



**LAKE WORTH  
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
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**PRESS RELEASE  
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**Lake Worth Community Redevelopment Agency & the Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County Win Statewide Award!**

**Lake Worth, FL, October 15, 2015** – The Lake Worth Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and the Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County have recently been acknowledged by a prestigious statewide organization due to their efforts to provide quality workforce housing in the City of Lake Worth.

The Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA) recognized the CRA and Community Land Trust with this year's "Outstanding Affordable Housing Project" award. The FRA presents awards annually to projects that exhibit the best practices in Florida redevelopment over the past year. The winners are announced during FRA's 2015 Annual Conference held in Tampa. Each year the FRA awards committee carefully selects the winners from dozens of entries submitted by agencies from across the State of Florida. All of the entries embody the spirit of successful community redevelopment and revitalization.

This year, the Lake Worth CRA earned the award for "Outstanding Affordable Housing Project" as a result of the new multi-million dollar *La Joya Villages Apartments* which were completed in early 2015. This is the third time since 2012 that the Lake Worth CRA has won an award for the most "Outstanding Affordable Housing Project" in Florida.

La Joya Villages is a public-private partnership which includes 55 new rental units priced for low to moderate income families and individuals. The project contains a small community garden, ample parking, a sound wall to buffer noise pollution and green building techniques that were used throughout the construction process. In addition, a percentage of the units have been set aside specifically for Veterans. Construction of the development began in early 2014 and the first residents began moving into their units in December 2014. As of the summer of 2015, all units within the development were occupied and there is currently a waiting list to rent at the development.

On-site management and all rental inquiries are supervised by the not-for-profit Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County.

*"The Lake Worth CRA is investing in our community to revitalize and rebuild our neighborhoods and commercial corridors. We are dedicated to maintaining the character of the City, responding to the community needs and encouraging sustainable economic growth to improve the quality of life for our residents and the future health of our City."*

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We anticipate that this multi-million dollar project will not only be a catalyst for future development in the area but also set the standard in Lake Worth for new development, incorporating smart growth principles, green elements and neighborhood amenities.

The project was built using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act meant to clean up abandoned and foreclosed properties in our most economically distressed neighborhoods. In addition to providing quality housing and community meeting space, this development significantly increases the local tax-base and provides much needed revenue for the City's General fund.

The CRA recognizes that this project would not have been possible without the hard work and resources received from our numerous community partners including: *The Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County, Community Partners Inc., Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners, Realtex Development, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, the City of Lake Worth, the Urban Group, Colome & Associates, Zabik & Associates* and the *Neighborhood Stabilization Program* from the *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*.

For more information regarding this project and the award program please call the Lake Worth CRA office at (561) 493-2550 or visit: [www.lakeworthcra.org](http://www.lakeworthcra.org), [www.cltofbbc.org](http://www.cltofbbc.org) or [www.redevelopment.net](http://www.redevelopment.net).

#### **About The Lake Worth Community Redevelopment Agency**

The Lake Worth Community Redevelopment Agency is governed by a seven (7) member Board of Commissioners which is appointed by the City of Lake Worth Commission. Their role is to direct CRA activities within the Community Redevelopment Area in accordance with the approved Lake Worth Redevelopment Plan. Revenue is generated for CRA projects through Tax Increment Financing (TIF). For more information, visit [www.lakeworthcra.org](http://www.lakeworthcra.org)

#### **About The Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County**

The Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County, Inc. (CLT of PBC) is a countywide housing non-profit organization created for the purpose of providing permanently affordable housing opportunities for residents of Palm Beach County. The CLT of PBC acquires land and makes it available in perpetuity for affordable housing. The CLT separates ownership of the land from ownership of the housing unit. The housing units are sold to income eligible households at an affordable price. The land is made available to homeowners through a 99 year land lease.

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