



*Contact* CARLA MANCHA  
*Telephone* 956-214-1531  
*Direct Line* 956-214-1531  
*Email* CMANCHA@HACB.US  
*Website* WWW.HACB.US

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## ART FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

The Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville

Brownsville, TX, July 26, 2017- On July 24, 2017, the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville was presented with a painting by the participants of the HACB Club de Oro. The painting presented symbolizes different aspects of the Buena Vida Choice Neighborhood Community.

The HACB Club de Oro or Golden Club was an initiative started in 2016. The purpose of the program is to improve the quality of life for senior residents by providing diverse programs and projects. The major component of the HACB Club de Oro is the Art from the Heart classes. For over a year and a half, participants have joined a weekly workshop at the Buena Vida Center of Opportunity where they are provided painting lessons led by a team of instructors. In addition, they have incorporated and learned the art of ceramic sculpting. *"It is never too late to learn" said Laura Villarreal, one of the Art from the Heart participants.*

The HACB Club de Oro was created as part of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan of the Housing Authority which addresses the creation of programs that will enrich the lives of senior residents. In addition, it is part of the Choice Neighborhood Planning Project which addresses the importance of enriched cultural programs for all residents. *"It is through collaboration that we will be able to go further in providing quality services and programs for our families in Brownsville.*

*On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of HACB, I would like to thank Carlotta K Petrina and their instructors Jesse Burciaga and Roman Gonzalez for sharing their skills and inspiring the participants of Club de Oro. In addition, I would like to congratulate all the artists for their work and their participation in the program. We are all very proud of you.” said Carla Mancha, CEO.*

The artists will have their second Art from the Heart Exhibit at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art on August 30, 2017. Entrance is free of charge and open to the public. Artists will also showcase their creations at the Farmer’s Market on August 5, 2017, where paintings and crafts will be available for sale.

The Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville (HACB) in collaborative partnership with the City of Brownsville (COB) and Camiros, Ltd. was awarded 1 of 10 U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant in the amount of \$500,000 to support the development of the comprehensive Transformation Plan for the Buena Vida Neighborhood. The Choice Neighborhoods Program is focused on the following three core goals: Housing, People, and Neighborhoods. The purpose of the Choice Neighborhoods Program is to support locally driven strategies to address struggling neighborhoods and distressed public or HUD assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to the neighborhood transformation.

The Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville is a High Performing Authority for both the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing program. HACB serves over 3,500 low-income families in our community. HACB is the twelfth largest housing authority in the State of Texas and the largest south of San Antonio, Texas. HACB has authority to administer 2,163 Housing Choice Vouchers, operates and manages ten Public Housing Developments and is the General Partner to seven tax credit developments all located within the City of Brownsville. It is the mission of the HACB to provide access to affordable, quality housing and achieve self-sufficiency through education and collaborative partnerships, for all residents of our community.

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For more information on this topic, please contact CARLA MANCHA at 956-214-1531 or email at [CMANCHA@HACB.US](mailto:CMANCHA@HACB.US).



