



# USGBC and Bank of America Announce Winners of 2012 Affordable Green Neighborhoods Grant Program

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## PRESS RELEASE

Washington, DC – (Nov. 9, 2012) – The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and Bank of America Charitable Foundation today announced the 10 projects selected for the 2012 Affordable Green Neighborhoods grant program. Each of these neighborhood redevelopment projects are pursuing certification under USGBC's [LEED for Neighborhood Development](#) rating system and are notable for their planned affordable housing, compact, walkable design, commitment to green building, and well-located sites near transit or other existing amenities.

Each project will receive a \$25,000 cash award as well as an educational package to support their pursuit of LEED for Neighborhood Development certification. This program is funded by a two-year, \$340,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. Now in its second year, it is helping create affordable, sustainable neighborhoods across the country.

[LEED for Neighborhood Development](#) integrates the principles of smart growth, new urbanism and green building, while benefiting communities by reducing urban sprawl, increasing transportation choices and decreasing automobile dependence, encouraging healthy living, and protecting threatened species.

The 2012 Affordable Green Neighborhoods grant recipients are:

- The Box District – Chelsea, Mass.
- Brightwalk at Historic Double Oaks – Charlotte, N.C.
- East Market Street District – Louisville, Ky.
- Living (Grand Rapids) Challenge - Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Mariposa Redevelopment - Denver, Colo.
- MFCDC 20/21 Project - Indianapolis, Ind.
- Paradise Creek Affordable Housing - National City, Calif.
- Renaissance - Charlotte, N.C.
- The Renaissance at McGinley Square Phase I - Jersey City, N.J.

“Strong neighborhoods with a focus on social equity are paramount to the success of our communities,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair of USGBC. “We congratulate these innovative projects and applaud them as they move forward in advancing healthy, interconnected projects through the LEED for Neighborhood Development program.”

“Bank of America’s partnership with USGBC’s Affordable Green Neighborhoods program shows our continued commitment to stabilizing communities and advancing economic development through the support of sustainable growth strategies,” said Global Technology and Operations Executive and Bank of America Environmental Council Chair Catherine P. Bessant. “Our partnerships with organizations that have innovative projects to address housing needs are just one of the ways we’re working to help improve local economies across the country.”

These 10 projects represent the second round of Affordable Green Neighborhoods grants. The first round grant recipients were announced in 2010 at USGBC’s annual Greenbuild International Conference and Expo in Chicago, Ill. Two projects from the first cohort, Sunnydale HOPE SF and The Village at Market Creek, were among the first five projects ever to achieve certification under the LEED 2009 for Neighborhood Development rating system. Together, these two projects encompass more than 130 acres of revitalized neighborhood space and provide nearly 2,700 new housing units, the vast majority of which are reserved for very low income families. Several other projects are preparing to submit for LEED for Neighborhood Development certification or are underway with construction.

The eight members of the Affordable Green Neighborhoods review committee, who were selected for their industry leadership, represent the perspectives of architecture and design, New Urbanism, smart growth, affordable housing, community development and tax credit financing. In their deliberations, the review committee members evaluated potential projects on several criteria relating to the strength of the project, the financial needs of the project team and the potential value to the community.

Please join USGBC and Bank of America in congratulating these ten projects and supporting their pursuit of LEED for Neighborhood Development certification as a tool for revitalizing local communities. For more information on the program and recipients, please visit: <http://www.usgbc.org/initiatives/grants/affordable-neighborhoods>

### **U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)**

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit [usgbc.org](http://usgbc.org) and connect on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### **LEED**

As the most widely recognized and widely used green building program across the globe, LEED is transforming buildings, homes and communities in all 50 states and 135 countries. LEED guides the design, construction, operations and maintenance of nearly 50,000 projects worldwide, comprising 9.3 billion square feet of commercial and institutional construction space, and nearly 117,000 additional residential units.


By using less energy, LEED-certified spaces save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce carbon emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community. Learn more at [usgbc.org/leed](http://usgbc.org/leed).

### **Bank of America Corporate Social Responsibility**


Bank of America’s commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a strategic part of doing business globally. Our CSR efforts guide how we operate

in a socially, economically, financially and environmentally responsible way across more than 100 markets around the world, to deliver for shareholders, customers, clients and employees. Our goal is to help create economically vibrant regions and communities through lending, investing and giving. By partnering with our stakeholders, we create shared value that empowers individuals and communities to thrive and contributes to the long-term success of our business. We have several core areas of focus for our CSR, including responsible business practices; environmental sustainability; strengthening local communities with a focus on housing, hunger and jobs; investing in global leadership development; and engaging through arts and culture. Reaffirming a commitment to develop and sustain a culture of service, bank employee volunteers contributed more than 1.5 million hours in 2011 to enhance the quality of life in their communities worldwide. Learn more at [www.bankofamerica.com/opportunity](http://www.bankofamerica.com/opportunity) and follow us on Twitter at @BofA\_Community.

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Member employees, USGBC staff

1 comment

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**Bradford Park**  
Principal, CEO, ATM

1 year 3 weeks ago

I am at the greenbuild conference in San Francisco.  
Speakers are great, atmosphere is improving and coffee is free!  
How do I get rid of this jet lag?

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