Oxford Plaza

Berkeley, California

Developer/Sponsor  Resources for Community Development

Units  96

Description  Oxford Plaza is part of a new mixed-use development with green affordable housing and retail and commercial space in downtown Berkeley, Calif. Designed as a transit-oriented community targeting low-income families and individuals, Oxford Plaza features 96 apartments that meet Enterprise’s Green Communities Criteria for environmental sustainability and healthy living. The Oxford Plaza community is located within walking distance of public transportation, educational and cultural facilities, shopping and restaurants, and a growing arts district. It is also adjacent to the state-of-the-art David Brower Center, which houses the operations of several nonprofits and other civic-minded organizations.

Oxford Plaza was created help empower Berkeley’s low-income families and contribute to an economically and culturally thriving downtown. The apartments are a mix of studios and one-, two- and three-bedroom units. Every apartment at Oxford Plaza is adaptable to accommodate the varying needs of residents. Nine units provide housing to low-income individuals with HIV/AIDS, and four apartments are fully accessible.

A Green Advantage  Oxford Plaza is a model for transit-oriented, sustainable development. In addition to its ideal location, near transportation, jobs and services, Oxford Plaza was built with many green features, including:

- Recycled content and low-toxicity materials
- Water-conserving design and irrigation
- Energy Star lighting fixtures and appliances
- “Green” label carpet
- Landscaping with native plants

Rents  Approximately one-third of the apartments target households earning up to 30 percent of the area median income (AMI), and two-thirds target households earning up to 60 percent AMI.

www.greencommunitiesonline.org
A partnership between Enterprise and the Natural Resources Defense Council
Amenities  Oxford Plaza features an open-air courtyard, playground and roof deck with views of the San Francisco Bay, as well as a large community room with computer access, laundry rooms and two elevators. Nearby services and facilities include the University of California, Berkeley; public schools and a library; a YMCA; restaurants; a farmers market; and other retail stores.

Social Services  Oxford Plaza residents have access to extensive services right in their community. The focus of these services is to increase self-sufficiency among residents, ensure a high level of housing retention, and provide voluntary service interventions and referrals based on the identified needs of the population. Service programs include an after-school homework club, adult education workshops, computer classes, a community garden and a tenant’s council. Staff will ensure that special needs residents receive the services they require and staff will collaborate with outside service agencies to ensure all needed services are in place.

Developer  Resources for Community Development (RCD) creates and preserves affordable housing for those with the fewest options, to build community and enrich lives. As a nonprofit affordable housing developer and services provider, RCD has created award-winning homes with supportive services for 25 years. RCD has provided more than 1600 homes for low-income residents of Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties in California, with 277 more units in predevelopment or construction.

Architect  Solomon ETC

General Contractor  Cahill Contractors, Inc.