

MEDIA RELEASE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RESIDENT SERVICES PROGRAMS

Efforts to Improve the Lives of County Residents and Revitalize Local Communities Put the Agency Center Stage

Los Angeles County, June 30, 2020 - The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) was recognized with five Awards of Merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). The Agency Awards recognize best practices in housing and community development. The LACDA was recognized for the following project and programs:

South Whittier Library - The South Whittier Library opened to the public on November 21, 2016. The 14,411 square-foot library replaced the former library that was too small to meet the programming needs of a multi-ethnic and multi-generational community. A 100-seat community room equipped with an audio-visual system, and a kitchen provides an opportunity for hosting events. The County chose the LACDA Construction Management Unit to develop the library. The LACDA worked through an accelerated design phase with the Project Architect.

Modernized Space for Public Housing Youth - The LACDA was pleased to introduce a beautifully refurbished basketball court and modernized teen room to the residents of the Harbor Hills Public Housing Community. These enhancements were made possible through the contributions of the 2k Foundation and XBOX. The new community spaces will promote positive interaction and a safe place for youth to connect, learn, and exercise.

Automated Library Services in Public Housing - The LACDA was honored to receive two Book Kiosks that bring library resources into two of its public housing complexes. Offered in partnership with the Los Angeles County Library, each kiosk is equipped with a rotating collection of 800 books tailored to the residents' needs, including books in several languages: English, Spanish, and Chinese. The kiosks, paired with onsite culturally-sensitive programs, create a sense of community allowing residents to engage in a meaningful way while decreasing loneliness and isolation in older adults.

Newly Opened Health Clinic in Public Housing - In May 2019, the LACDA was pleased to welcome the Central Neighborhood Health Foundation as the operator of the Daniel "Skip" Gibson Carmelitos Health Clinic. The new clinic is located within the

Carmelitos Public Housing Community, which is home to over 1,700 low-income youth, families, older adults, and persons with disabilities. Comprehensive health services include primary to preventive care, and health and wellness workshops. The Clinic adopts a patient centered model of providing care that gives Carmelitos residents and the surrounding North Long Beach community the best opportunity at improving health outcomes while meeting individual needs.

Public Housing Youth Take Flight in the Aviation Industry - The LACDA was pleased to introduce 100 public housing youth to the aviation industry through hands-on education and career exploration experiences. During the summer months of 2018 and 2019, the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals facilitated fast-paced programs, packed with participant driven activities, which turned dreams into viable careers and ignited a whole new world of visibility to occupations in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for youth. This program addressed the need to continue learning in the summer months.

Emilio Salas, LACDA Acting Executive Director said, “The LACDA is proud of the efforts made to *Build Better Lives and Better Neighborhoods* for the County’s residents. We appreciate NAHRO recognizing our creativity, partnerships, and commitment to thinking outside the box when it comes to service delivery.”

NAHRO’s Agency Awards Program is a two-tiered program consisting of the Awards of Merit and the Awards of Excellence. The first tier of the program, the Awards of Merit, are submitted to National NAHRO and sent to Regional Juries for review. The second tier of the program, the Awards of Excellence are selected from the Award of Merit winners nominated for an Award of Excellence by the Regional Juries. The LACDA is proud to have two of its five awarded entries, the South Whittier Library and the Public Housing Youth Take Flight in the Aviation Industry, being considered for the Awards of Excellence competition.

For media questions related to the LACDA’s projects and programs, please contact Elisa Vásquez, LACDA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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