

For Immediate Release:

The Low Income Housing Institute Celebrates Opening of

Gossett Place

62 apartment units in the U. District for homeless veterans,
young adults, singles and couples



September 6, 2011 – Seattle, WA – The Grand Opening celebration for the Low Income Housing Institute’s (LIHI) Gossett Place in the University District is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at 3:00pm. The event will take place at 4719 - 12th Ave. NE, Seattle.

Speakers include: King County Executive Dow Constantine, Mayor Mike McGinn, House Speaker Frank Chopp, United Way CEO Jon Fine, Bob Santos, LIHI Board President Melinda Nichols, LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee, Enterprise VP MA Leonard and others in dedicating the building in honor of Larry Gossett.

Gossett Place is named in honor of King County Council Chair and human rights champion Larry Gossett. Named as one of the most influential graduates of the University of Washington, Gossett has worked tirelessly for the rights of people of color and disenfranchised populations. He was a founder of the Black Student Union at UW and for 14 years served as Executive Director of the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP). “LIHI is proud to dedicate this building in honor of Larry Gossett. We wish to acknowledge his legacy in advancing human and civil rights at the University of Washington and throughout the region. It is a privilege to name this building located in the U District after him,” said LIHI Board President Melinda Nichols.

“The City of Seattle is proud to be a partner in making Gossett Place a reality,” said Mayor McGinn. “This project represents the values of our City and of the work of a courageous and steadfast community leader, Larry Gossett.”

Gossett Place provides 62 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans, young adults age 18-25, and other individuals and couples. An additional unit houses a resident manager. “Homeless veterans are over-represented among the adult homeless population. We are thrilled that King County residents on August 16 voted 69% in favor of renewing the Veterans and Human Services Levy. Gossett Place received funding from the original Vet Levy, which demonstrates the effectiveness of the levy in creating affordable housing linked with services for veterans and others in need,” said LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee.

“With Gossett Place opening, dozens of individuals and couples will have their lives turned around, putting homelessness behind them. We can all be proud of continued progress in ensuring that no one is without the safety and dignity of a home,” said Jon Fine, CEO of United Way of King County.

Sound Mental Health will provide on-site supportive services for residents, including job training and counseling. Residents will have access to a state-of-the-art computer lab and a large community room. They will enjoy living close to the new Sound Transit light rail station, shopping, and opportunities for recreation and employment. There are 53 studios and 10 one-bedroom units. Residents pay 30% of their income for rent.

Gossett Place is built green and designed with sustainability as a priority. The State’s Evergreen Standards were followed. The building features energy efficient insulation and fan systems, low VOC materials, Energy-Star appliances, and dual-flush toilets. In addition, Gossett Place is a non-smoking facility, which will ensure good indoor air quality for the residents. There are two rooftop decks with raised beds and planters for residents to garden and enjoy the view.

The property with permits was initially acquired with a land loan provided by United Way of King County and the city. LIHI purchased this “shovel ready” for \$2.5 million in 2009. The previous owners were unable to complete financing for a boutique hotel due to the economic downturn. LIHI was able to reuse the floor plans because the hotel units were designed with kitchens and bathrooms.

“LIHI and Enterprise share a strong interest in making sure vulnerable residents in our community have safe, healthy and affordable housing. We are very pleased to have continued our long term partnership with our investment of \$9 million to create much needed housing at Gossett Place,” said Enterprise VP MA Leonard.

Gossett Place is financed with funds from City of Seattle, King County, HUD, Washington State Housing Trust Fund, Washington State Housing Finance Commission, Seattle Housing Authority and tax credit equity from Enterprise. The construction loan is from U.S. Bank.

When: **Wednesday, September 14th at 3:00pm**
Where: **4719 - 12th Avenue NE**
Seattle, WA 98105

Event Sponsors: **Enterprise and U.S. Bank**
Architects: **Runberg Architecture Group and Driscoll Architects**
Contractor: **Walsh Construction**

For more information or to RSVP: www.LIHI.org or call Josephine at 206.713.9723

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