

KALAMAZOO COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY

# 2020 Annual Report

*est. 2010*



*Repurpose. Renew. Reconnect.*

# A Message from the Board Chair

As the new Kalamazoo County Treasurer, I am honored to also serve as Board Chair for the Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority. In my brief tenure, I am learning that the Land Bank as an agency is mindful and collaborative in the ways that it supports county residents and in how it undertakes community-envisioned redevelopment to help Kalamazoo County become the place that residents dream it can be.

The Land Bank's tools are powerful. Residents who desire affordable housing or want to enhance their property through purchase of a side lot can use these tools; non-profits that provide affordable housing can use them; and small business owners who seek both property and proposal support can also use them. The tools are available for all, and the Land Bank has increased efforts to make these tools easier to use and understand through a Properties Opportunities brochure and an enhanced property search engine, both available on its website.

But all powerful tools must also be used with care. With a local and national housing crisis looming, stewarding of property must be undertaken with sensitivity and a heart towards equity. This is work that is difficult, work that is painstaking, but work that makes a difference. As County Treasurer and Board Chair, I look forward to participating in the process of ensuring the powerful tools that we have been given are focused on doing the most good, and the least harm, that is possible.

To this end, we've established a robust Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee to review our actions and steer the activities of the Land Bank, and as an organization are remaining focused on transformational projects that are built on a foundation of community input. We are also continuing our focus on being transparent and open to the ways that the citizens of Kalamazoo can access the resources of the Land Bank, as well as exploring new ways to communicate with the communities we serve.

There is plenty of work ahead of us in the coming year, as we forge our way out of a pandemic, a global economic crisis, and a period of political and moral turmoil. I am so incredibly excited to have the opportunity to work with the Land Bank to bring us to the other side.

I hope you'll join us.

Sincerely,



Thomas Whitener

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Thomas Whitener,**  
Board Chair

Kalamazoo County Treasurer

**Carl Roberts,**  
Vice Chair

Retired V.P. Engineering,  
BorgWarner Thermal Systems



**Brian Hudson,**  
Treasurer & Secretary

Executive Director,  
Chase Commercial Banking

**Rebekah Kik**

Director of Community,  
Planning & Development,  
City of Kalamazoo



**Holly Crump**

Vice President,  
TCF National Bank

**Qianna Decker**

Escrow Specialist,  
Amerifirst Home Mortgage



**Elizabeth Schlott**

Supports Coordinator,  
Integ. Serv. of Kalamazoo

## Kalamazoo County Liaisons



**Veronica McKissack**



**Tami Rey**

Special thanks to past Board Members Mary Balkema and Terry Dorgan, and to former liaison Christine Morse for their dedicated service.

# A Message from the Director

## STAFF



**Kelly Clarke**

Executive Director &  
Past MALB President



**Theresa Coty O'Neil**

Communications & Grants Manager



**Reality Rojas**

Senior Operations Coordinator



**Tammy Lahman**

Finance Manager



**I'Yanna Wilson**

Communications Intern

Special thanks to Kenn Hartmann and Michelle Tombro Tracy for their years of dedicated service to the Land Bank.

Like for so many, 2020 has been a year that has inspired the Land Bank to focus more attention on building our equity lens, work that started when we joined the Kalamazoo Community Foundation's Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation initiative in 2015, and that deepens and grows the more we learn. In 2020, the board adopted a set of Core Values, which includes **Equity** and this vow: The Land Bank acknowledges systemic racism that is a context to our work.

Ten years ago, when your County Land Bank was founded, we began a practice of meeting with residents to seek their input on what they most desired for their neighborhoods with the properties for which we were temporary stewards. Through those community-input sessions, the Land Bank has partnered with a range of community members to advance these visions. For example, for the past three years, transformational work has been focused on the Eastside, starting with the Eastside Gateway and continuing with Eastside Square, a community-envisioned, mixed-use redevelopment.

Despite the difficult economic times brought upon our county by Covid, we intend to continue initiatives that support issues that matter to our community—affordable housing, resident business and nonprofit ventures, and community-envisioned use of property that helps make the quality of life in our County better for all.

Ten years on, we are proud to be partnering with so many talented local organizations and individuals from the Urban Folk Art Exploratory, to Rootead, to Black Wall Street—important community agencies working on amazing community endeavors that will be sited at previously abandoned or vacant spaces. Some of these initiatives you will hear more about more throughout the year.

We are looking forward to the transformation of an abandoned parcel into a pocket plaza as a part of an endeavor co-led with the Kalamazoo Eastside Neighborhood Association and featuring artists Buddy Hannah, Gerald King and Conrad Kaufman. Take a peek inside the report to see how these artists are utilizing vacant land to tell a story of community connection.

Best regards,

Kelly Clarke

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Kalamazoo, MI 49004  
269.762.6191  
[landbank@kalamazoolandbank.org](mailto:landbank@kalamazoolandbank.org)

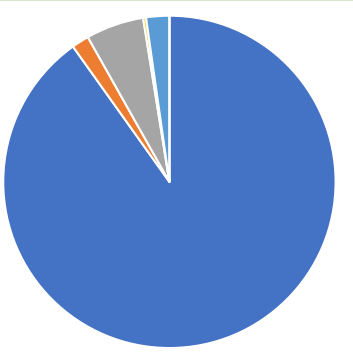


# Progress by the Numbers

In 2020, a total of 358 properties were managed in our inventory and 20 properties were returned to the tax rolls. Titles were cleared for 61 parcels through Quiet Title. The Land Bank acquired 1 parcel through the tax foreclosure process in 2020, and completed 13 Fair Market sales, 6 Side Lot sales, and 1 Nonprofit lot sales.

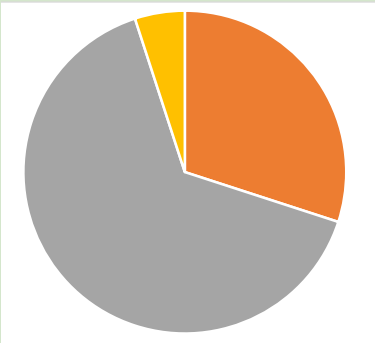
Tax foreclosures have significantly decreased. In 2020, there were 73 tax foreclosures representing the second time since 2009 this number was under 100. In addition, we entered the second year of **zero owner-occupied tax foreclosures** in the City of Kalamazoo.

Year End Inventory



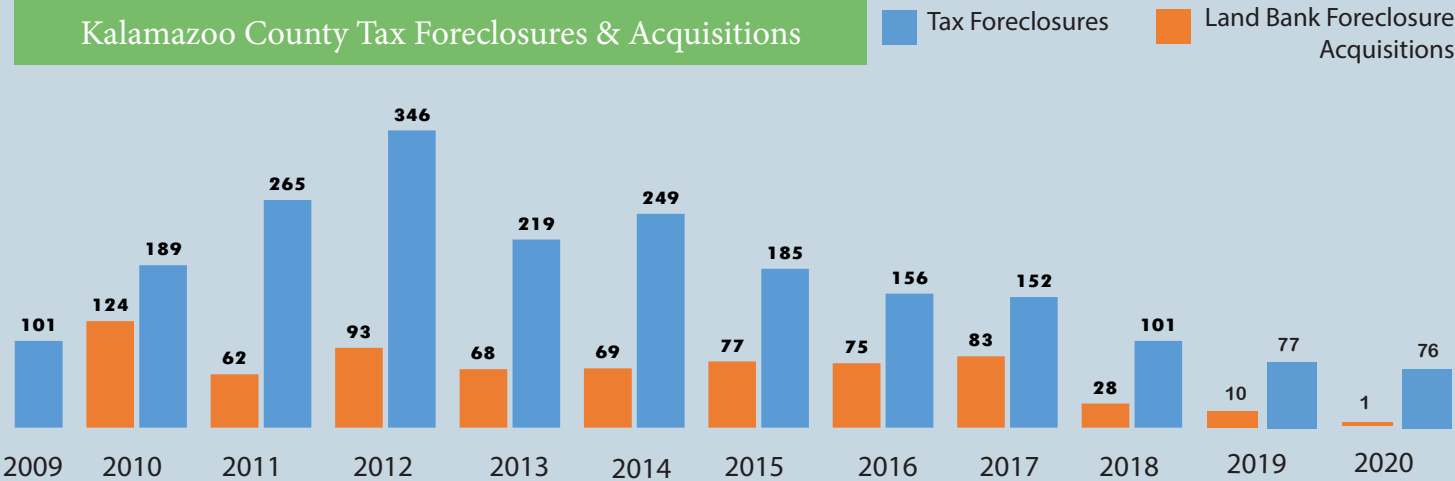
- Residential Vacant (320)
- Commercial Structures (6)
- Commercial Vacant (20)
- Industrial Structure (1)
- Industrial Vacant (8)
- Residential Structures (0)

Disposition



- Local Governance (0)
- Side Lot (6)
- Fair Market (13)
- Nonprofit (1)

Kalamazoo County Tax Foreclosures & Acquisitions





# Home Ownership Opportunities

## PATHWAYS TO AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP

In response to the strong need for affordable homes in Kalamazoo County, the Land Bank supports a variety of opportunities to increase home ownership. The Kalamazoo County Land Bank has launched an Affirmative Marketing campaign to connect Kalamazoo's Black, Latinx and first-time homebuyers with homeownership resources. (Learn more on Page 9.)



In 2020, Tianna Carruthers, a local hero who helped protect 6 children and sustained multiple injuries as a result of a Kalamazoo mass shooting in 2016, purchased a house she had been renting from the Land Bank for several years. A first-time homebuyer, she celebrated with a Covid closing.



Kristyn Revor moved into her first home on a quiet Eastside street after spending two years house hunting. The home has plenty of charm--a living room fireplace, original oak floors, partial stone exterior, and decorative wood trim. Her advice to those seeking to purchase their first home: "Stay motivated! I struggled with finding the right home. Know what you want and you can find your dream home, too."

## NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Participants in KPEP's Construction Trades program remodeled a house on Cobb Avenue that Kalamazoo native Diyama Hernandez purchased.

"My other siblings also recently purchased houses and they had to do major renovations," said Diyami, who grew up in Kalamazoo and now teaches at Loy Norrix High School. "It was really nice going into this house and not having anything major to do. The only work I've done is cosmetic."



# The Sun Rises on the Eastside

## EASTSIDE SUNRISE PLAZA: COMING 2021



In 2019, Eastside residents envisioned Eastside Square, a mixed-use redevelopment on East Main that will feature one and two bedroom affordable housing units, two pocket plazas, and commercial space. Partnering with the Kalamazoo Eastside Neighborhood Association, in collaboration with local artists and architects, a vision for Eastside Sunrise Plaza was born reflecting the neighborhood motto: The sun always rises on the East."



### Eastside Sunrise Plaza Highlights:

- Awarded a 2020 Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs Project Support Grant
- Featuring a sun sculpture designed by artist Conrad Kaufman with collaboration from artist Gerald King
- Including high-quality outdoor furniture chosen by residents
- Lifting up resident stories through haiku (short poems) by Eastside resident Buddy Hannah. Haiku will be inscribed in ceramic tiles throughout the plaza.
- Partnering with OCBA, Inc. and InForm Architecture, LLC
- Project captured in a documentary produced by Gerald King with support from Public Media Network
- Set to break ground in Summer, 2021 with a celebration in Fall, 2021



The Eastside Sunrise Plaza Design Team, which meets monthly, includes local artists and architects, KENA director, and Land Bank staff.



The Eastside Sunrise Plaza sign will be a welcoming addition to the plaza, which is located on East Main and Edwin.



# Voices of the Eastside

## FROM EASTSIDE VOICES TO EASTSIDE POETRY

In 2019, Kalamazoo Eastside Neighborhood Association Director Pat Taylor initiated an oral intergenerational history project, *Eastside Voices*, to lift up the voices and stories of the neighborhood. The project, co-directed by Buddy Hannah and Sid Ellis, resulted in a mural, created by former Eastside artist Gerald King, a video in partnership with Public Media Network, a book now available at branches of the Kalamazoo Public Library, and a permanent art installation by Conrad Kaufman at the Eastside Gateway Pocket Park.

To continue to honor what Taylor calls a neighborhood that is “warm, welcoming and celebratory,” Buddy Hannah collected resident poems and wrote haiku (a Japanese form of short poetry) inspired by the 13 stories in *Eastside Voices*. Those haiku will be engraved on ceramic tiles that will be placed throughout the plaza. Check out the Eastside Gateway & Eastside Square Facebook page for updates!

## EASTSIDE SUNRISE PLAZA DOCUMENTARY

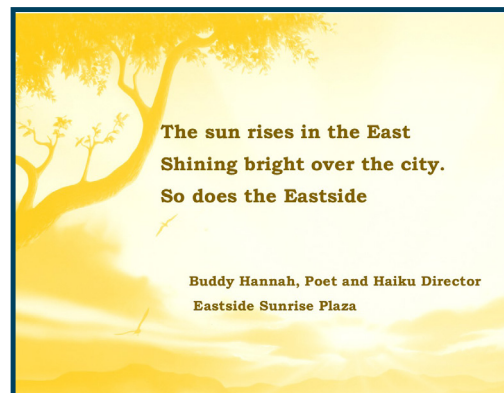


From left to right, Jimmy Jackson, Pat Taylor, Kelly Clarke, Gerald King and Conrad Kaufman at the future site of Eastside Sunrise Plaza.

To document the process of the Eastside Sunrise Plaza, Gerald King, with support from Public Media Network, is chronicling the work in a video that will be shared at the plaza dedication in Fall, 2021.

## THANK YOU, EASTSIDE SQUARE FUNDERS!

The Kalamazoo County Land Bank is incredibly grateful for the support of the Eastside Square project from its many community partners. Even in these uncertain economic times, we were able to raise \$1.3 million of the estimated \$3.57 million project through generous donations from the following foundations: Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, Stryker Johnston Foundation, Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation, Suzanne Upjohn Delano Parrish Foundation, Marvin & Rosalie Okun Foundation, Jim Gilmore Jr. Foundation, Tyler Little Foundation, Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation, Fifth Third Foundation, Old National Foundation, and Huntington Foundation.



“Participating in Eastside Voices gave me a better understanding of the Eastside and Eastside residents. It also made me feel more connected to the people in the neighborhood. Looking at those interviews and creating haiku from them brought everything full circle, like painting a picture. Those interviews and poems laid out a road map of past, present, and even the future, of life on the Eastside.”

Buddy Hannah, Eastside Resident,  
Haiku Director & Writer



# Riverview Launch: 2020, the Year of the Pivot!

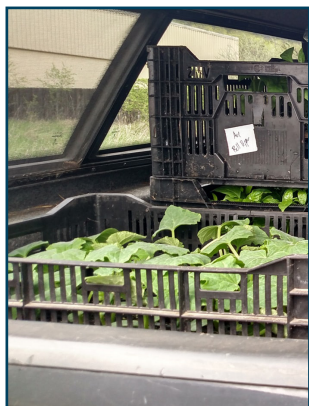
Like so many organizations and businesses, the Land Bank and Riverview Launch tenants were forced to pivot due to Covid-19. Land Bank staff shifted to remote work. Meetings and events, such as our Turning 10 celebration, moved to Zoom. During the early period, staff engaged in property research and devoted extra time to updating our website and property inventory search engine with zoning and parcel informaton.

To enhance staff accessibility, the Land Bank purchased a mobile phone. Until we return to the office, we can be easily contacted during business hours or by appointment.

The Land Bank staff feel grateful that despite inability to meet in person, our community engagement flourished. Our partnership with the Eastside neighborhood has deepened, and our work together has even resulted in our first every Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs grant for the Eastside Sunrise Plaza (For more information, please see Page 5).

## COMMON GROUND DURING COVID

Vibrant Kalamazoo, a 501(c)3 nonprofit arm of the Land Bank, partners with Michigan State University Cooperative Extension, Kalamzoo Valley Community College Food Innovation Center, and Building Blocks to support community gardens in the county with Common Ground. Check out the Common Ground Facebook page for 2021 plans.



Seeds were already sprouting in the KVCC greenhouse when the Stay Home Stay Safe order was issued. Common Ground shifted its annual Plant Giveaway from pick up to delivery. With a truck and trailer, Eddie DeGraw connected fresh plants to 17 community gardens.

## Riverview Launch



When circumstances permit, Riverview Launch will again be available for rent. Meanwhile, come walk the River Valley Trail, and until the facility reopens, please feel free to park in our lot during business hours.



Common Ground also transferred its annual Trolley and Bicycle Garden Tours to a succesful Self-Guided Tour.



# Riverview Launch Tenants

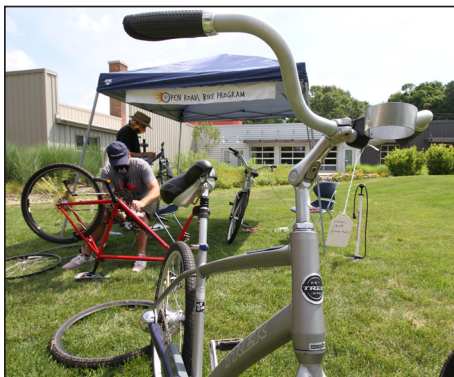
## FARMERS BLOOM FLOWER COMPANY, OWNER, KRISTIANA COUTU

*"The year started out great. The Greenhouse at Riverview Launch was filled with flowers destined for local florists. Then March hit. Like so many other businesses, the pandemic produced a ton of uncertainty for us at Farmers Bloom. Were we even allowed to sell flowers?"*

*"We harvested our spring crop which unfortunately went mostly unsold. While that financial loss was tough to swallow, we, like other businesses, just kept moving forward. I used the unsold spring flowers to dive into floral design and bouquet making. I did not realize at the time how fortuitous this was. Once things opened up a bit and we became comfortable that we could operate safely, something amazing happened – everyone wanted flowers!"*



## OPEN ROADS BICYCLE PROGRAM



Two weeks before the Stay at Home order, Open Roads welcomed Kryone Maye as its Executive Director. As the world experienced what many are calling a Bicycle Boom, Open Roads was forced to move in-person programming online, all but its outdoor Big Fix, an annual gathering to repair bicycle donations.

During 2020, the retail store migrated to appointment-only and will also soon feature online delivery options. For young bicycle entrepreneurs, a program was launched that includes marketing, customer relations, and sales.

## KALAMAZOO RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council advocates for protecting and improving the river, tributaries, lakes, wetlands, and watershed—all 2,000 square miles of them! Annual programs, such as Kanoë the Kazoo and Crazy for the Kazoo (river cleanup) were replaced with Konnect with the Kazoo, which encouraged residents to share their photos of river activities.

Thanks to virtual meetings, the board was able to expand its membership to include a member from the headwaters in Jackson and another from the mouth in Saugatuck, something that had been long desired.

"If it hadn't been for the pandemic, we would never have been able to do that," said Cheryl Vosburg, Executive Director.



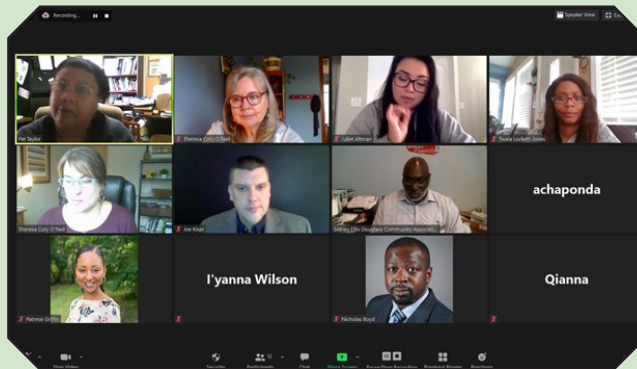
# Vibrant Kalamazoo

## CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

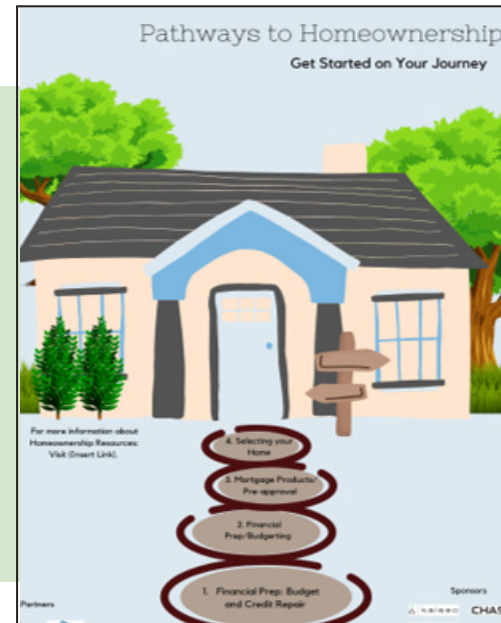
Vibrant Kalamazoo, a 501(c)3 supporting organization, is the community engagement and fundraising arm of the Kalamazoo County Land Bank. In 2020, Vibrant gathered a robust group of engaged board members, Land Bank board members, nonprofit leaders, neighborhood leadership, and bankers to provide financial literacy, resources, and home ownership preparation for low-income residents, People of Color, and Non-English Speakers. Out of this committee, a brochure and Facebook page, called Pathways to Homeownership, are under construction. The committee is also helping to organize and staff the 2021 Kalamazoo Eastside Neighborhood Association's Show Me the Money event to be held in June.



## AFFIRMATIVE MARKETING CAMPAIGN



Sixteen committed community members participate in the Affirmative Marketing Campaign, a committee that seeks to address issues of inequity in homeownership by offering coaching, resources and financial education.



## VIBRANT KALAMAZOO BOARD:

Thomas Whitener, Board Chair  
Treasurer, Kalamazoo County



Paul Valentin  
Realtor, Jaqua Realtors



Holly Crump, Vice Chair  
Vice President,  
TCF National Bank



Juliet Altman  
Realtor and Interpreter



Ian Kennedy  
Vice President & General Counsel,  
Kalsec, Inc.

Patrese Griffin  
Vice Mayor, City of Kalamazoo



## THANK YOU, VIBRANT SPONSORS!



Adrian Vazquez  
Director, El Concilio



Kelly Clarke, Ex Officio  
Executive Director,  
KCLBA





# A Decade of Repurpose, Renew & Reconnect

## REUSE OF ABANDONED PARCELS TO SUPPORT LOCAL VISIONS & GOALS

When the Land Bank was founded in 2010 in the middle of the Great Recession, abandoned properties that were structurally unsound and creating safety hazards in neighborhoods were an all too frequent occurrence. In the early years of the Land Bank, staff were often fielding calls from neighbors concerned about a vacant and blighted property next door and wanting to know when it could come down.



This Northside Association of Community Development senior housing development was built on a former Land Bank parcel.

Abandoned structures that could not be saved were removed and many of these properties have been reconnected to residents through our Side Lot and Adopt-A-Lot program. Other lots have been transferred to nonprofits for affordable housing, like the Northside Association for Community Development's senior housing development.

As the affordable housing crisis continues to grow and new resources become ready to be deployed in the community, vacant parcels will serve as an important community tool to enable new affordable housing development.

"Without the partnership of the Land Bank, an effective infill housing strategy in Kalamazoo's core neighborhoods would not be possible," said Matt Lager, Executive Director of Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services.



Some vacant parcels have been the site of environmental cleanup and restoration and some have been transformed into community greenspace, such as the Eastside Gateway Pocket Park.



This former Land Bank property became the new home of a happy owner through Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services.

## SIDE LOT & ADOPT-A-LOT SURVEY

Over the past 10 years, the Land Bank has been able to sell 190 Side Lots to neighbors who have used them for play yards, gardens, and garages. Adopt-A-Lots around the county have become the home to many community gardens. In 2018, the Land Bank administered a survey to program participants, who expressed gratitude for the programs. Here are some responses:

**98%**

responded the Side Lot purchase increased feelings of pride for neighborhood

**98%**

responded the Side Lot increased quality of life for homeowner

**93%**

responded the Side Lot increased feelings of safety

**85%**

responded the Side Lot purchase increased value of their original property

# Supporting New Ventures

## URBAN FOLK ART EXPLORATORY COMING TO MERCHANTS CROSSING

In 2020, Remi Harrington officially became a small developer as the owner of a new home on 10 Mills for her 15-year-old enterprise, Urban Folk Art Exploratory. Remi plans to open the gallery and design space in 2021. The Urban Folk Art Exploratory promotes the use of hip hop and design principles to support economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and cultural preservation of neighborhoods and communities. "The Land Bank has been an amazing partner because they help residents to utilize spaces that have been vacant, abandoned or functionally obsolete to create opportunities for industry in agriculture, art, and design and various aspects of community development," said Remi. "This is especially important for small or underrepresented developers because we have a different relationship with the economy and money systems than most big developers. The Land Bank provided me with the opportunity to participate as a small black woman developer and I'm in it to win it." (See cover photo.)



Remi Harrington, founder of Urban Folk Art Exploratory, celebrates closing on the property with Land Bank staff.



The nonprofit's new location is just a 10-minute walk from downtown.



An old print shop at Merchants Crossing is the new home of the Urban Folk Arts Exploratory.

## NORTHSIDE DEVELOPMENT

Raymond Ryan grew up in a Cobb Street home where his parents still live. He and his wife, Ronnetta, bought a home close by. Together with their business partner, Robert Washington, they started RW & Co. Property and Investment and purchased a Cobb Street lot from the Land Bank. They plan to build a Craftsmen style house, signalling the first time a resident has purchased a Land Bank property for a new build.

"We want the Northside to be as diversified economically as other Kalamazoo neighborhoods," said Ryan, who added he hopes to continue working with the Land Bank on upcoming projects.



Robert Washington, Ronnetta Raymond and Ryan Raymond plan to build on this Northside lot across from Northglade Elementary School.



# Looking Back, Looking Ahead

## KZOO NUTRITION TURNS THREE

In 2018 Washington Square celebrated the addition of a new business at 1315 Portage Street - Kzoo Nutrition. Owners Jorge Balderas and Maria Gutierrez-De-Garcia, residents of the Edison neighborhood, were committed to keeping their business in the neighborhood after their previous space burned down. They invested in building a bar and installing upgrades so they could serve Herbalife nutrition shake and the business is still going strong.

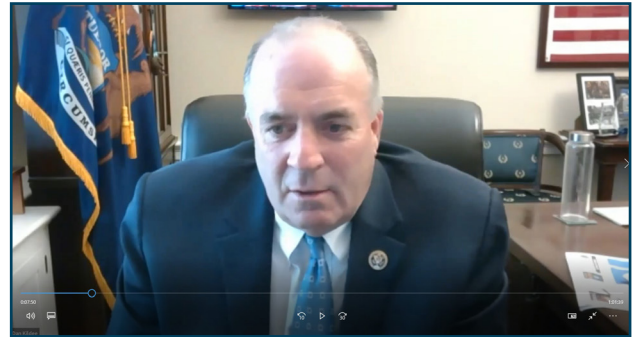


## DARNELL CLAY: CUTTING EDGE

Kalamazoo native, Darnell Clay, is a positive and productive force who wakes up every single day with a mission to “preserve a sense of community and growth” in Kalamazoo. Darnell has been working with the Land Bank since its inception 10 years ago through his business, Cutting Edge. He has been a key player in the Land Bank’s revitalization work through home rehab and property maintenance. Over the years, Darnell has upkeep vacant lots, rehabilitated blighted properties for resale, personally purchased Land Bank properties, and volunteered at Land Bank sponsored community events. The Land Bank staff feels fortunate to count Darnell as a partner in their work.

## LAND BANK CELEBRATES TURNING 10

On December 10, 2020, the Land Bank invited friends and partners to join us in celebrating 10 years of Renewing, Reconnecting and Repurposing in Kalamazoo County. As a special surprise, U.S. Representative Dan Kildee, who as the former Genesee County Treasurer helped launch Michigan land banking and who took the concept nationally, attended and spoke. Thank you to all who are helping the Land Bank usher in the next decade!



U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee praised the work of the Kalamazoo County Land Bank at its Turning 10 celebration in December.



Kalamazoo County Land Bank community partners called out these qualities of the in a Chatterfall during our Turning 10 celebration.

## INTEGRITY

We embody fairness,  
professionalism,  
transparency and  
respect in every  
interaction.

## COMMUNITY

We are committed to elevating community voice and leadership in all stages of community development.

## EQUITY

The Land Bank acknowledges systemic racism as the context for our work.

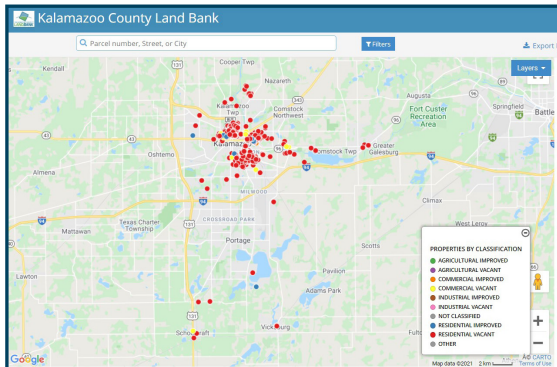
## STRATEGY

We make decisions  
based on the careful  
analysis of data.

## IMPACT

We emphasize action, achievement and results.

We've worked hard to make sure our programs and information are accessible for everyone. In the past year, Land Bank staff has added zoning and property information to its eProperty search engine located on our website. With 384 parcels in its inventory, the Land Bank is eager to work with residents, small business partners, and developers.



This map features our Property Search Engine that is located on the righthand corner of our website.

Check out our website for Zoom training opportunities for overview of the database and Land Bank programs.

[illegible]

We've also created a Properties Opportunities flier, which outlines our programs, including Side Lot, Adopt-A-Lot and parcel purchase. We hope you will consider partnering with us! Check out this link to find out more about our properties and our programs: <https://kalamazoolandbank.org/apply/>

# Thank You, Partners!

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ABC Supply Co.  
 Abode Building Center  
 All State Crane and Rigging  
 Andrew MacKay  
 Anthony Brooks  
 Bank of America  
 Bartholomew Heating & Cooling  
 Buddy Hannah  
 Byce & Associates  
 Carter Lumber  
 Chau Nguyen  
 Chase Bank  
 Chemical Bank  
 CJ Drenth  
 Community Promise Federal Credit Union  
 Conrad Kaufman  
 Country Lane Electric, Inc.  
 Cutting Edge  
 Dale Abbott & Tomme Maile  
 DeLoof Builders, LLC  
 DeVisser Landscape Services  
 DLZ Michigan  
 Douglas & Son, Inc.  
 Edison Neighborhood Assoc.  
 Edison Business Association  
 Eikenhout, Inc.  
 Envirologic Technologies  
 ETNA Supply  
 Fabri-Kal  
 Fader Equipment  
 Farmers Bloom  
 Fido Motors Café  
 Fifth Third Bank  
 Fran Dwight Photography  
 Frente a ti  
 Foundation for Excellence  
 Gerald King  
 Glas Associates  
 Great Lakes Waterproofing Company  
 Greater Kalamazoo Association of Realtors  
 Halls, Closets & More, LLC

Heritage Community of Kalamazoo  
 Holly Crump  
 Hoeksema Builders, LLC  
 Hoekstra Roofing  
 Home Builders Association  
 Home Energy Solutions  
 Howard Printing  
 Howard's Party Store  
 Huntington Bank  
 Hutcherson Construction  
 InForm Architects  
 Intrepid Professional Group  
 Janette Evans  
 Jaqua Realtors  
 Jason McBride Drywall  
 Jerome Gates  
 Jersey Giant SUBS!  
 Jim Roberts Construction  
 Jim Schuon Photography  
 JMB Demolition  
 JP Sanderson Insulation LLC  
 Juan Ruiz  
 Kalamazoo Eastside Neighborhood Association  
 Kalamazoo Farmers Marke  
 Kalamazoo in Bloom  
 Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers  
 KalBlue  
 Kalsec  
 KPEP  
 Kzoo Nutrition  
 Lake Michigan Credit Union  
 Landmark Homes of MI  
 Landscaping Plus  
 Lee Kellogg  
 Lil Brothers BBQ  
 Linda Whitlock  
 Lolita's Tacos  
 Lyster Exteriors  
 Maria Ortiz  
 Martz Home Builders, LLC  
 Menards  
 Mercantile Bank of America  
 Michigan Realtors Who Care  
 Mi Pueblo Mexican Restaurant

Michigan LISC AmeriCorps  
 Miller Davis Company  
 MSUE Master Gardeners  
 Naylor Landscape Management  
 NewCraft Cabinetry  
 Northside Assoc. For Community Development  
 OCBA Landscape Architects  
 Old National Bank  
 Southwest MI Second Wave  
 Paramount Charter Academy  
 Pat Taylor  
 Pho on the Block  
 PNC Bank  
 Portage Building Components  
 Portage Plumbing, Inc.  
 Porter Corp  
 Public Media Network  
 Quality Touch Painting, LLC  
 Revite Group  
 Rickey Lynch  
 River Street Flowerland  
 Rooted African Drum & Dance  
 Rotary Club of Kalamazoo  
 Rossman Homes  
 Ryan Koziatek  
 Sackett's Flooring Solutions  
 ServiceMaster of Kalamazoo  
 Sidney Ellis  
 Signature Wiring, LLC  
 T & L Rental & Inflatables  
 The Campus Beet  
 Tremolo Guitar Shop  
 Trybal Revival Gardens  
 Twine Urban Winery  
 Vague Photography  
 Vine Neighborhood Assoc.  
 Walnut & Park Cafe  
 Warner Norcross & Judd  
 Washington Square Co-op Senior Apartments  
 Waterways, LLC  
 Wausau Homes Kalamazoo  
 Wild Ones - Kalamazoo

Wing Heaven  
 William Hicks  
 WKZO - WVFM  
 WMUK  
 Wolhuis Brothers Concrete Construction

## MUNICIPAL PARTNERS

City of Kalamazoo  
 City of Parchment  
 City of Portage  
 Comstock Township  
 Cooper Township  
 Kalamazoo County  
 Kalamazoo Township  
 Oshtemo Township  
 Schoolcraft Township  
 Texas Township  
 Village of Climax  
 Village of Schoolcraft  
 Village of Vicksburg  
 Wakeshma Township

## NONPROFIT & FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Ascension Borgess Fdn.  
 Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo  
 Black Wall Street  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo  
 Building Blocks of Kalamazoo  
 Burdick-Thorne Foundation.  
 Comm. Economic Dev. Assoc. of Michigan  
 Center for Comm. Prog.  
 Community Homeworks  
 Consumers Energy Foundation  
 Dorothy Dalton Foundation  
 El Concilio  
 First Source Foundation  
 Friends of the KRVT  
 Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation  
 Irving S. Gilmore Fdn.  
 Jim Gilmore Jr. Fdn.  
 Kalamazoo Community Foundation  
 Kalamazoo County MSU Extension  
 Kalamazoo County Parks Foundation  
 Kalamazoo in Bloom  
 Kalamazoo Nature Center  
 Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services  
 Kalamazoo Public Library  
 Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety  
 Kalamazoo River Watershed Council  
 Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
 Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity  
 Kalamazoo Institute of Arts  
 KVCC Food Innovation Center  
 Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
 Michigan Association of Land Banks  
 Michigan CLASS  
 Mich. Council for the Arts & Cultural Affairs  
 Michigan Homeowners Assistance Nonprofit Housing Corp.  
 Michigan State Housing Development Association  
 Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority  
 Michigan Municipal League  
 Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
 Northside Ministerial Alliance  
 Okun Foundation  
 Open Roads Bike Program  
 Parker Foundation  
 Stryker Johnston Foundation  
 Suzanne Upjohn DeLano Parish Foundation  
 Rooted  
 Urban Folk Art Exploratory  
 Tyler Little Foundation  
 Urban Alliance

# *What's Next?*

## *Washington Square: Growing & Thriving*



*First black-owned winery in Southwest Michigan opened on Portage Street*

**BLACK**  
*wall street*  
- KALAMAZOO -

*Black Wall Street purchased 1311 Portage Street*

*Wing Heaven to open second Kalamazoo location in Edison*



*KPEP's W & P Diner set to open this summer*



## *Rootead Enrichment Center*

*Rootead Enrichment Center pursues expanded home at 20 Mills Street, next door to the Urban Folk Art Exploratory at Merchants' Crossing*



## *Eastside Square Housing*

*Affordable, energy-efficient one and two-bedroom housing units coming to East Main near Eastside Sunrise Plaza in 2022*