



DOWNTOWN **WOMEN'S** CENTER

**PRESS RELEASE  
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**DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER TO PROVIDE SERVICES AT NEW SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR TRAUMA SURVIVORS IN VAN NUYS**

*The Oatsie's Place permanent supportive housing project will be built by Daylight Community Development and the Decro Corporation*

The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) has partnered with Daylight Community Development and the Decro Corporation on a housing development for trauma survivors in Van Nuys. Construction of the 45-unit development commenced on March 10<sup>th</sup> with a public groundbreaking celebration.

Named in honor of Marylouise Oates (Oatsie), a supporter of DWC for over 40 years, Oatsie's Place is part of the Downtown Women's Center's efforts to develop an additional 245 units of permanent supportive housing across Los Angeles by 2025. Oatsie's Place will provide 25 one-bedroom units and 20 studios for individuals and families - including trauma survivors. The four-story building will provide amenities including case management services, a learning center, community room, supportive services spaces, and landscaped open space.

Oatsie's Place is expected to be completed and open for occupancy by the end of 2023.

"This is truly a surreal moment for me and something I never could have imagined during my decades of advocacy for unhoused women," said Marylouise Oates. "I am truly honored to lend my name to this project, and I have immense pride knowing that Downtown Women's Center will support a safe and welcoming space for those in this area who need it the most."

"Today, we broke ground on Oatsie's Place for women and survivors of domestic violence, giving them a space to call home - a permanent home," said City Council President Nury Martinez. "It's crucial that, in our efforts to tackle our homeless crisis, we prioritize unhoused women. I'm so proud to represent Council District 6. This community is not just willing to do their part, but are leading the way in building permanent supportive housing in the Valley."

"Oatsie's Place is an incredible example of what coordination and determination can accomplish when invested stakeholders, like Downtown Women's Center, Daylight Community Development, and the Decro Corporation, come together to achieve a shared goal," said Ann Sewill General Manager of the City of Los Angeles' Housing Department. "This development embodies our promise to support our most vulnerable residents. Los Angeles needs more

permanent supportive housing and Oatsie's Place bolsters the number of units in the county."

"The Daylight team, alongside our partners at the Decro Corporation, are proud to assist the Downtown Women's Center in expanding their mission in Van Nuys," said Sonya Falcone, Co-Founding Partner of Daylight Community Development. "Oatsie's Place is the second of three projects Daylight and Decro have developed as part of the HHH Innovation Challenge. They leverage modular construction technology and innovative financing strategies to build permanent supportive housing faster and more cost-effectively. As the second HHH Innovation Challenge project to break ground, we are proud to say Oatsie's Place is on track to meet and exceed both of those goals."

"Oatsie's Place will provide survivors with a safe, secure place in which to live while also proving that permanent supportive housing can be built faster and more cost-effectively," said Ted M. Handel, CEO of Decro Corporation. "Residents will be able to draw on DWC's social service resources and create a supportive community with others who have undergone similar experiences. After months of hard work, we are thrilled to be breaking ground and reconnecting with HHH's core mission -- to build housing for those who need it most."

"Ending homelessness requires leadership at many levels of local government, working in partnership with organizations on-the-ground, to provide unhoused Angelinos with real pathways to permanently break the cycle of homelessness," said Amy Turk, CEO of the Downtown Women's Center. "Women represent the fastest-growing portion of the homeless population, and COVID-19 has especially compounded the risk factors that disproportionately impact women, such as intimate partner violence and eviction. We must elect a mayor willing to face this issue head on."

Renderings and visuals\* from the groundbreaking can be found in a shared Google Drive folder here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c2ifzXUp11A\\_hN9Rf8FJu\\_97PBPTR?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c2ifzXUp11A_hN9Rf8FJu_97PBPTR?usp=sharing)

*\*Credit Studio One Eleven for renderings and credit Downtown Women's Center for images of the event.*

For media interested in reporting on this event, please contact Sean Gallitz ([sgallitz@actumllc.com](mailto:sgallitz@actumllc.com)) for more information.

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*The **Downtown Women's Center (DWC)** is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women. DWC envisions a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Our mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy. For more information, visit [www.DowntownWomensCenter.org](http://www.DowntownWomensCenter.org)*