



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



During the summer and early fall we've engaged with residents, community leaders, elected officials and other stakeholders as we began planning some important initiatives.

Just last week dozens of stakeholders gathered in our building to brainstorm the future of [Butler Place](#) (see article below), thanks to Fernando Costa and other City of Worth staff.

We hosted meetings in July and August to hear what members of the community desire for the transformation of [Cavile Place](#) and the surrounding Stop Six neighborhood. All the input is critical for our application for a \$35 million HUD Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant.

Community engagement is always time well spent. We learn something new, meet great people and hear amazing ideas that inform our planning. We saw children at some of our public meetings this summer, filling us with joy that our youngest citizens could see what it's like to gather as a community and envision a better future.

We dream big at Fort Worth Housing Solutions. With our partners and stakeholders invested, our dreams have a better shot at becoming reality. Have we heard from you? Are you in?

Mary-Margaret Lemons  
[mmlemons@fwhs.org](mailto:mmlemons@fwhs.org)



## Stakeholders brainstorm Butler's future

Fort Worth Housing Solutions welcomed a packed audience last week for two public workshops to discuss the future of Butler Place, led by City of Fort Worth Assistant Manager Fernando Costa. Residents and other stakeholders from numerous groups participated, including:

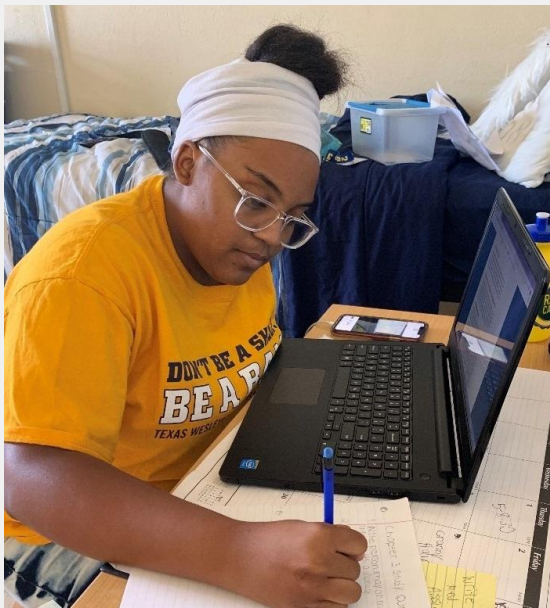
- Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Association
- Black Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- NAACP
- Downtown Fort Worth Inc.
- Tarrant County College
- Trinity Metro and many other groups

Over and over participants urged redeveloping the site into something "transformative" and "catalytic" that aligns with the City of Fort Worth's strategic economic development plan. Others concurred that proceeds from any sale of the 42-acre property be dedicated toward a museum focused on the city's African American history.

Built in 1939, Butler Place will be vacant once all its residents have relocated to new apartment homes around the city by the end of 2020 through HUD's [Rental Assistance Demonstration program \(RAD\)](#). FWHS has sought the community's input and established a [Butler Advisory Committee](#) to make recommendations about the site's redevelopment to the FWHS Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners will carefully deliberate on the matter and not rush into a decision. "This is a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and we intend to get it right," said FWHS President Mary-Margaret Lemons.



[Check out this video](#) about Monique Smith, formerly a Butler Place resident who relocated with her daughter



Aajah Odom is hard at work at Texas Wesleyan

## Scholarship winners hit the books

Congratulations to five ambitious women who received scholarships through the Barbara Holston Education Fund (BHEF) for the 2019-20 school year! They are: Lacy Dennis, Sstephanee Garrison-Shelton, Leah Hays, and Rosaland Murray, all of whom are continuing their studies at Tarrant County College; and Aajah Odom, an incoming freshman at Texas Wesleyan.

Fort Worth Housing Solutions established BHEF five years ago and named it for Barbara Holston, the agency's president for more than two decades. BHEF gives scholarships each year to individuals receiving housing assistance who are

pursuing a college degree or vocational certificate from an accredited institution.

[Your gift](#) can be the turning point that sets someone on the path to self-sufficiency. Any dollar amount is appreciated and 100% goes directly to scholarships.

## We're building in River District

A 293-unit apartment community for the workforce is under construction in the up-and-coming River District in Fort Worth's Westside.

Fort Worth Housing Solutions worked with Ojala Partners in a public-private joint venture to develop the project.

Amenities include a state-of-the-art fitness center, pet play area, swimming pool and outdoor mezzanine. Nature lovers will appreciate access to miles of scenic trails along the Trinity River for hiking and biking.





Lenee Bassham and Breanna Anderson from Cook Children's got to know some of the youngsters at Cavile Place at a recent Community Resource Fair.

## We love our landlords!



Fort Worth Housing Solutions hosted a Landlord Appreciation Luncheon recently.

Fort Worth Housing Solutions would like to recruit more landlords to partner with us in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. Participating landlords benefit from guaranteed rent, deposited directly into a bank account. The agency conducts criminal history background checks

on all HCV participants, and landlords are free to set their own eligibility guidelines.

Curious about becoming a landlord partner? You can participate in our Landlord Fair Friday, Oct. 18 from 9 - 11 a.m. at Cavile Place (1401 Etta Street). Or come to a landlord orientation session, which are held the second Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m.(1201 E.13th St.). The next is Oct. 8. For details contact Ravonda Thompson, 817-333-3667, [rthompson@fwhs.org](mailto:rthompson@fwhs.org).

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