The 9th Annual Los Angeles County Technology Week was held January 19-20, 2011, at the Business Technology Center (BTC), a project of the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (CDC). The event was supported by Michael D. Antonovich, Los Angeles County Mayor, the CDC, and Beckett Advisors.

Los Angeles County Technology Week is an annual event that showcases the innovations of high-tech companies, connects technology leaders and entrepreneurs with strategic resources, and offers outstanding networking and business development opportunities between newly budding entrepreneurs and savvy CEOs.

The event’s discussions revolved around social media marketing, tablets and smart phone applications, technology transfer and licensing, trends in funding technology companies, and the secrets of success for startup companies. “Diverse technology businesses are being pioneered right here in Los Angeles County,” said Dr. Mark Lieberman, co-founder of Los Angeles County Technology Week. “The Los Angeles technology sector is unarguably one of the strongest technology economies in the world and our 9th Annual Technology Week reflected that vitality.”

During the event, awards for top Technology Leadership were announced. Steve Streit, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Green Dot Corporation, was honored as Entrepreneur of the Year. In 1999, Mr. Streit conceived the idea to sell prepaid debit cards at retail stores, targeting millions of Americans who are underserved by the financial services industry.

Green Dot gives millions of customers in 49 states a convenient and efficient way to load cash onto prepaid cards to make purchases and pay bills. Green Dot is now the leading provider of prepaid financial services, and it owns and operates the Green Dot Network, which is the largest cash-reloading network in the United States.

Additionally, Dave Berkus, an accomplished author and founder of Berkus Technology Ventures, LLC., was honored as Technology Leader of the Year. Mr. Berkus has created and managed successful businesses in entertainment and software. He is an investor and advisor to more than 70 technology start-up ventures. Mr. Berkus consults executives and corporate boards on diverse issues, including preparing for acquisition, business process restructuring, and implementation.

The BTC (www.labtc.org) is the largest technology incubator in California. Its mission is to help start-up and early stage technology firms grow and prosper. The incubator, which opened in October 1998, offers state-of-the-art communications infrastructure and key business support services to emerging technology organizations. BTC tenants gain access to capital, business consulting, and mentoring from Advisory and Mentoring Committees with a wide range of skills, experience, and contacts in Southern California.

Located two miles from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, and four miles from the California Institute of Technology, the BTC currently houses over 20 high technology companies with specialties ranging from software development to commercializing Federal laboratory technology. Firms located at the incubator have raised over $160 million from angel and venture capital investors.

To learn more about the event visit: www.latweek.com
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HUD Reviews CDC’s Environmental Program

From February 9-10, 2011, a team of Environmental Officers from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) local Field Office and from Washington, D.C., visited the CDC to conduct a thorough environmental compliance review. The Officers’ focus was on the CDC’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Act Programs which had not been examined since the 1990’s. Before the visit, staff was understandably apprehensive and put in extra time to ensure that the administrative and project files were in perfect order. HUD’s intent was to determine whether CDC carried out their HUD-assisted activities under appropriate statutes, regulations, and the community’s certifications. HUD Officers thoroughly reviewed the CDC’s Environmental Review Records to assess procedural and technical compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, HUD’s environmental regulations, and other related federal environmental laws and executive orders.

HUD’s assessment revealed that each of the projects selected for review and site visits contained successful mitigation and energy efficiency enhancements. Further, the HUD Officers were impressed with the examples of projects completed through the CDC’s Green Initiatives and Grant Programs. As a result, HUD is interested in sharing a written summary of the CDC’s successful use of Stimulus Funds for energy efficient projects with policy makers and Congress.

HUD’s report stated that “no findings resulted from the monitoring review,” and that the CDC’s CDBG Division is managing an exemplary environmental program.

HOUSING AUTHORITY PROGRAMS

HUD Conducts Full Management Review

HUD recently conducted a Full Management Review of the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA). During the week of February 7, 2011, HUD representatives were on-site reviewing various components of HACoLA’s Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs’ management and operations, with an emphasis on tenant files, including verification of required identification, income determination, rent calculations, as well as income allowances and deductions. In addition, HUD staff conducted a detailed review of the Public Housing Capital Fund Program and maintenance operations.

HUD determined there were no findings with the Section 8 program, remarking that “The condition of the files was exemplary….the tenant files and timely reexaminations, demonstrate great improvement at HACoLA, and your staff is to be commended.” Additionally, no deficiencies were found in the Public Housing program; HUD stated that the tenant files were “outstanding.”

HACoLA Management extends its appreciation to staff for their dedication to administering successful Section 8 and Public Housing programs.
Housing Highlights

PUBLIC HOUSING
Computer Literacy Training

The Family Learning Center at the Carmelitos Public Housing Development is pleased to offer free Computer Literacy training to its residents. During the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2010-11, ABCO Technology, a Los Angeles-based computer training center, agreed to provide residents with courses on-site, twice a week, in a comfortable learning environment.

ABCO instructor Steven Moraldo, featured in the photograph to the left with a Carmelitos resident, teaches the Computer Literacy training course every Tuesday and Friday morning. Carmelitos residents have taken to his enthusiastic and outgoing nature. Not only does he inspire residents to get excited about computers, but he is able to instill his vast wealth of knowledge through his teaching methods. Mr. Moraldo’s class is comprised of an extremely dedicated and committed following of residents. The students arrive early to class and stay after he has left to apply the skills and information that he so avidly teaches. A 54-year old Carmelitos resident stated, “It is great to be able to learn about computers at my age. Knowledge is power and you are never too old to learn.” The other students echo her feelings as well.

ABCO Technology offers training for several certification programs from CompTia, Oracle, A+ Certification, CISCO, and CIW, to Microsoft MCITP, and Adobe ACE Master Collection. Through the Computer Literacy courses, students are becoming more confident in themselves and their capabilities. Resident Services Coordinator, Daniel Gibson, is thrilled that the Carmelitos Resident Services Program is able to offer this extremely valuable service to the community.

SECTION 8
Assisted Housing Welcomes New Manager

HACoLA’s Assisted Housing Division would like to extend a warm welcome to Martin Peery, the newest member of the Division’s Management team. Martin joined HACoLA in late December as the Contract Maintenance Manager, and has since become a valuable asset to the team. Martin joins us from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) where he served as the Deputy Assistant Director of the Public Housing Program, overseeing Jordan Downs, a 700-unit public housing apartment complex.

A native of Los Angeles, he began his career in housing in 1990, working for both public housing and Section 8, in capacities ranging from resident services to case management. While he misses his colleagues at HACLA, Martin has already established a positive rapport with Division staff, and is working hard to ensure HACoLA achieves “High Performer” status. He looks forward to a long and prosperous career with HACoLA that includes fostering innovation and growth.
NEW WEBSITE FEATURE LAUNCHED

Executive Management Team Greeting

The goal of the CDC is to Build Better Lives and Better Neighborhoods. This mission is accomplished through the leadership of the Senior Management team and the contributions of more than 650 employees. Together, they strive to provide excellent customer service to Los Angeles County residents, homeowners, and business owners.

As of March 15, 2011, a Senior Management photo will greet visitors as they arrive at our website's home page. By clicking on each person, visitors can view a brief video message directly from each Division Director explaining what programs their Division offers and advising how to obtain more information. From the video, visitors can link directly to the specific program's web page.

We are proud of the finished product and hope website visitors will appreciate the steps being taken to provide program information in a more efficient and helpful manner. To view the video messages, please visit www.lacdc.org.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

San Angelo Multi-Purpose Building

Funded by Los Angeles County's First Supervisorial District, the new San Angelo multi-purpose building will be located next to the existing Community Center at San Angelo Park, in La Puente. Lehrer Architects LA designed the new 2,900 square foot building with a small environmental footprint, but a big impact in expanding educational and recreational programming opportunities for the community's residents. During the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2010-2011, the San Angelo multi-purpose building project was submitted into plan check.

The new building will feature a tiny tot room, a multi-purpose room, and an open plaza that can be utilized for large gatherings and outdoor functions. The design complements the existing Community Center with a metal canopy which provides the framework for a photo-voltaic array that is anticipated to take care of the entire energy needs of the new facility.

The project is targeting LEED-NC Gold certification, with the potential to be a site net zero energy building. San Angelo's civic art project will provide a learning experience for the community. The CDC's Construction Management Division is overseeing development of the new building which is scheduled to begin construction in late 2011. When complete, it will be operated by the County's Department of Parks and Recreation.