



Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.

A PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY

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Groundbreaking News from South Phoenix: Buckeye Commerce Plaza Brings Economic Vitality

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Bulldozers buzzed and community members cheered as the ground was broken today on a new commercial center that's sure to bring economic activity and vitality to the south Phoenix community.

Construction is now underway on Buckeye Commerce Plaza, a 40,000-square-foot complex located at the corner of East Buckeye Road and 10th Street, next to CPLC's corporate office. CPLC is developing the property thanks to a State Farm community development loan and will lease it as office and retail space. Raza Development Fund and Wells Fargo also provided financing for the project.

Considering today's difficult economic times, CPLC and State Farm have taken a bold step of investing in a development that will bring revenue and new jobs to the surrounding community.

"Today we celebrate a project that will turn this empty lot into a haven of economic growth," said CPLC President and CEO Edmundo Hidalgo. "The businesses who occupy this commercial plaza will enrich this neighborhood by creating jobs, offering needed goods and services and paving the way for other businesses to follow."

CPLC is celebrating its 40th anniversary as Arizona's leading community development corporation, and for more than a decade it has counted on State Farm as a strong partner to support its efforts, Hidalgo added.

State Farm Senior Vice President Dave Gonzales said working with CPLC on this project is part of State Farm's longtime tradition of investing in communities. "An important part of the State Farm story is genuine concern for the communities where we live and serve. Our core values align with CPLC's efforts to ensure Arizona neighborhoods are desirable places for families and businesses to flourish. This partnership underscores our commitment to being a 'Good Neighbor.'"

Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon said he is excited to see the positive results of this partnership. "This is so good on so many levels: commerce, partnerships, investment, jobs and vision. These are the investments we need -- building for the future and creating jobs now," he said.

The project also has a unique historical component. On the property of the future Buckeye Commerce Plaza stands the Wilson Walker (and Alcaria) Jones House, which was listed on the City of Phoenix Historic Property Register in 1994. This farm-style adobe house was built in 1913, when this stretch of Buckeye Road was a rural area, by Wilson Walker Jones and his wife Alcaria Montoya. It is one of the oldest known documented houses still existing in the city.

CPLC is preserving this important piece of Phoenix history by protecting and restoring the Wilson Walker Jones House while investing in the city's future around it.

**Artists renderings of Buckeye Commerce Plaza are available. Please contact Amanda Roberson at the phone number or email address above.*

Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC) is a statewide community development corporation committed to building stronger, healthier communities as a lead advocate, coalition builder and direct service provider. The organization promotes positive change and self-sufficiency to enhance the quality of life for the benefit of those we serve.

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