

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE

Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative

St. Jean Baptiste is a 38-unit, mixed-income development in Lynn, Massachusetts that includes 24 affordable apartments, 14 new townhouses for first time homebuyers and a community center where Catholic Charities provides adult education and other programs. It was built on the campus of the former French-Canadian St. Jean Baptiste Parish. After the church closed in 1996, local leaders saw the opportunity to leverage the site's redevelopment to contribute to the revitalization of the distressed Lynn Commons neighborhood surrounding it. With the assistance of a grant from the Highland Street Connection, the Planning Office for Urban Affairs engaged the firm of Antonio DiMambro + Associates to consider neighborhood revitalization and housing development alternatives that could serve as a catalyst for reinvestment in the area. As a result of the planning process, the church, school, rectory and parish center were eventually torn down to make room for the new residential community.

The Planning Office developed the site as a joint venture with Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development (LHAND), which now acts as co-owner and management agent, providing a lasting local presence at the development to ensure a vibrant and dynamic community. The St. Jean Baptiste Church was once a beacon of hope and social justice for the hard working French Canadian community that founded the parish. Building on that rich past, St. Jean's redevelopment offers similar hope and a renewed sense of community for generations to come.



Developers: Planning Office for Urban Affairs,
Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development

Development Consultant: Development Synergies LLC

Architect: Antonio Di Mambro + Associates, Inc.

Contractor: EMRG Construction

Manager: Lynn Housing Authority

Financing:
Bank of America

Commonwealth of Massachusetts:
Department of Housing & Community Development;
MassHousing; Massachusetts Housing Partnership;
Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation

Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development

Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston
Highland Street Connection

Photos: Greig Cranna