

#### **14) Community Support**

a. Since 1985, New Kensington Community Development Corporation has worked with and on behalf of community residents and partners to strengthen the physical, social, and economic fabric of the community by being a catalyst for sustainable development and community building. In 2010, in partnership with the Community Design Collaborative of Philadelphia and area stakeholders, NKCDC embarked on a year-long development of a conceptual neighborhood master plan that would identify the issues of concern for residents. As part of plan development, multiple meetings were held with community residents, partners, and relevant stakeholders. In the fall of 2011, the plan was presented to over 50 residents and community partners with strong acceptance.

NKCDC subsequently held the first community meeting of the organizational civic body. They represent a group generally interested in improving their quality of life and strongly interested in reducing the drug and criminal activity that plagued their daily lives. NKCDC made clear from the first community meeting that its goal was to foster and support a resident association that would be empowered to address the issues that they identified as critical.

By January 2012, six community residents and one supporting stakeholder had volunteered to be part of a steering committee and residents had identified their association name – Somerset Neighbors for Better Living (SNBL) – and organizational boundaries. Within the first year, NKCDC had worked closely in a teaching capacity mode to develop SNBL’s bylaws and logo. Fostered by monthly steering committee meetings, intentional transparency, and learning opportunities, NKCDC has developed a trusting working relationship with steering committee members and the general resident body.

Through the steering committee and its numerous public meetings and design charettes, NKCDC has solicited substantial input on the redevelopment of Orinoka Mills and incorporated that input into its plan for the site. NKCDC conducted a similarly comprehensive public participation process for the

redevelopment of Coral Street Arts House. Flyers from public meetings and newsletters for SNBL are included in this section.

b. While there are no public housing developments within a half-mile of the site (whose residents, per this RFP, would need to be notified by letter and public meeting of NKCDC's intent to submit a proposal), NKCDC has still made significant efforts to include area residents and stakeholders in the community input process. In addition, NKCDC has notified the local community organization, Somerset Neighbors for Better Living, of the various funding applications it has submitted, including this application to PHA to enter into a Mixed Finance Transaction with PHA for the project. A copy of this letter is included herein.

c. The signed certification that comments from residents and representative community groups have been considered in the revitalization plans for Orinoka Civic House is included as an attachment here.