



The Olympia, circa 1992.

Adopt-a-Building Kicks Off

March marks the beginning of the Trust's "Adopt-a-Building" donor campaign. Throughout 2014 and beyond, we will be working to give some much-needed TLC to older buildings in our portfolio. We are calling on our friends and supporters to make this campaign a success!

Many of the Trust's Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings are decades old and could use some revamping. In 2013, we partnered with the architecture firm Perkins+Will to reinvigorate community space in two of our older buildings. Of these two design proposals, we have selected the Olympia as the first building for our community of supporters to "adopt."

For \$20 a month, supporters can adopt the Olympia as a tax deductible gift to the Trust. Monthly gifts will provide a reliable source of income to the Olympia project, and supporters will receive:

- Special news and videos from the Olympia marking the 'progress' of the adopted building;
- Invitations to special events at the Olympia and the Trust, including the 25th Anniversary Gala, Block Party and

Community Supporters;

• **Inclusion in the Trust's passionate and connected group of supporters - individuals who volunteer time and financial support towards the transformation of Skid Row.**

The planned renovations will transform a drab courtyard and common area into a beautiful community kitchen that opens to a green courtyard. The idea came directly from residents themselves, who participated in meetings led by the Trust's Community Architect, Theresa Hwang.

"The residents really loved being a part of the process of improving their living spaces," said Hwang. "It really made them feel included in the conversation, and, as a result, their suggestions and feedback played a huge part in the proposed improvements."

The improvements will also include new mailboxes, an opening of the community kitchen directly into the courtyard, an update of the

courtyard with green walls and sitting space, and the creation of a corner nook on each floor. The corner nooks will include a kitchenette and gathering space, and will add life to the common areas throughout the building.

This new project is a perfect example of the Trust's commitment to design equity, the principle that everyone deserves high quality, beautiful design, even, and perhaps, especially, people who have experienced homelessness. The Trust's design is informed by resident voices so that their living space reflects their needs, fostering a greater feeling of ownership and pride.

To make these improvements a reality, we need supporters to Adopt the Olympia by giving financial support and volunteer time. Volunteers will be critical for the Olympia's future, as we need community members to help paint, plant, build and support resident activities.

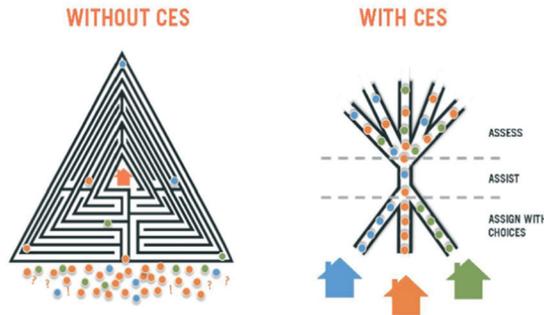
To Adopt the Olympia TODAY, visit https://skidrow.nationbuilder.com/adopt_olympia, or contact Jeanette Levin, Fund Development Director at (213) 683-0522 x189.



A rendering of the proposed courtyard at the Olympia. Image courtesy of Perkins+Will.

"Match.com" for Supportive Housing: Coordinated Entry

The concept of the Coordinated Entry System (CES), which was launched by the Home for Good initiative of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, is to create a comprehensive system to quickly and effectively match homeless individuals throughout Los Angeles to housing and services. The Trust has seen a great deal of success in the first implementation round of the CES, developed through the collaborative efforts of policy makers, funders and members of the community of providers of Permanent Supportive Housing in and around Los Angeles.



The CES is "where different agencies from the same community can finally come together and house the most vulnerable," explained Raymond Fuentes, Housing and Leasing Placement Manager at the Trust, who was involved in the System's first pilot project.

Under the CES, there are certain designated entry points for people looking for housing. For the Trust and the Skid Row community, LAMP Community, Volunteers of America and Downtown Women's Center serve as the points of entry.

Once people pass through one of the entry points, their needs are assessed using a prioritization equation based on several factors, including mental illness, medical utilization (visits to the hospital and

ER), time homeless and medical vulnerability. This score determines a person's place on the list for obtaining Permanent Supportive Housing. The list is shared among all of the partner organizations, which saves the hassle of each organization having a separate list and possibly doing duplicate work.

"Because of the different qualifications we have, there was a need for different lists (special needs, chronically homeless, etc.)," said Fuentes, of the previous housing allocation system. "People had to check in once a month. Whenever we had to open up a waiting list for a new building, we had a line around the block. A lot of the times, people at the front were not the most vulnerable. The CES is helping to change that."

With CES, every chronic and vulnerable homeless person has an assigned navigator, who focuses on the needs of the client and helps them fill out the required paperwork. They are then matched with available housing in the database, culled from housing and service providers, according to their specific needs. This saves housing organizations like the Trust from having to recruit residents, and homeless individuals from having to check on the progress of their housing requests.

There is also a greater focus on outreach in the community and teams regularly engage homeless individuals in desperate need, but not actively seeking services.

"Some of these people are people that would otherwise never be housed, because before it was first come, first served," pointed out Fuentes. "People had just given up on trying to get a home."

According to Fuentes, the average time from point of entry to move-in has been around 10 to 20 days. As it is being increasingly used in the rest of Los Angeles County, partner organizations continue to work out the kinks and improve on the efficiency of CES.

"It's been a good experience and it's a lot better than what we had before," added Fuentes. He has especially appreciated the collaborative effort of partners working together to identify and find homes for the most vulnerable.

2013 Recap

New Residents

The new Star Apartments opened in November 2013, with 100 units and over 15,000 square feet of outdoor community space. Trust staff and partners mounted a coordinated outreach to shelters and hospitals to identify the 10 percent of the homeless population in Los Angeles that accounts for over half of the homeless public health dollars spent annually.

"This was quite a change from the regular process of identifying residents, as usually people come to us," said LaCheryl Porter, Housing Operations Director at the Trust.

The Trust's case managers took their work to the field and even conducted workshops at hospitals to help potential residents fill out lease applications.

Please stay tuned for news on the Star's Grand Opening slated for June 2014!

New Homes

For the first time in its history, the Trust acquired two new sites outside of downtown LA. The Six, which you may have read about in a previous issue of *The Trust News*, is located in Westlake/MacArthur Park and will house homeless veterans and individuals with special needs. The other site, Crest Apartments, is located in Van Nuys in the San Fernando Valley, and will also provide housing for homeless veterans.



A rendering of the new Crest Apartments. Image courtesy of Michael Maltzan Architecture.

These two projects are an example of the Trust's commitment to forward thinking and movement. While we continue to work on improving the lives of homeless people around downtown LA, we see our responsibility to the greater community of Los Angeles as well, and are brainstorming and taking steps to acquire new developments where they are needed most.

From Broken Things into Treasure

Big things are happening for Piece by Piece, the arts non-profit affiliated with the Trust, which provides high quality mosaic arts training, using found objects like broken glass, to underserved men and women. On a recent NBC News program, Piece by Piece was highlighted for its impact in engaging low-income and formerly homeless men and women as artists. Jose, now a Piece by Piece artist, shared his story of homelessness and how the income from his art work helped pull him off the street.

Piece by Piece recently finished a large commission at Irvine Valley College: a five panel mural of the evolution of Earth, using recycled materials including repurposed ceramics, scrap metal and stained glass. This commission was possible through training programs like the 'Artist in Residence' program, which recently won accolades from Jewish Vocational Services (JVS).

Nicole LaBeaud, Managing Director, is enthusiastic to get more participants at Piece by Piece workshops on Skid Row.

"Piece by Piece is a microenterprise, and so it creates jobs," she said.

"This is a way for residents of permanent supporting housing to earn a living."

LaBeaud points out that creating art through Piece by Piece offers residents a sense of community, as well as ownership of a piece they create themselves; and that can be very healing and motivating. LaBeaud explains that, often times, first timers are guarded, but as they continue to attend and create their own pieces, they release their anxiety and are given a chance to grow.

Piece by Piece workshops are held three times per week around the Skid Row area and anyone is welcome to attend.

LaBeaud invites the community to stop in for a workshop. In kind or food donations are also invited, as participants are

offered a meal at the workshops.

To learn more about Piece by Piece, please visit the website at www.piecebypiece.org, or contact Nicole LaBeaud, Managing Director at (213) 344-5685.



Piece by Piece artists in front of the mural at Irvine Valley College.

Get Involved with the Trust!

Donate

Your generous contributions directly impact our residents. Those who move into a Skid Row Housing Trust building are no longer homeless. Your support makes it so.

We have improved our online donation process, making it easier than ever to donate and get your tax deduction letter immediately. To donate today, simply go to our website at www.skidrow.org and click on the "donate" link at the top of the page.

For more information about making a donation, please contact our Fund Development Director, Jeanette Levin at jeanette.levin@skidrow.org or (213) 683-0522 x189.

Volunteer

Would you like to volunteer with the Trust? We are excited to

announce an expanded volunteer program in the works! Whether you can commit to volunteering one time or all of the time, we want to find a place for you!

To sign-up, simply go to <http://skidrow.nationbuilder.com/volunteer>.



Volunteers and residents gather to assemble Welcome Home Kits.

Welcome Home Kits

A Welcome Home Kit greets every new resident when they move into their new homes in our buildings. This kit provides some basic household items that support our residents as they transition into their new surroundings. Are you a part of a group looking for a way to support our residents? This is a great way to work together, have fun and provide a gift that makes an immediate and direct impact on our residents.

If you are interested in learning more about the Trust's Volunteer Programs, like the Welcome Home Kits, please contact our Community Relations Manager, Daniel Rizik-Baer at daniel@skidrow.org or (213) 683-0522 x137.

In This Issue



- Adopt-a-Building
- Trust Begins Coordinated Entry
- 2013 Recap
- From Broken Things into Treasure
- Get Involved

Skid Row Housing Trust's philosophy is simple:

Homes + Support = Success

Skid Row Housing Trust solves homelessness by providing permanent supportive housing. The Trust provides **HOMES** for people who have experienced homelessness, prolonged extreme poverty, poor health, disabilities, mental illness and/or addiction. The Trust provides critical **SUPPORT** services for our residents to lead safe, stable lives in wellness. The Trust ensures **SUCCESS** by reducing homelessness through opportunities for our residents and better neighborhoods for our communities.

Skid Row Housing Trust is a 501c(3) organization to which contributions are tax-deductible.

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