The East Baltimore Revitalization Initiative is working to transform an economically struggling neighborhood north of the Johns Hopkins Medical Campus into a thriving, mixed-income community for families, businesses and public institutions.

The 88-acre redevelopment area has a rich history and committed residents, but has suffered from years of economic decline and disinvestment. By the time the project began in 2002, nearly four out of five homes were vacant and economic opportunities were scarce.

Today, the project is making good on its promise to create homes for both longtime and new residents, generate new jobs and business opportunities, oversee the creation of a state-of-the-art school, and reinvigorate the community.

As of early 2011, the project has resulted in:

- A 270,000-square-foot life sciences building that houses 460 jobs.
- A new senior housing building that is home to 74 households, over half of which are from East Baltimore.
- Two new mixed-income apartment complexes for 154 households, priced affordably for working families.
- Renovation of 40 existing homes for original East Baltimore homeowners.
- Creation of the East Baltimore Community School, a new neighborhood public school that is providing high-quality education to current East Baltimore residents while attracting new families to the area.
- The creation of Maryland Institute College of Art’s MICA PLACE, a new community arts-education facility providing vibrant art opportunities for residents.
- Groundbreaking of a 20-story residential tower that will be home to 570 graduate students and their families.
- Planning and design for the state of Maryland’s public health laboratory that will bring 350 workers to the area.
New Economic Opportunities

A key tenet of the project is ensuring that local, minority-owned, and woman-owned firms undertake a significant share of the work. As of the end of 2010:

- 46 percent of project contracts have gone to minority- and women-owned companies.
- Minorities and women have accounted for 57 percent of the total employment hours generated.

Support For and From the Community

EBDI has worked closely with area residents in setting goals and policies for the project. Community input has helped shape critical policies, including those related to relocation procedures and benefits and demolition protocols. EBDI and its partners have worked closely with residents of the area to make sure they received significant relocation assistance and support. The project has increased equity wealth by an average 350 percent among 259 homeowners and helped 53 renters to become owners.

EBDI has provided a range of services to community residents, including referrals for financial counseling, eviction and foreclosure prevention services, health care, education and employment. To date, more than 2,700 people from the greater East Baltimore area have been placed in jobs by EBDI.

Moving forward, all residents have the right to return to new or refurbished housing in East Baltimore if they choose.

Plans for the Future

The 20-year East Baltimore project is planning for many key developments, including:

- Construction of a new fresh food market and other retail amenities.
- Development of an early learning center.
- Creation of a commuter rail stop in the EBDI area, providing rapid service to downtown Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and other stations.
- Creation of a new redevelopment plan in mid-2011 to provide a blueprint for new mixed-income housing, open spaces and commercial activity.

The Project’s Partners

The East Baltimore Revitalization Initiative is led by East Baltimore Development, Inc. (EBDI), a nonprofit organization governed by a board of community leaders. The federal government, state of Maryland and city of Baltimore have provided key support.

In the private sector, key partners include The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Johns Hopkins University and Medical Institutions, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies and many others. The lead developer is Forest City Science + Technology Group.

For more information, contact East Baltimore Development, Inc. Visit www.ebdi.org or call 410-234-0660