

Seed funding for Limestone City Co-operative Homes comes before council

Recently incorporated Limestone City Co-operative Homes inc. (LCCH) is just about ready to start looking for an architect thanks to the City of Kingston's generously making up to \$50K available for hiring the professionals needed to bring the project to the next level.

The fund allowance is before council this Tuesday. "I really hope this passes because we are in a bit of a catch 22 situation." All the really big grants require some high level documentation from professionals such as architects to determine how much they will give but without enough money to hire the professionals we can't even apply for the big grants.

The City is thankfully helping us fill that gap. The seed money should be enough to get the high level documentation needed to fulfil the requirements of the larger grant funders to proceed to the next stage of development which include more detailed architectural plans and various studies as well as a zoning bylaw amendment from institutional to multi-residential.

The building we hope to erect will have 300 mixed income units where market rents above the cost to sustain the building long term subsidize below market rents. There will be several green features too including two floors of indoor vertical farming to support food security in the building and the community. A green wall where the community can harvest Strawberries, beans, Basil, Cilantro, even medicinal plants like Aloe Vera. The roof will have green houses for more year around farming and we are considering having chickens too. We hope to make available space for community gardens and avoid the monoculture of grass lawns.

A requirement of living in the non-profit co-op will be the commitment of volunteering at least 4 hours per month to the co-op. We will be making space for community groups to teach and or exercise or come up with how individuals in the co-op want to spend their volunteer time for the co-op. There will always be volunteer opportunities in the various agricultural components.

LCCH is a reaction to the commodification of housing. We would like to have residents make their own decisions on how to live together in community with a common cause. We are hoping to offer residents an ideal to add to their life in community that is green, helps mitigate climate change, increases food security, and provides affordable housing while making and facilitating the bonds of a community.