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**\*\*\*PHOTO RELEASE\*\*\***

**COOK COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES HIGHEST REVENUE YEAR SINCE 2018, GENERATING \$9.6 MILLION IN 2025 AND A CUMULATIVE \$291 MILLION IN COMMUNITY WEALTH**

*The Milestone Was Celebrated at the Cook County Land Bank Authority's Annual Developer Awards and Recognition Luncheon Thursday*

**CHICAGO**—The [Cook County Land Bank Authority](#) (CCLBA) on Thursday hosted its annual Developer Awards and Recognition Luncheon, celebrating the accomplishments of small developers and other partners, who helped generate \$291 million in community wealth and more than \$9.6 million in revenue, marking CCLBA's highest revenue year since 2018.

This year's event, themed "Unlocking the Future," spotlighted the collective impact of CCLBA, county officials, municipalities, developers, small businesses, and corporate, governmental and community partners working together to unlock the potential of vacant and abandoned properties across Cook County. These efforts are opening doors to new homes, businesses and community spaces in neighborhoods that have long faced disinvestment. The keynote address was delivered by Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League, and the event was emceed by NBC5's Michelle Relerford. The 2026 Awards and Recognition Luncheon celebrated projects completed in 2025. Photos of the event are available below and for download [here](#).

"This year was transformative for the Land Bank and the communities we serve," said **Jessica Caffrey, Executive Director of the Cook County Land Bank Authority**. "In 2025, the Land Bank achieved record-breaking results that demonstrate the strength of our model and the dedication of our partners. Our annual Awards Luncheon is about recognizing the innovation, commitment and leadership of our extensive ecosystem of community developers, nonprofits, small businesses, elected officials and community leaders who help unlock vacant and abandoned properties. When land is unlocked, homeownership can flourish, small businesses can grow, and communities can build wealth and stability throughout Cook County."

Building on this momentum, County leaders emphasized that the Land Bank's achievements reflect more than financial milestones. They represent long-term investments in neighborhood

stability and equitable development. Since its creation, the Land Bank has helped return thousands of properties to productive use, supporting local developers and strengthening the economic foundation of communities across the region.

“The Land Bank’s success is not measured only in revenue — it is measured in stronger neighborhoods, new homeowners, thriving small businesses and renewed hope in communities that have experienced decades of disinvestment,” said **Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners**. “Generating nearly \$10 million in revenue in a single year and hundreds of millions in community wealth shows what is possible when government works as a partner in rebuilding communities.”

As part of the celebration, President Toni Preckwinkle also presented the prestigious Mark Satter Visionary Award to David Doig, President of Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives. Named in honor of civil rights activist Mark Satter, the award recognizes leaders who share the Land Bank’s mission. Through Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, Doig has partnered with CCLBA on transformative projects, including the rehabilitation of historic homes in Pullman; coordinated nearly \$200 million in public and private investment in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods; and focused his work on the same communities that Mark Satter fought for: Pullman, Bronzeville, Lawndale and Austin.

Cook County Commissioner and CCLBA Board Chair and Co-Founder Bridget Gainer presented Cook County Clerk Monica Gordon with the CCLBA Champion Award, reflecting on the importance of partnership in advancing CCLBA’s mission.

“Cook County Clerk Gordon plays a critical role in helping communities reclaim vacant properties and land and turn them into assets,” said **Commissioner Bridget Gainer**. “The partnership between Clerk Gordon and the Land Bank shows that when politicians put the mission first to support local developers, the revitalization benefits all the people”

You can view a video highlighting some of CCLBA’s partners [here](#).

The 2026 Award winners are:

**Mark Satter Visionary Award**

David Doig, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives

**CCLBA Champion Award**

Monica Gordon, Cook County Clerk

**Project of the Year**

Sankofa Wellness Village

The Community Builders, MAAFA Redemption Project and the Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative

**West Suburban Developer of the Year**

JDB Ventures LLC

**West Side Developer of the Year**

Midland Home Builders

**South Suburban Developer of the Year**

MJT Enterprises LLC

**South Side Developer of the Year**

Jose Negrete

**New Construction Developer of the Year**

TDJ Construction LLC

**Community Developer of the Year**

Inherentance NFP

**Newcomer of the Year**

Build Each Other Up NFP

**People's Choice Award for New Construction**

KBM Holdings

**People's Choice Award for Renovation**

Accel Capital

**Community Catalyst Recognition**

7300 S Kostner LLC

AVW Equipment, CXIV LLC

Damian Relchu

Donna Bustami

Jesus and Teresa Perez

Lumity

North Shore Garage Doors LLC

**PHOTOS: Available for download [here](#).**

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**About the Cook County Land Bank Authority**

The Cook County Land Bank Authority, an independent agency of Cook County, was founded by the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 2013 to address residents and communities hit hard by the mortgage crisis. CCLBA gives local developers, community groups and potential

homeowners the tools to transform their own communities from within. The Land Bank acquires properties that have sat tax-delinquent, abandoned and vacant for years and sells them at below-market rates to qualified community-based developers, who then rehab the properties. This approach not only keeps revenue and jobs in the community, but it also helps local developers grow their businesses. Learn more about the Cook County Land Bank Authority at [www.cookcountylandbank.org](http://www.cookcountylandbank.org) or email [info@cookcountylandbank.org](mailto:info@cookcountylandbank.org).