

A Project Update of The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority

PORT PROGRESS

Partnership

PORT AUTHORITY AND AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER HOLD INAUGURAL QUARTERLY FORUM



The first Quarterly Forum took place November 14 at the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's first floor Learning Center. African American Chamber President Eric Kearney (right) made initial comments welcoming members.

On November 14, about 65 members of the regional African-American Chamber joined Port Authority staff and leadership for the first Quarterly Forum. Developed as a lead-sharing membership benefit, the Quarterly Forum was designed to reveal opportunities for partnership to drive equity and innovation throughout all levels of development – from supplier, to contractor, to owner / investor.

“This is a very important and historic event because it is two economic development organizations in our community sharing information for the benefit of our members and for the benefit of the community,” according to Eric Kearney, president and CEO of the African American Chamber since April 2016.

Darin Hall, Port Authority Executive Vice President, said the goal of the Quarterly Forum is to be “informative and collaborative.”

“This is an opportunity for African American Chamber members to be on the inside of what is happening in economic development in the county and the city,” Hall said. “So often, you hear that is not the case. We want to be more intentional, providing a space for us all to get to know each other better and do some business.”

“Ultimately we hope this leads to business opportunities,” according to Charlie Luken, Port Authority Board Chair. “As a quasi-governmental public entity, we have an obligation to do this – not only to do the right thing, but with the right people. This will help us move forward on economic development in some of our neighborhoods that have seen struggles over the past couple of decades.”

Industrial Revitalization

PORT AUTHORITY’S URBAN INDUSTRIAL JOB SITE PROGRAM WINS STATE AWARD



The Port Authority is honored to be among the winners of Ohio Economic Development Association’s (OEDA) 2016 annual Excellence Awards. The Port Authority was honored October 20 with an Award of Excellence for its work to revitalize industrial sites in Hamilton County to attract advanced manufacturing. OEDA presented its annual Excellence Awards at its 2016 Annual Summit, held in Columbus.

Port Authority President & CEO Laura Brunner and Vice President of Industrial Development & Logistics Melissa Johnson accepted the award. The Port Authority’s Urban Industrial Job Site Program is an innovative approach to large scale redevelopment of urban industrial sites. The Port Authority has made significant progress on its urban industrial job site program. In 2016 it acquired 75 industrial acres, including a 56-acre site in Amberley Village that was the former headquarters of Gibson Greeting Cards, a manufacturing facility that once employed nearly 1,000. The Port Authority will demolish, remediate and clear the site for future development by a company or end user.

Neighborhood Revitalization

LOWER PRICE HILL: HAMILTON COUNTY LANDBANK CONTRIBUTES TO LPH AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cincinnati-based Community Learning Center Institute (CLCI) recently launched a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to rehab seven single-family homes around Oyler School in an effort to provide homeownership opportunities to families in Lower Price Hill.

With a mission to optimize conditions for learning for Oylar students, CLCI kicked off the partnership October 15 with a press conference in front of 728 Burns, one of the vacant homes to be renovated and sold. The property was acquired by Hamilton County Land Reutilization Corporation (Landbank) in 2014 from the forfeited land list, and will be sold to Habitat for \$1,500 to be part of the seven-home rehab initiative, designed to decrease housing instability that some Oylar families face. The houses, located on Burns and Staebler streets, are located right next to Oylar.

“We are thrilled to be able to provide a house to Habitat for Humanity for this important neighborhood-stabilizing project,” according to Megan Meyer, Real Estate Counsel for the Port Authority. “The property, now blighted, will be returned to productive use as a home for a family.”



An October 2016 press conference at 728 Burns to announce the new partnership included Cincinnati City Council members P.G. Sittenfeld and Wendall Young.

Port Authority: People

Thomas Leibham, Taylor Gruenwald join Port Authority



Thomas Leibham has joined the Port Authority as Industrial Development Manager. Tom draws on 20+ years of experience in construction project management, coordination, administration, and

consulting engineering for a wide variety of construction and capital improvement projects. At the Port Authority, Tom is responsible for managing about \$10 million of industrial development projects at any one time, as part of the Port Authority’s strategic initiative to assemble and repurpose land in industrial corridors throughout Hamilton County, creating attractive development sites for advanced manufacturing companies. Tom reports to Melissa Johnson, Vice President of Industrial Development and Logistics, who leads this revitalization initiative. Tom most recently worked for the State of Ohio as Project Manager at the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission in Columbus. “This is a newly created position that benefits greatly from his experience with large-scale demolition, environmental remediation, and government compliance,” according to Laura Brunner, Port Authority President & CEO.

Taylor Gruenwald is the Port Authority’s new Visual Communication Associate. A member of the Communications team, Taylor coordinates and executes graphic design and visual information for the Port Authority’s website and social media, email communication, and events. She works on projects that support the Port Authority’s proactive engagement through presentations, workshops, and meetings that encourage broad community participation. Among her initial responsibilities is assisting in the redesign of the Port Authority’s website. Taylor’s work will increase data visualization and “wayfinding” elements to enhance site navigation and adaptation to mobile platforms. Taylor is a 2016 graduate of The Ohio State University’s Knowlton School of Architecture, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in City and Regional Planning.

In the News

Cincinnati Enquirer: [Popular Program to Rehab Walnut Hills Homes](#)

For more news about the Port Authority, check our Newsfeed at cincinnatiport.org