

# Klondike Smokey City CDC: A History

## 1996-2002

- Klondike Neighborhood Association is founded
- Klondike CDC is created
- Klondike Civic Club gifts office to the CDC
- Klondike CDC adds Smokey City to create KSCCDC
- Annie B Casey/DCS partnership begins

## 2002-2012

- KSCCDC is a founding member of the Cathedral of Faith Collaborative revolutionizing how DCS processes children into the system
- KSCCDC forms neighborhood watch
- First Annual National Night Out
- KSCCDC works with city to build resource center.
- Alma Street Community Garden
- KSCCDC establishes the Police Joint Agency meeting (PJA) connecting residents to local government departments and resources.

## 2012-2016

- Established the First Annual Foster Care Awareness Parade and Angel Tree with the Cathedral of Faith Collaborative
- Taste of Memphis 3rd place
- Partnership with HCD to create the HCD Economic Redevelopment Plan. Plan gets the Jackson Avenue Corridor Plan funded
- Taste of Memphis 2nd place

## 2016-2018

- Assisted create the local SPARCC initiative that brought millions of dollars to community initiatives
- Girls Art Program (GAP): Paid summer camp for girls
- Acquired 901 Chelsea (future home of affordable senior housing)
- Partnership with Studio Gang to reimagine Northside High School
- Acquired Tom Lee's home

## 2018-2020

- First affordable rental property
- All volunteer staff NOW GETS PAID after over 20 years of service
- KSCCDC acquires over 150 lots and properties in Klondike. First transaction of its kind.
- Creates workforce development program to clear/cut lots
- Partner with SPARCC/NCR to rehab two resident's homes
- Received SPARCC grant funding to stabilize Tom Lee's home

## 2020-2022

- KSCCDC works with partners to acquire Northside
- KSCCDC works with partners to create the Klondike Moving Forward Plan
- KSCCDC establishes the Bellevue Tree Garden with unbuildable lots
- Memphis Grizzlies Litter League Champions
- Install garbage cans around neighborhood nodes
- Assisted with the creation of Klondike TIF

## 2022-2023

- Started NPA Initiative. First community partnership of its kind to aggressively fight blight
- Created a small business incubator (CNPP)
- Memfix History and Legacy Festival
- First Annual Fatherhood Summit
- Sold first CLT homes (2)
- Assisted the city and organizations with receiving and planning the brownsfield grant which will help remediate environmental hazard
- Taste of Memphis 2nd place
- First Annual Christmas Parade

## 2023-2024

- Established the Black Worker's Center
- Hosted Community FunFair
- Adopted Klondike, Dave Wells, and Mary Elizabeth Malone Parks
- Received CHDO certification to expand on affordable housing efforts.
- Received Monument Lab grant to further history preservation efforts.
- Recruited Christ Community/Baptist mobile clinic
- First CHDO project approved
- Created Klondike and Smokey City Community Museum
- Klondike Day established by the Shelby County Government/Commissioners
- Celebrated 125th anniversary (worship service/block party) over 500 attended.
- Tom Lee House awarded historic designation

# Klondike Smokey City CDC: 2024 Recap

## Housing Program

- CHDO certification
- **11** units of affordable housing saving families an average of **\$7,084.50** per year
- **2** affordable housing sales averaging **\$32,500** in savings/equity
- First CHDO project approved
- 2025/26 Goal: Triple rental housing

## Family Preservation

- Community partner for the Cathedral of Faith Foster Care Collaborative
- Co-sponsored the Foster Care Awareness Parade and Festival that brings vital resources to the over **700** attendees
- Co-sponsored a monthly legal aide event with Just City to help with expungements
- Gave out food, school supplies, and necessities to over **200** families
- Signed up **7** community representatives for the Cathedral of Faith Collaborative
- Recruited mobile healthcare unit to community to provide medical and dental services
- Established Black Worker's Center
- Neighborhood Watch
- Connected over **200** people to vital services including housing education, jobs, training, etc.

## Neighborhood Preservation

- Managed the clearing, mowing, and cleanup for over **400** properties.
- Awarded grant to create a pocket park for veterans in the community.
- Collaborated with CRA on the Brownfield grant bringing funding to help remediate contaminated properties
- Organize monthly Partners Joint Agency (PJA) that brings together city/county departments and community leaders to address community concerns.

## History Preservation

- Celebrated **125** year anniversary of Klondike (see events)
- Awarded Monument Lab grant for Tom Lee house, neighborhood archival work, and oral history work
- Created a popup community museum
- Convened a tour/presentation for community development professionals from all over the country
- Advocated for Klondike Day, now officially recognized by the Shelby County government
- Tom Lee House historic designation

## Events

- MLK Brunch
- Community Fun Fair
- Karaoke and Game Night Co-sponsored by the MPD.
- Foster Care Parade
- Neighbors Night Out
- Taste of Memphis 1st place winner
- Klondike **125** Anniversary Worship Service
- Klondike **125** Anniversary Block Party
- Klondike Second Annual Christmas Parade
- Over **1000** attendees

# Klondike, Smokey City CDC: 2025 Goals

## Housing Program

- Rehabilitate and sell two houses to low/moderate income families/individuals (CHDO).
- Start construction on 24-unit apartment complex.
- Continue to provide affordable rental housing saving families an average of **\$7,084.50** per year.
- Complete at least ten (10) homeowner repairs.

## Family Preservation Program

- Continue being a community partner for the Cathedral of Faith Foster Care Collaborative
- Co-sponsor the Foster Care Awareness Parade and Festival that brings vital resources to the over **700** attendees
- Continue to co-sponsor a legal aid event to help with expungements.
- Continue partnerships to bring healthcare including the mobile healthcare unit that comes monthly.
- Officially establish the Future Worker Center to connect residents to vital services and workforce development.
- Expand the scope beyond crime for our Neighborhood Watch and increase membership.
- Start canning classes.
- Continue to host monthly estate planning clinics.
- Host a renter's rights clinic
- Start small business incubator with the goal of scaling home based businesses to more sustainable businesses with physical locations in the community and increasing employees.

## Neighborhood Preservation

- Purchase equipment and hire a lot maintenance crew to assist in maintaining 400 partnership-controlled lots.
- Develop the Willie Mae Brooks pocket park.
- Lead/train cohort how to engage and organize community.
- Continue to organize monthly Partners Joint Agency (PJA) that brings together city/county departments and community leaders to address community concerns.
- Participate in city wide garden tour.
- Complete scatter site community development plan to outline development/construction for the real estate owned by the partnership.

## History Preservation

- Celebrate 100 year anniversary of Tom Lee's heroic act (May 10th).
- Revamp/activate community popup museum
- Complete design and construction plans for Tom Lee House.
- Convene multiple tours/presentation for community development professionals, local government, and funders.
- Complete the archival/mapping interactive website.
- Continue to research/gather more historical archives and oral history interviews for our oral history archives and community museum.
- Secure funding for Tom Lee's historical house and community museum.

## Scheduled Events

- Legal Clinics
- Foster Care Parade and Festival
- Tom Lee Celebration
- Willie Mae Brooks Pocket Park grand opening
- Community Garden Tour
- Neighbors Night Out
- Renter's Rights Clinic
- Taste of Memphis
- Angel Tree
- Klondike Third Annual Christmas Parade

# Klondike & Smokey City "A Look Into History"

## 1819-1899

Where our story begins.

1819 MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE is founded  
1899 Klondike is established  
Late 1800's Residents coin the phrase "Smokey City" due to factory pollution

## 1900-1920

Klondike organizing begins through Klondyke Improvement Club and Klondyke Civic Club

1900 Manassas High School "Home of the Tigers" opens  
1911 Klondike Park approval receives strong opposition and protest from majority white Smokey City residents  
1912 Major Flooding causes historic damage to Klondike and Smokey City Neighborhoods  
1914 Helen Green Barnum (community activist) family moves in Klondike

## 1921-1959

Construction boom and Black Middle Class established in Klondyke

1925 Tom Lee saves 32 people from the Mississippi River and is rewarded with a home on Mansfield (Klondyke)  
1926 Caldwell Guthrie school opens  
1936 Firestone plant opens  
1937 Daves Well Community Center opens  
1952 Tom Lee dies  
1953 Alma and Charlie Morris open a historic barber shop. It will become one of the central hubs of activism and community organization in the city. (Manassas Graduates)  
1956 Klondike Elementary opens



## 1960-1969

The Civil Rights Efforts Resonate in the Community

1960 Chicago Park Elementary School opens for "negros"  
1961 Manassas Elementary School closes  
1961 Sheila and Sharon Malone integrate Gordon Elementary School  
1968 Northside High School "Home of the Cougars" opens  
1968 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated  
1969 Porter Leath Orphanage closes

## 1970-1999

Interstate Construction Splits the Community, but Residents Unite

1970 Interstate construction splits Klondike and Smokey City demolishing homes  
1970 Klondike Civic Club opens center in Smokey City  
1974 Klondike Community Center is approved (Katie Sexton)  
1983 Firestone plant closes  
1994 Malone Development opens earning its name from Mary Elizabeth Malone.  
1996 Klondike Community Development Corp (CDC) is formed as an organization  
1999 Klondike CDC merges with the Klondike neighborhood association

## 2000's

The Rebirth and Development of Klondike & Smokey City

2003 Klondike CDC expands to cover Smokey City  
2009 Klondike Smokey City CDC builds a new resource center  
2015 Klondike Smokey City CDC works with Housing & Community Development (HCD) to create Jackson Avenue Corridor plan.  
2015 U of M and Klondike Smokey City CDC create plan for property preservation.  
2017 Klondike Smokey City CDC and Studio Gang work towards multi-million dollar Northside development project.  
2018 HCD and KSCCDC get Jackson Avenue Corridor Plan approved  
2020 Klondike Smokey City CDC purchases 150 Klondike lots.  
2022 Klondike TIF district was approved providing upfront advancements for development.  
2023 Klondike Smokey City CDC becomes a CHDO  
2024 125th anniversary of the Klondike neighborhood.



ksccdc.org  
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# Travel Guide

Explore Klondike and  
Smokey City





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Klondike Smokey City CDC



[www.ksccdc.org](http://www.ksccdc.org)



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# Travel Guide

910 Olympic Before



Google

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Behind Store Before



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# Travel Guide

Historic Preservation



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