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CPHA: A History of Effective Citizen Action

The Early Years 1941 - 1960

The small number of citizens who founded CPHA in 1941 had literally no other resources than their own enthusiasm. Their purpose was to change the community's attitude from indifference about Baltimore's slums to concern and action. In the early years CPHA dedicated itself to eliminating indecent housing and assuring each Baltimorean the dignity of a decent home in a healthy environment. From 1941 and onward CPHA was in the forefront of all housing and planning initiatives. These included:

- * Baltimore Plan of Housing Law Enforcement
- * Reform of the Housing Authority
- * Development of Baltimore Urban Renewal and Housing Agency
- * Creation of Greater Baltimore Committee

Growing Years 1961 - 1980

By 1969, CPHA was known as the "doctor to neighborhoods" and was touted in a television news editorial as "the most effective private organization in the area." CPHA helped form improvement groups throughout the city and showed residents how to force city agencies to plan with them and not for them. Widespread citizen participation in community action and the development of responsible citizen leaders is fundamental to CPHA's strength and influence. CPHA mobilized citizens and neighborhoods and effected public policy through making surveys, taking appeals, speaking to neighborhood groups, watchdogging city agencies and publishing reports. These initiatives included:

- * Bawlmer, An Informal Guide to Baltimore
- * Beyond the White Marble Steps,
A Look at Baltimore's Neighborhoods
- * Study on Land Use for the Inner Harbor
- * Public Education Campaign on the
Development of the Aquarium
- * Publication: "Damage Suits for Housing Code Violations"
- * Publication: "The Baltimore City Housing Court"

Present and Future Years
1980 - onward

CPHA's activism continues as a catalyst for change. Channelling the creativity and energy of citizens and supporting self-sufficiency of Baltimore's neighborhoods, CPHA forges ahead to Build a Better Baltimore. We do this through advocacy, education, and community mobilization and through the following initiatives:

- * Creation of Baltimore Neighborhood Resource Bank
- * Publication: Neighborhood Self-Help Handbook
- * Publication: "Every Citizen Can, A Baltimore's Residents Action Guide"
- * Publication: "Housing Vacancy & Abandonment"
- * Publication: "Baltimore's Vacant Housing - An Urban Waste"
- * City Series Forum on Downtown Development and Regionalism
- * Publication of "Take This School and Love It" Manual
- * Publication of the Elementary School Report Card (to be released)

CITIZENS PLANNING
AND HOUSING ASSOCIATION



CPHA

340 N. CHARLES ST. BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 539-1369

November 16, 1979

CITIZENS PLANNING AND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

CATALYST FOR PROGRESS - HISTORY OF ACTION

Welcome to CPHA! You have now become an important and vital part of an organization that has played a pivotal role in the development of Baltimore for nearly 40 years. We believe you'll find that CPHA is a place where you too can make an impact.

In 1937, Frances Morton Froelicher convened a group of concerned citizens of varying professional backgrounds to address serious problems facing Baltimore.

Since that time CPHA has consistently and doggedly worked to improve the quality of urban life. The Housing Code, Housing Court, Baltimore City Department of Planning, the school neighborhood improvement program—these were part of our beginning accomplishments. The Greater Baltimore Committee grew from seeds planted at CPHA. The Department of Housing and Community Development traces its chronology through CPHA.

By the 1950's, there were more than 2,000 members. Then, as now, a widely diverse cross-section of city and county citizenry was involved—business people, educators, housewives, civic leaders, clergy and professional persons. Neighborhood improvement associations and businesses are also a part. All are people who want to work to make an impact.

Some who have made that impact at CPHA: Robert Embry, M. Jay Brodie, Paul Sarbanes, William Donald Schaefer, William Boucher, Judge Elsbeth Bothe, Verda Welcome, Walter Sondheim, Hope Quackenbush, Howard Needle, Mary Pat Clarke, Jacques Schlenger and Joan Bereska to name a few. You are now a part of that kind of commitment through CPHA.



We look to the 1980's with continued optimism. Our work in Baltimore City and Baltimore County is far from complete.

The Citizens Planning and Housing Association has long been a catalyst for progress. We serve as that catalyst only through committed persons who want to make an impact.

People like you.