

2016 Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design & Planning Competition

Second Place Winner
University of Maryland

Team Members

Nicole Akpedeye | David Brotman | Robert Grooms
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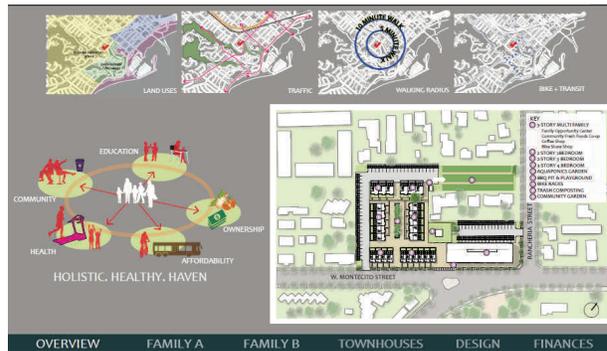
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Project Overview

The team focused on preserving and creating affordable rental housing by providing a holistic haven that emphasizes lifestyle opportunities through community, health, affordability, and education. The proposed project builds on existing amenities, such as proximity to primary schools and college and/or university campuses, and the beachfront, as well as public transportation. The team also actively addressed existing site challenges, including poor aesthetic, lack of defensible space, and awkward site design.

The new construction comprises one 20-unit multifamily building and 26 townhomes, increasing the number of units by over 60%. The mix of unit types, along with parking located at the periphery, creates a safe, community-oriented design, promoting a sense of ownership. By locating the Family Opportunity Center (FOC) at the corner, and incorporating an on-site gym, a coffee shop, and a fresh food co-op, the project enhances interaction with the community at large. As a draw for students, seniors, and residents, the FOC will engender intergenerational connections, as well as revitalize the neighborhood. A car- and bike-share program will also be initiated in order to cut carbon emission, promote healthy living, and offer affordable transportation alternatives.

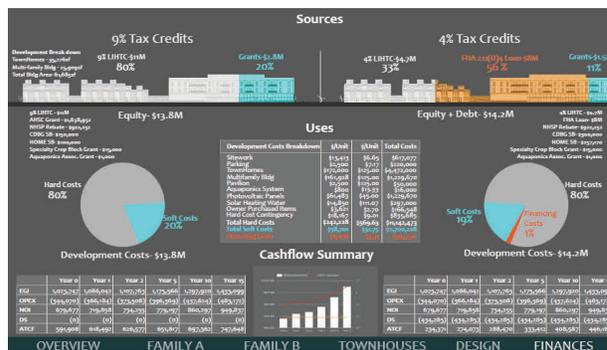
Financing relies on Low Income Housing Tax Credits and grants. The team proposed two financing options, which creatively addressed the challenges of developing affordable housing in today's market.



They will implement a range of programs, including the improvement of the existing community garden, the addition of personal pallet gardens, an Aquaponics Garden and an array of educational opportunities for residents of all ages.



To promote sustainability and keep utility costs low each building will be outfitted with photovoltaic and solar water heating panels that will provide 55% of the energy used by the community and all of the hot water used on-site.



The first consists of 9% tax credits and grant funding which eliminates debt and helps maintain affordable rent costs. Conversely, the second plan will rely on 4% tax credits, grants, and an FHA loan to fund the project.

