



## the SHAD Connection

### Shaker Square and Larchmere Welcome Bianca Butts to the Neighborhood

May 2020

Burton Bell Carr Development Inc. (BBC) is officially up and running in the Shaker Square and Larchmere neighborhoods.

Bianca Butts was hired to be the Neighborhood Services Coordinator for Shaker Square and Larchmere, a position that was created when BBC became the representative CDC in Fall 2019. In this role she is tasked with engaging with community members to identify their needs and to implement necessary programs and resources for the neighborhood.



"I believe in this community. I believe in the people," expressed Butts, who lives on Buckingham Road near Our Lady of Peace and grew up in neighboring Buckeye.

After a stint in finance, Butts finally decided to pursue her passion for non-profits and community development. She began her community work at East End Neighborhood House and moved to Cleveland Neighborhood Progress working in environmental justice. She eventually began a consulting career working with Neighborhood Connections and assisted with the community survey process gauging interest in expanding BBC to Shaker Square and Larchmere.

Being a part of that conversation with citizens wasn't just a professional matter. "I was personally invested," she said.

Before COVID-19, Butts was actively holding meetings with individual community members and community associations to "check that pulse" and "get acquainted with understanding their wants, needs and desires."

Now with social distancing, BBC is finding new ways to connect with community members. On April 29 BBC held its first virtual community meeting. Butts, too, is holding virtual meetings with community groups and virtual "coffee dates" with citizens who want to stay engaged. She also hopes to build a deeper connection with SHAD, viewing it as a valuable resource.

"I hope to have a more personal relationship [with SHAD]," expressed Butts.

Going forward, Butts said that one of her main tasks is to ensure more resident perspectives and voices are heard in the engagement process throughout the entire community regarding the re-development of Shaker Square. She said that BBC found that not enough people have all the facts to proceed with the project, and that more conversations needs to be had to help inform the final plan.

"I feel that more of the community wants to understand the project, process and want their voices included along the journey," said Butts.

Butts hopes to increase two-way communication with community members and encourages people to share their perspectives. To set up a time to chat with her or invite her to a community meeting email her at [bbutts@bbcdevelopment.org](mailto:bbutts@bbcdevelopment.org).