

# Vacant Homes Transformed into Restaurants

A ribbon cutting and open house celebration was held on October 24th for two formerly vacant buildings at 516 A and 516 B S. 18th Street. The two shotgun-style homes were transformed into restaurants by the nonprofit organization OneWest as part of Chef Space’s nearby restaurant incubator program. The program is designed to allow aspiring culinary entrepreneurs to manage their first retail location.

The 18th Street shotguns are designed to give chefs experience with marketing, business operations, developing a client base, and other skills needed to run a successful restaurant. The restaurants will also provide additional dining options for Russell’s residents, workers, and visitors while contributing to the revitalization of the 18th Street corridor. Streetscape improvements will also soon be coming to the 18th Street corridor.

OneWest is a community development corporation focused on elevating the entire city of Louisville by developing commercial real estate in the West End. To learn more about this project and other exciting OneWest initiatives, visit [www.onewest.org](http://www.onewest.org).

Chef Space is a food business accelerator located in Louisville’s West End that provides commercial kitchen space and business training for entrepreneurs to start food-related ventures. To learn more about Chef Space’s incubator program and training opportunities, visit <https://www.chefspace.org>.



Chef Space Restaurant Incubators on 18th Street



Louisville Metro Housing Authority  
420 S. 8th Street  
Louisville, KY 40203  
Phone: (502) 569-3400  
[www.visionrussell.org](http://www.visionrussell.org)



## Russell Choice Neighborhood Initiative Newsletter

### Manfred Reid Sr. honored by Kentucky Housing Association

Even after receiving significant honors, including a key to the city of Louisville and the MLK Freedom Award, Manfred Reid, Sr. remains humble with each accolade that graces his shelf.

Most recently, the Kentucky Housing Association (KHA) honored Reid with a Resolution of Appreciation for his 22 years of service at Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA). KHA officials presented the award to LMHA representatives during its annual conference last September in downtown Louisville. The resolution praises individuals like Reid who have contributed to their community, local housing authority, and the Kentucky Housing Association. The organization was launched in 1937 and supports housing authorities across the state through educational, networking, and scholarship opportunities.



LMHA Board Chairman Emeritus and Beecher Terrace resident, Manfred Reid

Reid is passionate about instilling pride in his community. His position as an affordable housing advocate heightened after his move into the original Beecher Terrace in 1988. As a former president of the Beecher Terrace Resident Council, Reid assisted in the operations of local food banks that helped feed his neighbors and stepped in as a voice for his neighborhood.

In 1999, Reid became the first public housing representative on LMHA’s Board of Commissioners. Board members voted to

promote Reid to Chairman in 2000, earning him the responsibility of controlling board affairs. During his time on LMHA’s board, Reid provided feedback to help guide the revitalization of nearly all of Louisville’s publicly owned housing developments, including the redevelopment of Beecher Terrace which is currently underway in the Russell neighborhood.

To help ensure a smooth transition for his neighbors, Reid asked to be one of the last residents to be relocated from the site. Creating a full-circle moment, Reid moved back into the first phase of new housing to be developed at Beecher Terrace - The 450 Roy Wilkins Building – where he has lived since 2021. In addition, he agreed to provide his wisdom and experience as an advisor on Beecher Terrace’s newly formed Resident Council. Reid announced his resignation as Chairman in early 2022 but continues to assist LMHA’s Board of Commissioners in his new role as Chairman Emeritus.



# All You Need is a Journal: A Discussion With VaShaun Mosby

VaShaun Mosby transformed her life in twenty years, and she only needed a pen, a journal, and big ideas to start her journey. With these tools, Mosby drafted a “pathway out of poverty,” which included steps to get herself a job and succeed in corporate America.

Now a self-made entrepreneur based in Louisville, Mosby is giving back to her community through a social services app. She crafted the idea in a three-ring binder two decades ago. “This idea to use technology to connect people with resources was inspired by my experiences in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program in Lexington, Kentucky,” Mosby said. “I wish something like this was available to me during that time.”

For the last three years, Mosby has been developing an app that divides community resources into six categories: childcare, education, healthcare, housing, nutrition, and supplies. The “Housing” category will link upcoming HCV participants with available property management owners and landlords. “Residents experience extreme stress trying to find an apartment in such a short timeframe,” Mosby remarked. “I know because I’ve been there. I am also willing to advocate for those who need added support during this process.”

The supplies category will lead Louisvillians to free or affordable baby essentials, feminine hygiene products, and job trainings.

## Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

To turn this social services app into a reality, Mosby needed a team of supporters and developers. She credits The Academy of Music Production Education and Development – also known as AMPED – as a primary supporter of her social services app. Dave Christopher leads the Russell-based nonprofit that was launched in 2014 under the mission to amplify and accelerate the economic and equity transformation of black and brown communities.

Aside from managing a nationally recognized youth music program, AMPED operates the Russell Technology Business Incubator, which offers technology workforce support for entrepreneurs. The purpose of the incubator is to support Black and LatinX-owned businesses, including Mosby’s technology company Vauntech.

Through this partnership, the AMPED team helped Mosby make connections across Louisville to begin developing her social services app. Mosby said AMPED has also supported the initial cost of the app.



VaShaun Mosby, participant in AMPED’s Russell Technology Business Incubator program.

Mosby and her development team are knocking on doors to connect with social service entities in the city that may be interested in partnering with her project. “We want to act as a bridge, connecting social service providers with the individuals in our community who need them,” Mosby added. Most importantly, her app developers are ensuring the community can easily access and navigate the upcoming social services tool.

## The Final Stages

In the coming weeks while the social services app is in production, Mosby intends to announce its name, website, and rollout plan. If there are dreams that you want to accomplish, Mosby advises that you “pick up a journal and a vision board,” like she did twenty years ago. “Don’t let anyone tell you what you cannot do,” Mosby added. “Finally, have the right people around you.”

To keep up with Mosby, her upcoming social services app, and her remaining business ventures, visit Vashaunnicole.com.

# NEW PLAYGROUNDS IN RUSSELL



## Sheppard Park Improvements

Thanks to a \$200,000 investment from Louisville Parks and Recreation, Sheppard Park has a new playground. Russell residents, District 4 Metro Councilman Jecorey Arthur, and Parks and Recreation staff celebrated the completion of this second phase of Sheppard Park improvements during the playgrounds’ unveiling on October 1st.

In addition to having one of the tallest and fastest slides found in any of Louisville’s public parks, the playground also features accessible equipment, providing places where children of all abilities and their families can play. “This playground design was a direct result of community outreach efforts when the park’s masterplan was completed back in 2017,” said Louisville Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Jason Canuel.

An earlier phase of improvements, completed in June 2018, was funded through a \$279,000 HUD Choice Neighborhoods Action Activity grant and \$265,000 from Louisville Metro Government. Russell community members and other Vision Russell partners worked with Metro Parks to design this first phase of improvements which includes a sprayground, swings, tuned drum play area, picnic tables, benches, a restroom facility, walking path markers, and signage. As a result of these two initiatives, Sheppard Park now offers a variety of options for year-round recreation and fun.

Sheppard Park is located at 1601 Magazine Street in the Russell Neighborhood. The park was acquired by the City of Louisville in 1925 and named for Reverend William Henry Sheppard, a Presbyterian Minister of Grace Hope Presbyterian Church in the Smoketown Neighborhood. Reverend Sheppard is renowned for his human rights work in the Congo in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

## Mini-Versity Gets a New Playground

The kids at Mini-Versity Child Development Center are also enjoying a new playground. Mini-Versity students helped design the new play area, sponsored by KABOOM! The non-profit organization partnered with Louisville Central Community Centers, CarMax, and Play Pros to bring the playground to life. Approximately 200 volunteers worked for three sunny days in September to install the new playground, which features a seated spinner, spring riders, bongo musical and literacy panels, a twisty slide, a rock-climbing wall, a bridge, and more.

Mini-Versity is owned and operated by the Louisville Central Community Centers (LCCC) and located on Roy Wilkins Avenue, next to Beecher Terrace. For more information about the Center’s early childhood offerings for children ages six-weeks through five years old, please call (502) 583-7352 or (502) 551-7099.



New KaBoom! Playground at Mini-Versity

## REBOUND Homeownership Opportunities

Interested in purchasing a home in the Russell Neighborhood? If so, consider calling REBOUND, Inc. (Rebuilding Our Urban Neighborhood Dwellings) – a non-profit Community Development Corporation in partnership with the Louisville Urban League. REBOUND has many homeownership opportunities for first-time buyers in income-qualified households. Down payment assistance may also be available for those who qualify.



For more information about REBOUND’s properties and services, visit [www.reboundinc.org](http://www.reboundinc.org) or call (502) 566-3416.