



Louisville, KY:

Choice Neighborhoods Grand Opening **Highlights Community's Transformation**

Vibrant mixed-income housing, stunning art, an award-winning restaurant, high quality childcare, and new retail. Seven years ago, when a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant was awarded to the Russell neighborhood, most wouldn't have imagined these words could describe their community. But at a July 2022 grand opening event celebrating Phase III of what will be 620 mixed-income apartments, the results of a community-driven transformation were on full display.

In the 1940's and 1960's, urban renewal devastated the thriving African American business district and saturated the once diverse area with large, subsidized housing developments. One of these developments included Beecher Terrace, a deteriorated complex of 758 public housing units. In the decades since, the Russell neighborhood struggled with disinvestment and concentrated poverty.

But a community process – led by local champions with Choice Neighborhoods funding – changed that. Starting with a FY 2014 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, the Louisville Metro Housing Authority, Louisville Metro Government, resident leaders, and their partners led

dozens of community meetings. Beecher Terrace residents and community members developed “Vision Russell,” a plan for the neighborhood's future. In 2016, the community received a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to make their plan a reality.

By July's grand opening event, over 400 new mixed-income units had been built or were under construction, replacing the old Beecher Terrace with revitalized low income, moderate income, and market rate units. Additional affordable housing units are being built in and outside of the neighborhood, including in opportunity-areas, replacing all former Beecher Terrace units one-for-one. Beyond housing, Choice Neighborhoods funds and leverage have sparked a multitude of neighborhood improvements. New retail centers include an award-winning restaurant, high quality childcare, and other neighborhood businesses. Beautiful murals reflecting the rich history of the neighborhood cover overpasses that were once eye sores. Dozens of homes along a key corridor received needed repairs. Bus stops have become works of art and a splash pad and new amenities dot the landscape.