



# MEMPHIS

## Memphis VOICE

In partnership with SPARCC, [Memphis VOICE](#) envisions a region where all residents benefit from new investments and have access to economic, social, and health resources. Through SPARCC, Memphis VOICE seeks to:

- Institutionalize policy and practices that incorporate diverse racial, economic, and cultural perspectives into community planning through the establishment of an equity assessment toolkit and regional equity council
- Address gaps in the greenway trail connectivity and connect with the public transportation system
- Improve health outcomes for residents by enhancing connectivity to healthy food, health services, access to green space and trails, and quality affordable housing
- Improve the climate resilience of neighborhoods and the region through targeted home weatherization, repair, and improvement efforts

Examples of some of the work done with SPARCC capital grant funds follow.

### ABOUT SPARCC

Launched in 2017 the Strong, Prosperous and Resilient Communities Challenge (SPARCC) is an initiative to change the way we invest in and shape our cities to promote racial justice, health equity, and climate resilience. SPARCC offers flexible grant funding, technical assistance, and a community of practice that convenes around policy and arts & culture to support innovative solutions that elevate communities' role in shaping their environment.



# Manna Market

**NEIGHBORHOOD** North Memphis  
**SPARCC CAPITAL GRANT** \$155,275  
**DEVELOPER** Grace Church of God  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Residents in the North Memphis neighborhood lack access to healthy food options. Funding was for predevelopment work and consultants required to advance the Manna Market project concept. The project hit numerous hurdles and is currently on hold.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Importance of community building in advance of project development



# The Table Spread



**NEIGHBORHOOD** Klondike  
**SPARCC CAPITAL GRANT** \$56,000  
**DEVELOPER** Midtown Mosque  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Midtown Mosque renovated a 3,750 square foot building into a food distribution facility, a nursing clinic, and a non-profit retail green grocer providing affordable fresh fruits and vegetables to the residents of the Klondike neighborhood. The funding was used to complete renovations for the Table Spread food pantry and green grocer.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Example of equitable development, inter-generational design and function, and programmatic activity



# Bearwater Park Senior Housing Project

**NEIGHBORHOOD** North Memphis

**SPARCC CAPITAL GRANT** \$50,000

**DEVELOPER** Oasis of Hope

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Grant funding was used to fill a gap in a 40-lot subdivision project. The development has received a myriad of public and private funding sources and which has been in progress for several years over multiple phases. The funds were targeted to complete the final three lots, which Oasis of Hope has reserved for low-income, disabled seniors.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Importance of clearly defined anchor organization able to connect threads of work needed to ensure a successful project
- Created launching pad to identify community leaders
- Identified opportunities for future homeownership projects



# The Heights Line

**NEIGHBORHOOD** North Memphis

**SPARCC CAPITAL GRANT** \$116,000

## **DEVELOPER**

Heights Community Development Corporation

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Heights Line is a 1.75-mile multi-use path and linear park located in the median of National Street, a critical link in the transportation system in Memphis. The Heights Line is a neighborhood led project to redesign National Street to be safer, more attractive, and more functional. These funds covered the costs of preconstruction documents, environmental impact study, and economic development impact study.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

- Highlighted depths of inequities in Memphis communities
- Displayed community involvement and leadership capacity



# Tom Lee House

**NEIGHBORHOOD** North Memphis

**SPARCC CAPITAL GRANT** \$66,000

**DEVELOPER** Klondike Smokey City CDC

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The rehab of a historic structure (Tom Lee House) into a museum and facility for community-based educational programming. Removal of blight and redevelopment of an adjacent 3.1-acre site into a Senior Independent Living Facility.



## LESSONS LEARNED

- Positive examples of residential engagement
- Project highlights voices not previously heard from

# Home Improvement Program



*\*Home is an example of projects undertaken by this program.*

**NEIGHBORHOOD** Klondike

**SPARCC CAPITAL GRANT** \$56,225

**DEVELOPER** Klondike Smokey City CDC

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Memphis Home Improvement program helps prevent displacement and reduce blight by providing vital home repairs. The full amount of these grants will be forgiven over five (5) years if the grant recipient continues to reside at the property.

