Interview with Rita Gibson, Interim Executive Director of University Community Development Corporation

Say a little bit about the University Community Development Corporation

The University Community Development Corporation was organized by Clark Atlanta University and chartered as a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation in 1988. In 1989, the charter was amended to reflect the participation of all the AUC institutions - Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, the Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College. UCDC’s focus is to create a better community on Atlanta’s Westside by encouraging homeownership, retail development and employment creation. Our mission is to marshal resources for community development on Atlanta’s Westside to create a vibrant, prosperous, sustainable and equitable community that enhances and improves the quality of life for current and future residents.

Tell us a little bit about how UCDC and Enterprise partner together?

Enterprise and UCDC share a common vision that every person will have an affordable house in a vibrant community filed with promise. Our partnership is one of trust and respect as we use funding from Enterprise to move the needle for those who are seeking housing affordability. Enterprise granted us Section 4 funds that were used to support a part-time Neighborhood Revitalization Consultant to research available properties in the Ashview Heights, Just Us, and Atlanta University Center neighborhoods. The goal was to identify vacant and abandoned properties which blighted the neighborhood. UCDC identified 42 properties; we acquired one and we have a contract on another site. The first property will yield a 3 bedroom -2 ½ bath home in the Ashview Heights community. Once we close on the second site, UCDC will build 13-15 townhomes with approximately half being affordable. UCDC was also the recipient of an Enterprise grant for energy efficiency design, which both of our new developments will incorporate. Enterprise and UCDC work together to ensure that there is affordable housing for all in our community.

What else should people know about UCDC

UCDC is not just another neighborhood CDC! We are active in the community and a strong advocate for affordable, quality housing. Our team participates on numerous committees that focus on housing affordability throughout the city, state and the nation. This includes Georgia Advancing Communities Together (GACT), House ATL, Women’s Affordable Housing Coalition, and Lobby Day at the State Capitol and Lobby day at the US Capitol.