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Brownsville Community Justice Center Celebrates Construction Training Program Graduation at Marcus Garvey Apartments

10 Marcus Garvey Residents Graduate After Sixteen Weeks Learning Construction Trades and Building Community Clubhouse Space to be Used by Future Trainees

Graduates will Receive Free Job Placement Assistance and Help Entering Apprenticeship Programs

Brooklyn, NY (February 7, 2019) – The Brownsville Community Justice Center (BCJC) celebrated the graduation of ten Marcus Garvey Apartments residents who completed BCJC’s on-site Construction Training Program. The group of women and men participated in a sixteen-week program where they learned new skills in carpentry and framing as well as some electrical work. L+M Development Partners provides financial support for this program, as well as other community-based programs in the neighborhood.

Through BCJC’s program, five participants have completed their OSHA 30 training and certification, with the other five in the process of earning their certification. The program participants will receive free job placement assistance from a construction facilitator supported through the program, with the goal of entering an apprenticeship.

“Providing opportunities for residents to receive free hands on training and to become certified in fields of interest allows residents to tap into careers that traditionally would be out of reach for them.” said **Ionna Jimenez, Program Manager of Placemaking and Workforce Development at the Brownsville Community Justice Center.**

The Construction Training course also included practical application of the skills the group learned in the classroom. Over the four-month program, the participants worked together and constructed a shed at the Clubhouse. The shed will be used by future participants who will use it to practice their demolition and building skills. The next Construction Training participants are expected to start in the spring.

"This program is just one example how L+M partners with strong nonprofits to help improve the communities in which we work," said **Debbie Kenyon, Vice Chair, Senior Partner and head of Community Investment at L+M Development Partners.** "We're pleased to support the Brownsville Community Justice Center - who are leaders in their community - and work with them to identify training needs, deliver engaging and accessible programming as well as access to career path opportunities."

The Brownsville Community Justice Center has worked with the community of Brownsville, Brooklyn to restore local faith in the justice system, improve conditions of disrepair and disorder, and provide the neighborhood's youth with access to the resources and opportunities necessary to successfully transition to adulthood. The Marcus Garvey Youth Clubhouse is a place-based project designed and constructed by Marcus Garvey Apartment youth to address public safety issues and to add space for recreational and work readiness activities.

In addition to BCJC, L+M Development Partners supports a number of community-based organizations at the Marcus Garvey Apartments, including Project EATS, which runs an urban farm on-site and trains residents in urban farming, while providing healthy food options at low prices. Project EATS also works with local health providers to prescribe fresh produce to combat diabetes and high blood pressure. L+M Development Partners also supports the Brownsville Community Culinary Center, which provides culinary training and other skills to under-served Brownsville residents interested in the food-service industry, all while operating a critically-acclaimed restaurant with healthy food at prices accessible to the local neighborhood.

L+M owns and manages the Marcus Garvey Apartments, and supports a range of programming at BCJC as well as an anti-violence initiative by Grand Street Settlement and Brownsville Think Tank Matters at the affordable housing complex.