



Media Contact: Amelia Aldred
amelia@ruddresources.net

812-650-2016 (m)

773-966-4079 (o)

COOK COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES VICKIE LAKES-BATTLE TO JOIN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, DARLENE DUGO PROMOTED TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Chicago, Ill. (June 9, 2021)—The Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) today announced a new member of its board of directors as well as the promotion of key staff. The new leaders bring years of experience in community development, and they will help the Land Bank continue its mission to give local developers, community groups and potential homeowners the tools to transform abandoned and neglected residential and commercial properties, thereby revitalizing communities.

O. Victoria “Vickie” Lakes-Battle joined the board on May 13, 2021. She replaces Calvin Holmes as the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund representative on the CCLBA board and begins a 3-year term with a 3-year renewal. Vickie Lakes-Battle has 30 years of experience in commercial and mission-based lending for community development. She is IFF’s first-ever Executive Director for the Chicago metro region and serves on the board of the Greater Chatham Initiative, AMPT: Advancing Nonprofits, and the Steering Committees of Elevated Chicago and Together We Rise.

She joins Chairwoman Bridget Gainer, Cook County Board Commissioner (10th District); Xochitl Flores, Bureau Chief of Economic Development for Cook County; Diane Limas, Leader and Board President for Communities United; Peter M. Friedman, Partner, Elrod Friedman LLP; Tony Smith, Senior Vice President and Community Development Market Manager for PNC Community Development Banking; James Planey, Founding Principal, Lee & Associates of Illinois, LLC; Lyneir Richardson, Executive Director, Center for Urban Entrepreneurship & Economic Development, Rutgers Business School; Sarah L. Ware, Principal & Managing Broker, The Carter Ware Group; Richard Monocchio, Executive Director, Cook County Housing Authority; and Maurice D. Cox, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development, City of Chicago.

In addition, Darlene Dugo, the Land Bank’s trusted and experienced Senior Acquisition Manager, has been elevated as CCLBA’s first Deputy Director effective May 23, 2021. Since 2016, Darlene Dugo has contributed to CCLBA’s success by overseeing property acquisition and disposition and developing new strategies to assist the acquisition of new properties and ready them for productive use. She has extensive experience working with other CCLBA staff, community developers and private and public stakeholders.

“I am delighted to welcome Vickie Lakes-Battle to the board of the Land Bank and I congratulate Darlene Dugo in her new role as Deputy Director. The contributions of these experts will propel our work to create vibrant neighborhoods and build equity and financial opportunity for developers and homeowners,” Gainer said. “We are lucky to have their knowledge and experience in community

development as we continue to remove blight, build businesses and help families across Cook County achieve their dream of homeownership.”

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 <http://www.cookcountylandbank.org> or email info@cookcountylandbank.org.