



## **BACKGROUND**

### **Quality Growth for Vibrant Downtown and Communities to Call Home**

The Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency is leading the way to quality growth in Boynton Beach. Established in 1982, the CRA mission is to serve the community by guiding redevelopment activities that create a vibrant downtown core and revitalized neighborhoods within the Agency's district. The CRA area covers 1,650 acres along the eastern edge of the City, stretching from Interstate I-95 to the Intracoastal Waterway, and north and south to the City limits.

### **Blending the Past with the Future**

CRA staff, City officials, the Chamber of Commerce, business and community leaders have teamed up with residents to embrace change that will make Boynton Beach one of the best places to live and work in Palm Beach County and all of the southeast. "Throughout Palm Beach County, the buzz is building about Boynton Beach," states Lisa Bright, the CRA's executive director. "From the Atlantic Ocean to our western suburbs, the City and CRA are blending the past with the future, creating new opportunities and drawing new businesses and residents." With numerous townhome, condo, retail and office projects in the works, Boynton Beach is well on its way to redevelopment that expands homeownership opportunities, beautifies the City from downtown to the surrounding neighborhoods, creates jobs and strengthens the local economy.

### **Shaping a Dynamic Downtown**

In 2006, the CRA purchased two key properties: Boynton Harbor Marina on the east and the old Boynton Beach High School on the west. To keep Boynton Beach's maritime heritage a vital part of the City's future, the CRA purchased approximately 80 percent of the Boynton Harbor Marina. "Water is one of Boynton Beach's most important assets," shares Ms. Bright. The marina, which includes 24 boat slips and a dive shop, is

undergoing a restoration that will provide Boynton Beach residents with public access to the waterways for generations to come.

As the first high school from 1927 to 1949, the old Boynton Beach High School on Ocean Avenue next to the Schoolhouse Children's Museum has a special place in the City's early history. Recent collaborations between the CRA and members of the community have ensured that the two-story, 28,000-square-foot building will play an equally significant role in Boynton Beach's future. Suggested renovations include preserving the facility to serve as a cultural amenity, enriching the lives of all residents by offering diverse experiences in the visual and performing arts, recreation and entertainment.

### **Revitalizing the Heart of Boynton**

A CRA initiative devoted to creating quality commercial and residential development along Martin Luther King Boulevard, the "Heart of Boynton" is steadily coming into focus. In August 2007, the CRA board selected Auburn Group LLC as master developer of the MLK Corridor that encompasses Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. from Seacrest Blvd. to U.S. 1. Intown is spearheading property acquisition and redevelopment that encourages homeownership, supports locally-owned businesses, and creates a safe and attractive sense of place that inspires pride of residency.

### **A City on the Rise**

Elsewhere in the CRA district, several new high-rise buildings with homes and shopping are planned or under construction, including Las Ventanas and The Promenade. In September 2006, the 15-story Marina Village luxury condominium complex welcomed its first residents to live at Boynton Beach's downtown waterfront. The \$102 million project, estimated to bring a potential \$20 million in new economic activity to downtown each year, is the first to foster the walk-to-everything "live, work and play" lifestyle opportunities of Boynton Beach's emerging downtown.

### **The Allure of Events and Festivals**

Along with attracting these large signature projects, the CRA has worked to increase economical viability and visibility for local businesses by establishing event and festival partnerships. Events and festivals are undeniable anchors for a sustainable downtown

redevelopment plan, bringing a wide and diverse range of people into the area – from local citizens to tourists. Annual CRA events include the Holiday Extravaganza, Oceanfront Concert Series, Boynton Beach Heritage Celebration, and Salute to Independence.

### **Free and Easy Trolley Travel**

Having celebrated its one-year anniversary in July 2006, the CRA's Boynton Beach Trolley has grown to become a trusted community resource for moving smoothly and affordably around a dynamic city. Serving 6,000 riders a month, the free trolley puts Boynton Beach's growing and diverse destinations within easy reach, seven days a week. (For more information on the trolley system, visit [www.boyntonbeachtrolley.com](http://www.boyntonbeachtrolley.com).)

### **Boynton's Time to Bloom**

Symbolic of Boynton Beach's "City on the Move" energy, the CRA moved its offices in 2006 to 915 South Federal Highway, a central location from which to nurture the City's ongoing renaissance. These are exciting times, as the City of Boynton Beach moves forward with purpose and passion to preserve its heritage and create rewarding new opportunities for growing into the future.

For more information, go to [www.boyntonbeachcra.com](http://www.boyntonbeachcra.com) or call 561-737-3256.