

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016



LISC
Washington, DC

2016 was a busy year for LISC DC. We received an award. We published a report. We went to the White House. We toured select housing preservation projects with our Local Advisory Committee. We launched a targeted initiative focused on fostering equity, inclusiveness, and an improved quality of life for low-income households near the site of a forthcoming multi-million dollar development. We participated in several ribbon cuttings and ground breakings for newly renovated properties and projects that will bring more amenities to DC residents. We were panelists and moderators for various events. We were quoted and interviewed for several publications. We invested over \$45 million into over 1,200 units of affordable housing for low-income and special needs households. Thank you for your support in helping us make DC a good place to live, work, raise children, and conduct business, regardless of one's income. We selected the following stories to highlight some of our work, honors, and achievements from last year.

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PRESERVATION WORKS RELEASE

"(We want to) keep it affordable so if you're not making \$90,000 or better, you can still live in DC. You don't have to run to the suburbs.... Everybody here, a lot of people, are on a fixed income. And that was another thing that pushed me to try to keep (it) affordable." -- Cynthia White, President of 812 Jefferson Street Tenant Association

Preservation Works: LISC DC's Role in Preserving Quality Affordable Housing was published in October of 2016. This report highlights the role we have played over the last 30 years and tells the stories of residents who have worked tirelessly to preserve their homes, allowing them to live, work, and raise their children with one less worry.

Access to affordable housing should not be among the daily concerns of low-income households. Yet, it is. In fact, according to a recent study, the dominant stress among low-income residents in the District of Columbia is finding and keeping affordable housing. Learn more here: <http://www.liscdc.org/home-story/2016-highlights-preservation-works-release/>



THE BUCHANAN



LISC DC provided a \$1.6 million loan to MED Developers to acquire, stabilize and upgrade 4526 13th Street, NW. Our investment enabled the building, known as The Buchanan, to maintain its affordability, as well as undergo much needed renovations, repairs, and upgrades. One of the residents of The Buchanan, 107 year old Mrs. McLaurin, became famous when [video](#) footage of her dancing with the Obamas went viral last year.

After completion, it will have on-going property management and maintenance support. The Buchanan is a 16 unit apartment building located in the Petworth neighborhood, one of the most rapidly gentrifying communities in the region where a growing number of apartment buildings are being converted to high priced housing, leaving long-term residents few decent options that they can afford.

Click on the following link to read more about our support of The Buchanan: <http://www.liscdc.org/home-story/2016-highlights-the-buchanan/>

LISC DC loaned Sarah's Circle \$550,000 for predevelopment for the renovation of their existing senior housing property located at 2551 17th Street NW in the Adams Morgan neighborhood.

For over 32 years, Sarah's Circle has been serving very low income senior citizens. In addition to undertaking a thorough modernization, Sarah's Circle will reconfigure the 34 unit building into 49 units, providing housing for an additional 15 seniors.

It is a notable opportunity to add affordable units in one of DC's most convenient, and yet expensive neighborhoods.

Click on the following link to read more about our investment in Sarah's Circle: <http://www.liscdc.org/home-story/2016-highlights-sarahs-circle/>



SARAH'S CIRCLE



On June 25, 2016, we celebrated the opening of the 5741 Colorado Avenue Cooperative's newly renovated building. Located in the Brightwood-16th Street Heights neighborhood, the 5741 Colorado Avenue Cooperative is home to residents that vehemently sought to preserve their 28 unit building and its infrastructure, while maintaining its affordability.

The ribbon cutting was attended by nonprofit partners, community leaders, and government officials and was a celebration of the residents' steadfastness, tenacity and perseverance.

After years of living in decrepit conditions and fighting to get their basic needs met, the 5741 Colorado Avenue residents collectively decided they were going to take control of their home.

Click on the following link to read more about the Colorado Avenue Cooperative: <http://www.liscdc.org/home-story/2016-highlights-5741-colorado-avenue-nw-cooperative/>

5741 COLORADO COOPERATIVE



Creative placemaking has the power to boost the health of neighborhoods by investing in the physical and social assets of a community. These investments are particularly important for communities with a history of neglect, blight, disinvestment, and disengagement. This is true for our most recent creative placemaking initiative, which took place in the Ivy City neighborhood.

"Ivy City Is..." was a collaborative, resident and artist-led creative placemaking project that culminated in the creation of a three-dimensional, 5 foot by 20 foot screen printed plywood installation, spelling out "IVY CITY." Click to see a short video about the project: <https://vimeo.com/198700803>

"The project...stirred the soul of Ivy City and envouraged a conversation about who we are here in Ivy City - and not who people would like us to be with new development...I think that has enhanced the community spirit here in Ivy City." -- Belinda Taylor, Ivy City Resident

CROSSING THE STREET: IVY CITY



"[This project] makes me believe in the future of our neighborhood."



ELEVATING EQUITY LAUNCH



On May 11, 2016, we launched our \$50 million [Elevating Equity Initiative](#) in Washington, DC's Anacostia neighborhood! Elevating Equity is our commitment to provide resources that help long-term residents and newcomers – regardless of their income – live, work, and thrive in the neighborhoods adjacent to the future 11th Street Bridge Park.

The 11th Street Bridge Park will be a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education, and the arts.

We will use our resources to provide loans, grants, tax credit equity, in-kind services, and technical support to our nonprofit partners. These investments will go towards ensuring that residents have access to housing that is affordable and essentials such as medical care, arts, services for youth and seniors, and early learning centers.

Learn more about this initiative here: <http://www.liscdc.org/home-story/2016-highlights-elevating-equity/>

\$5,453,226

invested to date.

\$1,858,976

invested in 2016.

2016 partners:

- American Poetry Museum
- Anacostia Coordinating Council
- Community of Hope
- DC Theater Arts Collaborative
- Four Points
- Manna
- Martha's Table
- Mi Casa
- Sasha Bruce Youthwork
- Social Art and Culture
- Washington School for Girls
- Yachad
- 11th Street Bridge Park

SXSL: BY ADAM KENT



A few months ago, instead of taking the morning bus to LISC's office in downtown DC, I headed to the White House for South By South Lawn (SXSL), a day-long festival hosted by President Obama that brought together people from across the world who work for social change. Inspired by the format and vibe of SXSW, the Austin, TX music and culture festival, SXSL was filled with panel discussions about technology, sustainability, and social justice, as well as musical and artistic performances. There was even a conversation between President Obama and Leonardo DiCaprio

on climate change. One of the most powerful moments of the day came just after the funk band Dap-Kings finished their set and Common, the rapper and author, grabbed the mic and spoke from his heart about racial injustice and mass incarceration. He ended his speech with five simple but potent words: "Use your platform for change."

Click on the following link to read more about Adam's experience at SXSL:
<http://www.liscdc.org/home-story/2016-highlights-sxsl-by-lisc-dc-program-officer-adam-kent/>





In the fall of 2015, LISC DC brought MetroEdge -- a LISC program that provides expert and data-driven guidance to local organizations seeking to revitalize business districts -- to DC's Rhode Island Avenue NE Corridor. We connected Kyle Todd, the Executive Director of Friends of Rhode Island Avenue (FoRIA), with MetroEdge to assist him in identifying

opportunities for commercial revitalization and devising a roadmap for action for the main street. Click on the following link to read about the recommendations and plans for the Rhode Island Avenue commercial corridor: <http://www.liscdc.org/home-story/2016-highlights-rhode-island-avenue-mainstreet-roadmap-for-action/>



RIA NE MAIN STREET ROADMAP FOR ACTION

WBJ NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD

On Dec. 8, 2016, LISC DC was honored at the Washington Business Journal (WBJ)'s 2016 CEO of the Year and Best in Business Awards. We were one of four nonprofits honored as a "Nonprofit of the Year" for our commitment to improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods of Washington, DC.

We first began investing in community development initiatives, programs, and activities in 1982, but it was the launch of our Elevating Equity Initiative in 2016 that was specifically named as an example of how LISC DC has grown and enhanced its place in the fabric of Washington, DC.

[Here](#) is a written description of LISC on page 57 of the WBJ's Dec. 9th edition and [here](#) is audio from the event. LISC DC is extremely pleased that our work is being recognized for going a long way in helping to create healthy neighborhoods of choice and opportunity that are good places to live, work, raise children and conduct business.



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