

2019-2020

ANNUAL REPORT

RiseBoro
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP





RiseBoro only exists by virtue of the hard work and dedication of our staff, so, to all of you, I say – THANK YOU!

A Letter From Our CEO

Dear Friend and Community Partner,

RiseBoro Community Partnership unleashes the potential of communities to thrive, no matter the odds. Since 1973, **RiseBoro** has provided services designed to connect, uplift, and support communities across New York City, ensuring nobody is left behind in times of challenge and growth.

2020 will be forever marked as the year that COVID-19 changed everything. The pandemic exacerbated historical inequities in marginalized communities across the city, including those that **RiseBoro** serves. While many in wealthier neighborhoods were able to retain employment and work safely from home, poor communities were heavily impacted by job loss, mounting rent arrears, food insecurity, and disproportionately high rates of both COVID-19 infections and deaths.

As a provider of critical supportive services for some of New York City's most underserved citizens, the "new normal" enforced by COVID-19 required that RiseBoro adapt our operations to ensure the safety of our staff and of the thousands of individuals and families that count on us for assistance with food, rent, and other basic necessities. In 2020 we secured new funding, built new and expanded existing partnerships, and invested in our technological capacity to help us pivot our services to address our community's new and unmet needs. Over the course of the year, we increased our senior meal deliveries, began operating a food pantry, made wellness calls to thousands of community residents, extended rental assistance to families in need through Project Parachute, helped thousands of households respond to the Census, and successfully advocated for the City to minimize cuts to the Summer Youth Employment Program.

I would like to express admiration and gratitude for all of **RiseBoro's** frontline staff and their incredible effort over the past year. In this year of inescapable fear and anxiety, they kept showing up to ensure that help was available to all who needed it. **RiseBoro** only exists by virtue of the hard work and dedication of our staff, so, to all of you, I say – THANK YOU!

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 gave rise to national mobilization around racial justice following the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and others. Our country has failed at every turn to reckon with its history of systemic racism, but I believe this time is different. We must confront the ways that our laws, institutions, and systems continue to confer privilege to white people at the expense of Black and brown people. I believe we finally have the political and social will to change, and **RiseBoro** is committed to being an agent of this change. We are in the midst of implementing a Racial Equity Action Plan and have made practicing and promoting racial equity one of the five pillars of our new strategic plan.

Speaking of our new strategic plan, you will find a brief overview of our goals on page 9 of this report. We persevered through the pandemic to complete our planning, and I believe that it sets **RiseBoro** on a course that will help us achieve our vision: To build a city where your zip code does not determine your health outcomes, housing stability, or economic power.

2020 challenged all of us in ways that we could not have imagined, but your support allowed **RiseBoro** to continue serving the most vulnerable New Yorkers, who needed our help last year more than ever. I appreciate all of you and hope that you will continue to join us as we work towards creating a more just and equitable New York City.

In Partnership,

Scott Short
Chief Executive Officer,
RiseBoro Community Partnership



When we say
no matter the
odds, *we mean it.*

RiseBoro Responds

Unmatched Challenges Call For
Unequaled Commitment

RiseBoro's mission is to unleash the potential of communities to thrive, no matter the odds. While that can always be a challenge for us, our partners, and our communities, 2020 brought on challenges not experienced in our history. Between the health pandemic and social inequity, we had to find creative ways to continue to help NYC's most vulnerable, while re-evaluating our individual and organizational commitment to a fair and equitable society. We are proud of the pivots we made and successes upon which we continue to build.



Pop Up Pantry

When COVID-19 struck, members of our communities struggled to put food on the table to feed themselves and their families. The fundamental routines and rhythms of their lives were turned upside down. RiseBoro's Wellness Rising had to rethink and reprioritize fast, and the staff was able to meet the growing need for food, especially healthy food, in Brooklyn's hardest hit communities.

We went from providing small bags of food to a small group of clients who were attending our cooking classes, to serving over 1,900 individuals twice a week who waited in line through all sorts of weather to receive fresh produce and prepared meals through our Food Pantry.

Our food pantry helped residents like Julia who lost her beloved 59-year old husband Jose from COVID back in April. She expressed how "agradecida" (grateful) she was to receive fresh fruits and vegetables for herself and her teenage daughter, which she couldn't find at other food pantries she had visited—and at no cost. Julia also greatly appreciated how the staff treated her and others who visit the food pantry.

"Son muy cariñosos y demuestran mucha compasión" (They are very caring and show great compassion)

Serving Our Seniors

Did you know one in every ten seniors in New York City suffers from food insecurity? It's true. Homebound seniors are especially vulnerable to hunger and nutrition deficiencies. Since last year, COVID-19 and social distancing have made delivering meals to our seniors more necessary than ever.

Before the pandemic, RiseBoro Meals on Wheels, was delivering approximately 1,500 meals to seniors around Brooklyn each day. But when our senior centers closed and more of our seniors found themselves homebound and unable to source food, we increased our meal delivery to 2,200 meals a day, ensuring our seniors had access to free and healthy food. Center staff to this day make weekly wellness calls, provide case assistance and other important tasks like scheduling vaccines for over 2,000 senior center members.

The meal delivery program, under contract with New York City Department for The Aging and Citymeals on Wheels, prepares meals that meet special requests including vegetarian, lactose free, low sugar and sodium diets. We continued to expand capacity throughout the pandemic to deliver over 2,700 hot and nutritious meals to NYC seniors every single day.

One in every ten seniors in New York City suffers from food insecurity.



Voices of Youth are Heard

Amid other devastating budget cuts resulting from COVID-19, the city cancelled the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), eliminating up to 75,000 paid summer internships for vulnerable youth. RiseBoro knows firsthand the stability SYEP can provide to low-income families, serving 1,300 youth annually through this program.

In partnership with other community organizations, RiseBoro got to work. We helped to organize a Virtual Youth Town Hall, inviting students and families who had been affected by this program's cuts to speak out. The event was attended by council members including Carlos Menchaca, Chair of the Committee on Immigration, Deborah Rose, Chair of the City Council's Committee on Youth Services, and Steve Levin, Chair of the Committee on General Welfare.

Giving students a platform to speak out worked. The message that our outstanding, intelligent, and insightful young people delivered during the Town Hall was heard and funding was restored. RiseBoro's youth are truly awesome.

RiseBoro was able to provide paid project-based work opportunities for 536 young people, ages 14 through 21.



Strategic Plan

Strategic planning is critical for any organization in order to set goals, create cultural alignment, sharpen focus on what really matters, and drive change.

In 2019 we set out to define a new direction for the next five years of RiseBoro, asking ourselves what we wanted to accomplish, what steps we needed to take to get there, and how we could best fulfill our mission of unleashing the potential of communities to thrive, no matter the odds.

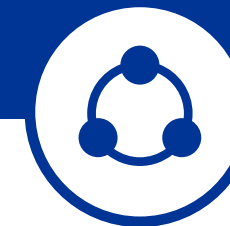
Our plan, now informed by the health and social justice crises of 2020, is the result of our strategic planning initiative.

Our strategy plan includes new ways to work across divisions internally and in partnership with others externally to make an even bigger impact in the lives of those we serve. Our focus is to improve on multi-generational trends that have adversely affected our communities. With the input of a multitude of stakeholders, we've taken stock of our internal capabilities and external challenges and have identified an ambitious and inspiring path forward. We are poised to take the next steps **to achieving our vision of building a city where your zip code does not determine your health outcomes, housing stability, or economic power.**



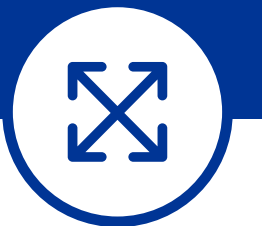
FIGHTING INEQUALITIES

We work to improve the lives of those we serve by creating a more equitable and just society where basic human rights of good health, affordable communities, and hope for the future are expected by all.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

We help vulnerable communities envision and actualize a future in which they move from possible crisis to stability and onto upward mobility.



EXPANDING IMPACT

We will build on the good work that started in the Bushwick community 47 years ago by expanding the breadth and reach of services being provided to populations in need.

By the Numbers



RB Seniors

5,919

Annual Memberships in Senior Centers & Clubs

2,700

Daily meals delivered through MOW

10,847

Trips with Transportation Services

RB Housing

5,000

Units in Pre-development

7,384

Visits and Calls with our Senior Residents

\$3.4M

In New and Expanded Funding Awarded

RB Education

5,783

Youth Served

2,061

Youth Enrolled in Workforce Development

76%

Adults in HSE Classes Achieved Diplomas

RB Health

929

Homecare Clients Served

65%

Of Health Talk Attendees Learned to Avoid Hospitals

1,082

Home Health Aides Employed

RB Empowerment

1,450

Evictions Prevented

724

Households Received Direct Financial Assistance

150

Individuals Rehoused

RB Community

500

Census Outreach Conversations

200

Volunteer Recruited

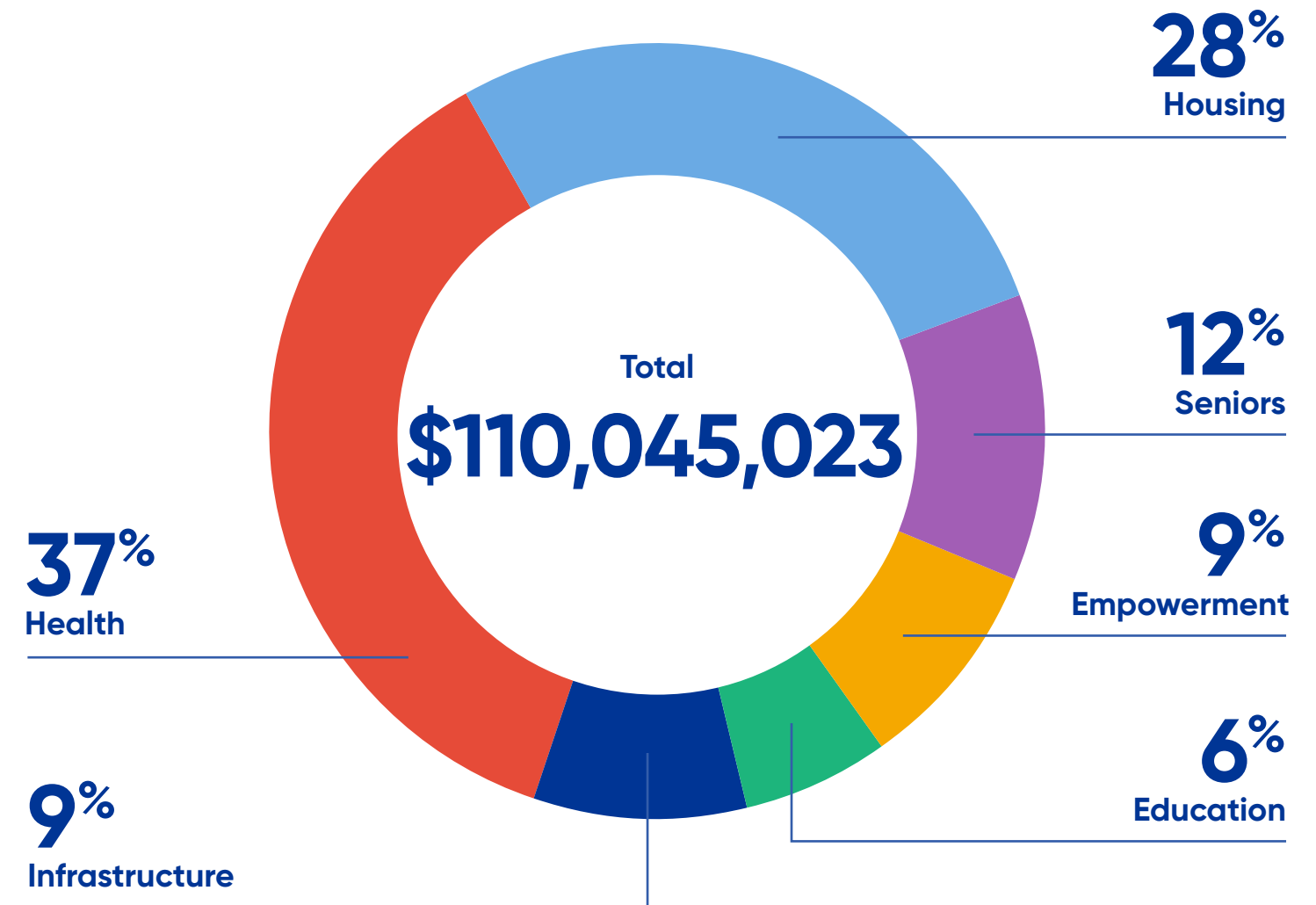
200

Advocacy Actions

Financials



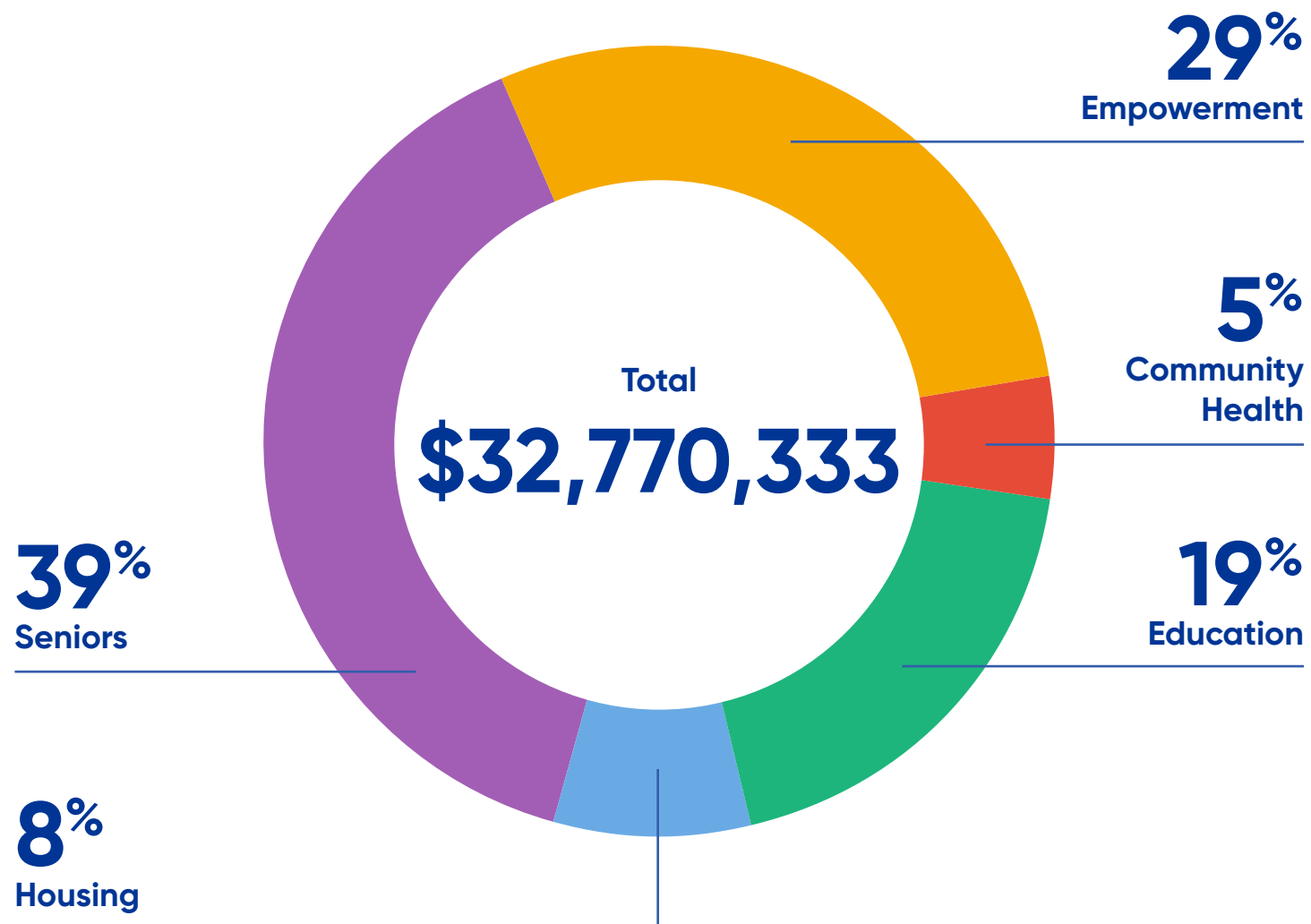
RiseBoro Total Revenue



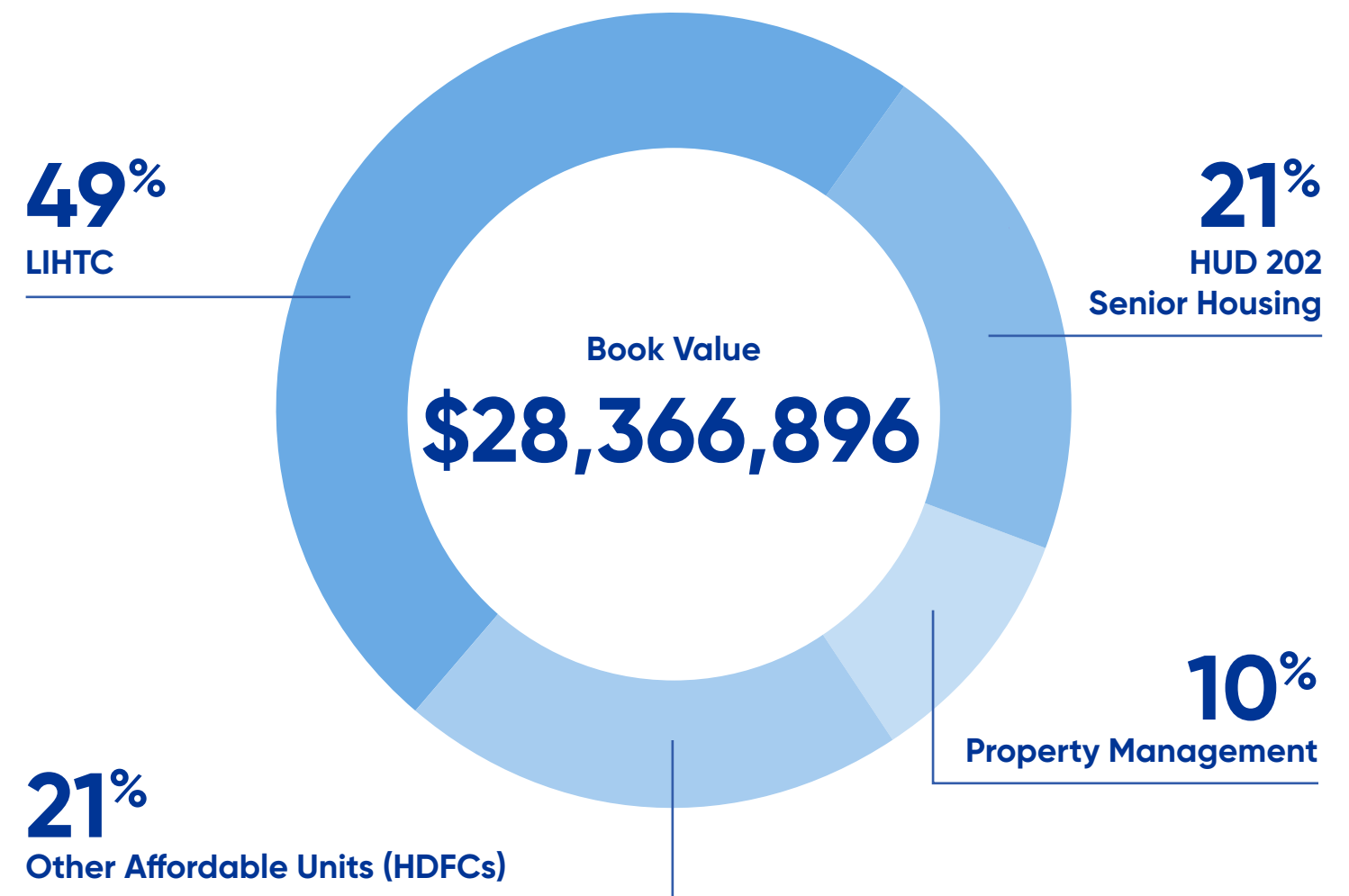
Financials



Social Services Revenue

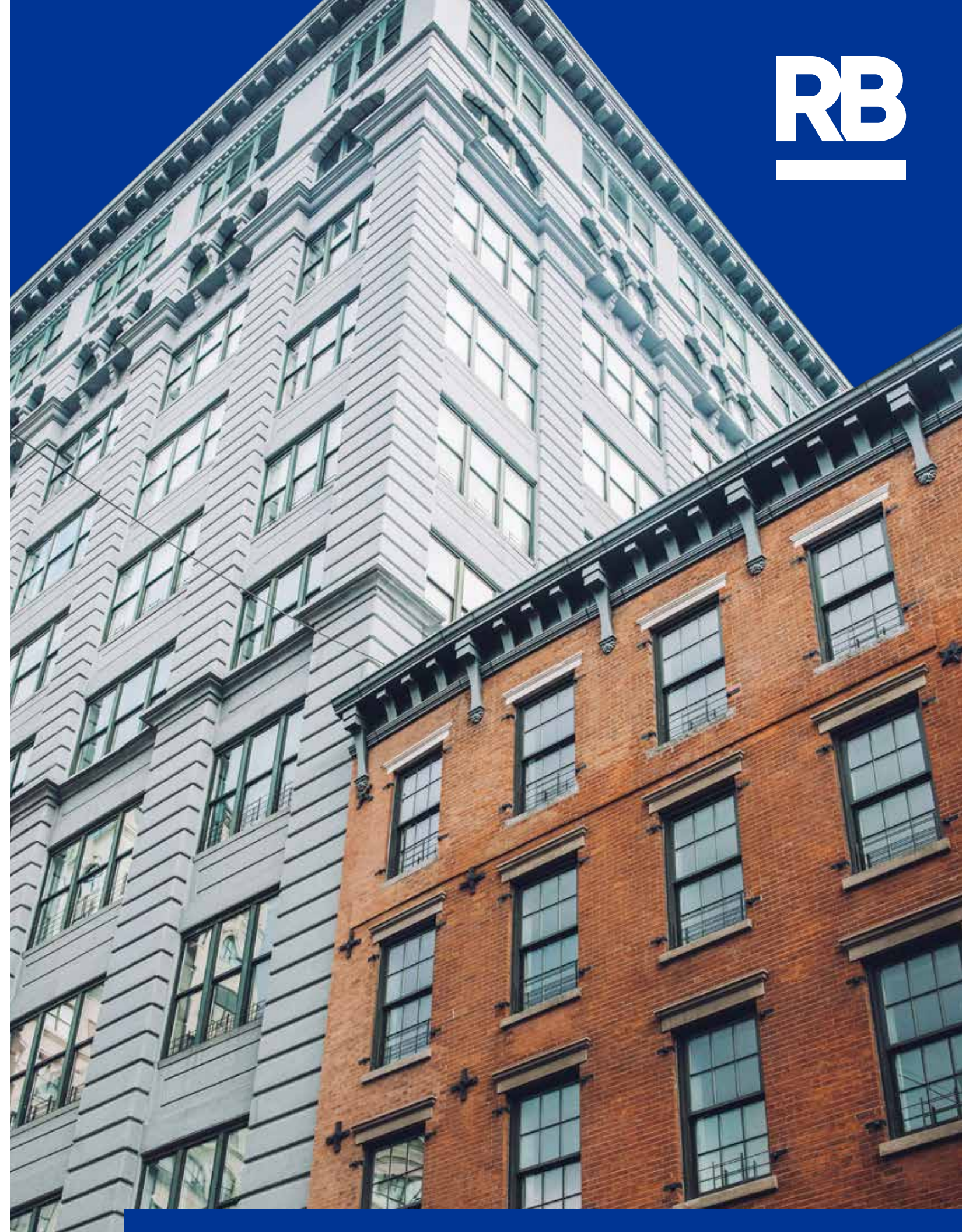
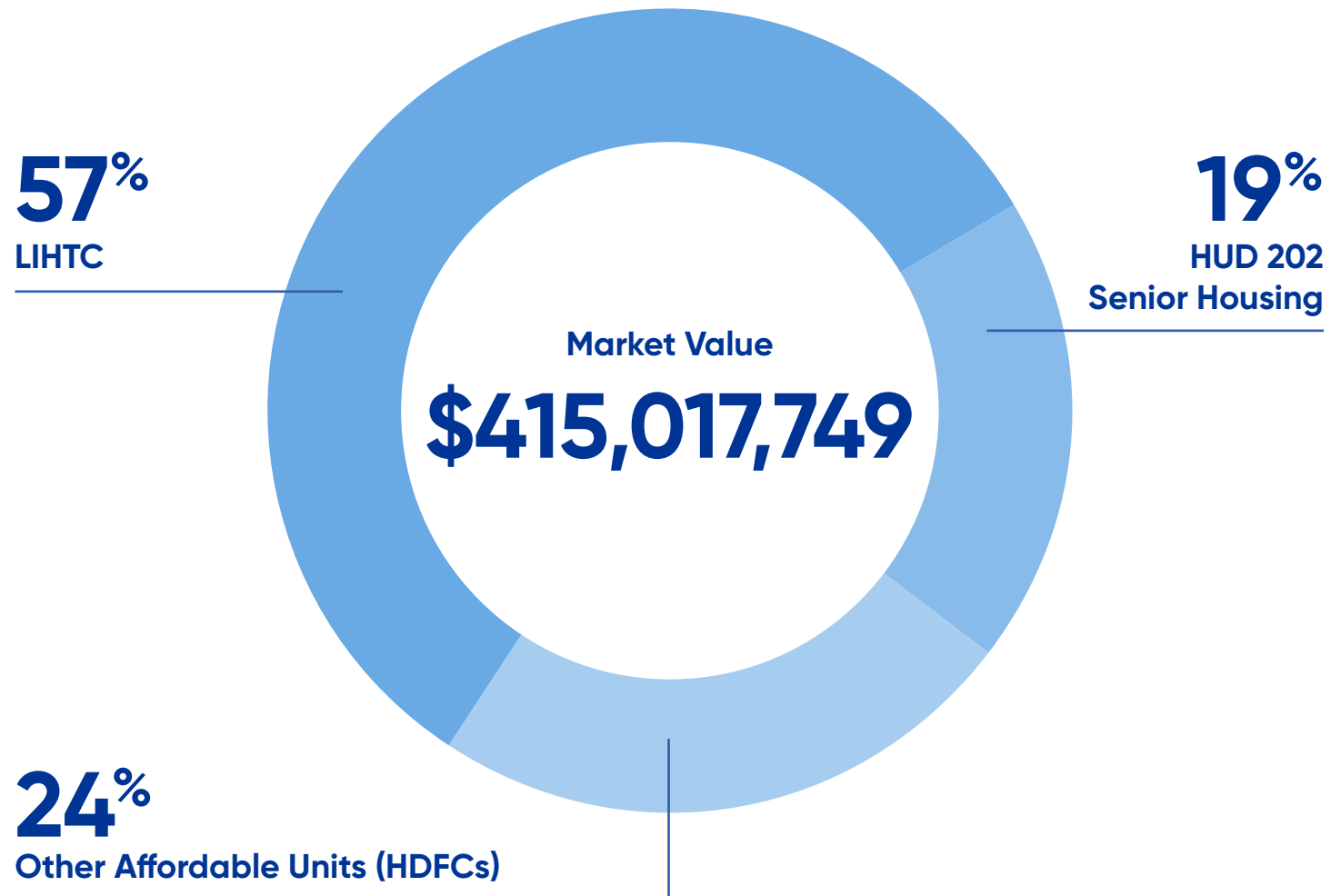


Real Estate Revenue



Financials

Real Estate Assets





RiseBoro
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

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