ABOUT OPA-LOCKA CDC

WHO WE ARE

The Opa-locka Community Development Corporation (OLCDC) was established in November 1980 as a nonprofit community development corporation in order to address the distressed unemployment conditions, particularly in the Opa-locka and North Dade County, Florida, communities.

MISSION

The Opa-locka Community Development Corporation (OLCDC) transforms under-resourced communities into vibrant, desirable, engaged neighborhoods by improving access to health, education, employment, art, safety, economic development and affordable housing.

VISION

Our Vision is for a revitalized Opa-locka to be the catalyst for an economically reinvigorated North Miami Dade—becoming one of the region’s centers of arts, culture and living — attracting both residents and visitors to live, work, play and create.
Dear Friends,

2019 was another pivotal year for the OLCDC as we continued to strengthen our infrastructure and expand our work. We had great success this year from the launch of our Filmmakers Residency program to the launch of our long-awaited Tech Hire Center. In addition, we’ve continued to advance our Real Estate division. In 2019, we bought out our partners to become the sole owner of Villas del Lago, a 288 units multi-family complex located in Miami Gardens. For the past 40 years, Real Estate Development and affordable housing has been a priority for us and will continue to be for the years to come.

As Margaret Wheatley said, “There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

As we being to round out the last couple of years of our 2020 strategic plan, we’ve been focused on accomplishing the goals we set out to achieve more than five years ago. Our efforts have been focused on building our comprehensive community development services, strengthening our real estate development and housing services, providing residents with access to capital and wealth building resources, diversifying our funding base and strengthening our infrastructure. This year we

- Provided 10 loans worth $263,406 to small businesses and entrepreneurs
- Launched our workforce development initiative, helping to upskill low income residents and help them find living wage jobs
- Began a series of professional development training workshops for our employees, including time and project management
- Launched a woman’s wellness series with Florida International University to give low-income, head of household women a safe space to talk about themselves

In addition, we’ve also continued to build a dynamic Board of Directors that can lead this organization into the future. We continue to diversify the range of talent on our Board and tackle new challenges together. Our Board of Directors has been our partners as we work to transform our community – whether it’s through real estate development or reaching our community through marketing. The OLCDC could not do its work without the support of an incredibly engaged Board of Directors, funders, ambassadors and constituents.

Here’s to even greater success in 2020!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

President and Chief Executive Officer
Opa-locka Community Development Corporation
BOARD MEMBERS

WILBERT T. HOLLOWAY
CHAIRMAN

NASHID SABIR
VICE-CHARMAN / TREASURER

JOHN LITTLE
SECRETARY

ALEX RHODES

CHAD JACKSON

EUGENE SIMMONS

FARRIS BUKHARI

FRED FUNEUS

IAN ABRAMS

ISMAEL FERNANDEZ

JENNIFER NEWTON

JULIAN MESA

MARVEASHA PRIMONATO

MELISSA HUNTER-DAVIS

MILTON FELTON

OWEN MAY

QUINN SMITH

RUBY MORTON-THOMAS

ULYSSES HARVARD

WENDY FRANCOIS
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OVERVIEW

The Arts & Creative Services Departments is committed to providing unique arts-based social and economic opportunities for current and future residents as well as visitors and stakeholders. These initiatives are meant to make quality art of all forms easily accessible and ingrained into everyday life in Opa-locka. We do this through arts education, artist cultivation and public art.

PARTNERS

O, Miami

The Miami Foundation

Florida Humanities Council

THE JORGE M. PÉREZ FAMILY FOUNDATION

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

CULTURE BUILDS FLORIDA
This photograph exhibition highlighted photos from the personal collection of Dr. Marvin Dunn, a former college psychology professor and longtime chronicler of Miami’s African-American history. The exhibition reflected the Black experience in Miami - from the arrival of the black pirate, Black Caesar, to the horrific Miami riot of 1980. The photographs reveal the triumphs and tragedies of people of African descent in Miami. The exhibit shows the early beginnings of Coconut Grove and the establishment of Colored Town, later called Overtown. Works such as this exhibit are important because there is a general absence of knowledge and appreciation of the history of Blacks in South Florida, especially among young people.
We launched this filmmakers residency to help cultivate local talent by supporting a new or existing project and connecting them with our small business counselors to help improve their business skills. The filmmakers chosen to participate in this program include Dudley Alexis, Keisha Rae Witherspoon and Terence Price.
ENTREPRENUERSHIP
The Community Fund of North Miami Dade (CFNMD) was established as a nonprofit in 2002 by its parent organization, the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation (OLCDC). CFNMD has a primary mission to utilize resources derived from the public and private sectors to assist the poor, distressed and underprivileged through a program of lending and investing in housing, real estate development projects, small/micro businesses and other commercial enterprises.

The CFNMD fills the access to capital and technical assistance gap seen in minority and low income neighborhoods. The CFNMD’s target Market that includes the City of Opa-Locka, Miami Gardens, Allapatha and Liberty City.

- 10 loans dispersed to small businesses
- 33 technical assistance classes
- 99 unique entrepreneurs received individualized technical assistance
- $263,406 loaned
- 141 micropreneurs participated in 5 Bazaar markets
OVERVIEW
The Family Services Department is a hub, a nucleus, that links families to needed community resources through care coordination, wraparound services, afterschool programming, summer camp options and various community resources. The Family Services Department creates a web of effective community solutions to empower and protect youth and families in North Miami-Dade County.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Keeping Our Promise
- Codemasters
- Summer Arts & Enrichment Camp
- Schools Of Hope

over 200 families serviced

4 featured programs

University of Miami Women’s Health Workshops • Back To School Publix School Supply Giveaway • Community Food Pantry •
Keeping our Promise (KOP) provides families with Care Coordination and wraparound services from high risk families who live in Miami Gardens, Opa-locka and North Miami. We offer families an organized pathway through comprehensive care coordination to access a full range of resources and support services for life success. KOP recognizes the value and importance of providing a comprehensive system of care and support that improves outcomes for children and supports their families more effectively. The program focuses on building more supportive communities, improved coordination of services, and strengthened, more cohesive engagement among schools, families, agencies, and services providers. KOP stems and eradicates the tide of chronic absenteeism, disruptive behavior, and maltreatment of children.

- 11 families were prevented from being homeless
- 89 referrals to our partner organizations for free services
- 102 students with disabilities were serviced with additional resources as needed
- 400 students were serviced
- 1,000 hours of tutoring were given to students, equating to $25,000
When a student improves their grades, you begin to see improvement in more than just their grades. Their character begins to reflect the same improvement. Such is the case with young Yerard Pena and his sister Jay-Leen Pena.

When their mother, Mariuxi Rosado first enrolled her children in the OLCDC’s Keeping Our Promise (KOP) Program, she feared the worst for her children’s academic future. After 3 months in the program and the tutoring received from a KOP tutor, both Yerard and Jay Leen have improved tremendously. “Jay-leen used to be an F student,” as reported by Ms. Rosado and evidence of student report card. “Now she has all passing grades. As their mother, I have seen improvement in them and I would like for the tutoring to continue to keep their knowledge growing. I am really thankful for [the tutor] Tony and his patience,” Ms. Rosado went on.

Ms. Rosado who once feared for her children’s future, now has hope that her children will be the best they can be. And, her “hope” is evidenced by real report card results. Yerard and Jay Leen who previously had lost interest in school are now talking about getting As and living a golden life.
We create financially stable families, giving them the financial freedom to pursue their dreams—whether that is paying off a bill, buying a house or saving for their kid’s college education.

We empower families to make and exercise smart money management decisions that best fit the circumstances of their lives.

Led by our HUD certified counselors, our programs not only teach, but connect people with the resources they need to accomplish their goals.

**OVERVIEW**

**HOMEBUYER WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS** 437

**NEW HOME OWNERS** 51

**FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS** 36

**FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT PARTICIPANTS** 342

**PARTNERS**

[Logos of MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WELLS FARGO, CITIGROUP, and CHASE]
MONEY does not dictate your lifestyle; its WHAT YOU DO to get it and how you MANAGE YOUR FINANCES that determine your lifestyle.
Our staff member, La’Queasha, is also an entrepreneur. She received financial counseling because she felt her financial situation was at rock bottom. After a couple of counseling sessions, La’Queasha now uses a budget for her personal finances and a separate budget for her business. She now has increased her savings account with a vision to reach her financial goals. La’Queasha continues to attend financial coaching sessions with our counselor.

Charius attended our Homebuyer Workshop and was not confident he would be able to purchase a home when our counselor contacted him for one-on-one session. Charius attended the session and after reviewing documentation and submitting his documents to the lender, Charius received pre-approval and put a contract on a home…all within 3 months. Charius is now a proud first time homeowner.
The Urban Farm’s mission is to combat food insecurity in Opa-locka and surrounding areas that are designated food deserts. The Farm produces fresh produce – such as collard greens, bananas, kale, sweet potatoes, okra and herbs – to nourish people in the community. All produce is raised organically, without pesticides or herbicides.

Our work matters because there is a plethora of corner stores with chips and sodas, our community needs access to healthy foods. We sold produce to about 1,000 clients last year, as compared to 700 the year before, including volunteers.

We have also partnered with Urban Oasis Project, a local farmer’s market, to provide freshly grown produce for the community. The farmer’s market is hosted at several locations in order to easily accessible to community members. Locations include the Betty T. Ferguson Center and Legion Park. Produce is sold at a reasonable rate in an effort to combat large grocery store chains.

THANK YOU TO:
Real Estate Development has become more progressive, moving our projects on a fast-track, but with the mind set of ‘building a sustainable and healthy community” for our families.

Real Estate Development is a holistic venture, not only to provide decent housing, but to ensure the stability of the family and the environment.

For this reason, Opa-locka Community Development Corporation sees community development today as a multidisciplinary that challenges us to think holistically about how housing relates to jobs, educational opportunities, transportation, health care and other services and amenities.

Successful community development is an entrepreneurial enterprise- we must be able to spot opportunities others may not see, managing complexity, reiterating ideas, revamping plans, networking to create solutions and unleashing generosity in ways that create reciprocity within our community.

PARTNERS
VILLAS DEL LAGO

OLCDC secured funds from the National Equity Fund to complete acquisitions. The 288 units multi-family complex located in Miami Gardens is undergoing pre-development design and feasibility studies supported by grant from Capital One Bank and Enterprise as for planned redevelopment in 2021 and 2022. Additionally, 261 units of new affordable housing will be built on the site.

REAL ESTATE PROJECTS

HISTORIC TRAIN STATION PROJECT

The Opa-locka Historic Train Station was constructed in 1927 this site has been in Opa-locka in the exact same spot for the last 82 years. Rehabilitation work consists of roofing and window/door replacement funded by HUD and Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development.

VFW DANCE STUDIO

The dance studio will provide the community with a place for exercise, placemaking, and creative expression. The renovations are funded by the Miami Foundation, HUD, and Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development.
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
The Workforce Ready Initiative is a workforce development program operated by the OLCDC that trains participants in skills that can be measured through certification attainment. All classes take place at the Opa-locka Tech Hire Center, which is a state-of-the-art community tech lab made possible by support from CareerSource South Florida. Through the program, our goal is to successfully train candidates for high demand, high skill/wage jobs in the tech industry.

**WHAT WE DO**

- Train young adults to become entry level professionals
- Provide job readiness skills and soft skills
- Provide important life skills, such as a financial literacy
- Incentivize and encourages committed employers to hire trained participants in entry-level jobs
- Provide job assistance and placement for returning citizens

This 14-week program is designed for entry level computer support individuals with a basic knowledge of computer hardware, software and operating systems with a goal of preparing individuals for CompTIA A+ and Network+ certifications. Certifications are recognized worldwide by the IT industry as credentials that certify that an individual understands the most common hardware and software technologies in business and has the essential knowledge and skills necessary to support complex IT infrastructures and confidently design, configure, manage and troubleshoot any wired or wireless network.
BY THE NUMBERS

1 Tech Hire Center

5 people

40 hours

50 resumes

150 individuals

In partnership with CareerSource of South Florida (CSSF), we brought the very first TechHire center concept to Opa-locka. The TechHire Center makes accelerated IT training accessible to Opa-locka residents for the first time, as well as empower area youth to use technology for education and training purposes so they can attain the skills they’ll need to rapidly train workers for well-paying jobs.