



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Cultural Zone Receives \$28 Million to Build Liberation Park Affordable Housing in East Oakland

Oakland, CA (January 16, 2025): The Black Cultural Zone Community Development Corporation (BCZ CDC) is pleased to have been awarded \$28 million dollars of Measure U funding for Liberation Park Residences, a groundbreaking project to create new affordable housing for East Oakland residents.



Liberation Park Residency

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland's Housing and Community Development Department (Oakland HCD) today announced the award of \$28 million to the Black Cultural Zone for the development of Liberation Park Residences.

Located at 7101 Foothill Blvd. in City Council District 6, Liberation Park Residences is a key component of the broader Black Cultural Zone initiative, which aims to revitalize

East Oakland through economic development, cultural preservation, and community empowerment.

“This significant investment in the Black Cultural Zone marks a major step forward in our efforts to address the urgent need for affordable housing in Oakland,” said Mayor Kevin Jenkins. “Liberation Park Residences will not only provide vital housing for vulnerable residents but also contribute to the revitalization of East Oakland and the flourishing of the Black Cultural Zone.”

The City of Oakland received 24 applications for its 2024-2025 New Construction of Multifamily Affordable Housing Notice of Funding Availability (New Construction NOFA). Five projects were ultimately selected for funding, with awards ranging from \$7 million to \$28 million. City funding sources for the \$80.5 million NOFA is largely made up of Measure U, the Oakland voter-approved 2022 housing and infrastructure bond measure.

“Investments into deeply affordable housing are the core of our work,” said Emily Weinstein, Oakland's Director of Housing and Community Development. “The awarded projects, including Liberation Park Residences, will bring us closer to serving Oakland’s homeless and low-income families and combating the city’s housing crisis.”

The City of Oakland is actively working to address the housing crisis through a multi-pronged approach, including the development of new affordable housing units, the preservation of existing affordable housing, and the prevention of homelessness.

About Black Cultural Zone Community Development Corporation (BCZ CDC):

The Black Cultural Zone Community Development Corporation (BCZ CDC) is a non-profit organization committed to revitalizing East Oakland. Its mission is to foster economic development, preserve rich cultural heritage, and empower the community. Through a comprehensive approach that includes initiatives like the Market Hall and Liberation Park Residences, the BCZ CDC cultivates a thriving economic ecosystem that celebrates African and African American culture while ensuring the well-being of its residents.

About Eden Housing:

Eden Housing creates and sustains high-quality affordable housing communities that advance equity and opportunity for all. Eden Housing has worked in partnership with cities and local community partners to develop or acquire more than 11,937 homes in communities throughout California, currently serving a diverse population of 22,000 low-income residents from all cultures and backgrounds. Since our humble beginnings, more than 100,000 people have come home to an Eden community.

About Community Art Stabilization Trust C.A.S.T. :

Founded in 2013, CAST has helped transform access to space for nonprofits in the Bay Area, at a time when artists were being priced out left and right in San Francisco and particularly vulnerable to an escalating commercial real estate market. Over the last decade, CAST has grown from the seed of a new idea into a proven model for ensuring artists and cultural workers can stay anchored where they create. Like our work, our story is rooted in community. And our growth and evolution has been made possible by the dedication, collaboration, and support of people across the San Francisco Bay Area.

About Rise East:

Rise East is a dynamic collective impact effort guided by a comprehensive 10-year plan. This initiative emerged from a community-led vision to develop a Black Cultural Zone in East Oakland. For over a decade, community leaders in East Oakland have laid the groundwork to bring this vision to life. The Rise East plan identifies core investable strategies to accelerate this transformative work over the next 10 years. Key to this place-based strategy is deep partnership and collaboration among community-based organizations, community members, public and private sector institutions, and philanthropic organizations. Rise East is a roadmap to make profound, lasting improvements in the 40x40 neighborhood of East Oakland.

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