

NOVEMBER 8TH - 10TH, 2018



HOUSING SUMMIT



HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOUSING IN THE 21ST CENTURY



PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Dedication

*To all those who have been exiled from this place in the name of “progress,”
—from the Haudenosaunee peoples
to Pittsburgh residents who continue to be displaced from our neighborhoods—
We will not let your stories be forgotten.*

*To our ancestors and elders who have resisted dispossession in defense of life,
We will learn from and build upon your struggles.*

*To future generations,
We dedicate ourselves to leaving you a better world.*



Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of him/herself and of her/his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.



Toda persona tiene derecho a un nivel de vida adecuado que le asegure, así como a su familia, la salud y el bienestar, y en especial la alimentación, el vestido, la vivienda, la asistencia médica y los servicios sociales necesarios; tiene asimismo derecho a los seguros en caso de desempleo, enfermedad, invalidez, viudez, vejez u otros casos de pérdida de sus medios de subsistencia por circunstancias independientes de su voluntad.

~ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25(1) ~



Pittsburgh Housing Summit Human Rights and Housing in the 21st Century

Missing from many discussions about our city's revitalization and development are details of who and what are lost as we make way for the new. The Housing Summit brings attention to the people and stories that are made invisible by such omissions.

At the same time, we are working to build the power of our city's residents to shape their city in ways that better serve human needs and dreams. A key part of this is developing a region-wide union of tenants that can advocate for policies that protect renters and promote affordable housing in our region. When our elected officials prioritize business interests and economic growth, residents are either pushed out of the city or displaced to what are often less favorable housing situations.

We are here to remind these leaders that Pittsburgh's vitality depends upon the people who live here. When they made Pittsburgh a Human Rights City in 2011, our leaders committed themselves to making human rights a priority. We are holding them to this promise.

To revitalize our city, we need to focus on building a foundation for all residents to live secure and dignified lives where they can achieve their full potential. Forced displacement destroys our communities and damages people. The most basic element here is the recognition that we all have a right to live and thrive in our city. This right is not contingent on the ability to pay increasingly unaffordable market rents in order to stay in our homes and communities.

This gathering of people concerned about the future of our city has been made possible by the collaboration of activists working with a number of groups committed to helping make human rights and the right to housing more central to our public discussions and policies. This emerging Housing Justice Coalition welcomes you to this space of movement-building. We encourage you to join us in the challenging and rewarding work of building a new, people-centered city where human needs—not profits and greed—are top priority.

This weekend we will explore what it means to treat housing as a human right—not a commodity. We'll explore together some of the causes and consequences of the global housing crisis. We'll learn how people in Pittsburgh and around the world are working to promote policies and actions that improve people's access to quality, affordable housing. And we'll consider what it means to build our collective power to shape the city of our dreams. We welcome you to this space and we look forward to working together in coming weeks, months, and years.

In solidarity, *The Housing Summit 2018 Organizing Committee:*

Deraud Street Residents' Council	Hill District Consensus Group
Landless People's Alliance	Northside Coalition for Fair Housing
Human Rights City Alliance	Penn Plaza Support and Action Coalition
Urbankind Institute	Pitt Human Rights Working Group
Pittsburghers for Public Transit	
Pitt Students Advancing Communities Together	

Housing Summit 2018 Schedule

Thursday November 8

10:30 AM Press Conference & Rally—Hosted by the Landless People’s Alliance, Pittsburgh City-County Building, 414 Grant Street Downtown Pittsburgh

Friday November 9

12:30-2:00PM Keynote Address: **“Democracy for Social Emancipation: Lessons from Around the World” Gianpaolo Baiocchi**, New York University, Author of *We, the Sovereign* **Location:** Alcoa Room, Barco Law Building, University of Pittsburgh.

What does it mean for the people to actually rule? Gianpaolo Baiocchi, director of the Urban Democracy Lab at New York University, speaks about his new book, We, the Sovereign, which argues that the ‘people’ must build on today’s explosive, creative movement energy to become truly ‘sovereign’ and to form a collective ‘we’ capable of deepening democracy and expanding its boundaries.

2:30-3:30PM **Community-University Dialogue: Forging Effective Partnerships to Advance the Human Right to Housing in our City**, 4209 Posvar Hall—a conversation with Gianpaolo Baiocchi, director of the Urban Democracy Lab at New York University.

6:00PM **Housing Summit Opening Event: Salem’s Banquet Hall 2911 Penn Ave. (Strip District) Pittsburgh, PA 15201.** Cultural activities, food, Poetry Slam & other programming

Saturday November 10

Location: Frick Fine Arts Building, University of Pittsburgh, Schenley Drive (across from Carnegie Library Main branch)

8:00AM Breakfast/ networking

9:15-10:45AM Opening Plenary: *How Did We Get Here? The Affordable Housing Crisis in Pittsburgh and Beyond.* Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

Speakers: Gianpaolo Baiocchi, author of *Communities over Commodities*, National Homes for All report & New York University & Urban Democracy Lab

Carl Redwood, Hill District Consensus Group

Anne Wright, CMU CREATE Lab, “Visualizing Pittsburgh’s Housing Transformation”

Facilitator: michelle king-Learning instigator & love activist, Teacher Powered Pittsburgh, Western PA Writing Project, Black Environmental Collective

11a.m. – 12:15 PM *Workshops session A*

12:15-1:30 Lunch—Networking time

1:45 – 3:00 PM *Workshops session B*

3:15 – 4:30 PM *Closing Plenary: Where Do We Go From Here? Paths Toward People-Centered Housing in Pittsburgh* **Location:** Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

WORKSHOP SESSION A
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Saturday 11/10
FRICK FINE ARTS BUILDING

Know Your Rights—*Frick Fine Arts Auditorium*

Learn about your rights as a human being in Pittsburgh/Southwest PA. What legal resources and community agencies can provide legal and other assistance for residents facing displacement and housing discrimination? What legal rights do residents have through City/County and State Human Relations Commissions? How can residents be sure their legal rights are respected?

Speakers: Carlos Torres, Executive Director, City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations; Paul O'Hanlon, Co-Chair of the City / County Task Force on Disability, and the Chair of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Task Force; **Facilitator:** Carol Hardeman, Hill District Consensus Group

Organizing Your Community & Building a Local Movement—*Frick Fine Arts Room 202*

How can tenants/renters gain a stronger political voice in our community? How are people coming together in different neighborhoods to demand our “right to the city” and calling for policies that respect the fundamental human right to affordable and decent housing? How can we strengthen work across the city to achieve winnable goals such as rent control, protections from unjust evictions, and greater availability of truly affordable and safe housing?

Speakers: TBA **Facilitator:** Jala Rucker, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing

People-Centered Local Development—*Frick Fine Arts Room 204*

For too long our city's elected officials have let developers and big business determine what our city looks like and who gets to live here. This has meant that the people who helped build Pittsburgh into the city it is are increasingly displaced, forced to move to places lacking in good jobs, transit, and other basic amenities. In Pittsburgh and elsewhere people are coming together to demand that the democratic principles that built this country be upheld in our local communities. City planning and development should prioritize the needs and voices of residents over profits when envisioning our city's future.

Speakers: Gianpaolo Baiocchi, New York University & Urban Democracy Lab

Crystal Jennings, Penn Plaza Support and Action Coalition; **Joshua Malloy**, Pittsburghers for Public Transit; **Facilitator:** Jamilah Lahijuddin, Hill District Consensus Group

Gender, Justice, Environment & Housing—*Frick Fine Arts Room 203*

How do policies and practices related to gender, criminal justice, and the environment relate to the issue of housing? What are groups in our community doing to advance housing justice alongside other human rights? **Speakers:** Marcia Bandes, Pittsburgh for CEDAW Coalition; Eva Resnick-Day, Sierra Club; Ciora Thomas, SisTers PGH; Dean Williams, Beaver County United; **Facilitator:** Emily Cummins, Pitt Human Rights Working Group

WORKSHOP SESSION B
1:45 PM - 3:00 PM Saturday 11/10
FRICK FINE ARTS BUILDING

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Speakers: Carlos Torres, Executive Director, City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations; Paul O'Hanlon, Co-Chair of the City / County Task Force on Disability, and the Chair of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Task Force; **Facilitator:** Carol Hardeman, Hill District Consensus Group

Tools for Ending Gentrification and Building Collective Power—*Frick Fine Arts Room 202*

Community organizers discuss the possibilities for strengthening the demands for housing and other basic human rights. Learn how groups in our region and elsewhere are working to support community-based organizing. How can people in our region enhance our voice by working together? And most importantly, what can you do as a resident in your neighborhood to connect your community with others who seek a Pittsburgh that is “Most Livable” for everyone?

Speakers: Alethea Sims, Coalition of East Liberty Residents (CORE); Jala Ruckers, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing; Claudia Wells, CORE **Facilitator:** Ronell Guy, Landless People's Alliance

Opportunities for Advancing the Human Right to Housing—*Frick Fine Arts Room 204*

What avenues exist to express our demand for more just and equitable housing policies in our region? Learn about initiatives happening within city government, in the food justice movement, and in national housing and human rights movements to promote housing justice on many fronts.

Speakers: Helen Gerhardt, Affirmatively Forwarding Fair Housing Task Force
Carl Redwood, Hill District Consensus Group; Deb Gross, Pittsburgh City Council Member (District 7) & Gender Equity Commissioner **Facilitator:** Jackie Smith, Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance & Pitt Human Rights Working Group

Immigrant Perspectives on Housing and Human Rights—*Frick Fine Arts 203*

Immigrants and refugees in our region have already faced displacement from their homes, and they often find themselves in insecure housing conditions here. Learn about the experiences of diverse immigrant and refugee populations in our community and how groups are working to promote basic human rights. This workshop will help us think about how to foster greater connections among the diverse residents in our region as we work to build a powerful housing justice and human rights movement.

Speakers: Monica Ruiz, MSW, Executive Director, Casa San Jose; Wasiullah Mohamed, Islamic Center of Pittsburgh; **Facilitator:** Roger Rouse, Pitt Human Rights Working Group & Human Rights City Alliance

3:15 – 4:30 PM Closing Plenary, *Where Do We Go From Here?*—*Frick Fine Arts Auditorium*

Notes on terminology

Gentrification: This term originated in urban geography research, and its initial use suggested a generic, benign process of neighborhood change. It focused on economic revitalization of “blighted” neighborhoods, but paid little attention to the policies that contributed to neighborhoods’ decline—such as disinvestment and manipulation of real estate markets. Many analysts and human rights advocates reject this term in favor of terms like “ethnic substitution” or even “ethnic cleansing,” which make visible the people who have been pushed out.

Serial forced displacement This is a concept advanced by Dr. Mindy Fullilove to refer to the repetitive, coercive upheaval of groups. Communities displaced via the U.S. “urban renewal” policies of the 1950s and 60s have found themselves subjected to subsequent displacement amid the foreclosure crisis and new urban revitalization projects. Similarly, Native Americans have been exiled from their homelands as the United States expanded. Sociologist Saskia Sassen traces how contemporary global policies are “expelling” growing numbers of people from cities around the world, illustrating that expulsions are a common feature of our global economic and political order.

Renter nation This term refers to the trend of declining homeownership and a growing percentage of renters in the United States. The financial crisis and foreclosures have led to the growth in demand for rental housing, which—coupled with policies that privilege high-end development and reduce the supply of affordable housing—has pushed up rent costs. The Right to the City Alliance and its Homes for All Campaign is organizing a national campaign to organize the growing ranks of renters and press for more equitable housing policies.

Housing Wage According to the National Low Income Housing Association, “housing wage” refers to how much money a worker needs to make per hour in order to not spend more than 30% of her/his income on rent—which is the accepted standard of affordability. For example, in order to afford \$800/month rent in Pennsylvania, one needs to make at least \$32,000 a year, which breaks down to \$15.38 per hour. At the Pennsylvania minimum wage of \$7.25, this would mean that workers must work 85 hours a week to afford rent. Roughly 50% of renters in the U.S. make less than an appropriate housing wage. You can learn more about this by going to www.nlihc.org.

Housing Justice This refers to the idea that shelter is a human right. Safe, quality, and affordable housing is a basic right that should be attainable to all people. Those working for housing justice are concerned with ensuring that everyone, and especially low-income individuals, have access to affordable housing. In addition, housing justice requires that sufficient affordable rental housing be kept in good repair and made available, and not demolished, foreclosed, or made increasingly unaffordable. *Housing justice can only be achieved when people organize to demand the human right to housing and other basic needs.*

SPECIAL THANKS

The following groups helped make the 2018 Housing Summit activities possible:

City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
Landless People's Alliance
Mayday Marching Band
Northside Coalition for Fair Housing
One Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Foundation
Pittsburghers for Public Transit
Salem's Market and Grill

University of Pittsburgh Centers, Departments & Programs
Human Rights Working Group
Global Studies Center
Urban Studies Program
Center for Latin American Studies
Department of Sociology
Ford Institute for Human Security
School of Social Work-Program on Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA)
Center for Health Equity
Year of Pitt Global
University Center for International Studies
World History Center

Housing summit logo and artwork courtesy of Emily Simons

A very special thank you to all our volunteers who devoted their time and energy to helping building a Pittsburgh where there is dignity and justice for everyone!

Are you facing housing discrimination? The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations is empowered by City Code 651-659 to receive, investigate, and resolve complaints of discrimination. Phone: (412) 255-2600 Fax: (412) 255-2288 <http://pittsburghpa.gov/chr/>

¿Estás enfrentando discriminación en la vivienda? La Comisión de Relaciones Humanas de Pittsburgh está facultada por el Código de la Ciudad 651-659 para recibir, investigar y resolver quejas de discriminación. Edificio del Condado de la Ciudad, 414 Grant Street; Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2464 Phone: 412-255-2600 Human.Relations@pittsburghpa.gov



HOUSING SUMMIT 2018

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

DERAUD STREET RESIDENTS' COUNCIL

HILL DISTRICT CONSENSUS GROUP

LANDLESS PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

NORTHSIDE COALITION FOR FAIR HOUSING

HUMAN RIGHTS CITY ALLIANCE

PENN PLAZA SUPPORT AND ACTION COALITION

PITTSBURGHERS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT

URBANKIND INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

THANKS TO ALL THE INDIVIDUALS AND
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HOUSING SUMMIT POSSIBLE



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