



Session Titles and Descriptions

Last Updated: 12/16/2024

NOTE: This is an initial list of learning labs and sessions we expect to feature at the conference. The final list of learning labs and sessions, their titles, and session descriptions are all subject to change. A final schedule with dates/times will be shared in the coming weeks.

Learning Labs

Learning Labs will take place on Wednesday, March 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. and require a separate ticket for participation.

Demystifying Investor LOIs, Lender Debt Term Sheets, and the Finance Partner Selection Process

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Learning Lab

Success! You've just won a tax credit or bond award, and now it's time to select a lender and LIHTC investor. How do you go about the process? How do you interpret lender term sheets and investor LOIs? Our panel of lenders, investors, developers, and financial consultant experts will reveal what's behind the curtain in the lender and investor selection process. You'll walk away empowered with the know-how and courage to select and onboard your investor and lender partners. Join us!

Introduction to Affordable Housing Development and Finance

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Learning Lab

The groundbreaking and grand openings get all the press and photo-ops, but this Learning Lab shines a light on what happens behind the scenes from before the shovel goes into after the ribbon gets cut. We'll introduce you to the people, agencies, and funding programs that turn affordable housing from an idea to a reality, as well as the forces that shape where that housing is sited, how it looks, and whom it houses.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credits Fundamentals

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Learning Lab

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit remains the most important and one of the most complex financing

tools for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in California. This Learning Lab combines lessons from Financial Consultants and presentations from CTCAC staff to introduce the nuts and bolts of the tax credit program. Participants will learn how to calculate LIHTC equity and navigate CTCAC's 9% scoring system. Whether you're new to affordable housing or already working on CTCAC applications, you'll benefit from this interactive session.

Project Closeout: Skills for a Successful Permanent Conversion

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Learning Lab

There is a lot of focus on assembling your development's financing and getting to the start of construction, but what about the second closing that happens at conversion to permanent financing? There is so much for a development team to manage: demonstrating stabilized occupancy, cost certifications, LIHTC equity adjusters, permanent loan underwriting, additional public funding sources, and applying to CTCAC for your 8609. In this Lab, you'll learn from industry experts how best to navigate this stage in the development cycle.

Tax-exempt Bond FUNDamentals

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Learning Lab

This learning lab has been a staple of Housing California for the past 20 years. The purpose of this Learning Lab is to introduce the basics of tax-exempt bonds relating to affordable housing finance. The workshop will teach the basic and technical requirements, the who and why of the multitude of players, the process of obtaining a bond volume cap allocation from CDLAC, general deal structuring, and the costs of issuance.

Understanding the Legal Documents and Closing Process in an Affordable Housing Transaction

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Learning Lab

Financing affordable housing requires the assemblage of multiple funding sources. This results in a voluminous set of loan documents. This workshop will unravel the mystery of this paper so that you can understand why these documents are so important and what they do. We will first discuss the fundamentals of financing and borrower-entity structuring and formation documents. We will then go through key terms in loan documents and also discuss in brief key public agency requirements such as CEQA, NEPA, prevailing wages, Article 34, relocation, and accessibility. Finally, we will close out the seminar with a discussion of title, recordation, and closing issues.

Homelessness 101

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Learning Lab

More details coming soon!

Narrative Learning Lab

Track 4: Shape Narratives & Move Mindsets

Learning Lab

More details coming soon!

Jump to Workshops and Roundtables in Track...

[Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes](#)

[Track 2: Solve Homelessness](#)

[Track 3: Protect Low-Income Renters](#)

[Track 4: Shape Narratives & Move Mindsets](#)

[Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice](#)

[Track 6: Build Power, Increase Solidarity & Win Campaigns at Scale](#)

[Track 7: Foster a Strong and Purposeful Housing Justice Sector](#)

Workshops and Roundtable Discussions

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

AFFH In Housing Elements: Lessons on AB 686 from the Sixth Cycle

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

The end of the Sixth Cycle Housing Element drafting process marks the end of the first Housing Element drafting cycle since AB 686—California’s Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Law—was passed in 2019. Public Advocates has led a collective effort to study the impacts of AB 686 on Bay Area Housing Elements, with the hopes that some lessons will apply statewide. This workshop looks to share what the study has taught us and dig into the implications for housing law and policy statewide.

Balanced and Bold Solutions to Rising Construction and Operation Costs

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

With construction – and, in turn, housing – costs rising, this workshop will challenge current assumptions and outline practical and transformative solutions that directly respond to ongoing escalation issues. Based on lessons learned, topics covered will include collective buying power, evidence-based life cycle analyses, balancing requirements and desires, and knowing when and how to say "yes" versus "no" in our high-cost environment.

Before It's Too Late: Tools and Strategies for Preserving California's Manufactured Housing Communities

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

Come hear from those working in the community to preserve manufactured housing communities and protect low-income homeowners. Hear from legal experts about state and local legal tools to enhance preservation and from those working with manufactured housing communities on strategies residents are using to save their homes.

Building the Future: Social Housing in California and Across the Country

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

How does social housing work, and how can it work in my community? What tools do we need, and what do we already have in place to build a housing system that works for everyone? What are communities across California and the rest of the nation putting in place? In this workshop, we'll start to answer those questions together.

All across the country and right here in California, grassroots organizations, affordable developers, and tenants are building the future through Community Land Trusts and other community ownership models - away from a precarious and profit-based housing system and towards a green, stable, and permanently affordable housing system for all. Come learn how a variety of models, legislative wins, and proposals are crafting the future from Los Angeles to Texas to the U.S. Congress.

Coloring Outside the LIHTC Lines: Financing Innovations to Accelerate Permanent Supportive Housing

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

California's default mechanism for financing affordable housing - including permanent supportive housing (PSH) - is the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), but in the last decade, competition for these resources has risen sharply. Limited tax credit availability means many strong projects cannot move forward, even though CA must add hundreds of thousands of units of PSH to meet needs. This session looks at pilot programs and projects across CA that utilized funding sources beyond competitive LIHTC while also incentivizing innovations that deliver quality PSH faster and at a lower cost than comparative projects - between \$185-\$550,000/home.

Don't Let An Aggregator Steal Your Legacy

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

A growing national trend in the affordable housing industry today is predatory for-profit investors or aggregators whose goal is to deprive nonprofit affordable housing developers of their right to retain

ownership of their projects after the 15-year compliance period. Nonprofit housing developers need to know the actions they can take when they learn to their detriment that the limited partner they negotiated with years ago has now sold its partner interest for a bargain to an investor looking solely for the opportunity to capture the equity in affordable housing projects.

Homes for All: Adapting Vienna's Social Housing Insights for California

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

This session will explore how to leverage global best practices, build broad-based coalitions, and engage communities in a collective effort to address California's housing crisis. The panel aims to inspire attendees to take actionable steps toward creating a powerful and enduring movement for change in California.

Participants will get an overview of Vienna's acclaimed social housing model, which will examine Vienna's long-term commitment to affordability, integrated urban planning, and public-private partnerships, focusing on innovative solutions that ensure affordable, high-quality housing and foster vibrant communities. Participants will gain practical ideas and inspiration for transforming California's housing landscape.

Hot Topics in Housing and Homelessness

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

Interact directly with affordable housing and homelessness policy experts and get an inside look at the policy themes dominating the State Capitol in 2025. Hear the latest on affordable housing and homelessness-related bills and budget priorities sponsored by Housing California and partners, and get all your questions answered by those working in the Capitol.

How to Gain Ground: Models for Public Sector Support of Affordable Housing Preservation

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

Leaders across the state are increasingly recognizing the critical role that unsubsidized affordable housing plays in housing low-income residents. In response, more public agencies are developing and refining affordable housing preservation programs to prevent displacement, stabilize communities, and ensure that unsubsidized housing stock is not permanently lost. This session will explore various models public sector agencies are piloting and revamping to preserve this precious stock at both the local and state levels. It will especially focus on how these programs are being designed to serve residents at higher risk of displacement, a particular concern for communities of color.

Insurance Reform for Affordable Housing: Exploring Solutions and Advocacy

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

California's affordable housing sector is grappling with an unprecedented insurance crisis, with premiums surging by 400-600%. These sharp increases jeopardize the financial stability of current affordable housing properties, hinder future development, and endanger the organizations behind them. Policymakers, developers, and insurance experts are actively exploring solutions to mitigate these impacts, including legislative fixes, regulatory reforms, and financial incentives. Join this panel of government officials, industry advocates, and insurance experts as they explore the paths forward and discuss actionable solutions to safeguard California's affordable housing future.

Making Farmworker Housing Possible

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

This session brings together organizations that focus on farm labor housing from Northern California, Southern California, and across the state to evaluate barriers to homes that meet the needs of farmworkers and strategies to overcome those barriers.

Panelists will consider case studies for specific projects as well as broader frameworks that make the production of farm labor housing more difficult. Ultimately, the discussion aims to build solidarity among organizations across the state for shared policy and funding goals to promote housing for farmworkers.

Offices to Homes: Adaptive Reuse and Permanent Supportive Housing

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

Contra Costa County and Overaa Construction will share the process of rehabilitating an old office building into El Portal Place, the County's newest Permanent Supportive Housing building. Hope Solutions will join in the conversation to discuss on-site service provision and property management. Participants will hear how this team created 54 units in two and a half years. The workshop will cover 1) the benefits of adaptive reuse, 2) how the County and Overaa developed a partnership, 3) blending funding to acquire and sustain permanent supportive housing, and 4) developing community in a new housing development.

Portfolio Strategies for California's Affordable Housing Needs

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

Maintaining a successful affordable housing portfolio in today's fiscal climate demands creativity, expertise, and a bit of luck. This session will showcase how seasoned asset managers balance revenue generation, cost control, and sustainable practices to ensure long-term success. You'll explore innovative approaches to "greening" portfolios, reducing vacancies, and leveraging creative revenue streams, all while aligning strategic policies with day-to-day management. By mastering these strategies, organizations can build resilient portfolios that meet the current needs of their residents and future challenges.

Preserving an Aging SRO Portfolio in Modern Times

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings are common and sizable examples of early affordable or permanent supportive housing across many urban communities, but too many are facing significant physical and financial risk if not sustained, preserved, and modernized. This panel will include representatives from a unique statewide cohort of mission-driven nonprofit SRO owners from Northern and Southern California that have united to share data across their portfolios to better understand common characteristics and risk factors and draw conclusions about state and local policy solutions that can benefit other SRO owners and the affordable housing field at large.

Preserving California's Affordable Housing

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

Homes nearing the end of affordability are at risk of shifting to market-rate, significantly impacting rent, displacing tenants, and loss of homes affordable to lower-income seniors and families. The affordable housing preservation laws are key to ensuring affordable housing remains accessible in California. This workshop will contextualize the scale of affordable housing at risk of conversion, outline how Preservation Notice Law addresses these pressing issues, and describe HCD's role in holding owners accountable. The panel will frame the policy discussion through the lens of lived experience of housing insecurity and highlight collaborations with local jurisdictions on effectively implementing the law.

Regional CLT Solidarity: Scaling the Impact of CLTs Across California

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Roundtable Discussion

Despite the growth of California's CLT movement, operating capacity is still a challenge for many CLTs, whether they are long-established or just getting off the ground. In three regions, CLTs are innovatively working together across cities, counties, and regions to create joint frameworks for capacity building and financial sustainability. This workshop will explore the work of the CLT Capacity Collaborative in Northern California, the LA CLT Coalition, and the West Marin Housing Collaborative in Marin County and their efforts to develop regional strategies for scaling and increasing the model's impact through collective governance, fundraising, and shared staffing.

Starter Homes and Equity: Successes and Lessons Learned in Advancing First-Time Homeownership

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

In this workshop, participants will hear from community-based organizations about successful strategies for building for-sale homes that are affordable to first-time and first-generation homebuyers. Panelists will offer recommendations for increasing the production of these "starter homes" and share

their perspectives on the obstacles and opportunities they see in advancing state policies for diversifying homeownership. Attendees will also hear about why homeownership is critical for reducing the racial and ethnic wealth gap.

State Excess Sites: Unlocking Public Land and Advancing Equity in California's Affordable Housing Industry

Track 1: Produce & Preserve Affordable Homes

Workshop

A diverse panel of state officials, a local district council, and an emerging developer provide insight into the future of California's State Excess Sites for Affordable Housing Program and how incorporating equity into program guidelines will scale housing production and diversify and build developer capacity. Participants will explore the State's innovative strategy to maximize impact through a new method of site screening and solicitation on identified public lands, developed in direct response to feedback from the development community. An emerging developer will share their success story of securing development rights for two sites, offering valuable insights and inspiration to other aspiring developers.

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Addressing Health Needs at Home: How Recuperative Care Programs Support Successful Transitions to Housing

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

Recuperative Care—residential programs that offer post-acute care after a hospital stay—is often the last stop before people experiencing homelessness secure permanent housing. While a client's health will likely improve while in recuperative care, chronic health conditions, physical disabilities, and high rates of medical emergencies and hospitalization can follow them into housing and jeopardize the safety and stability of their new homes. This session will discuss how recuperative care services not only prepare individuals to manage their own health care but also sets them up with assistive devices, medical care, and in-home supports for long-term, successful tenancies.

Community Harm Reduction Team: A Comprehensive Approach to Supporting Unhoused Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

This session will explore the Community Harm Reduction Team (C-HRT), an innovative approach addressing chronic substance use among persons experiencing homelessness. C-HRT integrates street outreach, shelter, and Safe Haven transitional housing model, employing harm reduction principles to meet clients where they are. Participants will learn about the program's structure, collaborative strategies, and outcomes, including care coordination, case management, and housing transitions. The

session will highlight how C-HRT bridges the gap in long-term housing options for a hard-to-reach population. The session will discuss the barriers this model faces and offer insight into mitigating factors.

Data-driven Strategies to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

Reducing the harm and prevalence of homelessness requires that we leverage the best available data to better understand the problem, improve program outcomes, and inform solutions. Too often, political expediency, budget limitations, and status quo thinking guide our efforts. This session brings together practitioners from research, local government, service provision, and advocacy to share recent efforts and opportunities to use research to pursue more effective and equitable solutions to homelessness. Specific topics of discussion will include an overview of relevant data in California, using system modeling to inform strategic planning, and using outcomes data to demonstrate and improve program efficacy.

Housing and Healthcare Partnerships for Systems Change: Case Studies from the Field

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

California's CalAIM initiative is expanding the definition of healthcare to include housing, nutrition, income, and other "upstream" Health-Related Social Needs. Specifically, CalAIM allocates billions of dollars as a significant source of funding for nonprofit housing providers to implement these services and improve care and outcomes for Medi-Cal members. However, Medi-Cal is a large and complex safety-net healthcare program that many housing providers have never participated in. Integrating housing and healthcare funding and building cross-sector partnerships through CalAIM, requires nonprofit housing and service providers to navigate unfamiliar systems.

In this session, a panel of experts will share lessons learned from successful partnerships between municipal governments, housing providers, and health plans, resulting in investments in new infrastructure and the leveraging of CalAIM's Housing-Related and Community Supports funding. The panel will explore various ways to engage with CalAIM, and audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain insights on how to pursue innovative and replicable models.

Housing First: Navigating Controversy and Politics in the Pursuit of Effective Homelessness Solutions

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

Housing First is a progressive approach to addressing homelessness that prioritizes providing permanent, stable housing to individuals before addressing other issues, such as substance abuse or mental health. This model has been widely adopted in many countries and has demonstrated significant success in reducing homelessness and improving overall well-being. Despite its effectiveness, Housing First is not without controversy and can become highly politicized. This panel will explore the

multifaceted reasons behind this controversy, examine the political dynamics at play, and underscore why Housing First remains a critical strategy in combating homelessness.

Housing is Treatment: Proposition 1 and the Opportunities it Affords for Partnerships Between Affordable Housing Developers and Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Providers.

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

In March 2024, California voters passed Proposition 1 to develop an array of behavioral health treatment, residential care, and supportive housing to help provide appropriate care facilities for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use disabilities. Counties need to demonstrate how they are maximizing funding by leveraging partnerships. Non-profit affordable housing developers are uniquely qualified to assist in this effort. This workshop will explore opportunities for partnerships in the context of implementing Proposition 1 while also elevating the mutual goals of treatment providers and permanent supportive housing operators and acknowledging where the respective systems remain distant.

How We Make Housing First a Success

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

Housing First is an evidence-based model that focuses on housing without conditions and providing supportive services according to client needs. In 2016, California passed SB 1380, declaring California a Housing First state and requiring all housing and homelessness services to follow a set of Housing First best practices. This workshop will explore the successes and challenges faced in the implementation of Housing First both at the local and state levels and engage in a discussion with attendees on what resources they need in order to reach California's vision of making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

Leveraging Project-Based Vouchers to Create & Sustain Affordable Housing

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

Project-based vouchers, part of the federal Housing Choice Voucher program, are an important tool public housing authorities and affordable housing developers use to expand the availability of affordable housing, particularly permanent supportive housing. They serve as a key component of the capital stack to finance PSH development and operating subsidies, promote cross-sector partnerships, and offer a linkage to on-site services. These vouchers are also in increasingly short supply. Learn more about project-based vouchers, how they are being used to expand access to permanent supportive housing, key considerations for tenant-based voucher programs, and the needs our region and beyond are facing.

Measuring Success in the Voucher Program

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

Vouchers make housing affordable for well over 300,000 families in CA and are a key tool for ending homelessness and affirmatively furthering fair housing. Increasingly, it is difficult for families to move with their vouchers, especially to areas of opportunity. How do we measure success in the voucher program so that we can improve families' outcomes?

Meet the New California Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

The California Interagency Council on Homelessness recently adopted its new strategic plan for preventing and ending homelessness. After over a year of stakeholder input, public meetings, strategic planning with State departments and agencies, and more, Cal ICH is proud to share its vision for how the State can make homelessness rare, brief, and a one-time experience. Come hear about the vision of the plan, our guiding principles and commitments, our goals, and provide your thoughts on what roles the state can play in supporting this work.

Opportunities to Align Housing and Health Resources for People Experiencing Homelessness

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

Voters approved Prop 1, which authorized bond funding to expand treatment facilities and permanent housing for those at risk/experiencing homelessness with behavioral health challenges and transforms Behavioral Health Service Act (BHSA) dollars administered by counties, including 30% for 'Housing Interventions' starting July 2026. Learn about recent and upcoming funding opportunities to provide housing and services using BHSA funding and CalAIM resources, and when to engage to prepare for upcoming changes.

Securing State Funding to Solve Homelessness: Let's Bring Californians Home

Track 2: Solve Homelessness

Workshop

California has yet to invest ongoing funding at scale to address the affordable housing and homelessness crisis. This session will open dialogue about pivoting state leadership toward solutions to end homelessness, focusing on the need for ongoing funding at scale for housing and services. Panelists will engage the audience in a discussion on shaping a statewide campaign for ongoing funding for housing and services through the Bring California Home Coalition, a coalition of people with lived experience, service and housing providers, local governments, Continuums of Care, and advocates working to secure ongoing state funding. Dialogue will include how we build power through a network of impacted communities and multi-sector partners to plot a pathway toward bringing Californians home. The session will be highly interactive and will encourage discussion on shifting the statewide

narrative from homelessness as a “personal failure” toward a hopeful, solutions-oriented statewide plan.

Track 3: Protect Low-Income Renters

Enforcing Tenant Protections: Whose Job is it Anyway?

Track 3: Protect Low-Income Renters

Workshop

Renter protections are integral to a housing system that provides stability and opportunity for all. However, these rights are a confusing patchwork of federal, state, and local policies that depend on many factors. Some are enforced in court, even though few renters can access attorneys, while others are enforced via government agencies. Implementing policy also depends on education and outreach, functions rarely budgeted for. By focusing on improving enforcement, we make sure these laws translate into tangible benefits in renter’s lives and for the public welfare. We will discuss advancements, innovations, and gaps in this journey toward greater housing justice.

Housing as a Human Right: California's Path to Equity and Justice

Track 3: Protect Low-Income Renters

Workshop

This workshop will explore California’s push to pass a constitutional amendment recognizing housing as a human right, focusing on potential impacts on frontline communities, government and private stakeholders, and reparative justice efforts. It will connect this initiative to the One Million Homes campaign, which aims to preserve and produce 1.2 million affordable homes by 2030 through innovative funding and community-driven housing models. Participants will learn how new revenue streams and permanent affordability approaches can promote social housing, climate resilience, and equity. The workshop aims to equip policymakers and advocates with strategies to support housing justice and repair racialized harm.

Place-Based Community Development Strategies and State Policymaking: Current Challenges and Future Opportunities

Track 3: Protect Low-Income Renters

Workshop

This session will explore the challenges recent state policymaking has posed for efforts to advance place-based community development strategies in low-income communities of color. Hear from local advocates, community-based developers, and other experts about the impacts of state legislation and state initiatives on efforts to drive investment in these communities in a way that is responsive to community-identified needs and priorities, how people are adapting, and what else could be done to better support and advance place-based strategies.

From the Ground Up: Resident United Network Leading the Charge on Housing Solutions

Track 3: Protect Low-Income Renters

Workshop

Join us for an insightful and impactful session featuring leaders from the Resident United Network (RUN), a collective of individuals with lived experiences of housing insecurity and homelessness. These dedicated leaders have been at the forefront of efforts to bridge the critical gap between California's legislators and the communities directly impacted by the state's housing crisis. Throughout this session, participants will gain a unique perspective on the housing challenges facing various regions of California. RUN leaders will share their first-hand experiences, highlighting the specific needs and concerns of their communities, as well as the practical solutions that can address these challenges. Through open dialogue, these leaders will offer a comprehensive understanding of the intersection between policy, advocacy, and the lived realities of those affected by housing insecurity. This session provides an opportunity to engage with those who have both the experience and the passion to drive meaningful change. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how to effectively collaborate with residents and advocates to craft policies that are truly responsive to the needs of California's diverse communities.

Winning Local Renter Protections Campaigns: Lessons Learned from Rural and Suburban Geographies

Track 3: Protect Low-Income Renters

Workshop

Local organizing and political support for renter protections is growing throughout the state of California, increasingly outside of core urban areas. Learn from advocates and organizers who have led successful renter protection campaigns in rural and suburban communities about the effective campaign design, organizing strategies, and political advocacy needed to win boundary-pushing policies. These campaigns can serve as models for other localities in California and demonstrate how the housing justice movement can build power across geographies to ultimately win stronger state-level protections for all renters.

Track 4: Shape Narratives & Move Mindsets

Lessons From a Year-Long Campaign to Shift Voter Mindsets for Housing Justice

Track 4: Shape Narratives & Move Mindsets

Workshop

More details to come!

Winning Together: Strengthening Messages to Build Momentum for Housing Solutions

Track 4: Shape Narratives & Move Mindsets

Roundtable Discussion

How can we tell stories that resonate with broader audiences and lead to real solutions? This round table discussion will bring advocates, service providers, and policy leaders together to strategize on how shared messaging can change the way people think and talk about housing and homelessness. Together, we'll explore what's working, what's missing, and how to connect with broader audiences to create momentum for policy wins. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to challenge assumptions, engage underrepresented voices, and build a message that resonates beyond the housing sector.

The First Step is to Understand: Addressing Misconceptions and Catalyzing Solutions to Homelessness

Track 4: Shape Narratives & Move Mindsets

Workshop

The purpose of this session is to stimulate an exploration of the realities of homelessness/houselessness through sharing the expertise of leaders from different areas of the State who have lived through homelessness/houselessness and are catalyzing solutions and change. Join us for an interactive discussion about implementing solutions to homelessness/houselessness through collective action and shifting power structures. Through sharing stories, highlighting data, and humanizing the issue of homelessness/houselessness, participants will leave this session with concrete action steps to work with people with lived expertise, and across sectors, toward humane and lasting solutions.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: New Findings from Voter and Messaging Research About Housing Policy

Track 4: Shape Narratives & Move Mindsets

Workshop

It's true: the political mood out there is glum. But our prospects don't have to be grim! Join our panel for a robust discussion and digest of a recent statewide survey and focus groups funded by the Statewide Housing Advocacy Committee on Californians' attitudes toward housing policy. We're digging in on

what voters understand, believe, and support -- as well as what motivates them to get involved (and what doesn't!) Join us in unpacking how this research can position us to best meet the moment we are in.

Where Has All The (Affordable) Housing Gone? Exploring How Research, Arts, and Community Can Come Together For Housing Justice

Track 4: Shape Narratives & Move Mindsets

Workshop

This participatory workshop is based on a year-long community and research-based cultural project focusing on the loss of affordable, rent-control housing in the Venice community of LA. We will explore the issues and tools we used, look at the intersection of research, story-telling, and multi-media arts in our housing movement work, and do one or two poetry/writing exercises using our personal housing histories and actual housing/tenant policies. By starting with the Ellis Act and focusing on the specific, we ended up learning far more, creating possibilities for forming new partnerships and expanding the project across the city.

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Building Inclusive Communities: Housing Solutions for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

Discover innovative housing solutions for adults with developmental disabilities in this session, which showcases successful models, cross-sector collaborations, and equity-driven strategies that foster thriving, inclusive communities. Attendees will gain insights into replicable strategies and practical solutions that can be adapted across California, fostering new partnerships to scale these efforts. This session aligns with the theme of building power to transform communities by ensuring that vulnerable populations are not left behind in the pursuit of affordable housing and inclusion.

College-Focused Rapid Rehousing: Investing in College Student Success

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

In 2019, California became the first state to allocate funding to provide Rapid Rehousing for college students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Results from the evaluation of a 3-year pilot at eight CSU campuses and two community colleges show that 639 homeless students were housed through partnering community-based organizations, and 3,949 precariously housed students were provided a one-time subsidy or other temporary support to keep them from becoming homeless. Results show better mental health as well as improvements in academic retention among program participants. How can we continue to build these partnerships toward the goal of ending homelessness in California?

Creating Homes for All Through Equitable Tax Reform

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

Ensuring all Californians have an affordable and stable home requires at-scale, ongoing revenues to support the housing development and robust services and protections needed to thrive. Based on the Roadmap Home 2030, this panel will dive deeper into equitable state-level revenue options, key policy and tax considerations, and how audiences can engage to build the movement needed to reform California's tax system to achieve safe and stable homes for all.

Extreme Heat in Homes is Exacerbated in California: What is California Doing to Protect its Most Vulnerable?

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

As Climate Change exacerbates the intensity and longevity of heat waves, California must take swift action to ensure the health and safety of all Californians, particularly at-risk populations. During this workshop, we will discuss the ongoing advocacy to create a State mandate for a maximum safe indoor air temperature and policy recommendations to ensure tenant protections, prioritizing existing residential dwellings and mobile home parks/manufactured housing. It will be an opportunity to learn more about this critical issue and how participants can engage both at the local and state level.

Getting Creative with Funding: Leveraging Criminal Legal System Funds for Housing and Supportive Services

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

The growing intersection between incarceration and homelessness in California is an urgent equity issue. This session will share opportunities to reallocate funding from the criminal legal system to housing as an equity intervention. We will explore how counties typically use their AB 109 funds - which California has distributed annually since the Public Safety Realignment Act passed in 2011 - towards support for law enforcement agencies. We will then hear from practitioners who have used AB 109 funds for housing in their communities. We will also discuss lessons learned from the rollout of the criminal justice initiative Measure J in LA County, which aims to invest millions of dollars in community-based programs and alternatives to incarceration.

Housing as a Climate Strategy: Opportunities to Leverage Infrastructure Dollars and Accelerate Housing with Advanced Climate Solutions.

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

Learn how to align housing & climate resources! The federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is a program included in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The first-of-its-kind, nations-scale program includes several initiatives led by the US EPA to mobilize financing and private capital to address the

climate crisis through building decarbonization in low-income and disadvantaged communities. The panelists will share updates on the status and outlook of these resources. Learn about recent and upcoming opportunities to access projects (including rooftop and community solar, microgrids, and energy-efficient upgrades and weatherization), real project examples, and how this connects to State efforts to encourage infill and adaptive reuse across the state in Executive Order N-2-24.

Making Affordable Housing Decarbonization Equitable: New State and Federal Investments.

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

From extreme heat to aging buildings, California's housers and tenants face a series of intersecting equity priorities. Major new investments from the state and federal governments represent a historic opportunity to advance housing preservation and enhance resilience against climate emergencies. This workshop will cover the Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) program and funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). With \$560M in proposed funding, EBD will offer holistic implementation of no-cost, all-electric, energy-efficient upgrades. Panelists will discuss project eligibility, technical support, and co-leveraging with other resources. Participants will learn how to integrate EBD and IRA into their portfolio decarbonization strategies.

Place-Based Community Development: Elevating Community Voices for Scalable Impact

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

As our state's housing crisis continues, this session explores the place-based community development model and lessons in local impact that can be replicated in neighborhoods across California. Community Development Corporations (CDCs) play a crucial role in equitable community development by responding to the unique needs of their neighborhoods. Join four CDCs from four different California communities in a discussion on collaborative place-based affordable housing development strategies that meet local housing objectives while centering community voice. Learn how these CDCs are harnessing the power of place, developing intentional partnerships, and working together to build the capacity of local emerging developers.

The Future of Tribal Housing

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

Existing State housing and community development programs, despite recent Tribal targets, have failed to address Tribal community needs. Most Tribes do not apply because applications are onerous, and they cannot dedicate the upfront staff and funds required. But what would a tribal housing program look like? Tribal leaders will discuss what is needed from the State, and federal agencies to administer programs that will tackle the debilitating status of tribal housing.

What's A Public Bank And How Can It Help Build Affordable Housing?

Track 5: Advance Intersectional Solutions For Housing Justice

Workshop

Wouldn't it be great if cities/counties could invest directly in a bank owned by the community and focused on the public good rather than keeping their money exclusively with Wall Street banks? They can! Local public bank efforts throughout California are working to make that idea a reality in East Bay, LA, Central Coast, etc., with affordable housing as a major focus of their lending priorities. UC Berkeley's Othering and Belonging Institute is researching how public banks could provide alternative financing options for affordable housing development. Join the discussion with leaders of CA's public bank movement and OBI researchers.

Track 6: Build Power, Increase Solidarity & Win Campaigns at Scale

Empowering the Expertise: Rethinking Lived Experience Engagement and Power Sharing

Track 6: Build Power, Increase Solidarity & Win Campaigns at Scale

Workshop

Increased interest and efforts to engage those with lived expertise range in accessibility, authenticity, and application. In this workshop, we will discuss how to harness and equitably wield our power as individuals and communities through exploring power mapping, inclusion, types of engagement, types of roles, accommodations, and compensation.

LGBT Advocates are Housing Advocates; They Just Don't Know It Yet!

Track 6: Build Power, Increase Solidarity & Win Campaigns at Scale

Workshop

Our inequitable housing systems negatively impact LGBT people, too. Yet, how LGBT communities can benefit from housing justice is rarely highlighted. This workshop will review the existing research on how LGBT people are uniquely affected, what advocates are hearing from LGBT community members themselves about their housing needs, and how to build bridges between LGBT and housing advocates. Our movement for housing justice needs to be intersectional and speak to the needs of and motivate California's LGBT communities into action.

Los Angeles' "Mansion Tax": Lessons Learned after Two Years of Implementing Measure ULA

Track 6: Build Power, Increase Solidarity & Win Campaigns at Scale

Workshop

This workshop convenes representatives from the United to House LA Coalition, housing law experts, labor, and public sector partners to discuss the passage and implementation of Measure ULA, LA's "Mansion Tax," adopted by voters in 2022. We will discuss how the program came to be, where it is now, and important lessons learned along the way, ranging from dealing with litigation to the

development of the fund's program guidelines. Most importantly, we will explore how these lessons can help other jurisdictions in CA create their own measures to redistribute wealth and finance affordable housing production.

Overcoming NIMBYism in California's Most Exclusionary Counties

Track 6: Build Power, Increase Solidarity & Win Campaigns at Scale

Workshop

Building affordable homes remains extremely difficult in some of California's highest-cost communities due to deeply entrenched NIMBYism—"not in my backyard" attitudes of those who do not want new housing near them.

In this workshop, participants will learn about challenges and opportunities faced by affordable homes from housing advocates in three of the most expensive, exclusionary counties in the state: San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Orange County. Advocates will discuss the political environments that continue to make affordable housing so difficult to build in these areas, as well as strategies to overcome them and build broad-based local pro-housing, pro-tenant movements.

Reimagining Housing: Elevating Community Ownership and Power Building and Justice-Oriented Frameworks

Track 6: Build Power, Increase Solidarity & Win Campaigns at Scale

Workshop

Across the state, community leaders are building power and cultivating a future where all communities can thrive. By fostering alliances across issues, races, and regions, these leaders are centering the voices of local residents to rectify decades of housing disinvestment and discrimination.

In this session, pioneering organizations will showcase transformative approaches that challenge existing systems and advance bold visions. Learn how their community-ownership models, policy campaigns, and popular education initiatives are dismantling harmful narratives and policies, replacing them with visionary, inclusive, justice-oriented frameworks.

Discover how community ownership models coupled with power-building strategies can drive structural reforms and create thriving communities across California.

Track 7: Foster a Strong and Purposeful Housing Justice Sector

Bridging Equity Gaps: Building Living Wages and Pay Equity in California's Affordable Housing Organizations

Track 7: Foster a Strong and Purposeful Housing Justice Sector

Workshop

This workshop is geared toward equity-focused organizational leaders, human resources professionals, and internal culture champions. We will explore the intersection of living wages, organizational sustainability, and racial equity in California's affordable housing organizations. Participants will learn strategies to address workforce equity by learning about living wage floors and uncovering and repairing pay inequities. The session will highlight best practices and innovations that support recruitment, retention, and organizational impact, with a focus on just and equitable compensation structures.

Empowering the BIPOC Affordable Housing Workforce: Adapting, Innovating, and Connecting Industry Career Development Initiatives

Track 7: Foster a Strong and Purposeful Housing Justice Sector
Workshop

Addressing the statewide housing crisis equitably entails intentional investment in BIPOC professionals across various career stages and roles within the industry in order to create a housing workforce that better represents the communities they serve. In this session, we will reflect on the impact of existing career development initiatives, explore ways to adapt and innovate to meet changing workforce needs and discuss opportunities to connect various statewide initiatives.

Storied Communities, Community Stories: Resident Perspective in Community Development

Track 7: Foster a Strong and Purposeful Housing Justice Sector
Roundtable Discussion

Join us for an engaging discussion around the findings of Storied Communities, Community Stories, a research report exploring how residents perceive their local community-serving institutions and the impact residents have on those institutions. Through intentional engagement, the research captures diverse resident narratives, providing a valuable resource for community practitioners. At each of the roundtables in this session, we aim to foster open conversations about how our agencies engage resident voices, encouraging participants to reflect on the implications of their work.

The BIPOC Contractors' Forum

Track 7: Foster a Strong and Purposeful Housing Justice Sector
Workshop

The BIPOC Contractors' Forum will explore the intersectional dimension of small business advocacy and highlight how people and organizations operating in this advocacy space are developing a common cause that pursues inclusivity and equity in construction contracting that's not a zero-sum game. This workshop will share best practices from the private and public sectors that have resulted in increased participation of BIPOC Contractors on construction projects. The final piece will be a call to action for non-profit housing developers and financing entities to move the needle on "Equity in Contracting," and this workshop will provide roadmaps for getting that done.

The Frontline Mind: A Provocative Performance and Facilitated Discussion

Track 7: Foster a Strong and Purposeful Housing Justice Sector

Housing Works is focused on the experience and needs of frontline workers, as well as approaches to creating a homeless services workplace that is trauma-informed and uses the paradigm of decolonization as applied to human resource management. The session will include a performance of The Frontline Mind, a spoken word series of monologues written and performed by Housing Works' frontline workers that address their frustrations, fears, burdens, grief, constraints, and overwhelm at the demands of their job and personal struggles, including their own financial survival. The workshop will engage participants in conversation regarding frontline worker wellness and retention strategies.

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