For Immediate Release:

The Low Income Housing Institute Celebrates Opening of

Cheryl Chow Court
50 apartments in Ballard
for low-income and homeless seniors

April 20, 2015 – Seattle, WA – The Grand Opening celebration for the Low Income Housing Institute’s (LIHI) Cheryl Chow Court in Ballard is scheduled for Friday, April 24th at 10:00am. The event will take place at 2014 NW 57th Street.

Speakers include: Seattle City Councilmembers Mike O’Brien and Kshama Sawant; Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim; Enterprise Community Investment President & CEO Charlie Werhane; members of Cheryl Chow’s family: Sarah Morningstar and Mark Chow; HUD Regional Director Bill Block; and the Washington State Housing Finance Commission (WSHFC) Chair Karen Miller.

Cheryl Chow Court is named in honor of former Seattle City Councilmember Cheryl Chow. Cheryl Chow was instrumental in the creation of the Urban Rest Stop in downtown Seattle 14 years ago when she was chair of the City Council’s Housing and Human Services Committee. She secured funding for LIHI to purchase the Julie Apartments and to locate the Urban Rest Stop on the first floor. She stood up to NIMBY opposition from a faction of the downtown business community. “LIHI admires and praises Cheryl Chow for her fearless leadership,” said Sharon Lee, Executive Director of LIHI.

Cheryl was also a visionary in getting the Seattle City Council to approve the development of housing for homeless families, youth and singles at the former Sand Point Naval Station at
Magnuson Park. Cheryl worked diligently with housing advocates to ensure that homeless people have a place to call home. Cheryl Chow passed away March 29, 2013.

LIHI is delighted to provide affordable senior housing in one of the most attractive, livable, and walk-able neighborhoods in Seattle. Cheryl Chow Court is located down the street from the Ballard Public Library and Ballard Commons, and is close to Swedish Ballard, shopping and many amenities. A Ballard Urban Rest Stop, which will provide free showers, laundry and restrooms to homeless men, women and children, is under construction in the first floor retail space. With the construction of over 1,500 new luxury apartments in Ballard, Cheryl Chow Court is a much needed affordable housing option for seniors. Residents pay 30% of their income for rent.

Funding partners for Cheryl Chow Court are: HUD, City of Seattle, Enterprise Community Investment, Banner Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, WSHFC, and Duncan Haas & Birgit Walbaum.

“Enterprise is honored to have our 2,000th Low-Income Housing Tax Credit equity investment support formerly homeless and low-income seniors at Cheryl Chow Court. Our country is in the midst of a housing insecurity crisis, and in Seattle, it is a growing issue,” said Charlie Werhane, President and CEO. "At Enterprise, we believe home is the foundation of opportunity. That's why we have set a goal to end housing insecurity in the U.S. within a generation. That means no more homelessness and no more families paying more than half of their income on housing.”

Cheryl Chow Court is built green and accommodates the needs of seniors, including frail seniors. Universal design features include lower counter heights, lever door hardware and increased accessibility with roll-in showers. Water efficiency features include low flow fixtures, native plant landscaping, and efficient drip irrigation. The views from the roof are spectacular. The green roof area slows down the dump of rain water into storm drains and is an amenity to tenants. This is a no smoking building.

Highlights of Cheryl Chow Court include: 50 studio and 1-bedroom units for homeless and low-income seniors. Extension community space is provided, including a library with internet-enabled computers, large community room, and patio garden.

When: Friday, April 24th at 10:00am
Where: 2014 NW 57th Street
         Seattle, WA 98107

Event Sponsors: Enterprise, Banner Bank and Walsh Construction Co.
Architects: GGLO
Contractor: Walsh Construction Co.

To RSVP or for info, contact Aaron at AaronL@LIHI.org.

For more information about the Low Income Housing Institute, please visit www.LIHI.org