

Liberty

from page A1

had through the Winston-Salem Foundation because they help the CDCs so much in the city," Vickery said. "Ultimately it wasn't going to work for a multitude of reasons, but it was one of the first things we did."

In August 2014, Shaw told The Chronicle that some of the reasons he was resigning was due to some of the issues and lack of support the board has had from Winston-Salem City Council members; though he declined to give details.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, Liberty CDC was given \$8,820 by the city for operating expenses, which has been done for the past 10 years, in its annual budget of \$140,000. The agency was given the same amount in the 2014-2015 fiscal budget.

Senft said that a large amount of the organization's funding went to pay the executive director, and that was unacceptable.

"We will not make a request for additional monies," Senft said. "You have to justify how that money will be used. We could no longer justify it."

The money that was given provided salary support and rent for the building that Liberty CDC is housed in. "It was only those two items. The salary is gone, we have no salary requirements, so there's no need," he said.

Senft said that he is going to make it his business to finish one project.

"There is a parcel of land that we are trying to buy and sell, so we are pursuing that," he said. "I want to complete that effort."

He wouldn't say where the land was but did say it was on Liberty Street.

However, City Council passed a resolution in May 2014 authorizing the sale of city-owned property at the corner of Liberty Street and Northwest Boulevard

to Liberty CDC. The resolution allows the agency to purchase the combined 0.83 acre property, currently valued at \$97,800, for a proposed \$22,500, at least four times less than its appraised value.

Council requested that the new building be of a similar aesthetic design and quality as the building at the southeast corner of Liberty and 14th streets. Failure to meet that stipulation would cause the property to return to the city.

A source that wishes to remain anonymous confirmed that this was the property that will be sold, at more than the price purchased, to help clear the agency's debt.

The city purchased the property in 2005 as part of the Liberty Street revitalization effort. According to records, the city aggressively marketed the property for redevelopment, but was unsuccessful. In 2009, the city partnered with Liberty CDC to find a developer.

While Northwest Child Development Center showed interest it later decided on another location, and Liberty CDC has continued its quest to look for developers.

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke said that residents should not be concerned about the dissolution of the CDC.

"I believe that the area will continue to move forward," she said. "We will continue to look out for the area."

Senft said that he hopes that the needs of the community can continue to be met. Vickery said that she feels it's the next best move for the community.

"In lieu of going through the search for different director or moving the CDC in a different direction, in might be better for the community to channel those resources into other areas, and by other areas I mean other organizations," she said.



Submitted photo
Pictured left to right: Link members Jacqueline Pettiford and Toy Beatty, First Place winner Gloria Mesa, Second Place winner Asia Dukes and Link members Gloria Jackson and Carolyn Black.

Links, WSSU sponsor oratorical contest on studying abroad

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Chapter of The Links Inc. partnered with Winston-Salem State University to highlight the importance of international experiences to its students.

One of the organization's committees, the International Trends and Services Facet, sponsored an oratorical contest for study-abroad students on Feb. 10 at Winston Salem State University.

As a part of the competition, each contestant delivered a prepared oration titled, "Why Is Study Abroad Important In Today's Global Society and What Is the Significance of Learning About Other Cultures?"

WSSU student Gloria Mesa won first place, and a \$500 award. WSSU student Asia Dukes won second place, and received a \$250 award. Both Gloria and Asia will be studying abroad in Kenya this

spring.

The Links Inc. is a premier international service organization with more than 12,000 members in 276 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Working closely with partners, sponsors and supporters, The Links Inc. is focused on creating transformational programming and impacting lives in communities of colors.

The Winston-Salem Chapter has partnered with Winston-Salem State University for over a decade to provide access to international networking, internship possibilities, scholarships, and travel opportunities for students at Winston-Salem State.

Gloria Jackson serves as the chairperson of the International Trends and Services Facet, and Linda Jackson Barnes serves as the president of the Winston-Salem Chapter.

QEA plans Bestowal of Blessings

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Quality Education Academy prepares for its annual Bestowal of Blessings ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 26.

Students' accomplishments thus far as well as their hopes, dreams and aspirations will be both celebrated. The celebration will culminate with Senior Night on Friday, Feb. 27, where all seniors will be acknowledged and recognized as they near the end of their high school careers.

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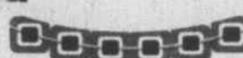
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