



Current Educational Programs

Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. (BBC) was created as a non-profit community development corporation (CDC) on December 14, 1990, to perform neighborhood planning and community revitalization activities in the poorest neighborhoods of Cleveland, Ohio. Education is and has been an essential element of our neighborhood development efforts.

As evidenced by our website which outlines our comprehensive scope of services and where all past issues of our newsletter can be downloaded, BBC educational programs include the following:

1. Community Stewardship – residents learn how an individual can contribute to an ideal quality of life for the entire community (i.e., mitigating crime and safety problems, maintaining public assets, and supporting youth educational & recreational activities)
2. Financial Literacy and Homeownership Education
 - a. Pre-purchase counseling: An individual receiving publicly allocated funds (state, city, CMHA) for the purpose of purchasing a home meets with staff at our office to have the parameters and responsibilities of utilizing these funds explained to them. This process takes place by appointment only, one on one, and takes about 20 – 30 minutes.
 - b. Financial Fitness: These financial literacy classes are comprehensive in scope and covers personal financial management including basic banking, budgeting, credit and debt management, homeownership preparation, and predatory lending awareness. Classes are held in 8 week intervals and take place at Cuyahoga Community College Metro campus. BBC facilitates these classes 3 times annually; spring, summer and fall. Advanced registration is required.
 - c. Home Maintenance: New, existing or future homeowners and renters have participated in this one-day class to learn about the mechanical systems of a house, how they function, and how they are best maintained. At BBC's Home Maintenance Workshops, community residents learn how to make simple repairs to their homes. These workshops help train participants about how to maintain their furnace, electrical system (fuse box, outlets, etc.), roof and gutters, plumbing (washer, toilet, etc.), and other components of their houses.
3. Health & Wellness Education – With a 24 year difference in life expectancy from neighborhoods just 8 miles away, BBC provides weekly forums and workshops geared to educate residents about activities and ways of living that are more conducive to longer, healthier living.
4. Nutrition Education – BBC provides weekly nutrition education in CornUcopia Place, a recent development of our organization built to provide comprehensive health & wellness education including cooking demonstrations in our first-class and one-of-a-kind community kitchen.
5. Urban Agriculture – serving an area that had experienced 50 years of disinvestment, in 2006 BBC began to address widespread vacancy and abandonment with green spaces developments including designated districts for urban agriculture where residents are educated in sustainability and urban farming and provided land to cultivate their new talents.

6. Arts & Culture – BBC directly and indirectly supports a wide range of arts and cultural events and activities that expose and enhance residents' skill and knowledge of the cultural arts including community murals, drama, field trips to museums and camps, education theater, music lessons, history celebrations and more.
7. Technical assistance for business development & sustainability
 - a. Small Business Technical Assistance Program: This program was created to serve individuals who want to start or expand their businesses. By providing technical assistance in the form of identifying a business' needs and how they can be filled, a coach provides guidance in the development of a Work Plan. This Work Plan is a framework that is agreed upon by the client and coach mapping out steps that can be taken to meet the business' objectives. Some of the services that are offered include but are not limited to; Business Start-up, Business Management, Financing, Marketing & Advertising, Web-site Designing, Effective Business Planning, Government Contracting, and Taxes and Incentives.
 - b. Business Development Assistance: Existing area businesses looking for support to expand, re-locate or otherwise maintain the success of their business are welcome to use BBC as the conduit to resources that are available to businesses through various public agencies including the City of Cleveland Department of Economic Development and the County Department of Development. We guide and sometimes assist these companies with preparing their support request to public entities.
8. Tax Preparations – Serving low-income populations our organization have provided tax preparation assistance free to families so their entire tax refund will go into their own pockets. This program is a complement to our Financial Literacy Education.
9. Community Organizing & Grant Writing – Our organization does not see ourselves as the all-to-end-all in the community. Rather we see ourselves as a resource for the community who drives social cohesion and the direction of community initiatives. Therefore, over the last 5 years we have supported over 50 community grassroots organizations raising them more than \$200,000 by providing grant writing training and assistance, community organizing training and serving as their fiscal agent.

In addition our organization serves as a conduit for general information beneficial to underserved populations. This includes:

1. Neighborhood development activities including infrastructure activities (i.e., roads and bridges), housing developments, commercial space availability, youth programs and recreation activities
2. Community meetings
3. Changes in public services
4. Where to go for particular hardship circumstances
5. Job opportunities and job creation activities
6. Training programs

All of our services are either totally free to the public or subsidized for affordability

Finally, in addition to providing direct educational programs, BBC supports and maintains educational partnerships with the Cleveland Municipal School District, Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland State University and Case Western Reserve University. Many of these programs can be found on our website. More detailed information about these partnerships is available upon request.