

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND

United States Department of the Treasury



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2005

Contact: Bill Luecht
(202) 622-8042

Remarks by Arthur A. Garcia, Director
Community Development Financial Institutions Fund
U.S. Department of the Treasury

2005 New Markets Tax Credit Award Ceremony

Cash Room, Treasury Building
Washington, DC

Good morning! And welcome to the Treasury Department and for many of you welcome to Washington, DC.

My name is Art Garcia and I am the Director of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund here at Treasury. The CDFI Fund is the office within Treasury that administers the New Markets program. I am very honored and excited about today's ceremony and thank you all for joining us. I'd especially like to welcome our distinguished guest from Congress, Senator Richard Burr and a special welcome and thank you to my boss – Secretary Snow.

Let me take just a few minutes to share with you two thoughts. First, I'd like to share with you a little bit of the history behind this wonderful room we are gathered in today. And second, my perspective on the New Markets Tax Credit program and how it is already making a difference across the country and here at home in Washington, D.C.

As you can see, the architect - Alfred Mullett - designed the Cash Room as a roofed

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND

United States Department of the Treasury



version of an Italian palazzo, a traditional bank design in Europe.

The Cash Room opened in June 1869 in the United States Treasury Department. Prior to its completion as a bank, the Cash Room was chosen as the site for the **Inaugural Reception** for President Ulysses S. Grant in 1869.

When the Cash Room opened officially in June of that year it functioned principally as a "banker's bank," supplying the area commercial banks with coins and currency from Treasury vaults and handling the government accounts of the District of Columbia.

Up until the early 1900s, gold, silver, and paper currency were delivered to the Treasury Building in horse-drawn vans and unloaded at the sidewalk entrance on Fifteenth Street, then hauled through corridors on handcarts and deposited on a cargo lift, the first elevator in the building, which carried them to the Cash Room vaults.

The Cash Room closed in the 1970s and was restored and reopened in the mid-1980s.

Now, on to the New Markets awards. Across the country, equity raised from past New Markets Allocatees is being put to good use in rural and urban distressed communities – and right here in Washington, DC. In the first round of the New Markets Program, City First Bank was awarded \$73 million in tax credit allocation authority. Today, City First is actively putting the capital it has been able to raise through its New Markets award - \$18 million worth to be exact – to work here in the District.

Let me highlight one of the two deals they have closed. City First Bank has invest \$9.4 million in the Town Hall Education Arts and Recreation Campus – or “THE ARC.” THE ARC is a 110,000 square foot cultural arts and recreation center under construction in Oxon Run Park in

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND

United States Department of the Treasury



Southeast DC. THE ARC will soon house the Boys and Girls Club; the Corcoran School of Art; Covenant House; Children's Health Project of DC; the Levine School of Music; the Washington Ballet and other organizations providing programs and services to the children and families of Anacostia, a tremendously underserved neighborhood in southeast Washington.

With today's announcement nine (9) more organizations – some headquartered here in the greater Washington, DC area and some planning on serving the District – are joining the efforts to make a difference in this city. I'd like to ask the representatives from these organizations to stand and be recognized. Thank you.

And this is only representative of the impact here in Washington, D.C. Thank you all and keep up the great work!

Now, without further ado, I'd like to introduce the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, John W. Snow. Secretary Snow was sworn into office as the 73rd Secretary of the Treasury on February 3, 2003. Drawing on his considerable experience as a leader in both the public and private sectors, Secretary Snow works closely with President Bush to strengthen economic growth and create jobs. He is an accomplished economist, academic and CEO - including serving for 20 years at the helm of CSX Corporation - and is considered a leading champion of improved corporate governance practices. Secretary Snow is from Toledo, Ohio. Please join me in welcoming Secretary Snow.