

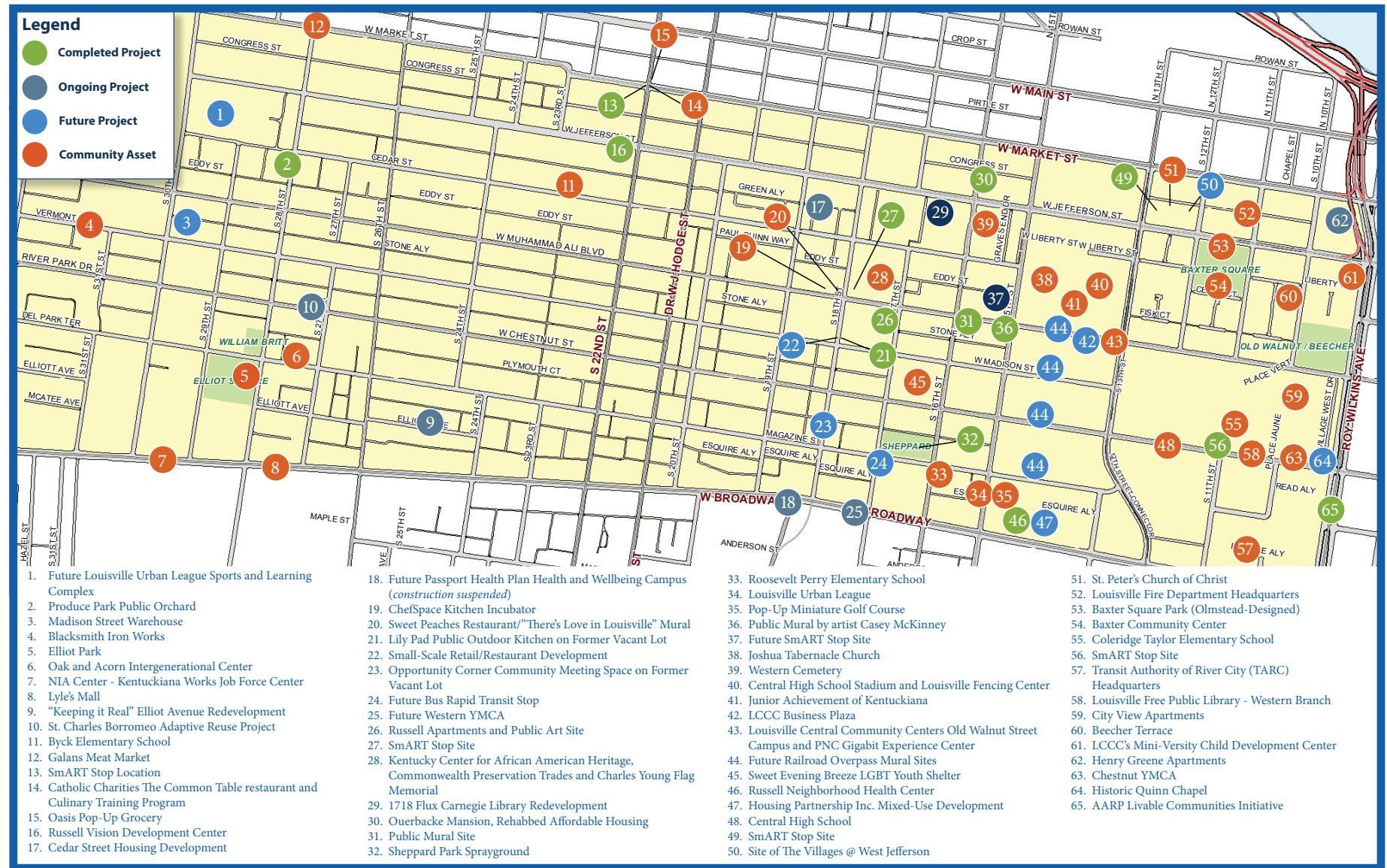


Russell Neighborhood
ROADMAP
FOR THE
FUTURE

Vision Russell Progress Report – June 2019

Building on the momentum of combined efforts to reestablish Russell as a neighborhood of choice, numerous revitalization efforts led by community members and stakeholders are underway and contributing to the area's transformation. The impact of these initiatives are helping make Russell an affordable and accessible neighborhood that prioritizes health and education, provides jobs and boosts the local economy, with neighbors who are connected to each other and the rest of Louisville.

This Progress Report, is meant to serve as an inventory of the many early successes achieved in the five priority areas and community-generated goals in the Vision Russell Transformation Plan since its completion in January 2017. The updated Russell Neighborhood Roadmap also features many of these early successes, as well as neighborhood institutions and stakeholders, which are referenced by number(s) in the following narrative.



PRIORITY **A**

Improve educational outcomes for children.

Goals

- Russell children enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- Russell school-age children are proficient in core academic subjects, and graduate high school college- or career-ready.

Early education, starting from pregnancy through the first day of kindergarten, is critical to academic success in school. Programs for early learning, Out of School Time, and other academic and positive youth development activities increase the likelihood for success later in life.



Recent Outcomes & Initiatives Related to Priority A

Beecher Terrace Pre-K Participation and Capacity

As of June, 2019, 84 of 117 (72%) of Beecher Terrace youth aged 0-5 were participating in early childhood development programs such as formal childcare, YMCA programs, Healthy Start, and Play Cousins Collective.

Urban Strategies, Inc. Literacy Programming

In its role as the People Lead of the Choice Implementation grant, Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI) is participating in programs that foster early childhood literacy skills. In 2018 these included partnerships with JCPS and Russell child care centers to promote Jumpstart's 13th annual "Read for the Record" campaign and the launch of "Russell Reads", USI's ongoing initiative that fosters equity through family literacy and community engagement, emphasizing that parents and trusted adults are children's first teachers and much of learning occurs beyond the school setting.

Book Rich Environment

The National Book Foundation is teaming up with the Louisville Metro Housing Authority, Louisville Free Public Library, and over 30 local partners for the Book Rich Environments (BRE) program. BRE aims to foster life-long joyful relationships between readers and books, especially the community's youngest residents by providing free books to children and families living in HUD-assisted housing. The national program is a collaboration between the National Book Foundation, the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Urban Libraries Council, and the National Center for Families Learning. Seven book publishers have provided one million books to 39 sites in 22 states since 2017. Louisville was granted 14,000 new books through Book Rich Environments in 2019.

New JCPS Elementary School

On March 12, 2019, the Jefferson County Board of Education approved the "District Facilities Transformation Initiative" outlining plans for the construction of new schools and significant renovation of others. Under this plan, Roosevelt-Perry (#33 on map and Vision Russell's focus school) and Wheatley elementary schools will be combined in a new school building on the campus of the newest branch of the YMCA at 1720 West Broadway near the 18th Street corridor. Students



Book Rich Environments at YMCA Healthy Kids Day, April 2019.

will have access to the YMCA site, which includes a pool, a technology center to train teens for jobs of the future, a pediatric clinic and a bank to help teach financial literacy. The new YMCA is slated to open in October 2019, and JCPS anticipates students will move into the new school as early as the 2020/2021 academic year.

Youth Development

As of June 2019, 159 of 277 (57.4%) of Beecher Terrace youth aged 6-18 were participating in youth development programs such as BLOCS summer learning, tutoring, sports, mentoring, and employment.

Community Children's Programming

In conjunction with the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant, nonprofit Play Cousins Collective is conducting "Ages and Stages" questionnaires (ASQ), which helps parents monitor their child's early development. ASQ identifies strengths and provides activities for parents to help children as they continue to learn. Play Cousins provides resource information to those families whose child(ren) need assistance. Play Cousins also facilitates "Play and Learn Labs" at community events and "Parent Café" play dates to help bridge the gap between a parent's desire to be involved in community and their need for childcare. As of June 2019, 59 Beecher Terrace youth aged 0-5 and their parents were participating in Play Cousins Collective programming.

Youth Empowerment

In January 2019, The Beech Inc. relocated to the new JCPS satellite office at the Academy of Shawnee, 4018 W. Market Street, from its original home at Beecher Terrace. The Beech offers programming to help students successfully transition to work and postsecondary education, and engages parents to support their child's learning and development. Plans for the future include a move back to the redeveloped Beecher Terrace, where the organization seeks to develop a new state-of-the-art center. Other services available through the JCPS satellite office include tutoring, employment assistance, and GED classes. The center is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00am to 5:30pm.

PRIORITY **B**

Improve Health.

Goals

- Residents enjoy good health and a strong sense of well-being.
- Russell's built environment supports health and safety.

Since the completion of the VRTP, there has been significant momentum in transforming the built environment through projects that enhance quality of life and well-being for Russell residents of all ages. Access to health care, increased recreational opportunities, and redevelopment of vacant and abandoned properties all contribute to the overall health and safety of the neighborhood.

Rendering of LUL Sports and Learning Complex



Recent Outcomes & Initiatives Related to Priority B

Louisville Urban League Sports and Learning Complex

In June 2018, the Louisville Urban League (#34) announced plans to develop a \$35 million world class indoor track and field facility on the Heritage West site (#1) that previously was to be developed as the Food Port. The Louisville Urban League's (LUL) master plan is centered on a 4,000-seat indoor and outdoor track and field facility, and will feature community green space and outdoor event space. The Sports and Learning Complex will be a keystone of West Louisville's changing landscape and will make a lasting community, economic, youth development, and health and well-being impact for generations to come by making Louisville a world-class track and field destination, spurring economic and community growth for Black businesses and families, creating an accessible and affordable health and wellness facility, and transforming toxic brownfields and abandoned properties into green spaces, homes, and thriving local businesses.



Russell Neighborhood Health Center Staff celebrates grand opening

Russell Neighborhood Health Center

A \$3 million health care facility is now open at 15th Street and Broadway (#46) that will help increase the number of Russell residents with a medical home. Funded in part through a \$1M grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, the new 11,000 square foot facility offers Adult Medical, Pediatrics, Dental, Women's Health and Behavioral Tele-Health services. The Russell Neighborhood Health Center replaces the smaller Park DuValle Community Health Center that was located at City View Apartments.

Hope Wellness Center

Established in October 2018, the Hope Wellness Center is the only after-hours Immediate Care center serving Russell and West Louisville at-large. The project, located just across the southern boundary of Russell in the California neighborhood in the Lyle's Mall, 2600 W. Broadway (#8), and created by the Black Community Development Corporation (Black CDC), offers high quality care, prevention, and educational programs to residents in West Louisville that will empower individuals to live healthy lifestyles.

Oasis Grocery Store

Oasis Grocery is a public-private partnership created in July 2018 between Dare to Care, Catholic Charities and Buehler's Grocery to increase access to healthy foods in Russell and surrounding neighborhoods. Located at 2235 W. Market Street (#15) in the Portland neighborhood just across from Russell, the grocery is offering frozen foods, fresh produce, dry staples, and more at prices just above wholesale.

Republic Bank Foundation YMCA

The Republic Bank Foundation YMCA is a \$28 million investment currently under construction at 1720 W. Broadway. The new state-of-the-art fitness center will feature a 25-meter swimming lap/family pool, gymnasium, classrooms, modern locker rooms, an indoor track and a Kid's Club that will provide childcare while members exercise. In addition, collaborative partners will bring healthcare, financial service options, and more to the area. Along with its partners, the YMCA expects to serve about 20,000-25,000 unique visitors each year once it opens its doors in late 2019.



Rendering of new YMCA facility at West Broadway and 18th Street

Passport Health and Well-Being Campus

Passport Health Plan had been constructing a Health and Well-Being Campus at 18th Street and W. Broadway (#18) to serve as its headquarters. Work on the \$24 million, 337,000-square-foot four-story building with three connected structures, which would have created jobs, incorporated affordable housing, and increased access to health care, was put on hold in February 2019, in the wake of financial difficulties.

In May 2019, Evolent Health, a national health management business, agreed to buy a majority ownership stake in Passport Health Plan. The company will continue to operate under the name Passport, and officials do not expect any disruption in care for the more than 300,000 Medicaid enrollees served by Passport. Evolent and Passport officials say they are committed to resuming work on the new Passport headquarters on West Broadway. Evolent is committed to being a major tenant at the complex, which they hope to complete with the aid of an outside developer.

Lily Pad

A vacant lot has been transformed using Choice Neighborhoods Action Activity Grant and Louisville Metro Government funds into the “Lily Pad,” an open-air space community space, complete with platforms, benches, landscaping, a shade cloth and a mural wall which will serve a dual role as a screen for outdoor movies. The Lily Pad is located at 510 S. 18th Street (#21) behind the Sweet Peaches building and directly across from the Russell Apartments near the intersection at W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard.

Humana Foundation/Fund For the Arts Creative Placemaking Project

Russell community members created six mosaic gateway signs under the direction of local artists Gwendolyn Kelly and Bryan Holden. The mosaics were installed in high-traffic areas throughout the neighborhood, including one at the Russell Apartments (#26) and the Beecher Terrace management office (#54).

Opportunity Corner

Coming in late 2019, Opportunity Corner will be a unique shipping container market place open year round on two formerly vacant lots at the corner of 18th and Magazine streets (#23) to be used by persons who live in and around the West Louisville neighborhoods and Louisville’s community at large. This project is being funded by Choice Neighborhoods Action Activity Grant funds and Louisville Metro Government leverage contributions, and is a partnership between the Black CDC and Louisville Grows, and will include a community garden and orchard installed and managed by Louisville Grows.



Lily Pad Community space at 510 S. 18th Street

Sheppard Park Improvements

In June 2018, \$658,000 in improvements were completed at Sheppard Park (#32) using Choice Neighborhoods Action Activities grant funds and Louisville Metro Government leverage contributions. Improvements included a new sprayground, a tuned drum play area, walking path markers, interpretive signage, new landscaping, waste receptacles, picnic tables, swings, benches, and a restroom facility.

Murals and Other Public Art

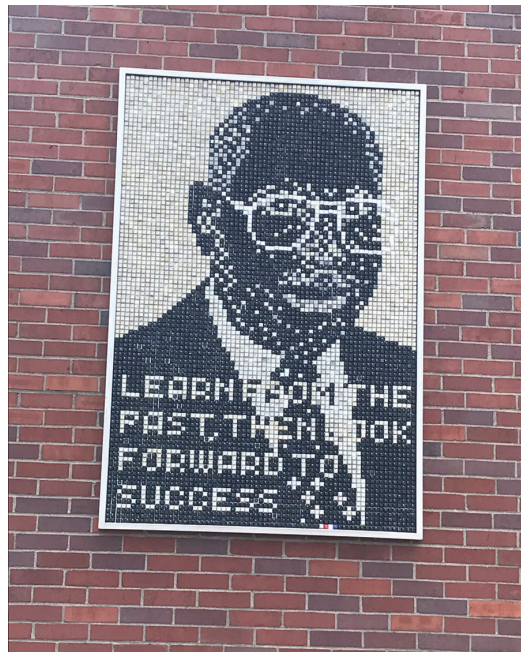
- Work on large-scale murals will soon help transform four overpasses within Russell along the 14th Street railroad corridor (#44) into signature neighborhood gateways. In September 2017, a team comprised of Russell residents, Louisville Metro Government and Louisville Metro Housing Authority staff reviewed proposals and selected four artist groups to create these original public art murals. The projects are being funded through a HUD Choice Neighborhoods Action Activity grant.
- Two other art projects – large murals located on the apartment buildings at the corners of 15th and 16th streets on W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard – were completed during 2018 and are a result of a partnership between the Louisville Visual Arts Association and New Directions Housing Corporation. The murals were funded through an “Imagine” grant from the Fund for the Arts.

- The new “Inspirations and Aspirations” project features two large sculptures on the exterior of the Russell Apartments at 18th Street and W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard (#26). The sculptures are part of the Fran Huettig Project series and a collaborative effort between Artist Bryan Holden, 1619 Flux, New Directions Housing Corporation, Louisville Metro Government, the Fund for the Arts and the Russell Neighborhood Association.

Veterans Flag Memorial at KCAAH

The new Colonel Charles Young Veterans Flag Memorial at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage (#28 - KCAAH) was unveiled on November 11, 2018 as part of the Freedom Flag Project created by the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS). The memorial was installed to honor a native son of Kentucky - Colonel Charles Young. An unheralded military hero, Charles Young (1864-1922) was the third black graduate of West Point, the first African American US National Park superintendent, the first black U.S. military attaché, the first African

Murals of Manfred Reid and 3rd grader Alexia at the Russell Apartments by artist Bryan Holden



American officer to command a Regular Army regiment, and the highest-ranking black officer in the Regular Army until his death. An exhibit about Colonel Charles Young is now on permanent display at KCAAH for the public to view.

Building Our Blocks

Building Our Blocks (BOB) brings together Louisville Metro Government agencies with community leaders and partner organizations to take steps to minimize blight, deter crime, beautify neighborhoods and build hope – one block at a time. BOB partners lend their time and resources to connect directly with residents to strengthen community engagement and provide on-the-spot services during their events. BOB focused 100% of their efforts in 2018 on four outreach events in the Russell neighborhood to build off the synergy of Vision Russell. BOB distributed Vision Russell materials in conjunction with their outreach events.

Vacant and Abandoned Property Control

Louisville Metro Vacant & Public Property Administration (VPPA), in conjunction with the Landbank Authority, has acquired 126 properties in Russell since January 2017, and have sold 36 properties which will be returned to productive use. VPPA currently has 43 parcels available for reuse, and is working to improve health and safety in Russell by initiating 141 foreclosures and demolishing 43 dangerous structures in the neighborhood.

Porter Paints Site Future Redevelopment

In December 2018, Louisville Metro Housing Authority acquired the former Porter Paints site, which is located at the corner of W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard and 13th Street directly across the western boundary of the Beecher Terrace site. LMHA intends to redevelop the 5.74-acre site. Future uses of the site will be explored with the community during the coming year, including utilizing at least a portion of the site as a public park and recreation space.

Congress for New Urbanism's Legacy Project

OneWest and the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) hosted a Legacy workshop in March 2019 to explore ideas for the 18th Street corridor, from Main Street to Broadway. A team of professionals from Urban Design Associates and other local designers engaged the community in a series of small focus groups to help develop goals to improve public spaces, streets, mixed-use centers, and natural and cultural assets along 18th Street. The Legacy Projects took place in advance of CNU's annual Congress, which was held in Louisville from June 12-15, 2019. Choice Neighborhoods team members presented information about our Russell transformation efforts at two sessions during the conference.

Existing Porter Paints site, W. Muhammad Ali & 13th Street



PRIORITY

Create strong retail/service centers and expand economic opportunity for all.

Goals

- Russell residents are financially secure.
- Existing Russell businesses are encouraged to stay and grow, and new commercial activities are drawn to the area to further stimulate growth.

Economic development activities that provide job training, employment opportunities, and increased neighborhood resources and amenities have increased significantly since the completion of the VRTP



Recent Outcomes & Initiatives Related to Priority C

Section 3 Jobs

The Section 3 program requires that recipients of certain types of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding, such as the Choice Neighborhood grant, provide training, employment and other economic opportunities to low-income residents and to the businesses that employ them. Economic development for Beecher Terrace and its residents is important, and new Section 3 jobs will be coming available as the transformation of Beecher Terrace and the Russell neighborhood continues. As of June 2019, six Russell and Beecher residents have been hired for Section 3 job opportunities associated with the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant. Anyone interested in Section 3 opportunities should contact Louisville Metro Housing Authority at section3@lmha1.org, or by text or voice to 502-276-5008.

Section 3 new hire with Ideal Construction, Mr. Derric Easton, is interviewed by local media



BEECHER CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN — PHASING

BEECHER SITE / LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY / JULY 2019

Employment/Workforce Development

- Through a collaboration with the Louisville Metro Government's Office of Resiliency and Community Services, Urban Strategies, Inc. now has a new case manager who is primarily working with Beecher Terrace residents who have a history with the justice system and/or have faced struggles related to re-integration into the community following incarceration.
- As of March 2019, 105 Beecher Terrace residents had been enrolled in job training or other workforce development programs during the grant period. Of these, 59 had completed their training.
- As of March 2019, 113 Beecher Terrace residents have obtained new employment during the grant period.
- Choice Neighborhoods partner, Bishop and Chase, will be holding individual financial literacy sessions for Beecher and Russell residents during 2019.
- Since forming their partnership in March 2016, MOLO Village CDC and Justine Petersen have continued to provide credit counseling and wealth building services to area residents. These services are helping prepare Russell residents for the new homeownership opportunities that are being created as a result of the CHOICE Neighborhood, Russell: Place of Promise, Cedar Street development and other homeowner programs, and the city's renewed focus on the rehabilitation of vacant homes.

Louisville Urban League Job Training Programs

- Louisville Urban League, Inc. (#34) is providing job training through its Kentuckiana Builds program, which teaches students the skills needed to thrive in the Louisville area's building and infrastructure boom. The program is a partnership between the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, KentuckianaWorks and the Louisville Urban League, Inc. As of June 2019, approximately 20 Russell and Beecher Terrace residents have graduated from the training program.

- Louisville Urban League, Inc. partnered with TARC to begin offering a Class B Commercial Drivers License training program in November 2018, which will allow graduates to become full-time coach operators.

OneWest 18th Street Incubator

In February 2019, OneWest purchased a block of properties at 18th and West Broadway consisting of nine buildings and adjacent properties. Currently known as the Goldsmith Centre, the investment consists of 29,000 SF, with ten tenants on 15 separate parcels. The goal of this investment is to support existing small businesses and generate sustainable economic development in the West End. OneWest also recently purchased a vacant single-family home at 516 S. 18th Street (#22) in Russell and will pursue rezoning and renovating the space for commercial use as a small business incubator.

Flux Transformation and Innovation Hub

In late 2018, 1619 Flux acquired and began rehabbing the mostly vacant Carnegie Library at 1718 W. Jefferson Street (#29) into a workspace for the public. The 6,000 SF building will serve as a state-of-the-art, wrap-around co-working space for entrepreneurs and developers to build capacity, collaborate, and obtain development and operational support. While ideas for the space are still being refined, work on the building is underway and expected to be complete in 2020.

Opportunity Zone

Opportunity Zones are designated Census Tracts that offer tax incentives to spur economic development. The Census Tracts that make up the Russell neighborhood were designated as Opportunity Zones in April 2018. Russell's first Opportunity Zone project kicked off in October 2018 when real estate development firm The Marian Group relocated Blacksmith Iron Works (#4) to a 20,000 SF facility in the neighborhood.

Quinn Chapel Stabilization Grant

Louisville Metro Government (LMG) has been awarded a \$450,000 grant by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to stabilize the former Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. The physically distressed structure, which is owned by the YMCA, is located at 912 W. Chestnut Street (#64) alongside Roy Wilkins Boulevard (9th Street). The YMCA will either redevelop the stabilized Quinn Chapel and continue to own and operate it, or work with LMG to issue a request for proposals to redevelop and reuse the property in a way that furthers the goals of the Vision Russell Transformation Plan. LMHA has committed \$300,000 of Choice Neighborhoods Critical Community Improvement funds, and LMG's Office of Redevelopment Strategies has added \$150,000 to the stabilization effort, bringing the total investment to \$900,000.

Louisville Central Community Center Business Center, Restaurant, Gigabit Center, Theater

Louisville Central Community Center is continuing renovations within its Old Walnut campus at 1300 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard (#43) including completing leasehold spaces within its Business Center. This Business Center will provide rental space for small businesses that address the needs identified during the community engagement phase of the VRTP planning process. LMHA has committed \$228,500 in

LCCC Kids Art Academy "Tiny Tyke" Theater Troupe performance at Ground Breaking ceremony for the Grand Lyric Theater



Choice Neighborhoods Critical Community Improvement funds towards this project. LCCC's campus now includes a commercial kitchen and restaurant space, which is being leased by Dasha Barbour of Southern Bistro. LCCC continues to operate its Gigabit Center, (see page 5-19), which provides super-fast Wi-Fi to tenants and visitors, and broke ground in February 2019 on its new 350-seat Grand Lyric theatre which is projected for completion in late 2019.

Rendering of MOLO's "The Village at West Jefferson" at the corner of 12th Street and West Jefferson



Molo Village/The Village at West Jefferson

Construction on The Village at West Jefferson, a 30,000 SF commercial investment led by Molo Village CDC, is expected to begin in the Fall 2019. Located at W. Jefferson and 12th streets (#50), on a vacant lot directly across Beecher Terrace and adjacent to St. Peter's United Church of Christ, the project will bring commercial and supportive services to Beecher Terrace residents and the East Russell area. Molo has successfully recruited tenants that address the needs identified in the Vision Russell Transformation Plan including a restaurant, coffee shop, health care and supportive services providers. This \$7.8 million project is being funded in part with Choice Neighborhoods Critical Community Improvement funds and LMG leverage commitments totaling \$631,000, as well as the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund, New Market Tax Credits and contributions from the James Graham Brown and Gheens Foundations.

PRIORITY

Increase the availability of high-quality, mixed-income housing

Goals

- Beecher Terrace replacement housing is located in vibrant, sustainable, mixed-income communities and serves as a catalyst for new investment.
- Russell offers a variety of high-quality, affordable, and market-rate homeownership and rental housing opportunities.

Creation of new rental and homeownership opportunities helps people find new housing to become and remain long-term Russell residents, which is a key component to neighborhood stabilization and revitalization.



Recent Outcomes & Initiatives Related to Priority D

Beecher Terrace Replacement Phase I Groundbreaking

Construction for the first phase of redevelopment on the Beecher Terrace site (#60), which will include 117 affordable units for residents aged 55+, began in March 2019 and will be completed by Fall 2020. Construction of Phase II (108 family units) is expected to begin in Summer 2019, with the two phases running co-currently. Plans for Phase III (approximately 180 family units) are nearing completion and construction is expected to begin in mid-2020. Timelines for remaining rental phases and the homeownership phase are being adjusted to compensate for initial delays.

Rendering of Phase I building at redeveloped Beecher Terrace site – 117 units for adults age 55+



*Pictured from left to right: **Vincent James**, Chief of Community Building LMG; **Jackie Floyd**, Russell Neighborhood Association; **Mary Ellen Wiederwohl**, Louisville Forward; **Congressman John Yarmuth**; **Manfred Reid Sr.**, Chairman LMHA Board of Commissioners; **Mayor Greg Fischer**; **Richard Baron**, Co-Founder & Chairman McCormack Baron Salzar; Councilwoman **Barbara Sexton Smith**, 4th District; **Carol Spencer**, HUD KyOffice Director of Public Housing; **Peg Moert**, President & CEO Ohio Capital Housing Corp; **Edwin King**, Executive Director Kentucky Housing Corporation; **Kyle Sullivan**, Red Capital Capitol Group; and **Rev. Geoffrey Ellis**, Retired Pastor AsburyChapel/ LMHA Board Member*

Housing Partnership Inc. Development

In January 2019, Housing Partnership Inc. purchased a long vacant warehouse at 1405 W. Broadway for the price of \$1.1 million through a partnership with Louisville Metro Government and OneWest (#47). The partnership plans to transform the Broadway warehouse into a \$34 million mixed-use development that will include housing, office space and other commercial purposes.

YMCA Transitional Housing Renovation

The Chestnut Street YMCA completed a \$477,000 renovation on its 41-unit permanent supported housing program in January 2018, with funding provided by the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The

YMCA's program is the only such program in the city that provides housing for men moving towards self-sufficiency.

Henry Greene Apartments Renovation

Multi-family housing developer Allied Argenta plans a \$17.5 million renovation of the 124 affordable single-family rental units that comprise the Henry Greene Apartments (#62). Improvements at the site, which is located directly across from Beecher Terrace on Jefferson Street, will include new landscaping, walkways, and other amenities. This project will also create seven fully ADA-accessible units. Work is expected to be completed by Fall 2019.

City View Park Apartments Rehab

Telesis Corp. is planning a \$20 million renovation to the City View Apartments (#59) that will be partially funded by a \$1 million grant from the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The renovation will provide updates to 503 apartments, as well as other improvements throughout the City View site, which is located directly across from Beecher Terrace starting at Muhammad Ali Boulevard.

REBOUND Developments in Russell

Through their “Adopt-A-Block” program, REBOUND has adopted two blocks of vacant properties on Dr. W. J. Hodge Street, consisting of eleven single-family homes. All homes will be made available for homeownership opportunities to low and moderate-income families. Phase I is currently underway with rehabilitation on four homes, and new construction will start on two homes during Fall 2019. REBOUND is in the process of acquiring six single-family vacant properties in Russell near the Louisville Urban League’s Sports & Learning Complex site as part of its “Single-Family Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP).” These homes will also be made available to low and moderate-income families.

Russell Homeownership and Investor Incentive Programs

Louisville Metro Government is offering current owner occupants in Russell up to \$25,000 for necessary repairs through its Russell Homeownership Repair Program. LMG is also incentivizing homeownership in Russell by offering funding for qualified improvements and repairs up to \$25,000 to new homeowners in the neighborhood.

Through its ongoing Investor Repair Program, LMG is also providing up to \$10,000 per unit in eligible repair costs.

18th Street Corridor Redevelopment

The aim of the 18th Street Corridor Redevelopment project is to implement block by block improvements along and nearby 18th Street. This includes façade improvements to owner-occupied homes and rental units, vacant lot acquisitions, and rehabilitation / repurposing of vacant properties for commercial use. Louisville Metro Government’s “Louisville Forward” office will lead the implementation of this activity. The goals of the project are to increase home values, attract new residents to home ownership opportunities and improved rental units, and spur economic growth through creation of usable commercial space along this key neighborhood corridor. LMG is contributing \$1,270,000 in Community Development Block grant funds to this project and the Louisville Metro Housing Authority has committed \$1,236,250 in Choice Neighborhoods Critical Community Improvement funds.

Vision for 18th Street Corridor Redevelopment



PRIORITY**E**

Improve community connectivity.

Goals

- Russell residents are engaged in community and civic life, and connected to resources.
- Residents have safe and convenient multi-modal transportation options to access services, amenities, and jobs.

Russell residents are now more connected to each other, the rest of the city, and the world thanks to strong community organizations and partners, transportation improvements, and activities that help bridge the digital divide.



Russell Neighborhood Association meeting, Spring 2019

Recent Outcomes & Initiatives Related to Priority E

E.1

Russell Neighborhood Association

In 2018, Russell residents formed a new neighborhood association to strengthen the community and better get to know their neighbors. The Russell Neighborhood Association is providing a collective voice for the neighborhood, and empowering residents with the tools needed to create positive change in Russell at the grassroots level. The group is meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at various locations throughout the Russell neighborhood. For more information see: <https://www.facebook.com/russellneighborhoodlou/>

18th Street Realignment Complete

Realignment of the intersection at 18th Street and Broadway was completed and opened to all modes of travel on January 14th, 2019. New Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stops for the Dixie Highway TIGER project will be in operation by December 2019. These improvements are designed to increase safety, mobility, livability, and reliable access to jobs along a 14-mile corridor to the Gene Snyder Freeway linking the Russell neighborhood to downtown Louisville and to jobs, services, and amenities to the south.

SmART Stops

Five SmART Stops are being placed throughout the Russell neighborhood combining public artwork with shelter for transit riders (#13, #27, #37, #49, #56). The shelters are being funded through a HUD Choice Neighborhoods Action Activity grant and are designed to accommodate the future addition of smart features. Local architectural groups designed the SmART Stops with community input and to enhance high-ridership TARC (Transit Authority of River City) stops in the Russell neighborhood. Two SmART Stops are completed and the remaining three will be ready to use by Fall 2019.

Bike Infrastructure

In April 2017, Louisville Metro Public Works completed the installation of two-way buffered bike lanes on W. Jefferson Street from 13th Street to 32nd Street, and buffered bike lanes on 12th and 13th streets from Congress Street to W. Kentucky Street.

Ninth Street Improvements

In November 2018, Louisville Metro Government completed improvements on the 9th Street Corridor that included improved crosswalks, a new plaza with benches in the median showcasing an existing public art piece, and modification of signaling to allow more time for pedestrians to cross. The project was funded by an AARP Community Challenge grant.



English as a Second Language students at Catholic Charities SmART Stop on West Jefferson

Broadway Master Plan

Louisville Metro has recently selected a multi-disciplinary consultant team to conduct the Broadway Master Plan that will reimagine the corridor, as envisioned by the city's long-range transportation plan "Move Louisville," from its existing auto-centric form into a multi-modal complete street designed to enable safe, convenient, and efficient access with a focus on premium transit that will serve as a catalyst for economic development. Move Louisville identifies Broadway as one of its 16 priority projects and recommends a complete street retrofit of the corridor. The entire length of Broadway (about six miles) from Shawnee Park to Baxter Avenue will be studied. The objectives for the Broadway master plan are to build upon the five guiding CHASE principles (Connected, Healthy, Authentic, Sustainable, Equitable) established as the framework for Plan 2040, the city's comprehensive plan.

Reimagining Ninth Street Master Plan

After a series of community engagement events and stakeholder meetings, Louisville Metro Government, working in concert with consultant Gehl Architects since 2017, has completed a draft plan to reimagine 9th Street from the Ohio River to Broadway. Reimagining the corridor aims to implement goals of Vision Louisville, to pursue a MOVE Louisville priority project and to create an attractive, vibrant, and safe connection between West Louisville and downtown. The draft plan is available at: https://louisvilleky.gov/sites/default/files/advanced_planning/180523_louisville_9th_street_corridor_-_full_presentation.pdf. LMG is currently seeking a Federal BUILD grant for implementation of the Ninth Street Master Plan. Fischer's FY19 budget proposes \$180,000 to be used for pilot projects, or for preliminary engineering work if the BUILD grant is received.

PNC Gigabit Center

The PNC Gigabit Center, established in 2017 within the Louisville Central Community Center Old Walnut Campus (#43), offers LCCC tenants and visitors access to ultra-fast Internet service. Laptops are also available for use to help residents of Russell and the city at large further build their digital skills. Funding for this project was provided by Next Centuries Cities, PNC Bank and Louisville Metro Government.



Other Significant Projects



Russell: A Place of Promise

In August 2018, Louisville Metro Government, Cities United and the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust partnered to launch Russell: A Place of Promise, an initiative co-created with and accountable to Russell residents and stakeholders, and designed to be a national model for equitable development in Black communities. The initiative will connect Russell residents and businesses that have been the backbone of the neighborhood with opportunities to build long-term individual and community wealth so that planned and underway new investment creating a renaissance in Russell does not result in their involuntary displacement. Funded through an initial \$5 million seed grant from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, and supplemented with funds from JPMorgan Chase's Advancing Cities program, technical assistance from Arcadis, an international engineering and professional services company, and funds to develop owner-occupied housing from Louisville Metro Government and partner organization Park Community Credit Union, this initiative aims to create owner-occupied housing and other residential wealth-building models, new jobs, business opportunities, new community gathering spots, and opportunities for mobility, wealth creation, and whole-community health.

African American Archives at the Western Library

Louisville Metro Government and Louisville Metro Housing Authority are working with the Western branch of the Louisville Free Public Library (#58) to facilitate improvements to their African American Archives collection. The goal of this project is to support the Western Library's efforts to digitize their collections through the purchase of equipment and materials and to develop a process that is replicable throughout other LFPL branches. The project is being funded by the Louisville Metro Housing Authority in conjunction with the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation revitalization efforts, and is anticipated to be complete by 2022.

Beecher Terrace Documentary

Louisville Metro Housing Authority is working with local film maker Level D. White of BluBoi Entertainment to produce a documentary on the Beecher Terrace Housing community. The documentary is anticipated to debut in Fall 2019, and focuses on the history of the development and the stories of the many people who have called Beecher Terrace home. The project is also being funded in conjunction with the Choice Neighborhoods revitalization.

Louisville Story Program – “The Cornerstones of Russell”

The Louisville Story Program is creating a book tentatively titled “The Cornerstones of Russell”. The book is being developed in conjunction with Russell residents over a 38-month period and documents the rich layers of history in the neighborhood, and the Beecher Terrace community. LMHA is funding this project, which is anticipated to be complete in 2022, in conjunction with the Choice Neighborhoods revitalization.



A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY LEVEL D. WHITE

Russell Vision Development Center

The build out of the former DAV thrift store at 2202 W. Jefferson St. into a community gathering and event space called the Russell Vision Development Center (#16) is substantially complete, and the venue is anticipated to be open for business in the summer of 2019. Louisville Metro Government's acquisition funding totaling \$275,000 was used to purchase the property, and LMG redevelopment funding in the amount of \$186,000 was used to renovate the property.

