Children at Play

HCIDLA news these days usually revolve around housing developments and the pervasive homeless crisis. Often times, little stories of our involvement in enhancing LA’s communities don’t make it to the front page, like the grand opening of the new playground in the Alpine Recreation Center in Council District 1 on January 23, 2018. After nearly 20 years, there was a glaring need for a fresh, safe place for children to play. Subsequently, in a matter of three weeks, the apparatus for children ages 5-12 was erected, and the sand was replaced with a resilient surfacing for maximum playability. The remodeled park will serve approximately 9,400 residents each year, and community residents and nearby Castelar Elementary School will take advantage of the many programs available, including martial arts, youth basketball, golf, soccer, and after-school programs. As the administrative entity for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HCIDLA, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, worked closely together with CD 1 and the Department of Recreation and Parks to allocate $1.1 million in CDBG funds to bring this wonderful project to life. While a jungle gym may seem pretty miniscule, it really is the tiny things that foster a safer, more enriching environment and promote livable and prosperous neighborhoods. It’s certainly not an official count, but it’s pretty safe to say the new playground has 9,400 big (and small!) thumbs up.

Councilman Gil Cedillo (left center) and kids from Castelar Elementary School cut the ribbon to open the newly renovated playground in the Alpine Recreation Center on January 23, 2018.
Putting More People in Homes
HCIDLA is proud to be the recipient of a $400,000 Community Reinvestment Act Grant that will be utilized for the Low Income Purchase Assistance (LIPA) Homeownership Program. Presented by OneWest Bank, a division of CIT Bank, it represents the City of LA and CIT’s commitment to supporting HCIDLA’s first time homebuyer program and serves as an example of the potential of exploring public and private partnerships. These funds will help up to 27 first-time homebuyer families realize their American dream with home purchase support in the form of down payment assistance, closing costs, and acquisition financing.

Groundbreaking
February 15, 2018 marked the groundbreaking of Six Four Nine Lofts in Council District 14. Developed by Skid Row Housing Trust, Six Four Nine Lofts is a new construction development consisting of 55 units of permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, individuals with special needs, and low income households. The residential portion of Six Four Nine Lofts will be located
in a multi-use building that also consists of the Joshua House Health Center, a three-story federally qualified health clinic. It boasts many amenities, including but not limited to laundry facilities, community kitchen, and an edible garden. HCIDLA contributed $5.5 million in HHH funds towards the total $28.4 million development cost. Skid Row Housing Trust has partnered with HCIDLA on 27 other projects, bringing over 1,700 units of affordable housing to LA!

Recognizing real heroes
On March 9, 2018, HCIDLA’s Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women (LACSW) organized the 28th Annual Pioneer Women of the Year Awards (PWA) in partnership with Councilwoman Nury Martinez and the entire City Council. Given the dramatic increase in female homelessness and the staggering rates of violence against women, LACSW has resolved to make the “Intersection of Female Homelessness: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking” a 2018 focal point, highlighting this issue by recognizing and awarding women leaders and survivors working in these fields. Kudos to all the winners for all their vital work and dedication to making Los Angeles a better place for women and young girls!
Councilman Herb Wesson presents this year’s Pioneer Women to City Council.

WHATS NEW

HHH IS ROLLING
The second HHH Call for Projects has ended, and HCIDLA is reviewing 11 submissions consisting of 825 proposed units utilizing $107 million in HHH funds. This is in addition to the initial 9 projects and 18 Round 1 applications that will use a total of $260 million in HHH funding to bring 1,793 housing units to LA.

FREE WORKSHOPS
The next series of free HCIDLA workshops will focus on how to “Be an Informed Renter.” Check out our website for a complete schedule!

YOUR OPINIONS DO MATTER
HCIDLA has been holding community meetings to give residents a chance to discuss the Mayor’s proposed budget for the 2018 Con Plan and learn how it affects their neighborhoods.
DID YOU KNOW?

100% Accessible
HCIDLA FamilySource Centers are now fully trained to assist and accommodate community residents with disabilities.

It’s Tax Time!
There’s still time to get help on your taxes! Contact your local FamilySource Center for free tax services, advice and more. Last year, we’ve helped over 100,000 residents with their taxes!

HCIDLA is Age-friendly
In support of Mayoral Executive Directive 17, HCIDLA has been working with the Department of Aging to ensure that all HCIDLA staff is prepared to work with LA’s elderly and ensure that every senior has access to City services.

Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor

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