



Diana's Bakery

On April 7, 2010, Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina joined the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (CDC) and the community of East Los Angeles to celebrate the completed renovation of Diana's Bakery. The 1925 vintage-style building received new paint, awnings, signs, lighting, and tile work, transforming this once aging 10-storefront building into an attractive business destination.

The Community Business Revitalization (CBR) Program, operated by the CDC's Economic/Redevelopment Division, provides grants for commercial façade improvements to businesses in Florence Firestone, Lennox, East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Walnut Park, and other eligible unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The CDC supports community revitalization by working with residents and businesses in low- and moderate-income areas. The CBR offers participants financial and technical assistance as well as design, construction, and inspection services.

Most businesses in commercial buildings located in the areas mentioned above are eligible to participate in the program. The CDC will cover 90% of the first \$10,000 of repair costs and 75% of costs over \$10,000, up to a maximum grant of \$50,250 per building. Architectural design and engineering services are provided at no cost. For the Diana's Bakery project, the CBR Program provided \$35,572 for the renovation, and \$9,857 was invested by the property owner.

The CBR program is one of many economic development initiatives with a long history of success in revitalizing and beautifying older commercial corridors while bringing goods, services, and jobs to local communities. In doing so, we not only revitalize the business district, but also revitalize the sense of community pride!



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

For additional information on the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission, please contact us at (323) 890-7001 or visit us at: www.lacdc.org



CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



Potrero Heights Park Community Center

During the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, the CDC's Construction Management Division completed the bidding process for the new Potrero Heights Park Community and Senior Center located in the City of Montebello. Construction will commence in the upcoming months on a park pavilion designed to enhance the surrounding Potrero Heights Park, and neighboring Arroyo Drive and the Potrero Heights Elementary School.

Designed as an indoor/outdoor gathering place, the Community and Senior Center will accommodate a broad range of age groups and activities for both small and large gatherings. In order to retain as much park as possible, the building will be sited towards the parking lot and street for easy accessibility. The large roof will provide ample shade for the interior and exterior spaces. The paths leading to the center and out to the park will be replanted with native California grasses and drought tolerant plants. After completion in late 2011, the new Community and Senior Center will be operated by the County's Department of Community and Senior Services, and jointly used by the County and the City of Montebello.

The Potrero Heights Park Community and Senior Center project is being managed from pre-development through construction completion by the Construction Management Division in partnership with the First District Board Office, the Department of Community and Senior Services, the Montebello Unified School District, and the City of Montebello.

GRAND OPENINGS



Mariposa Place

On Friday, May 14, 2010, the Hollywood Community Housing Corporation held a grand opening for the Mariposa Place Apartments. Mariposa Place is a newly constructed mixed-use project located in the City of Los Angeles. This project has 58 units and ground floor retail including a laundromat and a Los Angeles Police Department substation. The four-story building includes an open courtyard with a tot lot, a community room, and a property manager's office. The land was sold to the developer by the County of Los Angeles in 2004. The CDC provided approximately \$1.9 million of City of Industry funding to the project.



Casa Dominguez

On May 26, 2010, Abode Communities held a grand opening for Casa Dominguez, a 70-unit affordable housing development. Casa Dominguez is the first CDC-funded permanent affordable housing development with supportive services for young adults leaving the foster-care system in Los Angeles County. Residents at Casa Dominguez will benefit from on-site services such as child care, a health clinic, and a parent resource center. The event was attended by Sean Rogan, Executive Director of the CDC, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, and Robin Hughes, President of Abode Communities.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Electronic Funding Process

The CDC's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Division recently converted to a mandatory electronic funding process. Effective April 1, 2010, all agencies participating in the CDBG Program were required to enroll to receive their grant payments by direct deposit. The benefits of this new paperless process are threefold.

First, by no longer having to wait for paper checks, participating agencies now benefit from a safer and expedited payment process. Agencies can focus on providing important services to their clients rather than waiting for their checks to arrive by mail and then having to deposit them in the bank. Program services such as emergency food and shelter, medical services, and many others, are no longer delayed by an outdated and lengthier paper check reimbursement process.

Second, direct deposit essentially eliminates the CDC's liability associated with lost or stolen paper checks and saves on the costly and time consuming follow-up process required for check replacement.

Finally, the new mandatory direct deposit eliminates a yearly estimate of 1,000 checks, envelopes, and postage, allowing the CDC to adhere to countywide waste reduction standards.

The CDC is constantly looking for ways to modernize its delivery of services to partner agencies. The switch to direct deposit is just another example of our continuing effort to streamline business efficiency while increasing accountability and convenience.

GOING GREEN



CDC's First Annual Green Fair

The CDC held its first Green Fair on April 21, 2010. The goal was to introduce CDC staff to 'green' ideas and provide them with tools to reduce their energy costs at home and create a healthier living space for their families. Staff were also encouraged to complete the Green Workplace Survey, which qualified them for several raffle prizes, including baskets full of energy efficient items and non-toxic cleaners, and a crate full of organic fruits and vegetables.

Over 300 staff attended this exciting event and walked away with informational brochures, samples, and fun giveaways. More than a dozen agencies and groups participated in the event and answered questions from staff regarding energy efficiency, water conservation, and indoor air quality. Participating agencies included:

- REAS Energy;
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works;
- The Growing Experience;
- Acrylatex Coatings & Recycling;
- The Tree People;
- Green Bay Group;
- Myfootprintstore.com;
- Monterey Lighting Solutions; and
- Southern California Gas Company.

The members of the CDC Green Committee, who facilitated the event, were also on hand to give out CDC reusable bags and coordinate the Green Workplace Survey.

For more information on the CDC's 'green efforts,' please contact Brian Talbot, CDC Green Committee Chair, at brian.talbot@lacdc.org.



SECTION 8



Expanded Services In Antelope Valley

The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) currently provides housing assistance to more than 4,000 families in the Antelope Valley area. During the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, HACoLA's Assisted Housing Division, which manages the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program, has been working diligently to open a full-service Section 8 office to better serve program participants and owners in the Antelope Valley.

The full-service center, located in Palmdale, will continue to handle inspections, mandatory appointments, voucher briefing sessions, and new contracts. Additionally, the office will now handle reexaminations, rent increases, tenant moves, and contract terminations. As part of the transition process, the Assisted Housing Division added 12 employees to the Palmdale office to handle the increased workload.

Converting the former satellite office to a full-service center not only provides a more convenient location for Antelope Valley participants to access our services, but will also enable HACoLA to better enforce participant compliance with program requirements and respond to inquiries in a more timely manner.

Increasing services at the Palmdale office is part of a long-term goal to improve customer service and communication with our clients and stakeholders throughout the County.

The Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles serves as the County's Housing Authority, administering both the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs.

PUBLIC HOUSING



Volunteers Build Bridges

On Monday, April 12, 2010, the County of Los Angeles held its annual luncheon to honor outstanding youth and adult volunteers. This year's theme, "Volunteers Build Bridges," reflected the impact those who dedicate themselves to helping others have in the community. Two of HACoLA's public housing residents, JoAnn Smith and Evette Gomez, received recognition for their volunteer service. The honorees beamed with pride as they accepted certificates from the County's Board of Supervisors and the Chief Executive Office.

JoAnn Smith, a resident of the Southbay Gardens Housing Development, has been a bridge of hope for many of her neighbors. JoAnn used her own resources to provide food baskets to needy families and collaborated with Angels for Sight, a non-profit eye clinic, to connect fellow residents to the program's free services. In addition, she has volunteered to help with many holiday celebrations and special events at Southbay Gardens.

Evette Gomez, a resident of the Harbor Hills Housing Development, is a young woman growing up in public housing. Evette actively volunteers with the onsite Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Program. She has also donated more than 140 hours tutoring, creating flyers, and promoting services to the community.

HACoLA appreciates the invaluable work JoAnn and Evette have contributed to their communities!