

## Fountain Park & Lewis Place Housing & Human Service Committee

### Park Place Housing & Economic Development

#### *What is Park Place Housing & Economic Development?*

Park Place Housing & Economic Development (HED) is a nonprofit community development organization created to promote home ownership and community reinvestment in Fountain Park and Lewis Place.

#### *Why was Park Place HED created?*

Park Place HED was created to promote community development in our neighborhoods and to make sure that neighborhood residents are the ones making decisions. Having one organization dedicated to the two areas ensures that there is focus on the needs of our neighborhoods and accountability to all of its communities.

### By the numbers....

In Fountain Park & Lewis Place:

- 94%** residents are African American
- 27%** residents own their homes
- 37%** homes are vacant
- 37%** are living on Social Security
- 17%** homes have a pending code violation

Source: American Community Survey, 2017; City of St. Louis, 2019



### Housing & Human Service Committee

#### *What is the Park Place Housing & Human Service Committee?*

The Housing & Human Service (HHS) Committee is a body of neighborhood residents and stakeholders committed to promoting housing stability and home ownership in Fountain Park and Lewis Place. We meet to develop resources, events, and programs to support home ownership among our neighbors.

#### *Why was the HHS Committee formed?*

Fountain Park and Lewis Place face some of the lowest home ownership rates in the city, particularly among African American home owners. Our neighborhoods are also burdened by low property values

that make accessing traditional home repair products next to impossible. We are here to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to age in place.

### ***Who are our committeepersons?***

The purpose of neighborhood committees is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to guide community development initiatives. Committeepersons are neighborhood stakeholders and outside partners with specific skillsets used to advance the committee's agenda who are committed to attending meetings, engaging in the issues, and responding to local initiatives. Committee meetings are open to the public, but a limited number of voting committeeperson seats are reserved to ensure that committee actions and recommendations are guided by people with a vested interest in our neighborhood.

The Housing & Human Service Committee currently has nine (9) voting members who represent different interests in the neighborhood:

- **Jacqueline Dyer**, Committeeperson –Community resident
- **Richard McDuffie**, Committeeperson –Community resident
- **Yolonda Yancie**, Committeeperson –Community resident
- **Andra Lee**, Committeeperson –Community resident
- **Chauncey Nelson**, Committeeperson –Former researcher, WUSTL Race & Opportunity Lab; Community resident
- **Pamela McLucas**, Committeeperson –Principle, Inhabit Properties; Community resident
- **Jesse Mass**, Committeeperson –Role, Org
- **Lisa Potts**, Co-Chair –Program Manager, St. Louis Mental Health Board
- **Cheryl Walker**, Co-Chair –Former Community Reinvestment Officer, Stifel Bank
- Vacant seat
- Vacant seat

### ***What are we working on?***

We are currently working on three initiatives to promote home ownership and housing preservation for long term residents in the community:

1. **Housing Resource Fair:** Park Place HED has partnered with Money Smart Month to host two resource fairs in Fountain Park. On **April 16**, housing resource providers from across the city will meet to discuss home ownership and wealth building. On **April 25**, we will be hosting a credit repair workshop where neighbors can come, get a free credit check, and discuss options for improving financial wellbeing.
2. **Housing Resource Guide:** To promote easier access to information, we are developing a comprehensive guide to housing services and financial products available through area banks specific to the needs of the residents of Fountain Park and Lewis Place.
3. **Fountain Park & Lewis Place Home Repair Fund:** We are actively fundraising for a dedicated home repair program in Fountain Park and Lewis Place. The fund is intended to bring additional home repair partners into the community and to help ensure that longtime residents can age in place.

***What role do committee persons play?***

Committeepersons agree to invest their time and talents in the focus of the committee. The Housing & Human Service Committee oversees the development and execution of various initiatives in partnership with Park Place staff, so committeepersons have agreed to meet regularly, to learn about appraisal practices, home repair, to talk to neighbors about social service access, and to help define a shared set of priorities for housing and human service programming that fits the needs of our communities.

***What are my responsibilities?***

Community development work takes dedication and commitment to improving the lives of our neighbors. Anyone may attend meetings, but voting committeepersons must meet the following requirements to remain in good standing:

- Attend 70% of scheduled meetings
- Help host at least 1 neighborhood event
- Sign Conflict of Interest Policy

***If I have questions, who do I talk to?***

Questions can be addressed to the current committee Co-Chairs:

- Lisa Potts, 314-393-9437, [lisapotts1213@gmail.com](mailto:lisapotts1213@gmail.com)
- Cheryl Walker, 314-951-4097, [cwalker5107@gmail.com](mailto:cwalker5107@gmail.com)

***When is the next meeting?***

Meeting frequency will be determined by the committee collectively. It is recommended that we meet at least monthly. **The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at 1330 Aubert.**

***What are our next steps?***

- Recruit neighbors to attend our first two events: April 16<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>
- Invite more residents to meetings, identify potential Committee Co-Chairs
- Establish regular meeting day/time per group consensus
- Identify other community information events that we want to plan