FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Low Income Housing Institute Celebrates Opening of

August Wilson Place
57 Units of Workforce Housing in Downtown Bellevue

May 21, 2015 – Bellevue, WA – The Grand Opening celebration for the Low Income Housing Institute’s (LIHI) August Wilson Place in downtown Bellevue is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th at 10:00am. The event will take place at 204 - 111th Ave NE, Bellevue.


Constanza Romero, Wilson’s widow, will speak at the grand opening, and students will read passages from his plays.
August Wilson Place provides 57 affordable workforce apartments available to families and individuals making 60% or less of area median income ($43,020 for a two person household). The affordable rents will range from $406 for a studio to $1,056 for a three-bedroom apartment. There are eight units for homeless families with children and eight units for veterans. Three units are for families with children with developmental disabilities. Sizes range from studios to three-bedroom apartments.

Other speakers at the event include: Bellevue Mayor Cynthia Balducci, Adrienne Quinn of King County, HUD Regional Director Bill Block, Washington State Housing Finance Commission Executive Director Kim Herman, King County Housing Authority Deputy Executive Director Dan Watson, Wells Fargo Senior VP Nelda Newton.

Over the past year the average rent in Bellevue has increased 9.4% from $1,547 to $1,692 per month. "Bellevue has the highest rents in the region," noted Sharon Lee, LIHI Executive Director. "Many people employed in Bellevue’s retail, hotel and service industry cannot afford to live near where they work. We are thrilled to construct 57 new apartments for working families and to honor one of our greatest American playwrights."

The building features a community space for residents, a computer lab, counseling office, and underground parking. There are many green energy saving features and the building meets the Evergreen Sustainable Development Standard. Residents will enjoy the convenient location near shopping, employment opportunities, Bellevue City Hall and Sound Transit’s East Link.

Funding partners for August Wilson Place are King County, ARCH (Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Newcastle, Woodinville, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point & Kenmore), Wells Fargo, National Equity Fund, King County Housing Authority, HUD, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Impact Capital, Washington State Housing Finance Commission, Washington State Housing Trust Fund, Washington Community Reinvestment Association, Home Depot Foundation, Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, and Umpqua Bank.

When: Tuesday, May 26th at 10:00am
Where: 204 - 111th Ave NE
Bellevue, 98004

Event Sponsors: Wells Fargo, Synergy Construction, National Equity Fund
Architects: GGLO
Contractor: Synergy Construction

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

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