

HOMEBUYER'S CHOICE PROGRAM

NEHI's Homebuyer's Choice Program allows prospective buyers to affordably purchase a home anywhere in Baltimore City, and place the land beneath it in trust to preserve permanent affordability.

With the Homebuyer's Choice Program, a Qualified Homebuyer can receive up to \$100,000* in financial assistance grants to help lower the cost of buying a high-quality home in the City of Baltimore that meets the Program Criteria.

All Community Land Trust homeowners agree to pass on the affordability of their home to future buyers if and when they make the decision to sell. Homeowners also retain the exclusive right to use and enjoy the land beneath their home for as long as they live there, and take on the responsibilities of upkeep and maintenance that a typical homeowner would.

*Financial assistance grant amounts are awarded at the discretion of NEHI, upon approval from Baltimore City's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) staff.

GET INVOLVED. BECOME A MEMBER!

If you have an interest in permanently affordable housing and becoming a member of NEHI in our journey to Build Community One House at A Time, please contact us today. Membership provides ongoing updates on affordable housing efforts in Baltimore and ways you can get involved. Membership is FREE.

North East Housing Initiative

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www.nehihomes.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm

UPCOMING

August 4x4 Community Meeting
Thursday, August 11th
6pm – 7:30pm
4x4 Green Space/3444 Elmley Ave.

HVAC and Basic Home Maintenance Workshop
Saturday, August 20th
10am – 12pm
3444 Elmley Ave.

August Homebuyer's Workshop
Saturday, August 20th
10am – 3pm
NEHI Office
Visit our [website](#) for more details.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



IN EACH NEWSLETTER, WE INCLUDE AN INTERVIEW WITH A NEHI STAFF MEMBER, COMMUNITY PARTNER, OR CLT HOMEOWNER. FOR OUR FOURTH ISSUE, WE ARE FEATURING DR. ELGIN KLUGH, PRESIDENT OF THE LAUREL CEMETERY MEMORIAL PROJECT, AND A PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Q: Can you briefly describe the history of Laurel Cemetery?

A: Laurel Cemetery was incorporated in 1852 as a nondenominational cemetery for African Americans of Baltimore. Initially it was a premier burial site for people across Black Baltimore's socioeconomic spectrum. However, by the 1930s, the site was overgrown, and garbage strewn due to years of neglect. Legislation was introduced in 1957 to allow the demolition and sale of the property. Although lot owners and NAACP lawyers petitioned to stop the demolition, the bulldozing proceeded following the removal of a few hundred graves to a new Laurel Cemetery site in Carroll County. Today, the Belair-Edison Crossing shopping center occupies the footprint of the old cemetery.

(Interview continued)

While the exact number of burials in Laurel Cemetery will never be known, our review thus far of less than 30% of relevant Baltimore City death certificates has revealed more than 17,000. It is safe to estimate that, from these records alone, more than 30,000 burials will be revealed.

Q: How did you become involved with the Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project?

A: Dr. Ronald Castanzo, an archaeologist at the University of Baltimore, noted the existence of Laurel Cemetery while reviewing historical maps. Although there was occasional mention of the cemetery in local newspapers and one journal article, there was no physical marker and it was mostly lost from local memory. Given the cemetery's size and apparent historical prominence, this appeared as a viable public anthropology project. Dr. Castanzo extended the invitation for me and my students at Coppin State University to get involved in the initial archaeology at the site, but we did not anticipate that the project would grow to be such a large endeavor.

Q: What do you hope that visitors to the mural at 3444 Elmley Ave. will learn about Laurel Cemetery?

A: I hope that the mural will engender a sense of place that allows the historical landscape to inspire contemporary strivings. I also hope that visitors will take the opportunity to learn about the history and notable achievements of individuals interred in Laurel Cemetery – such as the United States Colored Troops and individuals like Rev. Harvey Johnson and many others.

Q: In your opinion, what would be the best way for the community to honor Laurel Cemetery and the people buried there?

A: I see the Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project's efforts to dedicate a Laurel Cemetery Memorial Park, consisting of historic interpretive markers and an eventual memorial, as a great way to begin honoring Laurel Cemetery. I would like to see additional murals and more educational signage so that there is opportunity to learn about the cemetery on the Belair Road side of the shopping center and the green space by the new mural on Elmley Avenue. I hope that the community has a sense of ownership for this legacy and is spurred to maintain and protect it in years to come.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself, or your connection to NEHI or the 4x4 community?

A: I am impressed by NEHI's development strategy and overall efforts for community engagement. The 4x4 is an increasingly vibrant community with a fascinating history at its foundation.

JULY 2022

COMMUNITY CORNER

NEHI's 4x4 Fun Day Out took place on Saturday, July 30th and was a great success! Community members viewed the new mural on 3444 Elmley, painted by muralist Justin Nether, learned about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) gaming, and enjoyed field games, music, food, and fun for the whole family! Thank you to Rec and Parks, Code in the Schools, Next Level Gaming, Shorty Davis, and DJ JusJuWit for your partnership in bringing an afternoon of education and entertainment to the 4x4!



A collage of images from NEHI's second annual 4x4 Fun Day Out and our most recent 4x4 Dumpster Day.

NEHI held another **4x4 Dumpster Day** on Saturday, July 23rd. Households had the opportunity to discard bulk trash in two dumpsters placed in the neighborhood, and received information about upcoming stewardship events. The Waste Innovations team and Frontline Management helped residents clean alleys and remove bulk trash, such as TV's and mattresses. Many thanks to ALL the resident leaders who volunteered and helped to coordinate that day. A special thanks to the District 13 team and Councilman Glover for supporting our cleanup efforts twice this month. Such a beautiful way to bring in the weekend!

To help us think of ways to coordinate more regular cleanups and events, attend our next community meeting on August 11th at 6PM or reach out to our Stewardship Coordinator, Christina Delgado at christina.delgado@nehihomes.org or 443-303-3942.