



Press Release
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WCRP Executive Director Wins Social Innovator in Community Development Award

Nora Lichtash received first place from the Philadelphia Social Innovations Journal following 300 nominations and over 3,500 votes cast by citywide residents

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The executive director of the Women’s Community Revitalization Project (WCRP), Nora Lichtash, yesterday received the first place award for “Social Innovator in Community Development” from the Philadelphia Social Innovations Journal.

The award “honors the region’s most passionate social innovators” across a range of fields who are working to make “Greater Philadelphia a more inclusive, equitable and thriving region of innovation and opportunity for all of its residents.”

“Being a finalist for this year’s Social Innovations Awards is important because it recognizes WCRP’s pioneering work,” Lichtash said. “It began with our founding as the first and only women-led community development corporation in Philadelphia and has extended through 30 years of bringing women together to confront injustice and forge ground-breaking alternatives to make real change happen.”

The Social Innovations Journal received 300 nominations for the award and over 3,500 Philadelphia residents participated in the voting process.

“WCRP is a model for affordable housing that ensures permanent affordability combined with women's leadership development and community organizing,” an announcement from the Social Innovators Journal said. “The combination has proven to be successful; families can afford their rent and pay their rent, the units are well-built and maintained, no one is displaced when the tax credits expire, and neighbors accept and integrate the housing units and the residents.”

Lichtash is among the original founders of WCRP and has served as its executive director since 1990. Last October, the organization commemorated a 30-year history of empowering Philadelphia women and families to improve their lives and strengthen their communities. Since 1986, WCRP has grown to become a nationally recognized, innovative developer that has built 282 units of housing and invested \$90 million in some of the city’s poorest neighborhoods.



Pictured left to right: Second place finalist Charlyn Griffith, Sanctuary Wholistic Arts; Award presenters Rick Sauer, Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations and Kimberly Allen, Wells Fargo; first place finalist Nora Lichtash

About WCRP

The Women’s Community Revitalization Project (WCRP) is committed to social and economic equity for low-income women and their families, developing housing; providing supportive services, advocating for policy change and honoring leadership, dignity, and justice in our communities. Learn more at www.wcrpphila.org.

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