



For Immediate Release

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EBRPHA ACQUIRES FORMER EARL K. LONG SITE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

BATON ROUGE – The East Baton Rouge Housing Authority (EBRPHA) has acquired the former Earl K. Long (EKL) Medical Center site from Louisiana State University. The site has been vacant since April 2013 when its inpatient care and medical education programs moved to Our Lady of the Lake (OLOL) Regional Medical Center.

This acquisition sets the stage for future residential and commercial development that will be announced in upcoming months and will differ from previously proposed plans for developing the 15-acre site.

EBRPHA has worked to acquire the Earl K. Long site for a decade. In 2013, then Louisiana Senate President Pro Tempore, Sharon Weston Broome passed Senate Bill 154, Act 227 directing the sale of Earl K. Long to EBRPHA.

"The sale of the former Earl K. Long property to the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority is another positive mark for our community," said Broome, now the Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish. "It demonstrates the power of partnerships to enhance resources for our citizens. Thank you to everyone who is working collectively to envision a refreshing new community with modern housing and quality, life-enhancing resources."

The sale was approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors in 2020. It was restated and amended by the Board in 2022 to give current LSU President William Tate IV the ability to process the sale.

"Our ambitious transformation plan for this property will leverage partnerships and collaboration, giving new life to this disinvested area. In the near future we will announce a catalytic redevelopment strategy that will provide ACCESS to health and wellness, childcare, education and economic opportunities to North Baton Rouge," said EBRPHA CEO J. Wesley Daniels Jr.

The first cornerstone of the former Earl K. Long Medical Center was laid in October 1967 and the hospital began serving patients in March 1968. Its primary purpose was to provide inpatient and outpatient healthcare to any Louisiana citizen. Acting as a "safety net" hospital, EKL served all citizens of the greater Baton Rouge metropolitan area, regardless of their ability to pay, including those who earned too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to pay for private insurance.

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EBRPHA Acquires EKL

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Administered by the LSU Health Care Services Division its secondary purpose was to provide clinical training for physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals. Generations of LSU medical interns, residents, and therapists benefitted from the hands on training offered at the facility.

In February of 2010, LSU partnered with OLOL, Woman's and Lallie Kemp Hospitals to provide the services of the aged medical facility. The full transition of services took many years, and in April 2013 the Earl K. Long Medical Center was permanently closed with demolition beginning in June 2015.

The loss of EKL spurred disinvestment within the area, and as a result North Baton Rouge has experienced significant signs of disinvestment and abandonment. However, there has been a dramatic shift, and with strategic planning initiatives this disenfranchised area is at a turning point socially and economically.

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East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority positively impacts over 13,000 individuals and families, including seniors, disabled citizens, and military veterans. EBRPHA will invest over \$1.1 billion through public-private partnerships over the next ten years to create over 3,700 new homes throughout the Capital Region.

More information is available at www.ebrpha.org. The agency can be reached at 225.923.8100.