



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Board of Commissioners

Kandis Brewer Nunn
Chair

Jeff Bachrach
Vice Chair

Richard Fernández
Vice Chair

Harriet Cormack
Treasurer

Shar Giard

Chris Lassen

Lee Moore

Catherine Such

Executive Director
Steven D. Rudman

HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF PORTLAND

135 S.W. Ash Street
Portland, OR 97204

Tel 503.802.8300
Fax 503.802.8312

www.hapdx.org



For More Information:
Shelley Marchesi
Policy & Public Affairs
(503) 802-8427
shelleym@hapdx.org

For Immediate Release

HOUSING AUTHORITY RECEIVES \$16.8 MILLION HOPE VI GRANT TO REVITALIZE IRIS COURT

-- New Columbia's Success Paves Way For Second Grant --

PORTLAND, Ore., November 1, 2005 — The Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) has received a \$16.8 million Fiscal Year 2005 HOPE VI Revitalization Grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to revitalize the Iris Court Cluster housing development in North Portland. HAP received one of seven grants awarded from a competitive field of 29 applications submitted across the nation.

“This is very exciting to be awarded a second HOPE VI grant in just four years,” says Kandis Brewer Nunn, chair of the HAP Board. “We’re pleased to be building on the success of New Columbia by making a much-needed investment in another North Portland neighborhood.”

The Iris Court Cluster, located in the Humboldt neighborhood, consists of 101 rental units located in four different public housing developments. According to Steve Rudman, HAP Executive Director, Iris Court has long been a HAP priority for renovation.

“The time was right for Iris Court,” explains Rudman. “HUD was emphasizing readiness to proceed, a strong development team and a sound approach in this recent funding round. The Iris Court residents are equally enthusiastic about this revitalization plan, and have been asking for this for a very long time. Many of the residents were involved over the

- - more - -

summer helping us put together the application.” HAP submitted its application in July 2005 and learned of the award in late October.

Fifty percent of the Iris Court Cluster adults signed a letter of support for the application. HAP received support from the Mayor, City Council, and Portland Police Chief, the Oregon congressional delegation, Oregon State representatives, the Portland Public Schools, and the Humboldt Neighborhood Association.

Redevelopment of the Iris Court Cluster is estimated to cost \$40 million. In addition to the HUD grant, the City of Portland has pledged \$1.5 million and the Oregon Treasurer’s office has pledged tax exempt bonds. Financing will also come from the sale of low income housing tax credits and funding from Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc. All buildings currently on site will be removed and replaced with 100 units of very low income public housing and 29 units of moderate income affordable housing. One of the goals of the redevelopment will be improving neighborhood safety by creating a greater sense of community and stronger connection among neighbors than currently exists.

As HAP did at New Columbia, they are pledging support for 20 percent targeted business participation in construction and professional services contracts. Outreach to engage businesses or other organizations located in North and Northeast Portland will further increase the positive impact of the redevelopment. HAP will support the City’s workforce goals and actively promote the employment of HAP residents, women, minorities and residents of North and Northeast Portland in construction and non-construction jobs.

About New Columbia

New Columbia is an innovative mixed-income housing development anchored by a federal HOPE VI revitalization grant for public housing. Located in North Portland’s Portsmouth neighborhood, it offers a mix of housing types, including public housing, affordable rentals, and homes for sale. The architecture, street patterns, services, and recreational and educational opportunities are all planned to integrate New Columbia

- - more - -

with the surrounding neighborhood and enrich the lives of residents and neighbors. The first housing units became available in May of 2005.

About the Housing Authority of Portland

The Housing Authority of Portland is a public corporation serving all Multnomah County. HAP provides housing and housing-related services to those who face barriers due to income, disability or special need. HAP's housing and rent assistance programs serve 33,000 residents throughout the county. A citizen commission with volunteer members recommended by the City of Portland, the City of Gresham and Multnomah County and appointed by the Mayor of Portland governs HAP.

###