

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SET

LISC/Chicago's Board of Advisors has a new Chair – Lori Healey, former planning commissioner and chief of staff for Mayor Richard M. Daley and currently a principal at real estate firm The John Buck Company. Healey also served as president of the Chicago 2016 Committee.

Taking the role of vice chairs are Francia Harrington of JPMorgan Chase, Michael Lewis of Harris Bank and David Vitale of the Urban Partnership Bank. Also serving on the Executive Committee will be Ann Baughan of State Farm, Jim Capraro of Capraro Consulting, John Newman formerly of LaSalle Bank, Howard Pizer of the United Center Joint Venture/Chicago White Sox and Scott Swanson of Charter One Bank.

Immediate Past Chair Perry Pero, Northern trust (Ret.), and David Anderson, New Pacific Consulting LLC, will become emeritus members of the board.

As the new Executive Committee takes form, Healey praised its retiring members.

“Perry and David have provided dedicated and enlightened leadership to LISC over many years. Their vision and commitment has been integral to achieving our mission of stimulating the comprehensive development of healthy and stable neighborhoods,” Healey said. “We will be counting on their guidance as we emulate the standard they have set.”



From left to right: Lori Healey, Francia Harrington, Michael Lewis, David Vitale.

MOONEY TAPPED TO LEAD NEW CITY DEPARTMENT

Citing his deep experience in neighborhood development and his accomplishments as LISC/Chicago's executive director, Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Andrew Mooney as the interim head of the City of Chicago's new Department of Housing and Economic Development, which will align the housing, economic development, zoning and land use planning functions within the City of Chicago.

“Andy Mooney has dedicated his career to the area of community development and has the leadership and management experience to oversee this consolidation and ensure coordination and improve efficiency,” Daley said.

Mooney, who is taking a temporary leave of absence from LISC/Chicago through June of 2011, started his new post Dec. 1. Barbara Beck and Joel Bookman will serve as co-executive directors in his absence.

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said. “Chicago's great and varied neighborhoods are places that attract people to the city. They both produce the wonderful students and employees I've come to know, and create a welcoming community for newcomers as well. Their vibrancy is a testament not only to the Mayor but to those being honored and the hundreds more like them throughout the city.”

In keeping with the theme of leadership, this year's event will pay tribute to Mayor Richard M. Daley, when the annual Friend of the Neighborhood Award, given to an individual whose work is integral to improving Chicago's communities, is renamed in his honor.

“Mayor Daley has been a great leader and certainly the best ‘friend of the neighborhood’ that any city could have,” said Joel Bookman, co-executive director, LISC/Chicago. “It is our hope that just as the Neighborhood Development Awards have inspired others to excel, Mayor Daley's example will be an inspiration for those who wish to fill his shoes.”

The forum will begin at 3pm, the ceremony at 4:30pm and reception at 6pm offering award winners, attendees and participants the chance to toast the difference leadership has indeed made in our neighborhoods.

For more info and to RSVP, visit www.lisc-cnda.org.

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BISHOP BRAZIER'S GENTLE WAY INSPIRES OUR WORK

LISC/Chicago joins thousands of Chicagoans in mourning the death of Bishop Arthur M. Brazier, whose work was a driving force behind grassroots development for decades.

“He was an instinctive organizer, a man who never forgot his roots, even as he inspired presidents and mayors about the city and the neighborhood he loved so deeply,” said Andrew Mooney, who worked closely with Bishop Brazier.

Brazier served as a senior fellow for LISC/Chicago and was also chairman of the board of the executive committee of the New Communities Program in Woodlawn.

Bishop Brazier and the Rev. Dr. Leon Finney, his successor in leading The Woodlawn Organization (TWO), were key movers behind tearing down the ‘L’ tracks along 63rd Street and building the revitalizing mixed-income townhomes that followed. “He was never afraid to take on the big issues,” Mooney said, “but

he also knew when to be subtle and quietly influential.”

Bishop Brazier, 89, died Oct. 22 following a long struggle with prostate cancer.

“His spirit will live on through the parishioners, leaders and friends that he touched each day,” President Barack Obama said in a statement issued that same day.

Bishop Brazier became pastor of Woodlawn's Apostolic Church of God in 1960 and over 48 years grew its congregation to more than 20,000 while revitalizing the neighborhood around East 63rd Street.



Bishop Arthur M. Brazier, seen here with The Woodlawn Organization's Leon Finney, was a tireless advocate of Chicago's South Side neighborhoods.

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WORKING CAPITAL

The Newsletter of the Chicago Program of Local Initiatives Support Corporation

WINTER 2011



Mayor Richard M. Daley at the 16th Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards. This year's event will take place Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the UIC Forum. To RSVP, visit www.lisc-cnda.org

LEADERSHIP MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

17th Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards Set for February 8th at the UIC Forum

For the past 16 years, Chicago's neighborhood development community has waited in anticipation each January to find out who is to be honored at the annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards. This year's celebration of the extraordinary will yield the answer to another unknown – how do those seeking to be mayor understand and value the broad and deep network of organizations that comprise Chicago's community of neighborhood developers?

The event theme – “Leadership Makes the Difference” – aptly describes the qualities that the assembled community development entities display each day and the leadership that Mayor Richard M. Daley has shown in partnering with neighborhood leaders for more than two decades.

It also frames this year's pre-awards program, a forum of mayoral candidates discussing their views on community development, the relationship of city center to neighborhood and related policy issues.

The celebration, to be held at the UIC Forum, is chaired by Christopher Kennedy, president of Merchandise Mart Properties and chairman of the University Illinois Board of Trustees.

Calling Chicago home since 1986, Kennedy says that as a business and a civic leader he recognizes the importance of Chicago's neighborhoods.

“It is the combination of a vibrant center and great neighborhoods that make Chicago unique,” Kennedy

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SMART COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO KIDS

Tom Lord pushed a button on his remote control, and with a light hum, the robot lurched forward. The dozen or so students gathered around him watched intently as the machine began to spin, faster and faster.

Already intrigued as Lord had gone from table to table at his Illinois Institute of Technology workshop to explain how his team had built a variety of robots from scratch, the students were all eyes and ears as he drove the latest model, a waist-high set of wheels that looks a bit like a giant pool.

“This robot has as much torque as a car,” explained Lord, an IIT

See “Smart Communities” inside >>>

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ELEV8 SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS BOOST ATTENDANCE, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Last May, a 13-year-old girl walked into Orozco Academy's new health center in Pilsen, complaining of abdominal pain.

In a typical clinic, the real cause of her pain would likely have gone unnoticed, said her doctor, Elena Lopez. "In a regular clinic, it's, 'Here's a prescription. Goodbye.' "

But a group of new on-site health centers at Elev8 schools, part of a national middle school initiative, are designed to address behavioral and emotional issues that affect children's health. As part of her visit, the girl completed a form that included questions about drug and alcohol use, sexual activity and her feelings about home and school.

When a review of her responses revealed a family in crisis, Lopez immediately made a connection to the girl's ailment and referred her to the center's psychologist. After months

of intervention, the girl and her family are doing fine, Lopez reported. The health center at Orozco is one of five opened in Chicago last year through Elev8. The centers provide much-needed primary care, physicals and immunizations, counseling and psychiatric care in communities where those services are in short supply.

Orozco's health center has helped to boost students' attendance rate to 97.9 percent in 2009-10, said Principal Coralia Barraza – the highest she's seen in her 17 years at the school. "Students are really taking advantage of the services," she said.

Principals at all five schools – Orozco, Perspectives-Calumet Middle School, Marquette Elementary, Reavis Elementary and Ames Middle School – say the quality and convenience of care is already making a difference in the lives of their students, especially where full-time nurses were never before available. Ames, for instance,

enrolls 670 students but sees its nurse only once a week, according to Principal Tom Hoffman.

Now with health care available on-site five days a week, students with chronic health problems like asthma and diabetes can have their medication monitored and administered correctly.

On-site health care also has increased compliance with state-mandated immunizations and school physicals, principals reported. All five Elev8 schools posted a compliance rate between 91 percent and 95 percent in 2009-10. By contrast, some Chicago Public Schools had only 70 percent of their students up-to-date on immunizations last year, according to the district.

Keeping kids healthy, says Hoffman, can make all the difference in making them ready to learn and succeed.



There are now five Elev8 health centers in Chicago Public Schools, provide students with much-needed primary care and more. Principals at the schools say the centers are contributing to increased attendance, too. To learn more about Elev8, visit www.lisc-chicago.org, and click on "Our Programs."

"Smart Communities" continued from front

sophomore who is majoring in biomedical engineering and physics, describing how he is working to make the robot climb stairs. Eventually, he said, that technology could help someone in a wheelchair have increased mobility.

"That's wild," one student said out loud, as Lord stopped the robot, designed to do battle in competitions against teams from other universities. "Do it again," another implored.

The teens, all participants in the inaugural Digital Youth Summer Jobs program (DYSJ), were in the spacious workshop on the campus at the IIT campus on August 20 as one stop in a set of activities for the morning.

All told, nearly 60 teens were visiting the university as part of the final event of the eight-week program, sponsored by LISC/Chicago in partnership with the City of Chicago for the Smart Communities Program, and the Illinois Department of Commerce Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. DYSJ allowed youth between the ages of 14 and 17 to explore technology career options and gain meaningful work experience in technology-related internships.

The field trip to IIT was a great opportunity for the participants to hear what IIT offers and to see another side of how technology creates opportunities in the real world, said Dionne Baux, the program officer for Smart Communities at LISC.

"It's wonderful for the students to see how the skills they're working on translate to college," Baux said.

After eight weeks, though, that idea isn't news to the DYSJ teens, who came from across the five Smart Communities: Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, Pilsen and Humboldt Park.

In each community program, a local non-profit (Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corp. in Auburn Gresham, Greater Southwest Development Corp. in Chicago Lawn, Teamwork Englewood in Englewood, Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp. in Humboldt Park, and The Resurrection Project in Pilsen) organized part-time internships for participants to get hands-on experience in everything from web design to digital photography.

The Smart Communities program, which uses a federal grant

administered by LISC/Chicago, officially launched this fall in a series of events in each neighborhood. Thousands of residents, students and business people attended the events, learning about how technology is changing the way we live. Each Smart Community has a family resource center, where a range of computer classes take place, as well as a business resource center, where local entrepreneurs can improve their technological know-how.

Smart Communities grew out of the City of Chicago's Digital Excellence Initiative, an effort to bridge the digital divide that affects nearly 40 percent of the city. In July, the city received a \$7 million federal grant to expand the initiative.

"Smart Communities is about preparing our young people and our neighborhoods for not only the future, but the present," said Susana Vasquez, Director of the New Communities Program for LISC/Chicago. "When people and businesses are armed with this type of knowledge, they can take advantage of so much more. That leads to a better education, more jobs, a better economy and a better future."

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Students from the Digital Summer Youth Jobs Program participate in a hands-on event at the Illinois Institute of Technology in August. The program gave 60 students the opportunity to learn about how technology can impact their careers through internships and workshops.

GRANT TO EXPAND CENTERS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

LISC/Chicago is granting \$1.73 million to 10 community organizations to establish and expand Centers for Working Families, which provide employment training, financial counseling and debt management services to low-income residents throughout the city.

The grants are expected to help more than 10,000 families in Back of the Yards, Chicago Lawn, Englewood, Humboldt Park, Little Village, Logan Square, North Lawndale, Pilsen, Quad Communities, Uptown, Washington Park, and Woodlawn find jobs, build credit worthiness, reduce burdensome debt, build assets, and gain financial capability.

"Centers for Working Families are unique both for their approach and their impact," said Joel Bookman, co-executive director, LISC/Chicago. "Our Centers take a bundled approach to financial security – with employment training and placement, budgeting, debt management, financial coaching, as well as counseling to help clients navigate complicated tax and benefits programs – all part of a comprehensive program."

"Helping families develop a sound financial base is not just critical for

them. It has an important impact on the surrounding community," said Brenda Palms Barber, Executive Director of the North Lawndale Employment Network. "By expanding our Center for Working Families, we are raising standards of living in ways that benefit local business, help stabilize the neighborhood housing market, impact kids and schools, and more. When families do well, communities do well."

The new grants are going to Association House, Central States SER, Greater Southwest Development Corporation, Humboldt Park Social

Services, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Jane Addams Hull House, Jane Addams Resource Corporation, North Lawndale Employment Network, Safer Foundation, and The Cara Program.

They were selected through a national RFP process and are among 47 nonprofits in 10 metropolitan areas that will be implementing LISC's \$4.2 million Social Innovation Fund grant, a federal pool of funds administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service to help low-income residents secure their financial futures.



LISC/Chicago's Centers for Working Families are growing thanks to \$1.73 million in federal funds. Centers across the city will offer expanded services with the grant money.

GRANT & LOAN ACTIVITY

From August to October 2010, LISC/Chicago disbursed a total of \$6,426,133 in grants and loans across the city, including:

An \$85,000 grant to Instituto del Progreso Latino to operate two Centers for Working Families offices, and to support financial counseling, employment counseling and income support assistance.

Funding towards a pilot Credit Builders program at North Side

Community Federal Credit Union, with \$14,000 in support of a match for savings accounts established in the program.

Grant support of \$200,000 from the NFL/LISC Grassroots Program to the Chicago Board of Education to help install a new football field at Gately Stadium.

A project initiation loan of \$30,000 to the Southeast Chicago Chamber of Commerce to provide funds to

support the development of a Special Services Area in the 7th Ward.

A \$30,000 recoverable grant from LISC's Green Center to the Hispanic Housing Development Corporation to support green planning and to make energy improvements to its existing residential portfolio, nearly 800 units.