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Media Contact:

Dave Baldwin, Communications Manager

Phone: 646.662.7175

Email: dave.baldwin@rdbcommunications.com



SHED Names Joel Pugh Executive Director

Capacity-building grant from InvestSTL helps launch new era of leadership for University City nonprofit.

University City, MO (September 2025) – SHED (Sustainable Housing & Equitable Development), a community-based nonprofit that serves University City's Third Ward, is excited to announce the hiring of Joel Pugh as Executive Director. Pugh will serve as the first *full-time* Executive Director in SHED's 16-year history—a major milestone for the organization made possible by a generous capacity-building grant from InvestSTL.

A former planner with a deep commitment to neighborhood revitalization, Pugh brings passion and experience in community and economic development, city planning, and grant management to his new role. Most recently, he served as City Planner for the City of Webster Groves and has previously held positions with the City of Ferguson and BioSTL, a St. Louis-based nonprofit. He also maintained a portfolio of grant funds for local municipalities and nonprofits as a Community Development Block Grant Specialist with St. Louis County.



Joel comes to us with valuable planning experience and a strong background working with varying demographics and nonprofits," said Mimi Taylor-Hendrix, SHED's Board Chair. "His past work with St. Louis County will be invaluable as SHED continues to expand its efforts to increase the stability and vitality of the 3rd Ward in University City by building and rehabbing homes. Joel's attention to detail, organizational skills, and enthusiasm will help SHED build capacity and deepen neighborhood engagement in University City, working together with our strategic development partner, InvestSTL."

Drawn to community development during his time with AmeriCorps, Joel earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Government from Washington University in St. Louis, an MBA in Social Entrepreneurship from Brandeis University, and a Certificate in Planning and Zoning from the University of Missouri-Saint Louis.

His leadership marks an exciting new chapter for SHED as the organization continues to expand its services and impact across the Third Ward. While still providing home maintenance and repairs to University City residents, SHED's mission has grown in recent years as the organization began building affordable housing, offering education on homebuying and ownership, and creating career pathways in the skilled trades for local high school students.

Since assuming the role in July, Pugh has already hit the ground running—overseeing the sale of SHED's new Crest Avenue home to a first-time homeowner. As Executive Director, he will work closely with the board of directors and partner organizations to guide SHED's programs, advance neighborhood leadership initiatives, and secure funding to expand the building development and rehab program.

"SHED sits at an awesome intersection of providing a great resource to the community and a helpful outlet for those wanting to have an impact," Pugh says. "Helping seniors, those with disabilities, and low-to-moderate-income individuals with maintaining their homes while also being a partner in community building is exactly what draws me to this organization. I'm excited to connect with anyone interested in our work."

About SHED:

Founded in 2009, SHED (Sustainable Housing & Equitable Development) is a community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that strengthens housing equity for low-to-moderate-income residents of University City by providing home maintenance and repairs, building quality affordable housing, and supporting home ownership. To date, SHED volunteers have repaired more than 600 homes in University City's Third Ward. To learn more or get involved, visit shedstl.org.

For more information about SHED or to arrange an interview, please contact Dave Baldwin, Communications Manager, at 646.662.7175 or dave.baldwin@rdbcommunications.com.

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