The Douglass/Sumner Neighborhood Association (DSNA) was formed in 1997 by a group of passionate residents who came together to address growing challenges in this traditionally African-American community. Our mission is to revitalize and preserve our culturally rich neighborhood. We envision a prosperous community that is affordable, safe, healthy and sustainable with multigenerational opportunities to grow, learn, live, do business, and raise families. In the next three years, DSNA will focus on implementing a housing strategy, increasing engagement and building organizational capacity to create a livable, vibrant multi-cultural community.

Our Mission

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NeighborhoodsNOW Accelerated

After 10 years of a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy in Kansas City, LISC and its colleagues have come to understand four essential elements that are needed, in tandem, to accelerate progress: 1) Organized neighborhood leadership and collective efficacy, 2) Capital, from multiple sources, which can be deployed in the target area; 3) Internal capacity and/or partnerships to do physical real estate development; 4) Alignment with the strategies and leadership of City government.

The 2016-2018 Quality of Life Plan invites stakeholders associated with each of the success criteria to play an active role in fulfilling this neighborhood’s three key goals. By working together to cultivate and sustain the capacity for implementation, we can create a place where people live lives filled with opportunity.

Total Population: 1,581

- Owner Occupied: 18%
- Vacancy Rate: 15%
- Median Household Income: $17,679
- Adults with At Least High School Education: 65%
- Unemployment Rate: 29%

For more information contact:
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Kansas City, KS 66117
beasterwood@umkc.com
Organized For Success

The Douglass/Sumner community is located in the northeast area of Kansas City, Kansas, a historically African-American enclave. The neighborhood possesses many advantageous qualities, including its proximity to downtown, educational assets Sumner Academy and Douglass Elementary School, and its religious anchors that include nine churches of multiple denominations. Over the past several years, the neighborhood has grown increasingly racially diverse, with new residents from various countries. This new diversity presents an opportunity to engage residents in a spirit of inclusion through events that encourage everyone to showcase their cultural traditions.

Since 2007, Greater Kansas City LISC has invested $1.2 million dollars to support new housing development in the Douglass/Sumner neighborhood and build the capacity of the neighborhood to develop and implement key components of the Quality of Life Plan. The neighborhood recently celebrated the completion of six new homes built in collaboration with Community Housing of Wyandotte County (CHWC, Inc). Over the next three years DSNA will seek funding to build the capacity of Douglass/Sumner to implement the Quality of Life plan. DSNA seeks to broaden its collaborative partnerships with other neighborhood stakeholders to successfully accomplish its priorities.