



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Roots Housing partners with Seattle Mennonite Church to build 250 affordable apartments, new church in Lake City

SEATTLE, WA – Community Roots Housing has signed a purchase agreement with Seattle Mennonite Church (SMC) to redevelop the existing church property. The project—one of Community Roots’ largest to date—will create approximately 250 affordable homes over new church space for SMC in the heart of Seattle’s Lake City neighborhood.

Part of a growing trend of collaboration between nonprofit developers and faith-based organizations, the project will take advantage of higher allowable zoning density to develop affordable housing on underutilized land while enabling SMC to create new church and community space. SMC has agreed to sell the land at below market value to ensure that rents remain affordable for households at or below 60% of the Area Median Income. Other project goals include providing a public outdoor plaza, offering flexible office and program space for neighborhood nonprofit service providers, and creating office and retail space for local businesses. The project also presents SMC with the opportunity to build a new sanctuary space, Sunday school and meeting rooms, and offices for staff.

Through this project, Community Roots Housing upholds its strong emphasis on building deep partnerships and facilitating meaningful community engagement. While working with SMC to craft a space that meets congregational and housing needs, Community Roots held a series of community meetings over the last year to capture input from neighbors, community groups, business owners, and local nonprofits. Community Roots will continue to engage with key stakeholders throughout the design process to ensure community voices are reflected in the new development. Today’s announcement comes after the Community Roots Housing board approved a purchase and sale agreement on Feb. 14, 2022.

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About Community Roots Housing

Everyone has the right to a quality, affordable home. At Community Roots Housing, this truth drives our work. By embracing community-led development and engaging in deep-rooted partnerships, we’re

fostering vibrant, equitable communities where everyone has access to safe, affordable, and welcoming homes. Today, with nearly 50 apartment buildings and over 2,000 residents, we continue our commitment to build community with and for people. Learn more at communityrootshousing.org.