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**NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES, IMPROVED PERFORMANCE
HIGHLIGHTED IN HOUSTON LAND BANK 2020 YEAR-END REPORT**

Emerging as a rejuvenated partner in the drive to create more quality affordable homes for Houston families, the Houston Land Bank (HLB) wrapped up 2020 having sold 119 homes in the past two years – this and other successes are highlighted in the organization’s new year-end report.

Available [here](#), the report touches on various aspects of HLB’s establishment as the successor organization to Houston’s Land Assemblage and Redevelopment Authority, or LARA. To further support Mayor Turner’s priorities of increased single-family home development and Complete Communities, HLB has expanded its scope beyond the acquisition of single tax delinquent properties to include strategic acquisitions—larger parcels that can accommodate a larger number of homes, such as the Near Northside purchase.

“I’m proud of the hard work our board and staff are doing, and of the results we’re seeing,” HLB President and CEO Anne Gatling Haynes said. “Our new year-end report is another means of outreach to let people know about our success in helping to create more affordable homes for income-qualified Houstonians.”

Board Chair Matt Zeis also lauded the report. “Working in partnership with the City of Houston, the Houston Community Land Trust and other teammates, we’re helping to reshape the way Houston approaches its affordable housing challenges, and this report shows that,” Zeis said.

HLB ended 2020 with a milestone land acquisition, closing on the purchase of 3.6 acres in Houston’s Near Northside, with another contiguous 3.2 acres under an option contract for future purchase, the largest in the organization’s history. HLB is acquiring the property for construction of quality affordable homes through the City of Houston’s New Home Development Program (NHDP) for single-family homeownership, in coordination with the City’s Housing and Community Development Department. The total 6.8-acre site is expected to accommodate as many as 160 homes.

After the 2018 passage of the Acquisition and Development Grant for its work, HLB has accelerated its process to identify and facilitate the acquisition of real property to support HCDD and the NHDP. With this purchase HLB has acquired approximately 156,000 square feet in four neighborhoods and has another approximately 200,000 SF of sites under contract.

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Thus far in the NHDP, on the lots secured from the HLB inventory, HCDD has been procuring the builders and overseeing construction for the program and has completed and sold 38 homes, starting in Acres Homes. Thirty-one properties have been sold to buyers with Houston Community Land Trust participation. Another 18 homes are under construction and an additional 38 homes are in the preconstruction phase. Buyers in this program cannot earn more than 80 percent of the Houston area median income,

HLB has seen over 80 homes sold under its traditional lot disposition program since 2019 and has accelerated its process to sell lots to prequalified builders; the organization presently has approximately 75 properties in development. These houses market to homebuyers earning no more than 120 percent of area median income, and can be found primarily in Acres Homes, Settegast, Sunnyside, and Trinity Gardens.

Houston Land Bank Background

HLB is a not-for-profit local government corporation incorporated in the State of Texas and is a component unit of the City of Houston. HLB is committed to be a strong, innovative partner in the equitable redevelopment of vacant, abandoned, or damaged properties in Houston's neighborhoods, and a good neighbor to the communities in which we work to provide affordable homes for low- and moderate-income Houstonians. HLB was established by the City of Houston in 1999 as the Land Assemblage and Redevelopment Authority (LARA), a local government corporation charged with facilitating redevelopment of vacant and/or tax-delinquent residential real estate in targeted Houston neighborhoods. HLB's 14-member Board of Directors includes representatives appointed by Houston's Mayor and City Council, Harris County, and the Houston Independent School District. HLB receives local funds from the City of Houston and generates additional revenue from the sale of lots and homes.

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