

Supporting Partners

Bi-State Development Board and Members of EPDC
 Casino Queen
 Catholic Urban Programs
 Deaconess Foundation
 CDBG Operations Corp.
 East-West Gateway
 ESL Community Fund
 East St. Louis Housing Authority
 Enterprise Community
 ESLCAN Neighborhood Law Office
 First Illinois Bank
 Greater St. Louis Empowerment Zone
 Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House
 McCormack Baron and Associates
 Neighborhood Technical Assistance Center
 New Spirit Neighborhood Organizing
 Regional Housing & Community Development Alliance
 St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Dept.
 Sustainable Neighborhoods Initiative
 Southwestern Illinois Development Authority
 University of Illinois-ESLARP
 Urban Resource Partnership Program

Accomplishments

Strategic community planning, urban design, on-going community organizing, and accessible adult education has provided EPDC with a wonderful record of accomplish-

- 1990
 - Development of the Emerson Park Neighborhood Improvement Plan, which won a 1991 national planning award.
- 1991
 - Developed a community-based prevention plan
- 1995
 - Received 501c3 tax exempt status
- 1996
 - Construction of four new homes in partnership with Neighborhood Based Family Housing Program.
 - Recognition as a tax-exempt non-profit organization
- 1997
 - Operating Cost Grant received from East St. Louis community Fund.
 - Rehabilitation of six owner occupied units.
 - Secured the Metro link extension at 15th street and Baugh Ave.
- 1998
 - Renovation of Cannady Park and creation of a basketball court.

- 1999
 - Development of the 2nd Emerson Park Neighborhood Revitalization plans.
 - Parsons Place Housing project
 - Designation as a Sustainable Neighborhood by the Danforth Foundation.
 - Designated as part of the Greater St. Louis Regional Empowerment Zone.
 - Start-up of HUD's Tomorrow's Builders YouthBuild Program.
- 2000
 - HUD Best Practice Award for Youth Build
 - Focus St. Louis "What's Right with the Region"



Parsons Place—a new residential community in East St Louis, just a short walk from the Emerson Park Metrolink station.

Future Goals

- Expand employment and business opportunities for local residents through training, education and new economic development.
- Encourage reinvestment and expand affordable housing options for renters and owners through rehab and new construction.
- Reduce the incidence of drugs, violent crimes, and prostitution, while improving community-police relations.
- Respond to the unmet needs of youth and their families and empower all residents.
- Creation of a district land use pattern that facilitates growth in housing and retail uses and improves the quality of local infrastructure.
- Empower and involve more residents in the EPDC and strengthen the sense of pride and community in the area.

Emerson Park Development Corporation
 meets on the second Monday of every month at 6:00 pm at the
 Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House
 1200 N. 13th Street
 East St. Louis, IL 62205

Emerson Park Development Committee

BOARD MEMBERS

July 2001- July 2006

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Photograph by Robert Selby



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Emerson Park Development Corporation



... established by a group of area men, women and youth, led by Ceola Davis of the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in 1985. The original goal of EPDC was to enhance the quality of life in the 55 block neighborhood of Emerson Park by uniting residents around the causes of unemployment, environmental degradation and crime. EPDC was recognized as a non-profit corporation by the State of Illinois and tax-exempt organization by the IRS in 1996.

EPDC is committed to assisting every neighborhood resident in achieving their full human potential. Including but not limited to:

- Good Schools
- Decent and affordable housing
- Job training
- Employment opportunities
- Public transportation
- Health care services
- Adult education
- High quality municipal services