today?

Report: Cultural-Historic Survey of the Proposed Demolition of Beecher Terrace More specifically on the survey's assertion below: "Corn Island recommends that that the proposed demolition of the Beecher Terrace public housing development will have an Adverse Effect on JFWR-1749 (St. Peter's German Evangelical Church), JFWR-1752 (Church of Our Merciful Savior), and JFWR-3796 (Baxter Community Building) as they have served the Beecher Terrace and Russell neighborhoods."

Please provide your comments below:

St. Peters German Evangelical Church, now St. Peter's United Church of Christ, has been located on West Jefferson Street between 12th and 13th Streets since 1895. The congregation, founded in 1847, was created to serve the German population in West Louisville. The church sanctuary was built by the congregation and dedicated in 1895.

As noted on Page 67 of the Survey, the church was listed in 1980 on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register for Historic Places Inventory – Nomination form highlighted the Gothic Revival architectural style and the detailed works of prominent Louisville architectural firm, Clarke and Loomis, as well as St Peter's role in serving the German Community in West Louisville through WWII as reasons for listing this site on the National Register. The congregation is committed to protecting the historically significant sanctuary and has taken several steps to try to ensure that the building stands as a beacon to the Russell community (discussed in later paragraphs).

However, the Survey also argues the following on page 67.

It could also be argued that JFWR-1749 has another period of significance in the late-20th/early-21st centuries as it served the Beecher Terrace, and also the Russell neighborhood. After World War II, as the neighborhood shifted from its original German community, the church began to serve the Russell neighborhood and Beecher Terrace. It continues this mission today, providing services for those in need.

We would like to provide additional context to the discussion of St. Peters serving a significant role in the community of Beecher Terrace and broader Russell post-WWII. Beecher Terrace was originally constructed to provide modern, updated low-income housing to predominately African-Americans residents living in deplorable conditions. It was noted that public housing in Louisville was an attempt to "clear slums." (Survey, page 14). The resident population continued to shift in the 1960's though 1980's. As the neighborhood began to transition and the German community within West Louisville began to decline, church membership continued to be predominately comprised Germans and German-American. In the 1950's the church had active membership of close to 1,000 members. The members were primarily of German descent. Ministry was done inward, with outward ministry limited to those of German descent. All services were segregated. Slowly but surely membership began to decline by 1972 the congregation had dropped to 272 and by 2005 membership had declined to 15 members of German descent; 12 over the age of 80 and 3 in their mid-50's. Of the 15, two left because they did not want to integrate the church and do outward ministry in the Beecher Terrace area. I was brought in in June 2006 by an interim pastor who had a desire to integrate the church, but did not culturally know how to do ministry in the area. In December 2006, I was called as Pastor of St. Peters and asked the remaining members to keep the church open, so we could reengage with the local community, specifically the residents of Russell and Beecher Terrace. It was during this time that ministry and missions began to be formed to address the physical, financial and educational needs of those in the Russell community. In 2014, we temporarily moved services out of the sanctuary at St. Peters to allow us to continue to minister to the community while we began to develop a plan to rehabilitate St. Peters. Our move to the Russell Plaza on 16th and West Jefferson how given us the opportunity to expand our services throughout Russell. Since 2007 our congregation has exploded to 250 members and is now interracial and intergenerational. We acknowledge and

continue to honor the important history of this church in the late 19th through mid-20th century for the German-American community in West Louisville. The church's role in actively serving Beecher Terrace and the surrounding community is a relatively new phenomenon in the 21st Century. We continue to focus our ministries on Beecher Terrace and Russell, while broadening our community footprint through our community development organization, Molo Village CDC. We are adapting and growing even deeper roots in Russell. It is our belief that the demolition and revitalization of Beecher Terrace will do nothing but have a positive effect on the legacy of St. Peter's German Evangelical Church (St. Peter's UCC).

You may share insights, comments or make suggestions on anything related to preserving the history and culture of Beecher Terrace or the Russell neighborhood below:

From the inception of The Village @ West Jefferson project, St. Peters and its community development partner, Molo Village CDC, have sought to engage various stakeholders in conversations about this historic community, including community needs, current and planned redevelopment efforts, and the implications of these issues on our site layout and building design. Our goal has been to make sure that The Village @ West Jefferson project honors the design and history of St. Peters sanctuary and the historic character of the surrounding community while constructing a building that serves the transforming needs of the residents of Russell. Early on, the congregation decided to separate the church parcel into two lots. St. Peter UCC will retain 1225 W. Jefferson as their worship space, while 1219 W. Jefferson will be developed as The Village @ West Jefferson. We engaged with the local historic preservation community about the significance of St. Peters and those key design elements that make the building a significant asset to the late 19th / early 20th Century architectural history. Throughout the rezoning process we held formal and informal meetings with local residents, businesses, and government agencies to invite comment on both our building design and project purpose. To date, we have received nothing but compliments on everything from building design elements to target tenants to overall project purpose. We credit this support to the early work that we did in garnering stakeholder buy-in.

What mitigation activities would you like to see Louisville Metro perform to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood? What new resources would you like to see created from this process?

We would like to see Louisville Metro continue to work with developers to design and build structures that preserve the spirit of the architectural and cultural history of the Russell Community, of which Beecher Terrace has been an integral part, while actively mitigating the limiting affects preservation and regulation can have on projects that are designed be transformative to residents, business owners, and other community-based stakeholders. As an active and committed member of the historic Russell community, I would like to see both technical assistance and financial resources be made available to help local community members redevelop vacant and blighted land in a way that honors and acknowledges the rich architectural and cultural history of Russell. We would like to see others repurpose structures and vacant spaces in a way that create new opportunities rooted in the old, not just preserve structures for the sake of preserving.

What can Louisville Metro do to improve how we involve the community in historic preservation activities related to Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood?

We deeply value our partnership with Louisville Metro as we seek to transform Russell. Our project team has deeply valued our ongoing working relationship with the Mayor's Office, Louisville Forward and Louisville Metro Housing Authority. We continue to encourage Louisville Metro to make sure that community stakeholders are made aware of requirements and expectations upfront, as they engage in development activities that will ultimately benefit the West End. Specifically, ensuring that applicable project requirements or processes, whether it be historical, environmental, etc., are clearly outlined so that projects are incorporating those requirements/comments when they begin their design process. The support of Louisville Metro is invaluable as we work with the people of Russell to expand services and other economic development opportunities.