

Mission Statement

...to strengthen neighborhoods by mitigation blight through strategic property acquisition that will create vibrant neighborhoods, increase homeownership, stimulate economic growth and support community *development by returning properties* to productive use and improve quality of life.



Jill Weyer, Acting Chair Jacquie Leventoff, Vice-Chair George Nikolados, Treasurer Anna Milucky, Secretary **Heather Brown** Nancy Buck Julian Dawson **Vicky Ferguson** Susan Harte Alan Sorensen Ira Steingart



Current Inventory

- 25 Liberty Village
 - 22 Monticello
 - 3 Thompson
 - 2 Fallsburg
 - 1 Bethel
 - 1 Neversink

\$1.3 Million Returned to Tax **Base Since 2019**

Sullivan County Land Bank Revenue Sources

26

16

Source	Amount
CRI Round #3, 4 & 4.2	\$2,473,058
EPA Remediation	\$500,000
County (2017-2019, 2022-23)	\$500,000
RUSt Program (2021-2023)	\$510,000
Zombie 2.0	\$100,000
Foundation Support	\$37,500
Sale of Property	\$973,080
TOTAL FUNDING LEVERAGED	\$6,646,696



Out of 24 statewide Land Banks, Sullivan County was chosen as the cover photo for the 10-year report recently completed by the New York State Land Bank Association. Our rural Land Bank is an example that other communities have been reaching out to as they consider starting their own land banks.

Blight in our Community

Property values decrease significantly and creep throughout the neighborhood. By strategically removing blight, it encourages reinvestment in neighboring properties. Using RUSt funds and leveraging other funds allows the Land Bank to remove these structures and allow residents property values to improve.





- Building Stronger, Safer Neighborhoods
- Expanding the Production of Affordable Housing
- Remediating and Activating Contaminated Sites
- Advancing Racial Equity
- Supporting Workforce Development Goals





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- New Construction on 10 Vacant Lots Makan Development
- Monticello Manor Remediation & Continue Redevelopment Project
 - Broadway Redevelopment Project
- BL04
- 91 Chestnut Redevelopment
- Develop Strategic Plan

A DECADE OF PROGRESS Celebrating 10 Years of Land Banks in New York

2023 SCLBC Goals

7 Demolitions (RUSt Funds)

Broadway Theater Stabilization



A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO ACTIVATE ICONIC PROPERTIES ABANDONED BY THE MARKET

SULLIVAN COUNTY LAND BANK www.sullivancountylandbank.org

- 75 PROPERTIES ACQUIRED
- 25 DEMOLITIONS COMPLETED
- 4.8M PUBLIC + PRIVATE INVESTMENT LEVERAGED
- \$1.0M assessed value returned



However, one could argue that SCLB's most impactful work is in trying to address some of the greatest property challenges in the village of Monticello: long-abandoned, iconic large commercial structures whose sustained presence seem to stifle both investment in and imagination of the future of this key main street corridor.

Despite the financial and legal barriers, as well as the risks, SCLB and its partners understood that without proactive efforts by the public sector to position these key commercial properties for redevelopment, there was little hope of reclaiming the vibrancy that once defined the village center.

Over the last few years, SCLB reached consensus with local and county officials on a long-term recovery plan for the Broadway corridor in Monticello's downtown center. Acquisition started in 2019 of these four buildings, some of which had been abandoned and tax-delinquent for more than a decade: (1) Strong Building, (2) Key Bank Building, (3) Monticello Manor, and (4) Broadway Theater.

This work is slow, tedious, and expensive, but SCLB has had the support to proceed as circumstances allowed. Leveraging the County staff's expertise, SCLB demonstrated adeptness at securing funds that would allow for phased investigations, site planning efforts, and eventual redevelopment. Some examples include:

- Grant funds from the NY AG's Community Revitalization Initiative were used to acquire and stabilize the properties
- Federal brownfield grants were secured to conduct assessments and support remediation efforts of the Monticello Manor, an abandoned hospital and nursing home
- Multiple federal and state grants have advanced the Strong Building and Key Bank Building to the redevelopment phase, an \$8 million dollar project that will include ground floor commercial and up to 16 affordable housing units
- A grant from NYS Empire State Development is funding a community-driven feasibility study for the Theater

One of the most important attributes of a land bank is its flexibility, and SCLB continues to expertly carry out both impactful, small-scale interventions—from demolition to new infill housing construction—to proactive and large-scale interventions on abandoned commercial properties that could unlock the potential of an entire village center.