

Topic: Affordable Housing and Neighborhood Preservation

Pat De Carlo, Executive Director, Norris Civic Association

Ms. De Carlo has been the executive Director of NSCA since 1988 and evolved the organization from a grass roots organization with four staff; to a community based organization with a three million dollar budget and over 50 full time staff engaged in a comprehensive approach to community development in a mostly Puerto Rican neighborhood. The organization's mission is to revitalize the neighborhood through the efforts of the residents.

Under her leadership, the organization has systematically identified the priority needs of residents and moved to develop projects to make the neighborhood whole. At a time when community development signified no more than bricks and mortar, Ms. DE Carlo led the way in constructing a model for comprehensive development.

She founded a construction company of neighborhood residents that trained over 50 residents and produced fifty six units of affordable housing of which 48 are owned and managed by the organization. Through a partnership with Catholic Social Services developed and own 35 units of Senior Housing with a Senior Center on the first floor. The project convinced HUD to change its regulations to allow Senior Centers to be built as part of Senior Housing. Ten new homes were recently constructed and sold, 10 more are being rehabilitated, and 50 more have been funded for development.

She is an active member of a number of civic and community organizations. She co-chaired the Puerto Rican/Latino Redistricting Committee (led the successful redistricting in 1990 of a City Council seat and one State Representative seats) and the Puerto Rican Justice Defense Coalition (raised issues of disparity between the prosecution of Steve Daley case and Steven Crespo).

Was one of the original Board members for the American Street Empowerment Zone and the American Street Financial Services Center. Presently she is a Board Member of Ceiba, Life Long learning and training center, ENPYS, Regional Housing Legal Services, Safe and Sound, the Children's Commission and the Redevelopment Authority. She was appointed by Mayor John Street to be one of five co-chairs of his transition team.