



# THE NEAR NORTH SIDE



## CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS UPDATE | SEPTEMBER 2020

### HOUSING UPDATE

#### PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

- Site preparation activities are underway in the Phase 1 area (0.1% complete), and construction is scheduled to be complete at the end of 2021, resulting in 131 one-, two-, and three-bedroom units in 21 townhome and garden-style buildings.

#### PHASE 1 SECTION 3 & MWBE PARTICIPATION

- Altman Charter’s August 2020 Manpower Report details that 35 workers have been on site, of which: 9 (26%) are Minority, 2 (6%) are women, and 7 (20%) are Section 3 self-certified.
- As of August 2020, the combined Housing, Site Prep, and Public Improvements contracts include 17.43% African American-Owned Businesses, 0.82% Asian American-Owned Businesses, 1.94% Native American-Owned Businesses, 9.02% Women-Owned Businesses, and 4.73% Section 3 Businesses.
- MBS and its compliance consultant, along with USI and Altman Charter continue to collaborate to maximize the number of Section 3 Individuals in jobs on the site as subcontractors begin hiring.
- The attached Altman Charter flyer, which details how to apply for job opportunities during construction, is being distributed in the neighborhood. Please call Percy at 314-925-8522 to make an appointment. Drop-ins are not currently allowed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

#### PHASES 2A & 2B

- Phases 2A and 2B are expected to start construction in Spring 2021.

#### MANAGEMENT UPDATES

- Although the CARES Act eviction freeze ended, MBM will continue its policy of no evictions or late fees for nonpayment or late rent until further notice, which aligns with the Mayor’s recent extension to the eviction moratorium.



#### KEY DATES & INFO

- Call Percy at 314-925-8522 for a job application appointment (details in attached Altman Charter flyer)
- USI issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide financial assistance to organizations committed to the success of K-12 youth— Applications are due Sept. 18th: <http://bit.ly/Education2020RFP>
- A Distribution Day Drive will be held at Preservation Square on September 25th from 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm
- Join the Critical Community Improvements (CCI) Advisory Group *virtually* on September 15th @ 5:30-6:30pm
  - Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95713992434>
  - Dial-In: (312) 626-6799
  - Meeting ID: 957 1399 2434
- Near North Side Fresh Food Box Distributions are held:
  - Every Wednesday at Transfiguration Church (1807 Biddle at 11:00am)
  - Every Friday at Flance Early Learning Center (1908 O’Fallon) at 11:30am



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### PEOPLE UPDATE

#### HOUSING STABILITY

- Case management services were provided to 525 residents in 218 households (HHs), 74% of which are original target HH.
- 85% of HHs have been assessed and have plans to move from “stable to thriving”.
- 32 families reported falling behind on rental payments and 36 families reported falling behind in rental assistance (out of 159 families). USI is working with property managers and utility companies to coordinate payments and get funding assistance and 36 HHs are currently receiving assistance.

#### EDUCATION

- 89% of families enrolled in USI’s Family Support Program responded to the Annual Youth Questionnaire.
- In partnership with YMCA, 22 families were referred to tutoring services and 2 families to youth leadership development opportunities.
- USI hosted an Education Round Table with St. Louis Community College, The Little Bit Foundation, Flance Early Learning Center, and Parents as Teachers SLPS to discuss education initiatives, COVID Impact in education in the St. Louis region, and the state of technology for students within our region.
- USI’s Education Specialist contacts families weekly to support remote learning through guided activity packets, online learning sites, and has provided tips and tricks to assist parents in creating remote learning schedules with programs like Jump Start.
- USI issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide up to \$35,000 per contract per year to organizations committed to ensuring K-12 youth: 1) enter kindergarten ready to learn; 2) are proficient in core academic studies; and 3) youth, including those with disabilities, graduate from high school, college, and are career-ready. Details are posted here: <http://bit.ly/Education2020RFP>

#### HEALTH & WELLNESS

- USI is partnering with Affinia to create targeted strategies for 46 HHs without health insurance—5 of the 46 HHs secured healthcare. Of the remaining 41 HHs, 13 (32%) have been referred to services, 6 (15%) of which have applied for insurance.
- USI is completing home visits to ensure residents are aware of available supportive services.

#### SOCIAL & ECONOMIC MOBILITY

- USI is partnering with Employment Connection (EC) to eliminate job readiness barriers such as transportation, access to technology/the digital divide, and mental health. 26 residents have been referred to EC, and 14 (54%) residents are enrolled and receiving services. Of those enrolled, 8 (57%) interviewed for jobs.
- USI is providing interview coaching and resume assistance, which helped 4 (50%) residents obtain employment.
- USI and Employment Connection established an application and referral process to help residents receive funds in a timely manner.

#### POLICY & RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

- USI continues to balance the health and safety of staff while supporting the urgent needs of families. Being the only essential link to some of our families, USI has postponed all events and large engagement efforts until further notice. We will continue to serve while practicing social distancing with virtual meetings and social engagement events, which will be posted on the updated website and social media platforms.
- USI is currently partnering with Employment Connections, Catholic Charities, Urban League, and STL Arch Defenders for resident engagement services.
- USI will host a Distribution Day Drive at Preservation Square on September 25th from 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm. PPE, clothes, books, and other items will be distributed, and in partnership with Love in Action, school supplies will be provided to residents. Affinia may also be available to provide physical exams and insurance services.

For more information, please visit: [www.nearnorthsidestl.com](http://www.nearnorthsidestl.com) and [bit.ly/NNS-Choice-Facebook](http://bit.ly/NNS-Choice-Facebook)



## CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS UPDATE | SEPTEMBER 2020

### NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

#### **CRITICAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS (CCI) HIGHLIGHT: 14TH STREET CORRIDOR PLACEMAKING**

Timeline: Inception Q3 2020, Completion Q4 2022

The vision for the North 14th Streetscape Concept Plan is to set the framework for the creation of a cohesive, multi-modal and environmentally sustainable corridor that encourages pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular circulation north from downtown to the Economic Empowerment Center (EEC) and adjacent new housing planned at Preservation Square, connecting North 14th to the active Washington Avenue commercial corridor. There are a number of potential nodes of activity along this corridor (including Loretta Hall Park, St. Louis Food Roof, the EEC, and a proposed bike hub at N 14th & Biddle) that, along with a cohesive and attractive streetscape, will help create a vibrant corridor to draw people and activity north.

This Streetscape Concept Plan will build off of recommendations from the 2016 Great Streets report to determine the overall streetscape vision, and help set priorities and recommendations for streetscape improvements.

Creative markers will be placed at key locations, and places within the corridor will be developed through community engagement to capture the inherent spirit of the community. Examples of potential improvements include:

- Community-engaged public art placemaking installations along the corridor
- Gateway features marking the entrances to the community
- Tree-scaping and sidewalk rain gardens
- Light pole banners that carry the community's stories and collective message
- Bicycle infrastructure (protected bikeways on both sides of 14th Street)
- Pedestrian infrastructure (benches, tables, etc.) to encourage rest and fellowship along the corridor



#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (COVID-19 RESPONSE)**

- Near North Side Fresh Food Box Distributions are held:
  - Every Wednesday at Transfiguration Church (1807 Biddle) starting at 11:00 am
  - Every Friday at Flance Early Learning Center (1908 O'Fallon) Starting at 11:30 am
  - Read about it here: <http://bit.ly/Article-FoodPickupProgram>

#### **ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS**

- Join the Critical Community Improvements (CCI) Advisory Group virtually on September 15th @ 5:30-6:30pm
  - Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95713992434>
  - Dial-In: (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 957 1399 2434



Our Business is Building

TAKING APPLICATIONS  
TO FILL POSITIONS FOR WORK AT:

**PRESERVATION SQUARE I  
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

DUE TO COVID WE ARE  
NOT ACCEPTING WALK-INS

PLEASE CALL NUMBER BELOW  
TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT

**CONTACT**  
***Percy at 314-925-8522***

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE  
8:30AM TO 11:30AM  
Monday thru Friday

*\*Altman-Charter Company is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.*