



News Release

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DOCUMENTARY FILM HIGHLIGHTING THE GENESEE COUNTY LAND BANK'S FIRST TEN YEARS TO PREMIER DURING FLINT SEPTEMBER ART WALK

FLINT, MI – The Genesee County Land Bank Authority formed more than ten years ago in December of 2004 with the mission of “Restoring value to the community by acquiring, developing, and selling vacant and abandoned properties in cooperation with stakeholders who value responsible land ownership.” The Land Bank formed as part of a solution to a broken tax-foreclosure system that was championed locally by then Genesee County Treasurer, now United States Congressman Daniel Kildee.

“The Land Bank steps in and is willing to take ownership of those properties. Knowing that with that ownership comes scrutiny, often criticism, but what really comes with that, the willingness to do that is the ability to make a difference in the lives of people who live in Flint’s neighborhoods, in Genesee County’s neighborhoods. One building, one house, one empty lot at a time the Land Bank has made a difference,” said United States Congressman Daniel Kildee regarding the Land Bank’s ten-year anniversary.

“Reclaiming, Restoring, Rebuilding One Property at a Time” a documentary film about the Land Bank’s first ten years, will premier during Flint’s September Art Walk. The film includes interviews with local residents as well as an overview of the Land Bank’s work over the last decade. “I’m very happy that we

have this opportunity to share and showcase the Land Bank's hard work. I think that anyone who sees the film will have a better understanding of what the Land Bank is, what it does, and the role that it plays in improving our community," said Genesee County Treasurer and Genesee County Land Bank Board Chair Deborah Cherry. Since 2004 the Land Bank has accepted ownership of more than 15,000 abandoned properties, sold more than 2,000 houses for homeownership, employed more than 200 local residents on blight removal crews, and positioned once abandoned properties for more than \$138 million of investments. The film premieres on Friday, September 11 at Café Rhema, 432 South Saginaw Street during three showings at 5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 PM during the Art Walk in downtown Flint. Admission is free of charge and tickets are not required for entry. For more information contact Raynetta Speed at (810) 257-3088 x. 536 or rspeed@thelandbank.org.