40 YEARS OF COMMUNITY

For 40 years, Lawrence CommunityWorks has advanced a powerful vision for community progress. This vision is rooted in a fierce belief in the talents of our People, a dedication to the special Place that is Lawrence, and a belief that together we can change the larger Systems that shape local opportunity. Through joyful collective action with our members, and deep community investment with our partners, we have moved this City forward - revitalizing neighborhoods, creating homes, building family assets, nurturing youth, and promoting local voices and leadership. The path ahead builds on this foundation, with growing momentum toward a more just, connected, and thriving City for all.

1986

1986

- Immigrant City Housing establishes the original CDC (that is now Lawrence CommunityWorks) as Heritage Common Community Development Corporation

1990

- Heritage Common Housing completed
- Berkeley Street and Bradford Street Apartments developed
- Heritage Common CDC renamed Lawrence Planning and Neighborhood Development Corporation (LPNDC)
- Junior Firefighters launched to combat arson crisis

1998

- LPNDC changes name to Lawrence CommunityWorks
- Summer Street Homes construction begins (8 homeownership units)
- Young Professionals Program launched

2000

- MIT students come to Lawrence to do a neighborhood planning project for LPNDC

1996

1997

1999

- New Executive Director and four full-time staff are hired
- Neighborhood summer program and after school program at 85 Newbury Street
- Berkeley Place Playground built
- Project REVINDO! launched with hundreds of residents to create vision and plan for North Common neighborhood

2001

- 475 members
- ESOL and computer classes begin
- Membership names it "Our House/ Nuestra Casa" and forms committee to oversee
- NeighborCircles approach is launched (first 40 families join)
- Revivendo Gateway initiative (R3G) launched with Groundwork Lawrence; Revivendo Playground built
- Armand Hyatt Scholarship fund created for college going Lawrence youth

2002

- Summer Street Homes completed
- HUD Secretary's Gold Award from National Association of Homebuilders for Summer Street
- First Individual Development Account (IDA) program begins with 12 women

2003

- Ground Breaking for Revivendo Family Housing (17 units in four derelict properties)
- R0I Zoning Overlay passed unanimously by City Council, opening Mill District to mixed-use development with affordability mandate
- Maxwell Award from the Fannie Mae Foundation for Revivendo Family Housing

2004

- 850 members
- First FOCUS Leadership Institute
- Revivendo Family Housing opens
- Young Professionals merges with Hope Street and creates Movement City
- Housing Counseling and First Time Homebuyer classes begin
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Award for Revivendo Family Housing
- CHAFA Community Service Award

2005

- Homeownership Center becomes HUD certified
- Despierta – play by Movement City
- First community meeting hosted on the Lawrence City Budget
- First Veronica Cassidy Parranda, holiday caroling

2006

- 1200 members
- Union and Mechanic Homes built (5 homeownership units)
- Homeownership Center launched
- People's Guide to the Lawrence City Budget is launched
- Movement City's outreach team, Movement Squad, begins

2007

- 2100 members
- Scarito Park completed
- Our House opens at 168 Newbury Street
- Scarito Homes opens (10 homeownership units)
- Fenham Street completed (8 rental units)
- Residency Program begins with 7 young adults
- Lawrence City Budget available in Spanish for the first time
- Foreclosure Counseling, Home-Safe post purchase, and Landlord Training Seminar launched

2008

- First group of Network Weavers
- First Weavers home IDA cohort
- First Movement City Summer Program
- LCW and CBL Lowell launch Mill Cities Community Investments (non-bicycle investments), first community development financial institution serving the Merrimack Valley
- Foreclosure/ Neighborhood Summit and Deutsche Bank Foreclosure Protest
- Enterprise Jim and Patty Rouse Award for Excellence in Community Revitalization

2009

- Pick It Up and Throw It In – neighborhood trash campaign
- First Homeowner Network dinner
- IDA graduates 100 and second Youth IDA launched
- Lawrence Saves Campaign – neighbors helping neighbors on the path to financial success

2010

- Small Business IDA and Financial Coaching launched
- Union Crossing NeighborCircles Spearheaded and co-organized "We Are Lawrence" City wide forum
- Parent Circles launched to discuss city schools
- Movement City sending 93% of graduates to college

2011

- Promise Neighborhoods Planning completed with The Community Group in the Arlington Neighborhood
- 500 Conversations – 2nd phase of Lawrence Saves Campaign
- Newbury and Garden Street Homes completed – restoration of 8 rental units devastated by foreclosure crisis
- Union Crossing ribbon cutting – 60 apartments and 2 floors of commercial space

2012

- Yes We Will campaign launched to increase civic engagement
- First Annual Convention held: "Tomorrow, Powered by People"
- First Volunteer Thanksgiving dinner
- LCW offers Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

2013

- Lawrence Financial Stability Center opens
- LCW assists 400+ families avoid foreclosure and 50+ receive Financial Coaching
- Lending Circles launched
- Community Education Circles begin
- Movement City hosts Go Lead leadership retreat
- "Red Truck" Planning identifies next round of North Common neighborhood priorities
- Revivendo Playground opens
- Movement Leaders from the National Community Development Association for Union Crossing
- Harmons Award for Smart Growth Leadership Excellence in Community Development Award from MHC

2014

- 108 Newbury Street completed (18 rental units)
- Lawrence Working Families Initiative (LWFI) launched and awarded Working Cities Challenge top prize from Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
- LCW adopts Mill Cities Leadership Institute from the Merrimack Valley Sandbox
- Collaborates with Sandbox on first Spanish-language entrepreneurship pitch contest

2015

- First Artist Open Studios held at Union Crossing Creative Spaces
- Duck Mill groundbreaking for 73 new apartments and 10,000 square feet of commercial space
- English conversation groups launched
- LCW Marketplace takes off as new network-building tool
- Economic Development Design Team completes interviews with 200 residents on local priorities
- Community Partnerships Innovation Award for collaboration with LPS

2016

- Jobs Summit held at LCW Annual Meeting
- LCW Community Day becomes official part of The Clubhouse Network
- LCW investment in CBL stands at over $100 million
- Membership is over 5000
- Members have invested $110 million in homes, education, and business locally
- LCW supports City's goal to the rule of $200,000+/year for over 500 Lawrence educated jobs through LCW and LWFI

2017

- First Annual Block Party/Fiesta del Barrio
- Duck Mill Ribbon Cutting
- Launched Latinas in Finance (Bilingual Banking Careers Program)
- Launched contextualized ESOL program with Jewish Vocational Services
- Movement City's Photos de Nosotros project begins
- May Day Unity of Immigrant Rights March (co-organized with Casecha)
- Landlord Tenant Forum

2018

- Faces of Lawrence community event with Mass Brown & Kaoyanny
- Pace-educator Program collaborative with Adult Learning Center, NECC, and LPS launches
- Gas Crisis response with We Are Lawrence partners & United Way
- Neighborhood planning for East Island District launches
- Vanguard Award for Duck Mill from National Affordable Housing Management Association

2019

- Union Milford Homeownership Project Ribbon Cutting
- Pollarie Strategic Planning Annual Meeting

2020

- LCW shifts to pandemic response, offering financial assistance and other resources to community members
- We Are Lawrence collaborative reactivated with Groundwork Lawrence, United Way, GLEAC, and the Senior Center to align local resources, hundreds of thousands of dollars in local aid distributed

2021

- Island Parkside Groundbreaking
- Vaccination Education Campaign
- Mariner Community Planning Meeting
- Launched Para to Teacher program incorporating MTEL bootcamp for aspiring Lawrence educators
- Launched capital campaign for DyeWorks building

2022

- Vaccine Education Campaign + Outreach Workers
- Hosted PODER leadership Institute for parents
- Intensified efforts around rental support and counseling as result of the pandemic and other economic challenges
- Squashbusters partnership planning for AMH2
- Duck Mill Will Project planning begins

2023

- Movement City celebrates 20 years
- LCW and partners launch Youth as Healthcare Change Agents Collaborative
- DyeWorks starts construction
- Workforce Medical Customer Service Training program launches
- Medical Debt Counseling program launches
- Ribbon cutting for Armand Hyatt Apartments Phase 2

2024

- Ribbon cutting for Armand Hyatt Apartments (formerly Island Parkside) Phase 1 and groundbreaking for phase 2
- First Annual Armand Hyatt 3v3 Basketball Tournament hosted
- Katherine's Kloset Ribbon Cutting
- National Equity Fund Affordable Housing Award for AMH Phase 1

2025

- Movement City gets a van
- Asset Building launches Newcomers program
- Hosted forums for both mayoral and school committee candidates
- Trump and GWI, reactivate We Are Lawrence to protect our hard-working immigrant families
- Orchard Street Homes ribbon cutting
- LCW recognized for many accomplishments:
  - Nonprofit Excellence Award in Community Building by MA Nonprofit Network
  - Northeast Affiliate of the Year by Unidos
  - Excellence in Affordable Housing Award for Armand Hyatt Apartments by MHC

2026

- LCW celebrates 40 years
- DyeWorks construction nears completion
- Mariner construction to begin
- Launched ALAS youth leadership program
- Immigrant rights education, preparedness and advocacy continues

*Forty years in, the story of **Lawrence CommunityWorks** is one of resilience, partnership, and community power, where bold leaders have taken root and grown into lasting change across Lawrence. Each milestone reflects the leadership and determination of **heart-centered residents** - practicing democracy, mutuality, aspiration, and action daily - working together to shape our City. As this journey continues, the possibilities ahead are even greater, driven by the same **spirit of collaboration and a shared commitment** to a more just and thriving future. Cheers to the next 40 years!*

Pa'lante!