



21 Highland Circle, Needham, Massachusetts 02494  
(781) 444-3011 • Fax (781) 444-1089 • smerritt@NeedhamHousing.org

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Contact:

Steve Merritt,  
Interim Exec. Director

### **The Needham Housing Authority Launches a Project to Redevelop its Linden Street and Chambers Street Properties**

*Architectural Firm Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc.  
to Lead the Design Phase*

**Needham MA – February 1, 2023.** Needham Housing Authority (NHA) and Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc. (BH+A) have launched the Design Phase of a project to redevelop NHA's Linden Street and Chambers Street properties. Over the next 15 months, BH+A will lead a team of architects, engineers, zoning and public housing experts to develop a "shovel-ready" schematic design for the phased redevelopment of the entire property.

The redevelopment of Linden-Chambers has been a top priority for the Town of Needham since 2007. It is a key objective of NHA's Preservation & Redevelopment Initiative, which was launched in 2021 to revitalize NHA's entire portfolio of 356 deeply affordable units and build additional housing to address the critical lack of affordable housing in Needham.

Linden Street and Chambers Street are two NHA-owned and operated state-assisted public housing sites providing 152 studios for seniors/disabled households. Built between 1959 and 1971, this important source of deeply-affordable housing in Needham faces critical issues. Units are undersized and lack the accessibility features needed to serve a senior and/or disabled population. In addition, the properties have not been comprehensively renovated since they were first constructed 50-60+ years ago and have substantial capital needs.

The redevelopment of the 8.2-acre Linden-Chambers site is a critical opportunity to provide high-quality and sustainable housing for existing residents and to increase the number of affordable housing units. The engagement with architectural firm BH+A commences with a master planning process for the entire site, with future construction expected to occur in phases to manage relocation and funding needs.

The redevelopment of Linden-Chambers has been supported by the Town of Needham and the State of Massachusetts, which have so far provided \$2.6 million funding to launch pre-development activities at the site. "NHA is grateful for the support of our General Court



representatives, Town boards, and Town Meeting members, which has allowed us to take this critical first step to commence the design and engagement process for the Linden and Chambers redevelopment,” remarks Reg Foster, Chair of NHA's Board of Commissioners.

A competitive process using a Request for Services was used to select the BH+A team, which scored the highest out of the six highly qualified architectural and engineering teams that submitted proposals. NHA used a Local Selection Committee composed of Needham residents and experts in architecture, planning, and development to score the competing teams based on their proposals, presentations, and interviews. “We were impressed by BH+A’s thoughtful approach to the challenges and opportunities of the site, their deep experience in affordable housing, and their understanding of the particular design considerations for senior and disabled residents,” commented Helen Gregory, a member of the selection committee, the Needham Council on Aging Board and the Needham Housing Plan Working Group.

“The redevelopment of Linden-Chambers is a key priority for NHA,” says Stephen Merritt, the housing authority’s Interim Executive Director. “It’s an ambitious initiative and we look forward to collaborating on it with current residents, neighbors, the Town of Needham, and the greater Needham community.”

Needham Housing Authority is a local housing authority formed by the Town of Needham in 1948. Since its founding, NHA has provided affordable housing opportunities for low to moderate income households as well as resources to improve the quality of life for residents, program participants, and the broader Needham community. NHA’s overall mission is two-fold: to be an excellent landlord; and to advocate for and create more deeply affordable housing in Needham. NHA has built and manages 176 units of federal public housing, 160 units of state public housing, 123 Housing Choice Vouchers, and 20 family units owned by High Rock Homes LLC. <https://www.needhamhousing.org/>

BH+A is a Boston-based architectural firm with substantial experience in multi-family housing, including affordable housing, senior/disabled housing, and senior centers. Its portfolio is consistently recognized for innovative, functional, cost-effective design. Its design philosophy is to create solutions with character that reflect optimal functional layouts, innovative use of materials and state-of-the-art operating systems. The BH+A team brings an integrated, consensus-building approach to its public and private sector clients. <https://bhplus.com/>

For more information please contact Stephen Merritt, Interim Executive Director at (781) 444-3011 or [smerritt@needhamhousing.org](mailto:smerritt@needhamhousing.org).