Anchorage Community Land Trust
BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN ANCHORAGE NEIGHBORHOODS
Neighborhoods Matter
WE ALL HAVE A NEIGHBORHOOD WE CALL HOME.

Our neighborhoods are where we grow up, grow old, share our life’s joys and its sorrows, and where we develop meaningful relationships with the people around us. Increasingly, we understand just how much neighborhoods directly shape our health, our educational attainment and our futures, too.

ACLT knows that neighborhoods matter. They matter to families who reside there, and they matter to the communities surrounding them. ACLT believes that every neighborhood can and should be a place that provides opportunities, a sense of belonging and pride to families, and contribute to the vitality of Anchorage.
ACLT BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN NEIGHBORHOODS

Every day, ACLT works with residents to make investments that enhance their neighborhoods. We practice a place-based approach, bringing concentrated investment to areas of concentrated poverty, block-by-block.

Sometimes, in low-income areas, rampant disinvestment has occurred for so long that entire commercial corridors have withered. But ACLT knows that every neighborhood, and resident, deserves better.

When we improve neighborhoods, we all win.
Our Story
ACLT invests in commercial corridors because we believe that community wealth-building starts with strong, locally owned small businesses. By supporting business creation, local job growth, and resident leadership, we can revitalize communities, provide economic opportunities to families, and make Anchorage an even better place to live and raise a family.

ACLT’s story begins in the community of Mountain View, where we’ve worked with residents for more than 15 years. In collaboration with several partners, the neighborhood has rebuilt its foundation with new affordable housing, public amenities, and infrastructure, all while keeping a focus on the most important aspect of a neighborhood – the hardworking families who live here.

With ACLT’s support, Mountain View has seen more investment, opportunity, and growth. ACLT has invested $15.7 million in nine properties on Mountain View Drive. Eleven new businesses have opened since 2009, including the community’s first bank. Partners have also invested an additional $45 million in commercial corridor properties, catalyzed by our work. Through partnerships, a targeted approach, and long-term commitment, we can make a difference and improve the quality of life in low-income neighborhoods.

**TODAY, ACLT OPERATES IN THREE LOW-INCOME ANCHORAGE NEIGHBORHOODS. OUR VALUES AND OUR TOOLKIT GUIDE OUR WORK IN THESE COMMUNITIES.**
How do we do it?

ACLT’s strategy for supporting low-income communities stems from our values and our toolkit.
OUR VALUES

WE BELIEVE IN EQUITY. We focus on, invest in, and contribute resources to the places that need it most.

RELATIONSHIPS COME FIRST. We believe residents know what’s best for their neighborhoods, and we take our cues from their stated priorities.

WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE. ACLT is in it for the long-haul with neighborhoods. We are committed, and we follow through on our promises.

WE ARE NOT AFRAID TO START AT SQUARE ONE. We meet residents where they’re at, work with them to identify the most urgent priorities, and get to work.

WE RECOGNIZE NEIGHBORHOOD HEROES IN EVERY COMMUNITY. People who care exist everywhere, and they are the building blocks for our work.
REAL ESTATE:
ACLT OWNS TRANSFORMATIVE PROPERTIES, CONNECTS ENTREPRENEURS TO REAL ESTATE, AND INVESTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS.

We partnered with Credit Union 1 to remediate a contaminated property and open a branch on Mountain View Drive. They were the first financial institution to do so Mountain View for more than 20 years. ACLT’s real estate work and partnerships have also resulted in a new Special Olympics Statewide Training Facility, the Mountain View Service Center, and 22 affordable residential units directly adjacent to the Mountain View Community Center.
ORGANIZING:

ACLT WORKS WITH NEIGHBORS TO CREATE GRASSROOTS NETWORKS AND ACT AS AN ADVOCATE FOR ISSUES THAT MATTER TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

In a four-year span, we engaged more than one thousand Mountain View residents and partnered with the Mountain View Community Council to create the Mountain View Targeted Neighborhood Plan. The plan was adopted by the city in 2016. Since then, we’ve continued to engage neighbors and make sure they know that their self-identified priorities have resulted in action.
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS:
ACLCT WORKS WITH NEIGHBORS TO REJUVENATE AND INVEST IN THE SPACES IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

We worked with neighbors to invest $40,000 to improve Fairview Park, a beloved neighborhood gathering place that suffered from inadequate facilities. We’ve also successfully advocated for $250,000 in further city bond renovations. Through listening to residents’ concerns, we’ve helped local businesses redo their facades, created and run community gardens and farms, and assisted in the development of new playgrounds that are built to serve families.
TARGETED PROGRAMS:
ACLT RUNS HIGH-IMPACT PROGRAMMING GROUNDED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS THAT AIDS TO STAND BEHIND RESIDENTS AND ADDRESS POVERTY AND INEQUITY.

Set Up Shop is ACLT’s flagship program to support neighborhood entrepreneurs. Set Up Shop provides low-income and minority entrepreneurs with training, business assistance, lending, and real estate services to open the business of their dreams in their home communities.
Bill and his family live in Mountain View, where they operate one of the neighborhood hot spots, the West Berlin restaurant. Serving in the Air Force for many years in Germany, Bill dreamed of returning home and sharing his love of German cuisine in Anchorage. In 2014, when an ACLT-owned building became available in the heart of Mountain View, we partnered with Bill to make his dream of starting and owning Anchorage's first German restaurant come true.
Flash forward to 2018. Despite being a Mountain View staple, West Berlin wanted to market itself city-wide. Lacking name recognition throughout Anchorage, and without having a brand identity, it was easily overlooked by people who didn’t already frequent the neighborhood. In partnership with a local provider, we helped Bill craft a new logo inspired by Berlin’s Bauhaus art movement. Once the identity was created, we got to work repainting and installing new signage that brings Bill’s new vision to life -- including a soon-to-be iconic neon pretzel sign, to remind everyone where the best pretzels in the city live!

Through ACLT’s continued partnership and support, Bill can operate a successful neighborhood business that hires local staff, builds the local economy, and enhances the culture of the Mountain View Community.

Change is inspired when kids walk home from school along streets surrounded on each side by successful small businesses. As they observe their neighbors through shop windows, living out their dreams, they are reminded that anything is possible through hard work and collaboration. Like Bill, those entrepreneurs become role models and resident leaders. By empowering local entrepreneurs, our neighborhood commercial corridors can lift families and communities alike.
Why this approach?

**IN ORDER FOR NEIGHBORHOODS TO THRIVE, EVERYONE NEEDS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET AHEAD.**

ACLIT’s economic development strategy addresses the barriers that get in the way. We elevate neighborhoods that have been overlooked, and empower historically marginalized populations that have been undervalued.

Our strategy invests in talent that is already in the community, because we are surrounded by it every day. We make business ownership attainable for every neighborhood, and ensure that the next generation of business leaders includes minority, women, and low-income entrepreneurs.

This is how we will empower low-income families in our city to build wealth over generations. This is how we are creating an economically inclusive Anchorage, block by block and day by day.

“I HAVE BEEN AFFORDED AN ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY OF FELLOW ENTREPRENEURS WHOM I FEEL ARE NOT ONLY INSPIRING, BUT ALSO ENCOURAGING. CLASSES HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY WELCOMING, INFORMATIVE, AND VALUABLE ON MY JOURNEY TO BE A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS OWNER.”

- TASHA WEBSTER
Our approach is worth the investment

ACLT IS RUN BY A STAFF OF SIX, WITH A $1.5 MILLION AVERAGE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET, AND TOTAL NET ASSETS OF $10.8 MILLION.

Our work has been recognized on the local and national scale; in 2013, we won the National Development Council’s Most Innovative Community Development Project Award, and in 2016 we won the Alaska Planning Association’s Grassroots Planning Award.

ACLT is uniquely positioned to help people in our targeted neighborhoods, such as Bill Ho’Opai of West Berlin restaurant. Your investment in ACLT allows neighborhood heroes to make a difference and transform their communities for the better. Robust, healthy neighborhoods enhance the quality of life throughout Anchorage: they boost the economy, enhance local culture, support strong families, attract investment, and create healthy spaces in which to run a business or raise a family.

WHEN WE IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOODS, WE ALL WIN. OUR WORK CAN’T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU.
Our board

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