



**Urban Land
Institute**

Colorado

**NOT
HERE**

**THEN
WHERE?**

ADVOCACY TRAINING:

HOW TO REDUCE RISK & INCREASE
SUCCESS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**JANUARY 27,
2022**

3:15 - 5 PM

Welcome!

A few logistics before we get started...

Audience will be muted throughout the session



Submit questions and comments through the chat box



This is being recorded and will be available after the event



Upcoming Programs & Opportunities

From ULI Colorado

- **Feb 15:** Emerging Trends 2022
- **Feb 16:** Equitable Access to Capital: Real Estate Development by All, for All
- **Feb 23:** Celebrating Colorado Springs' 150th Anniversary: Past, Present, & Future of Colorado Springs Land Use
- **Feb 24:** DeTour: Expansion of the Colorado Convention Center

See upcoming local opportunities on ULI Colorado website here:

<https://colorado.uli.org/events/>

Check out past webinars, reports, and more on Knowledge Finder here:

<https://knowledge.uli.org/>

ULI Colorado's 2022 Annual Sponsors

Summit



Alpine



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Foothills



The Agenda for Today

Advocacy Training: How to Reduce Risk & Increase Success for Affordable and Workforce Housing

- 3:15-3:20pm: ULI Colorado welcome
- 3:20-3:40pm: Keynote training by **Annmarie Jensen**, Founder and Executive Director of ECHO, on how to do successful community outreach and advocacy
- 3:40-4:30pm: Panel featuring:
 - **Macon Cowles**, Founder, Boulder Housing Network
 - **Danica Powell**, Founder and Owner, Trestle Strategy Group
 - **Eric Budd** and **Chelsea Castellano**, Organizers, Bedrooms are for People
 - **Laura Sheinbaum**, Director of Real Estate Development, Boulder Housing Partners
- 4:30-5pm: Q&A moderated by **Danica Powell**, Founder and Owner, Trestle Strategy Group



ANNMARIE JENSEN
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EAST COUNTY HOUSING OPPORTUNITY COALITION
(ECHO)

Advocacy Basics

- **Define the problem**, specific to this situation
 - Not “too many people in the country are homeless”, but “over 400 children in one of the wealthiest school districts in Colorado - our school district - currently do not have a secure, safe, and stable home.” If it’s a well known problem may not need to do as much of this. Multiple ways to define the problem...Employers including local governments, school districts, local businesses struggling to attract employees because housing costs are too high.
- **Why does the problem matter?** – consequences of the problem (businesses shutting, kids failing, mental health issues)
- **Why does your solution solve or help solve the problem?** What kind of housing do we need – do you have data, does your project meet a portion of that need.
- **Why is your particular solution worthy of community acceptance over other alternatives?** Why is now the time? I only want for sale housing because those people are invested in the community, we are doing a comprehensive plan rewrite, and should wait.

Define the problem

- Story telling as a way of defining the problem
- Humanizing, Compelling
- Tugs at the heartstrings

Storytellers



"Home is community. Home is about our foundation: you've got to have stability. If you cannot have the security of knowing, from day to day, that you have somewhere you can go and feel safe, you can't do much. Let's care about each other."

Multi-generational, multi-ethnic



"I value privacy, I value my sleep, I value my health. Having a home of my own when I grow up would make me feel more secure, as well as at peace for any family of my own."

Stories of universal yearning



"For me, having access to owning a home is being able to be at ease knowing that I can afford it, that I can buy food for my children, have money to be able to buy medicines without losing sleep over it."

Storytelling about solutions

- Here are some examples of similar situations where people did something to solve this problem, like what we are proposing. Here is how that community changed for the better.
- Let people speak for themselves, empower, and use different media to reach different audiences. Age is a huge factor in how you reach people.
- Identify messages, messengers and target audiences
 - Elected officials
 - Public
 - Allies
 - Faith Community
 - Advocacy Groups
 - Housing Providers
 - Others?

Families are compelling



Habitat for Humanity Tells Great Stories

- Sharnita applied to become a Habitat homeowner because she wanted to provide a better life for her children. “Having a home where my kids feel peaceful, loved and safe is the most important thing to me,” says the mother of five and U.S. Air Force veteran.
- The future homeowner and her family live together in a small apartment. Space is at a premium, especially on family fun nights. “There are a lot of us,” says Sharnita, who is a disabled veteran. “When we play board games or watch a movie, we’re all stacked up on top of each other. Soon, we’ll be able to spread out and enjoy our quality time together.”
- The kids can’t wait to explore their new home. The eldest, 13-year-old Demetrous, is on the football team and plans to practice his passing skills in the backyard. Sharnita looks forward to having peace of mind, knowing her children are growing up in a safe and stable neighborhood. “This home is a godsend,” she says. “It’s what we’ve been praying for.”

Who is the Messenger?

- Storytellers need to be likeable. We are judgy people. Clothes, hair and appearance need to be appealing and similar to cultural norms. People like people who look like them.
- The deserving poor –
 - Domestic Violence Survivors – living in their cars and then finding a home
 - Senior citizens with high medical bills
 - Veterans
 - Homeless from:
- Death in the family
- Escaping violence
- Medical bills

Heart Strings Example



What do we know, besides a compelling story?

Data, numbers, need?

Who is the decision maker

- Planning Commission
- Public
- Elected Council/Board
 - Who do they listen to?
 - Inherently conflict averse
 - Who is the potential opposition? Can we have a conversation with the opposition to see what their concerns are and perhaps meet them? Even if we can't meet them, we should hear them out and try and address their concerns?
 - If we can't address their concerns, how do we neutralize the weight of the opposition?
 - Is data needed to define the problem?

Willoughby Corner: Case Study



View looking South: Apartments, Senior Living and Townhomes

Advisory Committee Created

- Many opponents on the advisory committee
- Listening sessions to hear their concerns
 - Traffic
 - Congestion
 - Attractiveness
 - High speeds on residential streets
 - Some red herrings
 - Crime
 - Not enough space in schools, etc.

Willoughby Corner Addressed Concerns

- Early traffic study
- Rerouting away from certain neighborhoods
- Slightly diminished number of units
- Additional community amenities
- Ongoing attention to community outreach and conversation

Affinity groups for delivering messages to policy makers

- Faith Community
- Professional
- Demographic – Women’s groups, NAACP, LGBTQ, etc
- Trusted Leaders – Former elected officials who are well loved
- Technical leaders – Scientists, academicians, think tanks
- Respected nonprofits – Habitat, YMCA, YWCA, T’GTHR, Bridge House

Does your solution solve the problem, or begin to do so?

Here is where data can come in:

- Renters are struggling, 50% are rent burdened. There are 5000 rent burdened families in our community.
- Our project will create 200 new rental units of various sizes.
- Our project will reduce rent burdened household by 4%

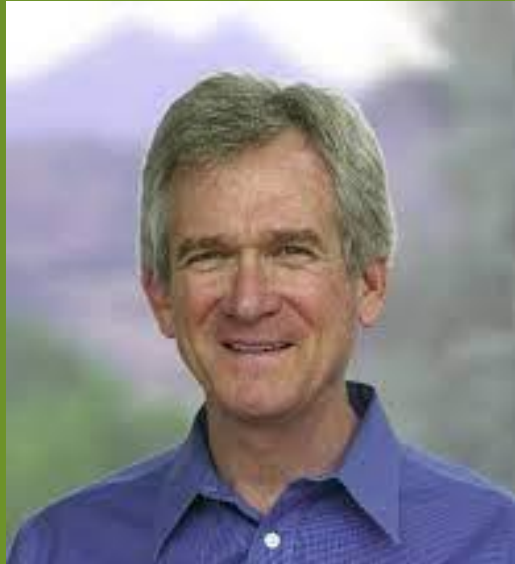
The Magic Number Seven

- Studies have shown that people need to see a message at least seven times before it sinks in. A frequency of fewer than three messages is a waste of money. But a frequency beyond seven continues to have a cumulative benefit; diminishing returns doesn't set in for a good while.
- The more different times they hear the message from different messengers, the more likely to be successful. An advocacy group like ECHO can be your friend in helping repeat the message. But first you have to sell them. If they went away tomorrow would your life be harder. What are you doing to keep them in business?
- Timing – all this needs to start well before decisionmakers will make their decisions. Lastly in Colorado citizens can overturn decisions by ballot. So, don't ignore the public.

Advocacy costs money

There is always a risk that you will not get a return on your investment. But if Willoughby Corner is a good example of advocacy done right, it is well worth your investment.

Short term advocacy also has long term impacts for your next project.

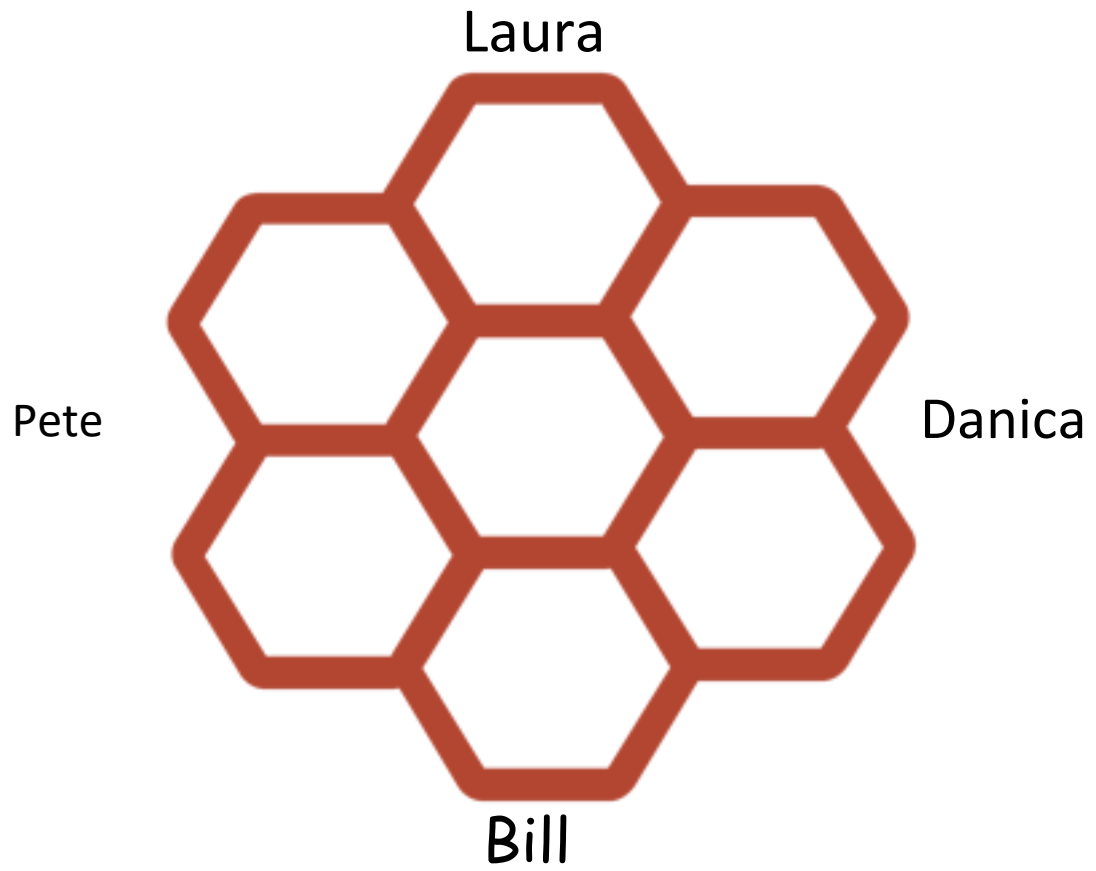


MACON COWLES
FOUNDER
BOULDER HOUSING NETWORK

Advocacy Training: How to Reduce Risk & Increase Success for Affordable and Workforce Housing”

Danica Powell, Trestle Strategy Group





Co-Creation



Overview



Engaging with Possibility



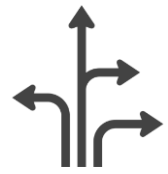
Planning for Community



Supporting Human Scale

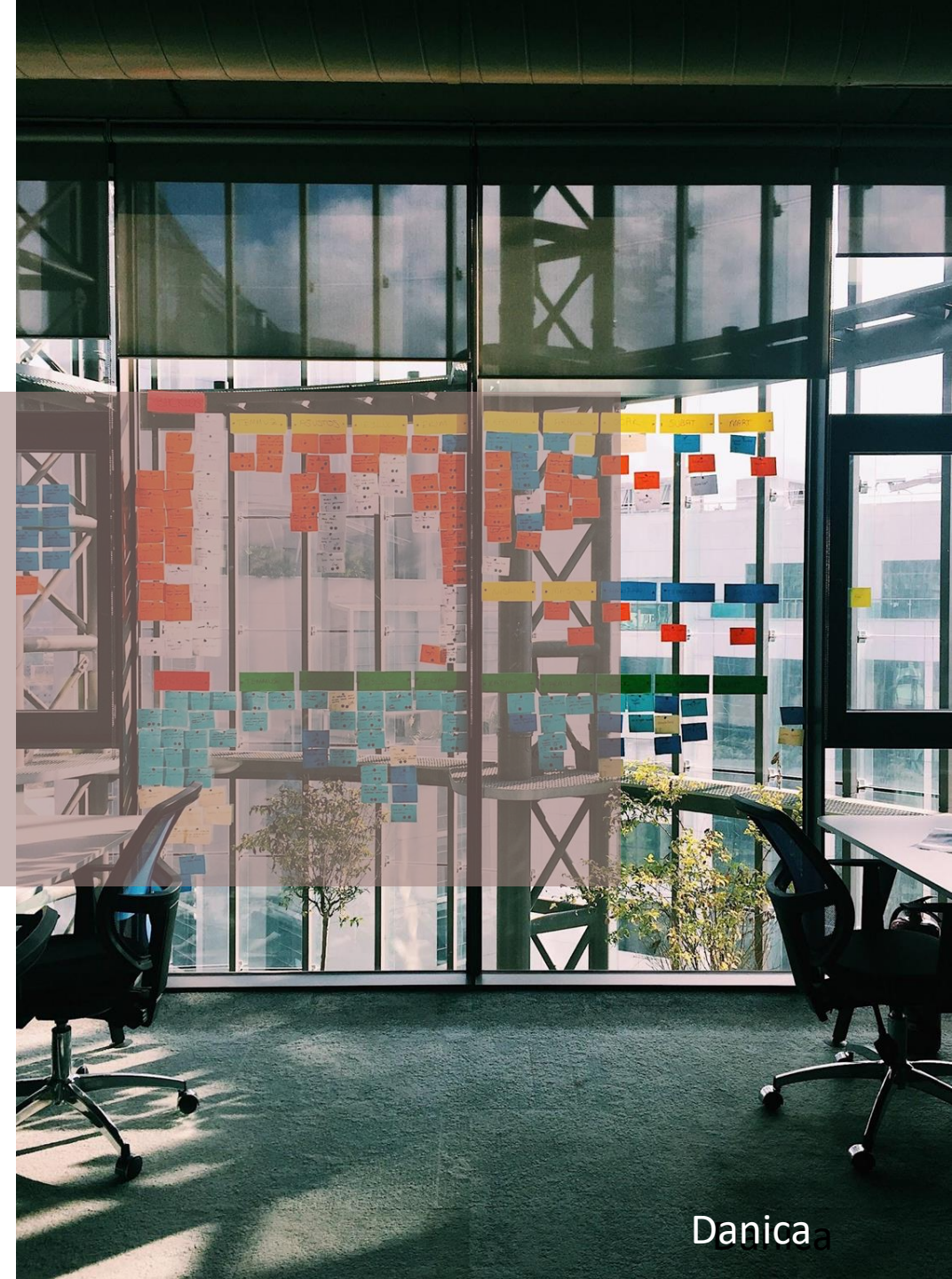


Partnership, Choice & Integration



Engaging with Possibility

Starting the Conversation





Ponderosa Community Stabilization

Boulder, Colorado

- Infrastructure replacement and permanently affordable, fixed foundation homes
- Focus on zero displacement
- Long haul community engagement resulting in residents empowerment
- Reliance on existing community bonds and sense of place

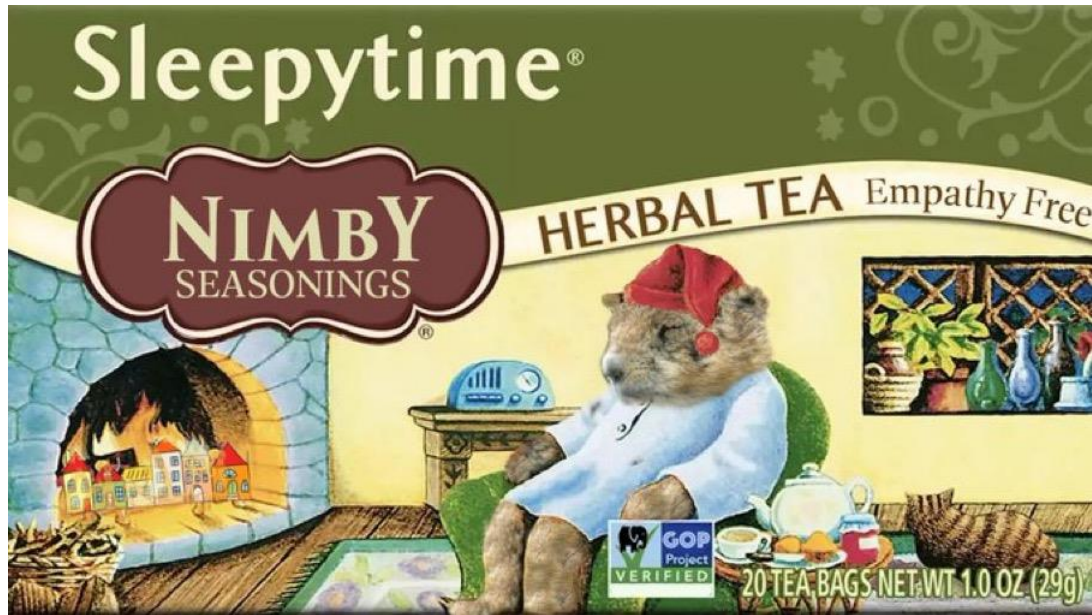


PATIENCE

PERSEVERANCE

FEAR & FAKE NEWS

CELEBRATION



Spine Road Development

Boulder, Colorado

- Mixed-use, multi-family housing project with 230 residential units (25% permanently affordable)
- Community benefits serving the neighboring residents and the community at large
- Opportunity to knit the City together through multi-modal transportation
- Successful community engagement to empower new voices, neighbors and advocates.



STRATEGY

COMPROMISE

FAKE NEWS

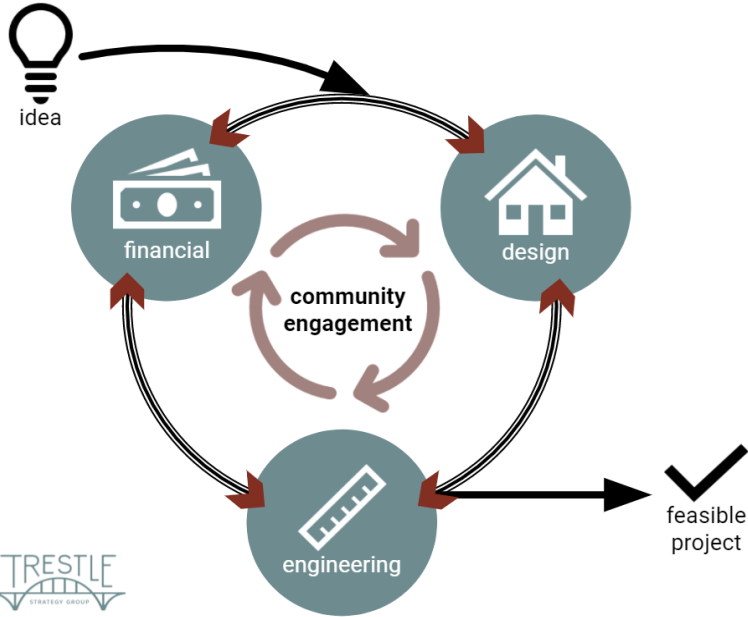
GRASS ROOT MOVEMENTS



Whetstone Community Housing

Gunnison County, Colorado

- Building an inclusive process with community, including neighbors and those impacted by housing
- Increase predictability and reduce risks to attract interest in development phase



DESIGN CHARRETTE

YOUTH

NEIGHBOR

PROCESS COMMITTEE

Whetstone Community Housing

Design Charrette:

30-35 community members & housing development experts from very different backgrounds

1. **Site Visit**
2. Presentation: Project **Parameters**
3. **Design Sessions:** Full Site Plan & Different Sections
4. **Programming** Session:
 - Amenities
 - Access & Roads
 - Architectural Character
 - Developer Forum





Whetstone Community Housing

Youth Engagement Purposes

1. Engage school age kids in the **design** of the Whetstone Community Housing site plan
2. Gather **feedback** from them on what a good neighborhood is from their perspective
3. Collect **ideas** on what amenities youth would like to see at the Whetstone site



Implementation

- City As Play with **Freshman** class of Gunnison High School
- City As Play, modeling, virtual reality with **second graders** of Crested Butte Elementary School



Steps for 2nd Graders Engagement

1

Site Visit

Students visited the site with a hard hat and a clipboard to draw their ideas for the site.

2

Design

Students drew site plans as small groups prior to the project's team arrival at school.

3

Presenting and Grading

Small groups of students presented their ideas for the site, project team members were invited to grade them according to the teacher's criteria.

4

Building

Groups were invited to design their site plan with City As Play materials.

5

3D Modeling

Students will build 3D models of their site plan.



Second graders from CBCS share their opinions on the Whetstone housing development

Crested Butte Community School second grade students were asked to participate in providing ideas for the proposed Whetstone affordable housing project this fall. The students toured the site and came up with ideas and even sketch plans on how best to use the property. Here is a sampling of their ideas...



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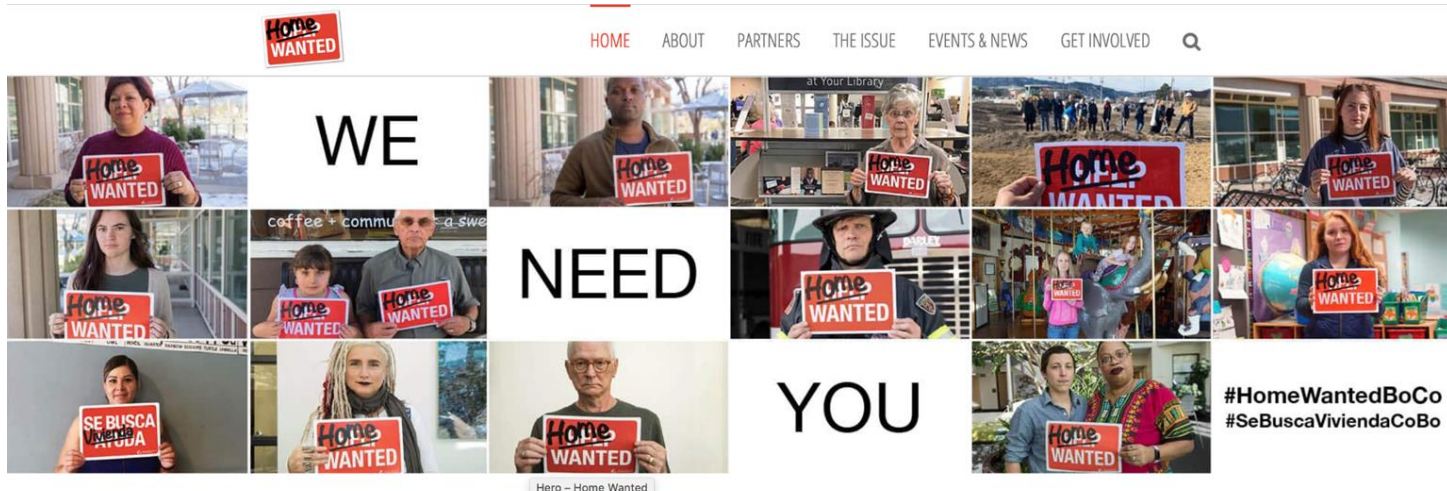
Legend
10 homes
5 homes
duplex
1 home
park and recreation
commercial
play park

Emma, Kinder, Ace, Asher



Map Legend
10 homes
5 homes
duplex
1 home
park and recreation
commercial

180-210



Home Wanted is about all of us.

You're invited to join this regional approach to help to boost the overall health and well-being of our entire community and become part of the plan to triple the number of affordable homes in Boulder County in just 15 years.



Home Wanted Regional Housing Partnership

Boulder County, Colorado

- Regional Housing Strategy
- Nine jurisdictions partnering towards a shared goal of 12% affordable housing
- Collaborate to develop and preserve diverse housing options
- Partnership across diverse sectors of community

ART

PARTNER BUILDING

STORYTELLING

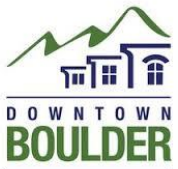
REGIONALISM

DIVERSITY

ARTS & CULTURE



BUSINESS COMMUNITY



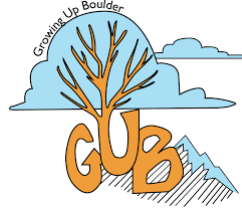
Northwest Chamber Alliance



Boulder Chamber Leadership Fellows

YOUTH

5 Youth Advisory Boards



SENIORS

Longmont Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

Boulder Older Adult Services



GOLDEN WEST Senior Living in Boulder

LATINX



Susie Mosqueda

VANESSA-BERNAL

TELEMUNDO DENVER

EL COMERCIO De Colorado



FAITH & HOUSING ADVOCATES



Micah Homes

Social Justice Ministry



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOULDER COUNTY

INSPIRING IDEAS. IGNITING ACTION.®



Longmont Housing Opportunities Team

3. Build Capacity and Empower Community

DANKE!

THANK YOU!

MERCI!

GRAZIE!

GRACIAS!

DANK JE WEL!





Power of Community Organizing



From left, SarahDawn Haynes, Chelsea Castellano, Eric Budd, Kurt Nordback and his wife Krista represent Bedrooms Are For People. The campaign seeks to amend Boulder's city charter over the number of unrelated people allowed to share a home. Photos by Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post

Messaging and Branding

**HOUSING JUSTICE
IS
CLIMATE JUSTICE**



Vote YES on 300

Lies and Fear Tactics



Social Media



Bedrooms Are For People
@BoulderBedrooms



Today, we're launching our 2021 campaign to reform Boulder's exclusionary housing laws by making it legal for at least 1 person to live in each bedroom of a home!

Join your [#Boulder](#) neighbors and use our 3-step guide to sign this online petition now!

bedroomsareforpeople.com/sign



7:26 AM · Feb 11, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

53 Retweets **27** Quote Tweets **113** Likes

Social Media

nextdoor



Chelsea Castellano

Devil's Thumb - Rolling Hills • 31 Oct



Vote YES on 300 for Positive Change. You may or may not know this but since before 1970, it has been illegal in most of Boulder for more than three unrelated people to live together. It doesn't matter how big the house is, how old the residents are, or if the owner lives in the home. To illustrate, in most of Boulder it is illegal for four people to share a four-bedroom house if they aren't related. Every year thousands of "over-occupied" residents live in fear of eviction for the simple act of sharing housing. Measure 300 would expand access to housing by making it legal for unrelated people to live together based on the number of bedrooms in a home. This is not radical. This is a rational way to set limits for people to share housing.

Building Broad Coalitions

BOULDER LEADERS ENDORSE BEDROOMS ARE FOR PEOPLE



Emergency
Family
Assistance
Association



Camera
DailyCamera.com



SHOWING UP FOR
RACIAL JUSTICE



NEW ERA
COLORADO



Public Testimony

REC
Boulder City Council Meeting 1-4-22

The video conference interface displays 12 participants in a 3x4 grid. The top bar shows 'REC' and 'Boulder City Council Meeting 1-4-22'. In the top right corner, there are icons for a clock and a share arrow. The participants are:

- Row 1: Tara Winer - Boulder City Council; Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde (she/e...); Mark Wallach; Mike Chard Boulder Office of Dis...
- Row 2: Matt Benjamin; Bob Yates; Aaron Brockett (he/him); Lauren Folkerts
- Row 3: Nicole Speer (she/ella); Teresa Taylor Tate; Junie Joseph; John Tayer

What Organizers Need

- 1) Project overview, basic details, and community benefits
- 2) Key Talking Points that address top concerns of decision makers
- 3) Give the key information so people can focus on telling their stories



Supporting Advocacy



Community Opposition to Housing First Development, Lee Hill Apartments, 2011-2014



Councilwoman: Consider moratorium on north Boulder buildings

Leaders express concerns about planned homeless housing project

By Heath Urie Camera Staff Writer

Posted: 10/04/2011 07:39:08 PM MDT

Updated: 10/05/2011 01:31:12 PM MDT

Boulder to debate 'Housing First' model for homeless

North Boulder residents plan show of solidarity against project

By Heath Urie Camera Staff Writer

Posted: 12/12/2011 06:49:47 PM MST

Updated: 12/12/2011 06:53:48 PM MST

Lynne Wegley: Support proposal to house the homeless in North Boulder

Posted: 03/15/2012 08:23:26 AM MDT

Updated: 03/15/2012 08:24:55 AM MDT

Boulder Housing Partners will hear purchase bid, but says Lee Hill is 'right site'

Director says she will hear neighbors' proposal to buy controversial site

By Heath Urie, Camera Staff Writer

Posted: 02/22/2012 02:59:21 PM MST

Updated: 02/22/2012 03:07:06 PM MST

Bid to house chronically homeless next door to Boulder shelter worries neighbors

Boulder Housing Partners proposes 31-unit housing project on Lee Hill Drive

By Mitchell Byars, Camera Staff Writer

Posted: 09/06/2011 09:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 09/06/2011 09:00:00 AM MDT

Boulder leaders get earful on homeless project

North Boulder residents show up in droves to oppose apartment building

By Heath Urie Camera Staff Writer

Posted: 03/20/2012 09:52:57 PM MDT

Updated: 03/20/2012 10:45:52 PM MDT

Guest opinion: Don't concentrate the chronically homeless in one neighborhood

By Hugh Walton

Posted: 11/09/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

Boulder housing project for chronically homeless to have 24/7 security

Neighbors not convinced the measures will address their concerns about safety

By Mitchell Byars Camera Staff Writer

Posted: 02/17/2012 10:26:15 PM MST

Updated: 02/17/2012 10:28:05 PM MST

Boulder council talks homelessness, affordable housing at retreat

Possible housing project in north Boulder at center of debate

By Heath Urie Camera Staff Writer

Posted: 01/21/2012 04:20:28 PM MST

Updated: 01/21/2012 04:23:16 PM MST

Jeff Hoffmeyer: Homeless housing -- Learn to love your neighbor

Posted: 03/05/2012 04:00:00 PM MST

North Boulder neighbors voice outrage over housing for homeless

By Mitchell Byars Camera Staff Writer

Posted: 09/29/2011 10:02:31 PM MDT

Updated: 09/29/2011 10:02:59 PM MDT

North Boulder Alliance Mission

The North Boulder Alliance is a community organization focused on issues of importance to our residents, workers, and businesses. **Our current focus is to mobilize all potential forces to pressure Boulder Housing Partners (BHP) and the Boulder City Council to move the proposed 1175 Lee Hill facility for the chronically homeless out of North Boulder.**

By providing a collective voice, we will ensure that our families are safe and that our community continues to thrive.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgTK4mxJnkM>

1175 Lee Hill Project Description

- * 31, one-bedroom units
- * Chronically homeless adults
- * Partnership between
 - * Boulder Housing Partners
 - * The Boulder Shelter for the Homeless
- * Part of Boulder County's 10-Year Plan
- * Across from BHP Office and adjacent to the Shelter in North Boulder

Local Map



Initial Outreach Strategy

- * Hire communications consultant
- * Gather feedback from leaders
- * Identify organizational spokespersons
- * Garner support of allies
- * Roll out neighborhood meeting and design, operations plan simultaneously

Neighborhood Reaction

- * Many concerns were raised
- * Some driven by fear
- * Some driven by lack of control of process
- * Formed the North Boulder Alliance



Assumptions and Biases

- * Leaders represent the masses
- * It's about the building
- * Facts trump emotion
- * Support of City, allies
- * Communications versus public relations

Mid-Course Correction

- * Put project on hold for 6 months
- * Requested Council's support
- * Hired PR firm
- * Galvanized supporters
- * Offered some control to neighbors
- * Community meetings
- * H.O.A. visits
- * One-on-one meetings
- * Reconstitution of the
- * Statement of Operations
- * Building design meetings



Lee Hill Lessons Learned

Be prepared for extra
time and expense

Start early, years early
if possible

Use small meetings,
not one large one

Offer Some Control to
Neighbors

Establish relationships
with elected officials
and offer ways for
them to support

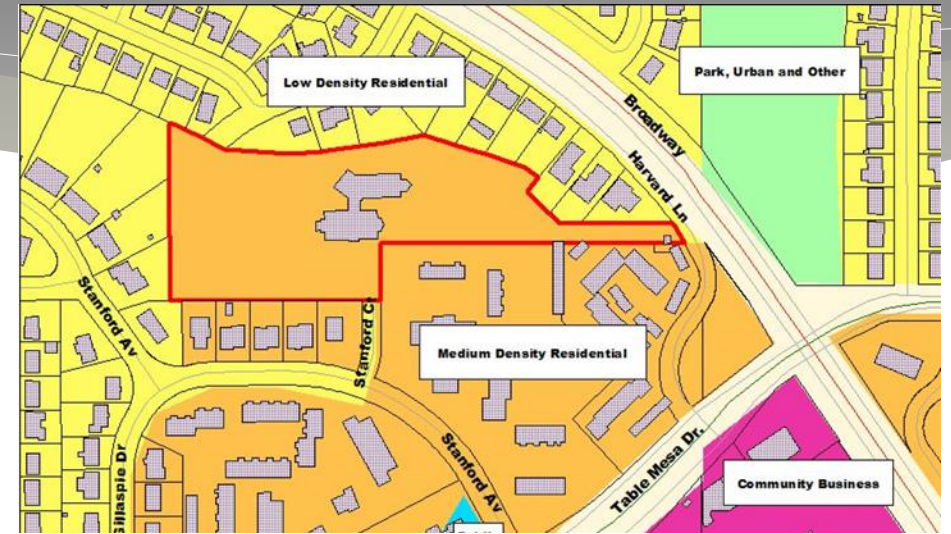
Have legal counsel and
use Fair Housing Laws
as needed

Mt. Calvary Senior Housing Development Community Engagement, 2016-2022



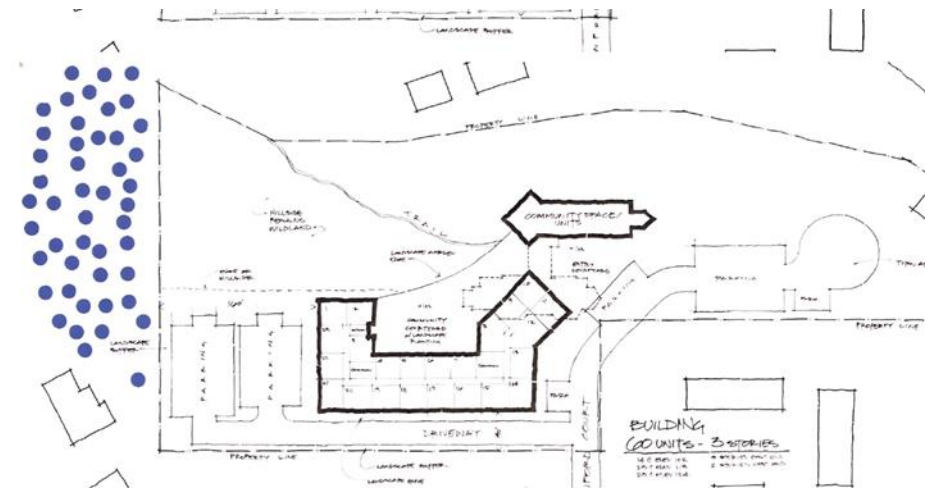
Project Background and History 2016-2017

- Property jointly purchased by BHP & Frasier Meadows
- BVCP Land Use Change
- Rezoning to RM-2
- Initial site planning process
- Planning 'paused' due to neighborhood impacts & complexity



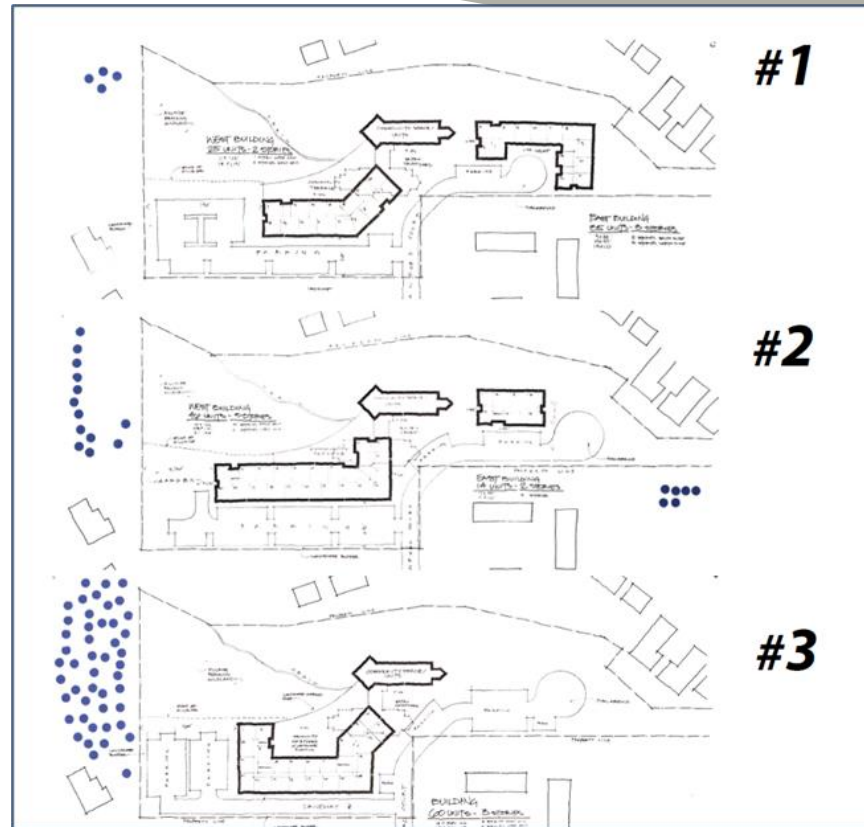
Project Background and History 2019-2020

- Property owned by BHP
- Church moved out
- BVCP Land Use Change Enacted
- Re-started the planning process after the pause
- Able to keep the Child Care Facility as part of the project.
- Pause was critical and demonstrated our willingness to listen to the neighbors



Mt. Calvary Community Engagement

- Smaller community Open Houses
- Design workshops with a design advisory committee
- Online engagement—survey, video
- High-level of participation
- Variety of stakeholders involved—neighbors, future residents, current residents, children of future residents
- Long timeline....2016-2021 for Final Site Review Approval



Mount Calvary Senior Housing Design Survey

Where We Are Today

The design team has moved forward with the site plan and building design for the future affordable senior housing based on Scheme #3.

The video below will walk you through three conceptual building layouts based on Scheme #3. Please watch the entire video before moving on to the next set of questions.



6. Based upon the three design schemes presented in the video, please rank them from your favorite to least favorite.

- Scheme A
- Scheme B
- Scheme C

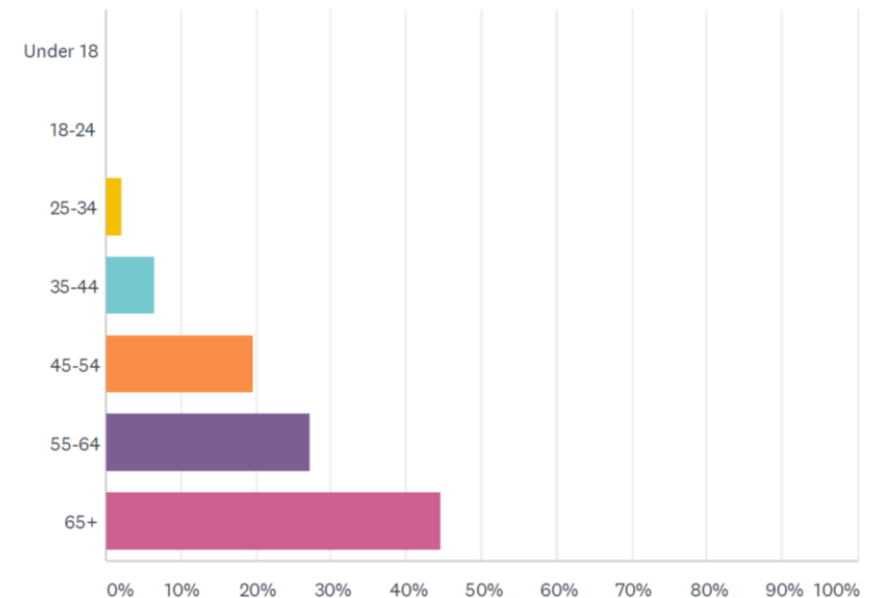
Community Engagement During Covid

- * In Person meetings moved to Online Survey
- * 94 Responses
 - * 27% Interested in living in Senior Housing
 - * 71% had not attended the design workshop
- * More response than we ever had for in person meetings
- * Better quality of response
- * Provided opportunity for email and phone responses
- * Robust email outreach, notices on BHP's FaceBook page and Twitter notifications
- * Utilized Housing Network Outreach for Public Participation at Planning Board

Mount Calvary Senior Housing Design Survey

Q1 What is your age?

Answered: 92 Skipped: 2



Mt. Calvary Community Engagement

What Worked Well

- * Time worked to our advantage
- * Small frequent meetings
- * Engaged with community leaders early
- * Partnered with the City Staff
- * We listened and made changes that helped satisfy the neighborhood
 - * Maintained the hillside as wild
 - * Maintain views and build into the hillside
 - * Provide generous setbacks
 - * Save the sanctuary
 - * Kept the child care facility
 - * Increased density from 45 to 60 Units
- * No opposition at Planning Board
- * No City Council Call Up



Q&A

Moderated by Danica Powell,
Founder and Owner, Trestle
Strategy Group
Co-Chair of the Boulder
Committee