



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
700 W. Main Street, Alhambra, CA 91801

For Immediate Release

Contact: Elisa Vásquez, (626) 586-1762, Elisa.Vasquez@lacdc.org

HISTORIC CHURCH IN LONG BEACH BECOMES NEW HOME FOR SENIORS

Immanuel Place Offers 25 Affordable Housing Units
and Onsite Supportive Services



Long Beach, CA, September 29, 2017 – Officials from the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (CDC) joined City of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach Councilwoman Jeannine Pearce, Thomas Safran and Associates (TSA), and Clifford Beers Housing to celebrate the grand

opening of Immanuel Place (Immanuel), a 25-unit housing development for low-income and homeless seniors. The CDC provided \$1.8 million in Affordable Housing Trust Funds for the design and development of the site, including \$100,000 for energy efficiency components.

Immanuel is a unique, adaptive reuse of a former church. Also named Immanuel, the church was built in 1922 and operated into the early 2000s. After the church closed, the building was used as a community center until it was vacated in 2012. During the renovation, care was taken to preserve and enhance the original exterior and interior. The exterior, constructed of concrete and finished with plaster, painted accents, and a Spanish tile roof, has been repaired and restored to its



original condition. Inside, the large stained-glass windows, historic pipe organ, and huge exposed trusses have also been rehabilitated.

The new community room occupies the former sanctuary space. It now includes a kitchen and library for the senior residents to enjoy. The residential units have been artfully designed to fit around the perimeter of the building, space formerly occupied by the church as classrooms and offices. To meet the needs of those with mobility challenges, the building entrance was made accessible and now includes an elevator to serve all floors.

“We are proud to partner with others willing to see past the bricks and mortar,” said Sean Rogan, CDC Executive Director. “Immanuel incorporates the needs of its new residents, while preserving the architecture and spirit of what the structure used to be. These details show the thought and care that goes into producing quality housing.”

The seniors residing at Immanuel will pay an affordable rent equating to no more than 30% of their income. Fifteen units have been set-aside for homeless seniors and receive an operating subsidy from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. St. Joseph Center also provides onsite services including case management, mental health services, and life skills training.

If the grandness of the historic restoration was not enough, TSA also achieved a Platinum Green Point rating from Build It Green. Immanuel’s energy efficient and conservation features include high efficiency showerheads, low flush toilets, water heating by solar thermal panels, and ENERGY STAR appliances.



For more information on project development, please contact Tyler Monroe, TSA at (310) 820-4888. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, Public Information Officer for the CDC, at (626) 586-1762.

###