

Welcome

We hope that this season's e-Newsletter arrives to you with sunshine! At LISC we are committed to promoting healthy environments year-round in our revitalization of local neighborhoods, creating a re-birth of new possibilities that incorporate "green" sustainable practices for generations to come. This month we are also commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the 1906 great earthquake in San Francisco, inspiring us individually and collectively to question our preparedness in the event of a natural disaster. Are we ready?

Casa Adobe Goes Green

The senior residents of **EAH Housing's** Casa Adobe community have a new and environmentally friendly look to their home. Bay Area LISC teamed up with **Home Depot** for energy-efficient lighting and **Glidden Paint** for low-VOC paint (volatile organic compounds) that releases fewer chemicals into the air. The event was part of Home Depot Foundation's ongoing support of **Bay Area LISC's Green Connection** program, which brings sustainable practices into the fields of affordable housing and community development.

One Casa Adobe resident, Virginia, was struck with disbelief when she first walked in. "I am very sensitive to smell," she said. "When I first came out of the elevator, I thought that maybe they hadn't painted, because I couldn't smell anything. But then I realized that they had painted and it looks so wonderful!"



Photo: Casa Adobe resident and Home Depot volunteers

Development Spotlight: Barson Street, Santa Cruz

Construction began in February on the former Hidden Court Motel in Santa Cruz, to transform it into a much-needed **supportive housing** complex. As the first development of its kind in Santa Cruz County, the new 11-unit Barson Street residence will provide both an affordable place to live and comprehensive support services for some of the county's neediest residents. Construction will include solar panels, bamboo flooring, and other **"green" features**.



Photo: Construction on Hidden Court Motel

The Barson Street project grew from a collaboration between the City and County of Santa Cruz, and was brought to life by **Bay Area LISC**, **South County Housing Corporation**, and the **Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)**. Bay Area LISC and CSH jointly financed a \$1.1 million acquisition loan for the project, and are teaming up again for a new supportive housing project in San Leandro.



Photo: Barson Street Housing Project

Are We Ready for the Next Catastrophe?

A host of experts in housing and disaster preparedness recently met at a conference co-sponsored by Bay Area LISC. According to Mary Comerio of U.C. Berkeley, the answer to the question about readiness is a simple *NO*. Yet the **Seventh Annual Conference on Housing and Urban Policy**: "Risking House and Home: Managing Catastrophe in the American Metropolis" addressed many important issues.

Taking place one hundred years after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and mere months after Hurricane Katrina, the speakers and panelists raised tough questions about the tremendous inequalities that emerged in New Orleans in the wake of Katrina. "People say the city will recover, and the question is, whose city?" asked Professor Larry Vale of MIT, the afternoon keynote speaker. The presenters stressed the need for California to look ahead and develop a comprehensive plan for housing the displaced -- particularly those in need of affordable housing -- in the event of our own catastrophe.



Photo: Devastation from 1906 earthquake (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Funders Spotlight: Union Bank of California

For over a decade, Union Bank of California has shown a commitment to communities in California by investing more than \$14 billion statewide. Bay Area LISC has been the recipient of nearly \$250,000, and the bank foundation has invested a total of \$1.5 million to LISC offices from San Diego to Seattle.



Carl Ballton, President of the Union Bank of California Foundation and a member of our local LISC board, stresses the importance of community development in California. "Housing is obviously a critical issue in our state, so anything we can do to address its supply and affordability is important," he says. "The Foundation's work with LISC, he adds, is an important part of Union Bank of

California's efforts to help create and sustain healthy local communities. It's been a great partnership for us," says Ballton. "In the Bay Area, for example, we know that LISC's excellent training, lending, and technical assistance boost capacity and catalyze change in the communities we care about. We feel that supporting LISC leverages our other investments and broadens our reach."

Get Involved

Are you curious about Bay Area LISC or would you like to become more involved? For more information about us or our volunteer and giving opportunities, please contact Margaret Gee at 415-397-7322 ext. 25 or e-mail at mgee@lisc.org. Your support will help us build healthy vibrant communities throughout the Bay Area.

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