



Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report

Our Mission Statement: With community residents leading the way, the mission of CHLDC is to build a strong, sustainable Cypress Hills/East New York, where youth and adults achieve educational and economic success, secure affordable housing, and develop leadership skills to transform their lives and community.

Our History: Activist residents and merchants formed Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) in May 1983 to revitalize their community. CHLDC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organization, serving more than 8,000 residents each year through a continuum of services and neighborhood development projects.

Career and Education Programs

CHLDC's Career and Education Programs Division provides High School Equivalency instruction, ESOL classes and employment services. We help participants to identify and achieve their educational and employment goals.

GED Instruction

During the past fiscal year, we helped 40 young people in Cypress Hills earn their GEDs. We provided the participants with GED instruction and pre tests. Participants also receive one-on-one tutoring and counseling.

Employment Services

During this past year, we provided employment readiness and job placement services to _____ people. Of those, 90 have successfully gained employment, and 85% of those who gained employment remained employed for at least three months. More than half of participants who gained employment (52.7%) remained employed for at least a year, with no more than a four week gap in between jobs. 23 participants have gained an industry recognized credential, helping them develop and sharpen profitable skills which can help them gain employment.

Adult Education/ESOL Classes

In the past year we enrolled over 200 community members. More than half of our students (58%) made educational gains, meaning that they advanced a course level during the year, compared to the NY state goal of 51%.



Career and Education Graduates

Community Development



Mural Unveiling at the People's Garden

The Community Development Division develops and maintains affordable housing and community facilities. This Division also oversees our Cypress Hills Verde initiative, which makes the community a greener, healthier, more sustainable place to live for all of its residents. We envision a livable community with permanently affordable housing, energy efficient homes, businesses, and churches, safe and efficient transportation, access to nutritious, affordable food, and pathways to sustainable, living wage jobs.

The People's Food Project

We provided support to the People's Food Project, a group of local residents that advocates for increased access to healthy food in our community. They have learned about various methods of providing healthy food to communities, have advised CHLDC on projects such as community gardens, markets, and farm shares, and have become active in the People's Garden.

Youth Market

CHLDC partnered with the local YMCA, Grow NYC and Cypress Hills - Fulton Street Senior Center in running a second year of the Cypress Hills Youth Market. The market ran from July-November at the senior center. Five youth from our community worked at the market and honed their skills and knowledge related to the market business, as well as environmental justice. The produce came from a farm located in upstate New York. During 2012 the Cypress Hills Youth Market had total sales of \$12,158.34 and sold 6,273 pounds of produce; the market generated a profit of \$3,814.00

The People's Garden

In June of 2012, CHLDC developed an HPD-owned vacant lot into a successful urban agriculture site called "The People's Garden" with 32 raised beds to grow food and 12 flower beds to increase biodiversity; installed a rainwater harvesting systems; and a built community chicken coop with 20 chickens. The garden space is available for all community members to enjoy. The raised beds are

reserved for students and community members who have committed to productively using the beds to grow food and other plants.

In June of 2013, CHLDC unveiled an educational mural in partnership with Arts East New York, The People's Food Project and the children from CHLDC's afterschool program at IS 302. An artist from AENY worked with 15 students from CHLDC's afterschool program to develop the design of the mural which creates awareness about sustainability and healthy living.

Tree Giveaway

In collaboration with MillionTrees NYC, we held a tree giveaway in the neighborhood, and gave away 150 trees. We also invited other community and health organizations to join in the tree giveaway event. The NYC Parks Department provided training on taking care of street trees; East New York Farms promoted their organically grown food and farmers' market and held a cooking demonstration; the NYC Department of Health distributed outreach material about healthy living; and Prominis Medical Services provided free blood sugar testing.

Brownfields Opportunity Area

Through the New York State Department's Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) grant, CHLDC engaged in an extensive research and participatory planning process to assess the brownfields, or empty lots, in Cypress Hills and address the issues posed by contaminated and vacant land, and underutilized manufacturing buildings. We have studied over 30 suspected and known brownfields in Cypress Hills/East New York and have begun planning to transform these brownfields into affordable housing and green spaces for the community. Through the grant, we were also able to hire Karp Resources to develop a Food Business Opportunity Study engaging community residents and business owners in the design of a food-centric strategic. The study explored food concept to address community members' top priorities: improved food access, living wage jobs, community health, cultural relevance, quality of life and building upon existing successes.

Affordable Housing Developments

CHLDC is currently working on three affordable housing development sites. These include our Senior Housing development, Pitkin-Berriman, and Cypress Village. Collectively, these will eventually create xxx units of affordable housing for our community. CHLDC continues to push ahead in its predevelopment efforts of our Senior Housing development project, to provide 53 units of affordable senior housing to tenants at 50% of Area Median Income (AMI) and below. The building is designed to achieve Enterprise Green Communities, NYSERDA MPP and LEED for Homes Silver certifications, and includes elevated garden beds specifically designed for seniors. The Senior Housing development will be completed in 2015. CHLDC will partner with the Cypress Hills - Fulton Street Senior Center to provide supportive services to tenants.

We began construction at Cypress Village in July of 2012. Since then, we have made steady progress on the scattered site project. We are nearing completion on two of three sites--representing 21 of the 29 units--which will be completed and occupied by November of this year. The final site is slated for completion in early 2014. We have also begun marketing the available units (29 total), and will be conducting the lottery in early September.

At Pitkin-Berriman, we successfully secured a zoning map change to allow us to build more affordable units, to build larger units for families, to provide much needed commercial space along a transit corridor, and to provide much more deeply affordable housing. We also secured two sources of pre-development funding to complete design development that integrated our architects, a green consultant, a modular contractor and our engineers.



Rendering of Senior Housing Development Project

Community Organizing



Students in our Future of Tomorrow program protest the school to prison pipeline, calling for better education.

CHLDC's Community Organizing Division works to develop the leadership and organizing skills of Cypress Hills residents. Through organizing trainings, workshops, community meetings and days of action, CHLDC supports Cypress Hills residents to fight for a better community. We support youth organizing through Future of Tomorrow (F.O.T.) and parent organizing through Cypress Hills Advocates For Education (CHAFE). We also work with residents to advocate for neighborhood improvements and support tenants seeking to organize for building improvements.

Tenant Organizing

We assisted tenants in one neighborhood building to form a tenant association, advocate successfully for themselves in housing court, and dismiss the holdover proceeding brought against them by a negligent landlord. The building had transferred through several landlords, which made it difficult for the tenants to hold the landlords accountable for needed repairs. The landlord attempted to vacate all units, and the residents came to CHLDC for assistance. We were able to help prevent the eviction of all tenants.

Youth Organizing

In November, leading up to the presidential elections F.O.T. led a series of workshops with elementary and middle school students about the National Bill of Rights, and staffed voting stations for young people to vote. 128 young people learned about a youth-made list of rights, such as the right to "free day care for children, right to free college education, and the right to safe and secure public schools." This project deepened F.O.T.'s connection to the national Presidential election, their understanding of "rights" and their skills in leading workshops for younger people.

F.O.T. members met with four City Council members and secured their endorsement of their *Get Us to College!* platform. The proposal, created by Cypress Hills high school students along with their peers from Bushwick and the northwest Bronx, calls on the Department of Education to create more Student Success Centers, train more teachers and hire more guidance counselors to support students to get to college, and support students beyond college acceptance to get to enrollment.

Parent Organizing

CHAFE finalized their *Safer Schools, Safer Community* platform, calling for safer schools in Cypress Hills. The platform includes: more social/emotional supports for students, such as social workers, guidance counselors, and middle school student success centers; respectful and peaceful schools where students and adults learn conflict mediation and resolution, and nonviolent communication; healthy school lunch; more enrichment classes; and parent involvement.

College Success Programs



College Readiness Academy Students Display Artwork at Trip to FIT

Through our College Success Programs, we help young people in our community prepare for, apply to, gain acceptance to and succeed in college. We serve community members at our storefront office and our Student Success Center on the Franklin K. Lane high school campus.

College Access

In the past year we provided services to over 2,100 students through college readiness workshops, one-on-one counseling, college trips and support navigating financial aid and college application processes. We helped 75 students apply to and become accepted into college. Of the 252 students already enrolled in college, 88% (222) persisted through to the next semester.

During this past fiscal year, we began a new college access program for 9th grade students who are at risk of not graduating, called the College Readiness Academy. During the first semester we had seventeen 9th graders participate and take college classes at the SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology. The next cycle will have 30 students with 21 students taking summer classes at FIT in classes ranging from fashion design, interior design, 3D modeling, to drawing and illustration.

The Student Success Center (SSC) team including Youth Leaders provided college workshops for over 1,200 students on the Lane campus. Workshop topics ranged from Busting College Myths to

Financial Aid to Mock Admissions. Through our efforts, 93% of graduating seniors on the Lane campus applied and were accepted to college. We have students heading off to a range of schools including Skidmore, SUNY Albany, Hunter College, and SUNY Oswego to name a few. ‘

To best prepare our high school seniors, we hosted several college trips. Over 160 students on the Lane campus attended college trips with us. We visited schools such as FIT, Hunter, Ithaca College, SUNY Cobleskill, and Alfred University to name a few. We had 158 9th and 10th graders participate in semester long groups that met weekly to address the social and emotional barriers to college. Students talked about identity development, academic engagement, and college readiness.

College Persistence

Our College Persistence program provides ongoing support to college students who have graduated from our college access programs, to help them persist in college and graduate. Of our 252 participants who were enrolled in college in the fall 2012 semester, 222 students persisted to the spring 2013 semester. This represents 88%, exceeding our goal of 70%.

Housing Counseling

CHLDC's Housing Counseling division helps families purchase their first house and strengthens the current homeowners in Cypress Hills through case management, foreclosure prevention, homeowner workshops and support for families looking to purchase their first house.

Foreclosure Prevention

Our foreclosure prevention staff work with homeowners and their banks to avoid losing their homes. During this past fiscal year, CHLDC counseled 123 new clients seeking foreclosure prevention support. Clients received one-on-one counseling and case management. Our staff worked with the banks to obtain loan modifications, trial payment plans, forbearance agreements and refinancing, in order to help families remain in their home. Of our 123 participants, 32 clients obtained permanent loan modifications, 12 clients obtained trial payment plans, two obtained forbearance agreements and two received refinancing. In total, 48 had positive outcomes.

Homeownership Counseling

During this past fiscal year, CHLDC counseled 201 new homeowner clients who were seeking support securing their first house. Clients were provided one-on-one counseling and financial and loan information. Of the clients we supported, ___ were able to secure a loan to purchase their first home.

Youth and Family Services



*PS 89 Choir group students practicing for the end of year production, *The Lion King*.*

CHLDC's Youth and Family Services division provides Cypress Hills youth and families with enriching programming that supports the entire family. We provide after school programs, summer camps, and family counseling.

Afterschool

During this past fiscal year, we continued to provide high quality afterschool and summer camp programs for children in grades K-8, at five local public schools. We served over 900 participants in afterschool, and 700 in summer camp. We averaged an attendance rate in the 2012/2013 school year of 90% in our programs, exceeding the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's standard for programs of 80%. This year, we deepened our collaborations with school faculty and staff, as well as the academic content of our programs. We strengthened our academic programming by increased the role of certified teachers and professional school staff in our programs. At PS 89, IS 171 and PS 65, school professionals now join our staff to work with after-school groups for enrichment activities such as service learning and a conflict resolution curriculum.

CHLDC was chosen by The Afterschool Corporation as one of 12 sites nationally to run an Extended Learning Time "whole school" program at PS 89. Through this model, we serve virtually all of the students in the school, and collaborate closely with faculty to provide an expanded school day, combining the school's academic curriculum with our approach to youth development, recreation, and arts. Our staff teamed with school staff to create a seamless and intensely collaborative

expanded school day for program participants. During the 2012-2013 PS 89 'whole school' team collaborated to create an integrated end of year Lion King production. Both afterschool staff and teachers worked together all spring to support students create this incredible production from start to finish. Students learned about set design and costume design, created the dramatic skits, wrote the scripts, and organized the narration of the play.

We were also proud of our end-of-year projects and events our other afterschool programs in spring 2013. They included an album project at Public School 65, where students worked with a teaching artist to create their own CD. Students remade popular songs in their own voices and even illustrated the album cover. IS 171 also showcased a production of the musical 'The Wiz' through our partnership with Arts to Grow. Middle school students participating in our Chefs of the Future program at the Cypress Hills East New York Beacon created 'The People's Restaurant'. Students were engaged all year in learning all aspects of running a restaurant business and culminated their experience with the opening of a restaurant where they served freshly cooked food to their families and community residents. At PS 7, the young people participated in the Food Justice Program all year which culminated with a planting day. Students planted vegetables and flowers along with their families and learned about healthy eating and nutrition.

Beacon Community Center

Our Beacon Community Center provided arts, sports, and recreation activities for youth and adults. We served 1,417 people over the year, exceeding our enrollment and participation targets. We introduced boxing as a new fitness activity for youth and adults. We grew our girls' sports program, from 10 to 20 participants. Our team participated in the Nike Girls Basketball League, and went well into the playoffs.

Beacon Family Place

The Beacon Family Place, our family counseling program, provided services to 75 families, and ran two cycles of The Parenting Journey, one each in Spanish and English. The Parenting Journey is a nationally-recognized curriculum to help parents whose own childhoods did not provide them with a solid foundation for nurturing themselves or others to become strong, nurturing parents.