



NEWS RELEASE

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www.shra.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOW INCOME ARTISTS CELEBRATE SURREAL SWEAT EQUITY HOUSING COMMUNITY

(Sacramento, CA. September 20, 2006) - After more than a decade of planning, a group of persevering artists today celebrated a unique affordable housing community they helped build in North Sacramento.

Surreal Estates is the first live/work single family detached affordable housing development specifically designed for artists in Sacramento. The project is unique because financially struggling and established artists have been given the opportunity to buy an affordable home by participating in its construction through a "Self Help Program."



The development at Calavados Avenue and Oakmont in the Dixieanne community of the North Sacramento Redevelopment Area is viewed as a critical project on two levels. It provides affordable owner occupied housing opportunities to 11 new homebuyers, and the development of artist live/work space will attract people and new investment to the neighborhood. The homes feature three bedrooms, one bathroom, a kitchen with an open living and dining area, and a detached studio to be used for artist work space. The units were built with environmentally friendly innovative structural insulated panels for energy efficiency.

The Agency provided \$710,000 towards the \$1.3 million project in partnership with Mercy Housing California, State of California Housing and Community Development (HCD), and Surreal Estates Ink, an organization of artists that incorporated as a homeowners association. Surreal Estates will not only help revitalize an area of North Sacramento but will also address SHRA's goal of providing single family affordable housing.

SHRA (www.shra.org) is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. The Agency is the leading public developer of affordable housing and oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 14 redevelopment areas throughout the City and County. SHRA has a FY 2006 budget of \$227 million and approximately 308 employees. The Agency owns and manages 3,400 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers approximately 11,000 rental assisted vouchers per month.

"One Community, One Vision"
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