

# BUILDING the MOVEMENT



March 19-21, 2018  
Washington Court Hotel  
Washington, DC  
*#NLIHCFForum18*  
*#EndHsgPoverty*



**NATIONAL LOW INCOME  
HOUSING COALITION**

## MONDAY, MARCH 19:

8:00 am – 9:00 am

**Continental Breakfast (for State Partners & Residents)** — Outside Executive and Springwood

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**NLIHC State Partners Meeting** (Invitation Only)  
Springwood

**2018 Resident Session: Movement Building and You** — Executive

**Panelists:**

- J Otis Smith, principal, Stand By Systems II, Inc.
- Parisa Norouzi, executive director, Empower DC
- Joy Johnson, resident leader, Charlottesville, VA
- J.R. Fleming, executive director, Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign
- **MC:** Renee Willis, vice president for field and communications, NLIHC

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Lunch for State Partners and Residents**

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm

**Welcome/Overview of Forum**

Grand Ballroom

**Speakers:**

- Greg Payne, NLIHC board chair & Paul Kealey, NLIHC chief operating officer

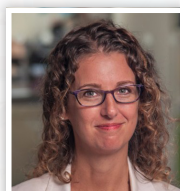
1:15 pm – 1:45 pm

**Building the Movement**

Grand Ballroom

**Speaker:**

- Diane Yentel, NLIHC president and CEO (@dianeyentel)



1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

**The State of Fair Housing on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act** — Grand Ballroom

Richard Rothstein, author of *The Color of Law*, will describe the history of explicit federal, state, and local government policies that resulted in housing segregation – which still persists today. Joining Richard, panelists will add their perspectives about that history, reflect on where we are today, and discuss what we must do to continue to achieve the goals of fair housing.



**Panelists:**

- Richard Rothstein, author of *The Color of Law* and research associate at the Economic Policy Institute
- James A. A. Cadogan, director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's Thurgood Marshall Institute
- Don Chen, director of equitable development, Ford Foundation
- Jorge Soto, director of public policy, National Fair Housing Alliance
- **Moderator:** Marla Newman, first vice-chair of the NLIHC board of directors and director of community development, Winston-Salem, NC

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm

**Break and Book Signing**

Hermitage and Foyer



Don't forget to Tweet during the Forum!  
Use the hashtags **#EndHsgPoverty**, **#NLIHC18**





## MONDAY, MARCH 19

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm **Breakout Sessions**

### **BREAKOUT 1: TEAM APPROACH: HOW HOUSING PROVIDERS CAN SUPPORT RESIDENT ORGANIZING** — *Atrium*

Resident voices are essential to successful policy change. This is as true for advocacy on the federal budget as it is for decisions on how rental properties can best serve low income tenants. Rather than fearing organized residents, housing and service providers should devote resources to meaningful, ongoing resident organizing. This session will explore best practices on engaging, informing, and empowering residents, moving beyond the usual renter vs. landlord dynamic and elevating residents as community leaders.

#### **Panelists:**

- James Tracy, director of community organizing and resident engagement, Community Housing Partnership
- Avni Desai, public policy manager, Community Housing Partnership
- Anakh Sul Rama, community organizer, Community Housing Partnership

### **BREAKOUT 2: MAKING HOUSING AN ISSUE WITH THE MEDIA** — *Executive*

Despite the growing shortage of affordable homes for millions, news outlets' coverage of the issue and of poverty is insufficient. Local media outlets often lack the capacity to delve deeply into affordable housing issues, and larger outlets have been focused on the recent national political turmoil. During this session reporters and communications experts will share how to spark media engagement around housing poverty and homelessness, increase coverage, and break through false information and sense of hopelessness.

#### **Panelists:**

- Kriston Capps, staff writer, *CityLab* ([@KristonCapps](#))
- Laura Kusisto, reporter, *Wall Street Journal* ([@LauraKusisto](#))
- Joseph Lawler, economics reporter, *Washington Examiner* ([@josephlawler](#))
- Christina Rosales, communications director, Texas Housers ([@CLRosales](#))
- **Moderator:** Renee M. Willis, VP for field and communications, NLIHC ([@McLeanWillis](#))

### **BREAKOUT 3: QUEERING THE HOUSING MOVEMENT: BREAKING DOWN THE LGBTQ AND HOUSING JUSTICE INTERSECTION** — *Springwood*

Despite growing public visibility of and acceptance toward LGBTQ people in America, disproportionate rates of youth homelessness, displacement, housing discrimination, and a lack of cultural competency by service providers continue to frame everyday life for many LGBTQ people. This session will explore the root causes of, movements to address, and policy solutions for the adverse housing and homelessness issues faced by LGBTQ people and will shine a light on what non-LGBTQ people can do to address these injustices.

#### **Panelists:**

- Kahlib Barton, program officer, True Colors Fund, [@TrueColorsFund](#)
- Kelly Kent, director of National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative, Sage USA [@SageUSA](#)
- Taissa Morimoto, policy counsel, National LGBTQ Task Force, [@TheTaskForce](#)
- **Moderator:** Gregory Lewis, executive director and CEO, True Colors Fund, [@TrueColorsFund](#)

5:15 pm – 7:00 pm

**Light Reception** — *Grand Ballroom*



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### TUESDAY, MARCH 20:

7:30 am – 8:30 am

#### Continental Breakfast

Hermitage

8:30 am – 8:50 am

#### Welcome Back, NLIHC Board Leadership

Grand Ballroom

##### Speakers:

- Greg Payne, NLIHC board chair & Paul Kealey, NLIHC chief operating officer

8:50 am – 9:30 am

#### The Fate of American Public Housing

Grand Ballroom

##### Speaker:

- Ben Austen, author, *High Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing*



9:30 am – 10:30 am Breakout Sessions

#### BREAKOUT 1: HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS: NON-PARTISAN VOTER ENGAGEMENT LEADING UP TO THE 2018 ELECTIONS — Atrium

Electoral campaigns are an opportunity for the affordable homes movement because they are when elected officials lay out their visions and make their policy commitments. Learn how your organization can register voters, engage with candidates, and increase voter turnout all in a non-partisan way that does not threaten your tax-exempt status. The panelists have engaged extensively in non-partisan voter engagement campaigns that produce real results and advance housing solutions.

##### Panelists:

- Sim Wimbush, executive director, Virginia Housing Alliance
- Barb Harris, executive director, Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council
- Eric Hufnagel, executive director, Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness
- Rachael Robinson, housing and social media director, Neighbors United for Progress
- **Moderator:** Brian Miller, executive director, Nonprofit VOTE

#### BREAKOUT 2: HARNESSING THE POWER OF STORYTELLING FOR ADVOCACY — Executive



Storytelling is one of the most effective means of advocacy. When done well, storytelling has the power to educate, inspire, and move people to action. Mark Horvath, founder of *Invisible People*, a unique digital storytelling organization that uses video and social media to change the story of homelessness and gives a voice to those who are too often overlooked, will share the lessons he has learned capturing the stories of the many faces of homelessness. This session will explore how stories can help shape the policy conversation in meaningful ways.

##### Speaker:

- Mark Horvath, founder of *Invisible People*

#### BREAKOUT 3: HILL INSIDER PANEL Springwood

Former congressional staffers from both side of the aisle will share their candid perspectives on President Trump's first year in office and their predictions for the coming year and what it may mean for federal affordable housing policies and investments. From the budget and benefit cuts to housing finance reform and fair housing, our speakers will give a behind-the-scenes look at how the Republican-led House and Senate may try to enact their legislative priorities before the 2018 midterm elections.

##### Panelists:

- Jennifer Fogel-Bublick, partner with Capitol Counsel LLC, former counsel to the Senate Banking Committee, advising former Senators Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) and Christopher Dodd (D-CT)
- Arthur Mandel, state affairs manager for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and former policy advisor to Senator Maria Cantwell (D-OR) and legislative director to Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)
- Jennifer Debes Bang, principal with Capitol Counsel LLC and former associate staff member to the House Appropriations Committee and deputy chief of staff to Representative Ander Crenshaw (R-FL)
- **Moderator:** Sarah Mickelson, NLIHC Senior Director of Public Policy





### TUESDAY, MARCH 20

10:30 am – 10:45 am

**Break** — *Hermitage*

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

**Presentation of 2018 Organizing Awards, Successful Local Organizing, and the 2018 Housing Week of Action** — *Grand Ballroom*

Local advocacy campaigns won landmark victories in 2017. The 2018 winners of NLIHC's Organizing Awards will join previous winners to explore best practices for developing a campaign, building a coalition, and winning. The session will explore efforts to effectively involve residents in policy campaigns, the best practices for elevating persuasive messaging, and tips for engaging elected officials. The panel will also share thoughts on strong events for the 2018 *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action.

**Panelists:**

- Kalila Jackson, senior staff attorney, Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity Council
- Randy Dillard, CASA leader, Community Action Safe Apartments
- Steve Glaude, president and CEO, Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Community Economic Development
- Sharon Cornu, consultant, Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California
- **Moderator:** Rachael Myers, executive director, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and NLIHC board member
- **Organizing Awards presented by:** Michael Carbone, former executive director, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People and Lot Diaz, VP for housing and community development, Unidos US, and NLIHC board member

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Networking Lunch** — *Table seating available in Atrium, Executive/Sagamore/Ashlawn, and Springwood*

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**The 2018 Political and Legislative Landscape** — *Grand Ballroom*

**Speaker:**

- Charlie Cook, editor and publisher of *The Cook Political Report* and columnist for the *National Journal*



2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Opportunity Starts at Home**

*Grand Ballroom*

Opportunity Starts at Home is a new national multi-sector housing campaign to mobilize leaders from within education, health care, civil rights and anti-poverty sectors to address the lack of access to affordable homes for millions of extremely low income households in America.

**Speakers:**

- U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
- Diane Yentel, National Alliance to End Homelessness CEO Nan Roman, and other advocacy leaders



3:00 pm – 3:45 pm

**Keynote Speaker:**

**U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)**

*Grand Ballroom*



3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

**Break** — *Hermitage*

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm

**Breakout Sessions**

**BREAKOUT 1: RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE**

*Atrium*

Thousands of first-time candidates ran for public office last year in the wake of the 2016 presidential election, and many community leaders are involved in the movement to end the affordable housing shortage. Resident leaders, housing developers, organizers, and researchers all have important perspectives to offer as potential elected officials. This session is for anyone who has dreamed of running for office or who is inspired to make housing a central issue in the upcoming elections.

**Panelists:**

- Sheila Crowley, former NLIHC president and CEO
- Nicole Macri, Washington state representative, 43rd Legislative District
- Anne Mavity, executive director, Minnesota Housing Partnership and council member, St. Louis Park, MN
- **Moderator:** Martha Weatherspoon, Learning Opportunity Center director, Lincoln Homes Resident Council, and NLIHC board secretary



## TUESDAY, MARCH 20

### **BREAKOUT 2: NEW DIRECTIONS IN HOUSING RESEARCH – A LOOK TO THE FUTURE**

#### *Springwood*

Research can be a pre-cursor to the messaging and advocacy work among housing stakeholders. This panel will discuss the current and future direction of research (what we are learning and what we hope to learn) on important housing issues including affordable housing citing, preservation, disaster recovery, linkages with health, and others.

#### **Panelists:**

- Ed Goetz, director, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs; professor, Urban and Regional Planning, University of Minnesota ([@curaumn](#))
- Vincent Reina, assistant professor, City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania
- Shannon Van Zandt, director, Center for Housing and Urban Development; professor, Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A & M; board member, Texas Housers
- Megan Sandel, principal investigator, Children's HealthWatch; associate director, GROW Clinic, Boston Medical Center ([@megansandel](#))
- **Moderator:** Andrew Aurand, NLIHC VP for research ([@AGAurand](#))

### **BREAKOUT 3: ADDRESSING HOUSING BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS**

#### *Executive*

People with criminal records face significant barriers to finding decent affordable homes, with many experiencing homelessness or recidivating as a result. To address this problem, advocates in Seattle and New Orleans successfully campaigned to reform local policies impacting people with criminal records.

During this session, local advocates will share how they worked with various stakeholders to enact change in their communities, the challenges they faced, and what work they're doing now to ensure housing providers comply with these new policies.

#### **Panelists**

- Alex Bergstrom, legal assistant, Institutions Project at Columbia Legal Services
- Susan Mason, founder, What's Next Washington
- Latoya Lewis, organizer, STAND with Dignity
- Bruce Reilly, deputy director, Voice of the Experienced ([@Unprison](#))
- **Moderator:** Elayne Weiss, senior policy analyst, NLIHC ([@Elaynebw](#))

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

#### **NLIHC Leadership Awards Reception**

**(Separate Registration from Forum Required)**

Grand Ballroom

#### **Honorees:**

- U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
- Matthew Desmond, author of Pulitzer-Prize winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*
- Lisa Hasegawa, former executive director of National CAPACD and NLIHC board member



## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21:

8:30am – 9:30 pm

#### **Preparing for Capitol Hill Visits**

Capitol Hill Visitor Center SVC 201-00

#### **Panelists:**

- Senator Jeff Merkley, (D-OR) (Invited)
- Representative Joyce Beatty (D-OH) (Invited)

9:30 am – 5:00 pm

#### **Hill Visits & Report Backs**

United Methodist Church—General Board of Church & Society  
Room 4

100 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, DC



# 2018 NLIHC ORGANIZING AWARDS

**N**LIHC's Trailblazer Award is presented to the Right to Counsel NYC (RTC NYC) Coalition, in recognition of successfully organizing low income renters and allies in support of the first law in the nation guaranteeing the civil right to an attorney for New York City renters facing eviction. NLIHC's Renter Advocacy Award is presented to the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council (EHOC) and Empower Missouri, in recognition of successfully advocating for the passage of a citywide ordinance criminalizing illegal lock-out evictions for renters in the City of St. Louis.

## Organizing Awards presented by:

- **Michael Carbone**, former executive director, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People
- **Lot Diaz**, VP for housing and community development, Unidos US, and NLIHC board member

## Accepting the Trailblazer Award on behalf of RTC NYC:

- **Lorena Lopez**, tenant organizer, Catholic Migration Services
- **Randy Dillard**, organizer, Community Action for Safe Apartments

## Accepting the Renter Advocacy Award on behalf of EHOC and Empower Missouri:

- **Kalila Jackson**, staff attorney, EHOC
- **Nicole McKoy**, board chair, Empower Missouri

## ABOUT RTC NYC

RTC NYC began organizing in June 2014 as a coalition of advocates, tenants, academics and legal services providers

in support of right to counsel for low income renters who face eviction in New York City. Many coalition members had been working on issues of affordable housing, tenant power, and housing court reform for decades prior to forming RTC NYC. The coalition's multi-year organizing and advocacy led to the August 11, 2017 passage of Intro 214-B at the New York City Council, which was signed into law by Mayor Bill de Blasio. Intro 214-B guarantees the right to an attorney for New York City renters facing eviction who are at or below 200% of the poverty line. Under Intro 214-B, renters who are over-income have the right to a consultation with an attorney when facing eviction. The law also provides tenants in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) public housing units



with legal representation when their eviction proceedings appear before administrative hearings. New York City is the first jurisdiction in the nation to adopt this standard. RTC NYC will continue its organizing and advocacy as Intro 214-B is implemented.

## ABOUT EHOC AND EMPOWER MISSOURI

EHOC seeks to ensure equal access to housing and places of public accommodation for all people through education, counseling, investigation, and enforcement. They work throughout Greater St. Louis and surrounding communities in Missouri and Illinois. Empower Missouri advocates for the well-being of all Missourians through civic leadership, education and research. Empower Missouri envisions the state becoming a more



just, equitable and democratic society, that assures every person's health, safety, security, independence, human rights, dignity, and the opportunity to reach full potential. The two organizations joined together in 2016 after witnessing an increase in "lock-out" or "self-help" evictions from rental housing properties, which are already illegal under Missouri state law. Together, they formed a coalition of fair housing, legal services and other social justice advocates in St. Louis, MO to combat and prevent further illegal evictions. The coalition successfully advocated for a citywide ordinance that clearly defines cases qualifying as an illegal eviction, a tenant's rights during an illegal eviction, and the penalties for violation of the law against lock-outs. This ordinance was presented to the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen in the form of Board Bill 87, which passed unanimously and was promptly signed into law by Mayor Lyda Krewson. The coalition's work continues into 2018 as Board Bill 87 is implemented. Advocates also are exploring expansion of their work by addressing illegal evictions in other parts of Missouri.

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZING AWARDS

Presented each year at NLIHC's annual Policy Forum, the Organizing Awards recognize outstanding achievement in statewide, local, and resident/tenant organizing that furthers NLIHC's mission of achieving socially just public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes in the U.S. have affordable and decent homes.





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