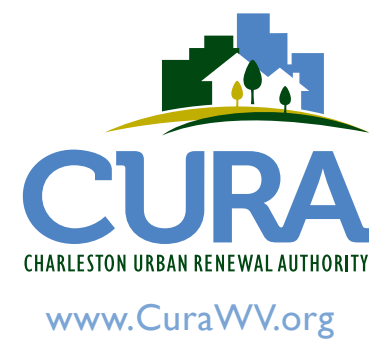




2014-2015

**ANNUAL** REPORT  
ENDING JUNE 30, 2015



815 Quarrier Street, Suite 244 | Charleston, WV 25301 | Phone: (304) 348-6890 Fax: (304) 348-6892

REVIVE. RESTORE. REBUILD.





# CURA REVIVING THE COMMUNITY

## INTRODUCTION

The Charleston Urban Renewal Authority (CURA) was created in 1952 by the City of Charleston under Chapter 16 of the West Virginia Code. Its purpose is to reduce the conditions of blight found in our community by implementing redevelopment plans adopted by CURA and the Charleston City Council. CURA's work is concentrated in five active redevelopment project areas: West Side, near West Side, Downtown, East End and the Shrewsbury/Smith Street area. The renewal plans for these areas can be found on our website: [www.curawv.org](http://www.curawv.org)

### Board of Commissioners

- John "Jack" Cavender, Chairman
- Diane Strong-Treister, Vice-Chairman
- Andrew Jordon, Secretary/Treasurer
- Karen Haddad, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
- MaryJean Davis
- Jack Harrison
- Lew Tyree
- Charles "Rusty" Webb
- John M. Wells, III

### Mission

To provide expertise and resources to partner with public and private entities to develop and enhance the City of Charleston to be a relevant place to work and live.

### Authority Counsel

- Joyce Ofsa
- Spilman, Thomas & Battle

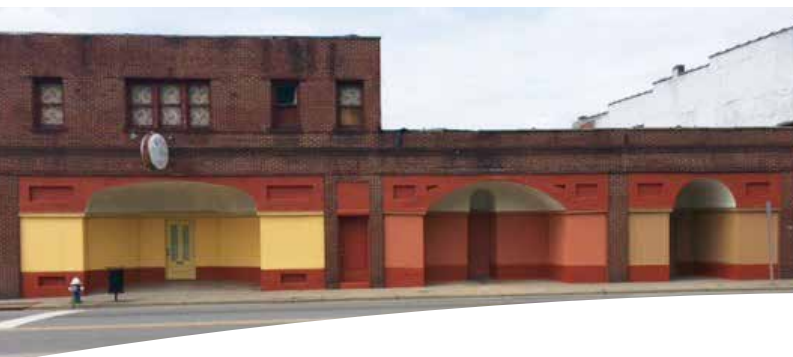
### Staff

- James Edwards, Executive Director
- Carla Anderson, Administration





# CURA RESTORING THE COMMUNITY



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### *Property Acquisition and Disposition*

- Purchased 1609 Washington Street, East to combine with 1601-1607 Washington, previously purchased and improved. Prepared combined property for development proposals.
- Purchased 122 Lee Street, West and public alley on its north for use as parking to serve the redevelopment of the historic Staats Building.
- Purchased the long vacant 100-104 Lee Street, East to remove blighted building. Temporarily, the site will be used by the contractor for the Civic Center renovation and expansion project.
- Received donation of 1212 Quarrier Street, a long vacant historic residence in order to improve and seek development proposals.
- Received donation of 1513 Lewis Street, adding it to the adjacent Chamberlain Court apartments. Both properties will be marketed as one, seeking private development proposals.
- Purchased and improved 170-178 Summers Street for the purpose of seeking private development proposals.
- Purchased 207 Dunbar Street (Ott Building) to add and to expand existing property at 1002 Quarrier Street. Seeking development proposals.
- Purchased 1324 Lee Street, East to add to existing property formerly known as the Burger King site on Washington, East. Expanding site to increase potential for development.
- Purchased 405 Ruffner Avenue, a vacant lot adjacent to property owned at Washington and Ruffner. Being used as a community garden.



### *Infrastructure Development*

- Provided, in cooperation with City, fill material for second phase of the East End Community Park.
- Completed design of Smith Street Streetscape (Morris to Ruffner).
- Completed design of next phase of Washington Street, West Streetscape.
- Applied for additional streetscape funding from State.

### *Addressing Blight and Private Redevelopment*

- Provided façade grants to multiple projects on East, Downtown and West Side areas, including Park View Lofts and The Block restaurant.
- Completed expansion of East End Historic District which provides tax credits for commercial and residential redevelopment.
- Began total plan updates for Downtown and Near West Side.
- Structured financing plans for private building acquisitions and renovations.
- Recruited tenant prospects.





CURA

REBUILDING THE COMMUNITY



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### *Community Projects*

- Sought and received funding match from the GKVF and reroofed the West Side's 2nd Avenue Community Center. Additional funds were committed to replacing windows and nominating the property to the National Register.
- Along with the GKVF, funded the purchase and renovation of two homes on the West Side to be occupied by police officers (West Invest). Program on-going.

### *Internal Improvements*

- Continued to reduce internal operating expenses.
- Hired administrative assistant to replace retiring employee – selected out of more than 90 applications.

### *Assistance to Other Agencies*

- Appointed to and serving on Board of Charleston Main Streets, overseeing combined East and West programs.
- Continued to serve on Design Committees of both East and West programs.
- Appointed to Board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters.
- Served on Community Development Committee of Charleston Area Alliance and its Housing and Slack Plaza task forces.
- Served on America's Best Communities Ad Hoc Committee seeking significant grant.
- Served on other community boards and committees related to CURA's mission.
- Provided land at no cost to Alliance's SAGE Project.

