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NLIHC HOUSING POLICY FORUM 2024

# AN UNWAVERING PATH FORWARD TO HOUSING JUSTICE

MARCH 19 - 21, 2024 | HILTON CAPITOL HILL

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March 21 • Capitol Hill Day

March 19-21

Hilton Capitol Hill | Washington, D.C.

[www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)

# MONDAY, MARCH 18 | PRE-FORUM EVENTS

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**NLIHC State & Tribal Partners Convening** | [SPRINGWOOD](#)

**Tenant Leaders Session** | [ATRIUM BALLROOM](#)

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

**NLIHC State & Tribal Partners and Tenant Leaders Dinner** | [GRAND BALLROOM](#)

**Special Presentation by SongRise DC**, *inspiring action through song*



# TUESDAY, MARCH 19

7:30 am - 8:30 am

**Continental Breakfast**

*(Tenant Leaders and State & Tribal Partners Only)*

**State and Tribal Partners** | [EXECUTIVE](#)

**Tenant Leaders** | [ATRIUM FOYER](#)

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

**NLIHC State & Tribal Partners Convening (Pre-Forum)** | [SPRINGWOOD](#)

**Tenant Leaders Session (Pre-Forum)** | [ATRIUM BALLROOM](#)

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

**Lunch for State & Tribal Partners and Tenant Leaders** | [EXECUTIVE & ATRIUM FOYER](#)

and scholar - joins NLIHC SVP of Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Renee Willis for a discussion on the national conversation on racial equity and dismantling the history of housing discrimination.

2:30 pm - 2:50 pm

**Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL)**

As the first member of Generation Z to be elected to Congress, Rep. Frost will share his plans for addressing housing costs.



**A Look Ahead**

Jen Butler - VP of External Affairs, NLIHC

2:50 pm - 4:45 pm

**COFFEE BREAK** | [GRAND BALLROOM FOYER AND EXECUTIVE](#)

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

**BREAKOUT 1**

**Leveling the Playing Field: Achieving Permanent Tenant Protections** | [ATRIUM BALLROOM](#)

Access to affordable, stable housing is a foundational need for just and equitable communities, but the power imbalance between renters and landlords fuels inequity and puts renters at greater risk of housing instability, harassment, and homelessness. This session will explore how federal, state, and local protections - including right to counsel, "just cause" eviction standards, and protections from

1:00 pm - 2:50 pm

**PLENARY** | [GRAND BALLROOM](#)

1:00 pm - 1:35 pm

**Welcome**

Dora Leong Gallo - NLIHC board of directors (chair)

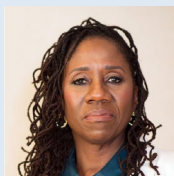
**Opening Remarks - An Unwavering Path Forward to Housing Justice**

**Diane Yentel** - President and CEO, NLIHC



1:35 pm - 2:30 pm

**Keynote Speaker Sherrilyn Ifill** - acclaimed civil rights attorney



source-of-income discrimination – can help level the playing field between renters and landlords and increase housing stability. Panelists will also discuss the implementation and impacts of renter protections, tips for advocacy, and ways to address state-level preemption laws.

#### SPEAKERS:

- Marie Clair Tran-Leung – National Housing Law Project, NLIHC board of directors
- Dave Pringle – Poverty & Race Research Action Council
- Jonathan Jager – Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- Jasmine Rangel – Policy Link
- **Moderator:** Sarah Gallagher – NLIHC

## BREAKOUT 2

### A Multi-Sector Approach to Achieving Justice and Equity at the Intersections of Housing, Environment, and Health | [SPRINGWOOD](#)

The path to housing justice is paved more effectively when environmental justice and health equity advocates help make the needed changes. Those working to advance environmental causes and health equity often cite housing justice as critical for ensuring sustainable and healthy communities for everyone. In this session, members of the multi-sector coalition Opportunity Starts at Home will explore how findings from a recent Natural Resources Defense Council report clearly demonstrate the importance of housing policies in efforts to advance environmental justice and health equity and the need for federal policymakers to address the nation’s affordable housing challenges.

#### SPEAKERS:

- Sabrina Johnson – Natural Resources Defense Council
- Edgar Barraza – Physicians for Social Responsibility (Los Angeles)
- **Moderator:** Chantelle Wilkinson – NLIHC

## BREAKOUT 3

### Changing Lanes: Integrating Housing and Homelessness Best Practices with Disaster Response and Recovery | [SAGAMORE HILL](#)

While disasters magnify a community’s existing shortage of affordable housing and lead to higher rates of homelessness, many view disaster response and recovery as separate from the day-to-day work of housing and homeless organizations, advocates, and organizers. How can we shift this perception to ensure that the best practices used by these organizations and advocates every day are integrated into disaster response and recovery? This session will focus on efforts to operationalize what we know works for addressing housing insecurity and homelessness during and following disasters. Panelists will include those with experience directly responding to disasters and utilizing lessons learned from housing and homeless service organizations, advocates working to integrate these lessons during recent disasters, and representatives from federal agencies tasked with leading housing-related efforts after disasters.

#### SPEAKERS:

- Katherine Galifianakis – American Red Cross
- Sara Hicks-West, The Cloudburst Group
- Natalie Maxwell – National Housing Law Project
- **Moderator:** Noah Patton – NLIHC

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

### NLIHC 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION RECEPTION | [GRAND BALLROOM](#)

8:00 PM – 9:30 PM

### “RAZING LIBERTY SQUARE” DOCUMENTARY VIEWING | [ATRIUM BALLROOM](#)



## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

7:30 am – 8:30 am

**Continental Breakfast** |

[GRAND BALLROOM FOYER](#)

8:30 am – 9:20 am

### PLENARY | GRAND BALLROOM

8:30 am – 8:35 am

**Welcome**

Jen Butler – VP of External Affairs, NLIHC

8:35 am – 9:20 am

**Our Homes, Our Votes:  
Building the Political Will for  
Housing Justice in the 2024  
Elections**



NLIHC's nonpartisan Our Homes, Our Votes campaign is building the power of low-income renters as a voting bloc and elevating housing solutions in the 2024 election cycle. Panelists will discuss effective strategies and messaging that housing advocates, tenant leaders, and service providers can use to get out the vote in their communities and push candidates to prioritize housing justice.

#### SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Bambi Hayes-Brown – Georgia ACT, NLIHC board of directors
- Lauren Legocki – POAH Communities
- Mary McGovern – Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council
- **Moderator:** Courtney Copperman – NLIHC

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

**COFFEE BREAK** | [GRAND BALLROOM FOYER](#)

9:30 am – 11:00 am

### BREAKOUT 4

**What Can We Know about Affordable Housing Preservation Needs?** | [ATRIUM BALLROOM](#)

Our nation's affordable housing faces mounting preservation challenges as the stock grows older

and affordability restrictions expire, impacting the lowest-income tenants most acutely. Key property-level data for assessing preservation risks, however, are often inaccessible to stakeholders, hampering the identification of at-risk buildings and tenants in the short term and preservation planning in the longer term. This panel will examine the current state of data for affordable housing preservation, explore how data can inform organizing and preservation planning, and identify ways that preservation data can be improved at the local, state, and federal levels.

#### SPEAKERS:

- Stephanie Winn – Tenant Organizer (TX)
- Kathryn Howell – National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, University of Maryland
- Megan Bolton – Oregon Housing & Community Services
- Kelly McElwain – Public and Affordable Housing Research Corporation (CT)
- **Moderator:** Dan Emmanuel – NLIHC

### BREAKOUT 5

**Partnerships and Coalition-Building in Native and Rural Housing** | [SPRINGWOOD](#)

The Farm Bill and NAHASDA Reauthorization presented two key opportunities for Native and rural housing leaders to advance housing priorities in 2023. NLIHC has actively worked to uplift rural and Native leaders on the ground to build support for these often-ignored communities. Come learn from NLIHC's first Tribal partner about the issues facing Native communities, hear how organizations can work with rural leaders in their areas, and learn more about how to be an effective ally for Native communities.

**SPEAKERS:**

- Sharon Vogel - Cheyenne River Housing Authority, United Native American Housing Association (UNAHA), NLIHC board of directors
- Samantha Booth - Housing Assistance Council (HAC)
- Jeff Ackley, Jr. - Lac du Flambeau Chippewa Housing Authority, Great Lakes Indian Housing Association (GLIHA)
- Mellor Willie - NeighborWorks America
- **Moderator:** Kayla Laywell - NLIHC

**BREAKOUT 6**
**The Power of Storytelling: Shaping the Narrative on How to Achieve Housing Justice | SAGAMORE HILL**

When we pair meaningful experiences with compelling stories, we expand our communication. The power of storytelling is about evoking emotion, inciting action, and creating connections with audiences and change-makers. Supporting our advocacy with impactful experiences and storytelling also empowers marginalized populations to create and share their own stories - to seize their narratives. These collective voices can uplift the solutions needed to achieve housing justice. Storytelling is not only a strategy for garnering broader engagement but is also a proven way to break barriers and make new conversations possible. This session will explore best practices for storytelling and shaping the narrative.

**SPEAKERS:**

- May Louis-Juste - NLIHC
- Miracle Fletcher - NLIHC Collective Cohort
- **Moderator:** Marisol Bello - Housing Narrative Lab

**BREAKOUT 7**
**Climate Gentrification and Community Erasure: Are the Themes Highlighted in Razing Liberty Square Coming to a Community Near You? | MONTPELIER**

Liberty City, Miami, was home to one of the oldest segregated public housing projects in the U.S. Now, with rising sea levels, the neighborhood's higher ground has become something else: real-estate gold. Wealthy property owners are pushing inland, creating a speculators' market in an historically Black neighborhood previously ignored by developers and policymakers alike. Razing Liberty Square is a powerful study of the overlapping crises of climate change, systemic racism, and the lack of affordable housing. Join film participants and community members in a conversation about how one frontline community is responding to climate gentrification and erasure.

**SPEAKERS:**

- Valencia Gunder - Smile Trust, Inc.
- Trenise Bryant - Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing (SMASH)
- Aaron McKinney - Integral Group
- **Moderator:** Daniella Pierre - NAACP Miami-Dade, NLIHC Collective Cohort

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

**PLENARY | GRAND BALLROOM**

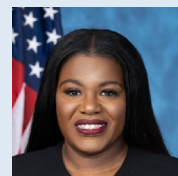
11:00 am - 11:15 am

**Introduction of Speaker**

Sarah Saadian - SVP of Public Policy and Field Organizing, NLIHC

**Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO)**

As the sponsor of the "Unhoused Bill of Rights," Rep. Bush will discuss the path forward to racial equity and housing justice, as well as the long-term solutions needed to address homelessness and housing insecurity.



11:15 am - 12:00 pm

### **Building Power: How to Organize for Housing Justice**

Tenant leaders and their allies are organizing for housing justice in communities of all sizes, regions, and political stripes. From coast to coast and urban to rural environments, in public housing and unsubsidized buildings, and in states of every political makeup, organizers are generating momentum and achieving major victories. In this plenary session, organizers will share insights from organizing in their own communities and universal principles and practices that can apply in any campaign for housing justice.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

- Duaa-Rahemaah Hunter - Resident Action Project (WA)
- Ramona Ferreyra - Save Section 9 (NY)
- Benjamin Finegan - Bozeman Tenants United (MT)
- **Moderator:** Dee Ross - NLIHC Tenant Leader Fellow

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

### **BUFFET LUNCH** | [ATRIUM BALLROOM AND EXECUTIVE](#)

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

### **BREAKOUT 8**

#### **Teach-In: Organizing** | [ATRIUM BALLROOM](#)

Organizing is a powerful tool. It's no wonder that tenant unions, tenant associations, and resident councils and networks are forming and growing exponentially in communities large and small. Tenants are harnessing their collective power to advocate for decent, accessible, affordable homes in communities of their choice. Join NLIHC's first teach-in on organizing, which will be led by several members of the Collective. In the spirit of a true teach-in, this session is meant to be practical, participatory, empowering, and action-oriented.

### **NLIHC COLLECTIVE COHORT FACILITATORS:**

- Dee Ross - NLIHC Tenant Leader Fellow
- Rob Robinson - Partners for Dignity and Rights (NY)
- Tara Madison - National Alliance of HUD Tenants (IL)
- Ramona Ferreyra - Save Section 9 (NY)
- Albert Townsend - National Alliance to End Homelessness (DC)
- Shannon "Sunshine" Washington - Sunshine Charity Community Investment Coalition (TN)
- Willie "JR" Fleming - Chicago Anti Eviction Campaign

### **BREAKOUT 9**

#### **Building Support for Evidence-Based Homelessness Solutions** | [SPRINGWOOD](#)

Despite successful efforts to house individuals experiencing homelessness using the Housing First approach, particularly among veterans, homeless systems cannot keep up with the increased inflow due to inadequate funding by Congress. As communities face increasing rates of housing instability and homelessness, there is a growing backlash against people experiencing homelessness and against supporting real solutions to the crisis. This session will examine how advocates can build support for humane, evidence-based homelessness responses despite the worsening affordable housing crisis and growing calls for ineffective and punitive approaches. Panelists will discuss the latest research from the field, including the rigorous evidence supporting the Housing First approach; how Housing First is reducing homelessness among veterans and others; and needed federal investments to fully address the housing and homelessness crises.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

- Steve Berg - National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Shawn Liu - Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs Office, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Steven Howell - Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition
- **Moderator:** Alayna Calabro - NLIHC

## BREAKOUT 10

### Accessible to Whom? Inclusive Housing and the Disability Justice Movement | [SAGAMORE HILL](#)

Housing access for people with disabilities is inconsistent at best, and advocates are working at various levels of policy to improve access. Ensuring housing for people with disabilities is an NLIHC priority. According to NLIHC's Gap report, 18% of extremely low-income renter households include a person with a disability. NLIHC continues to advocate for affordable, accessible, and safe housing for people with disabilities. This session will showcase disability justice advocates and illuminate the intersections between the housing and disability justice movements.

#### SPEAKERS:

- Zella Knight - Resident United Network Los Angeles (RUNLA), NLIHC board of directors
- Hunter Herrera-McFarland - The Kelsey
- Monica Porter Gilbert - Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- Melissa Marshall - The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
- **Moderator:** Sidney Betancourt - NLIHC

## BREAKOUT 11

### Locked Up, Locked Out: Barriers to Housing for Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People | [MONTPELIER](#)

The United States is the world's largest jailer, incarcerating almost 2 million people in state and federal prisons, jails, juvenile correction facilities, military prisons, and immigration detention facilities. More than 95% of people incarcerated will eventually be released and will return to their communities, but many lack a safe, stable, affordable home to which they can return, increasing their likelihood of experiencing homelessness and ultimately recidivism. This session will lay out the barriers to housing for formerly incarcerated and convicted people, highlight communities paving the way for reentry services, and discuss the federal solutions needed to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home.

#### SPEAKERS:

- Marie Claire Tran-Leung - National Housing Law Project, NLIHC board of directors
- Taylar Nuevelle - Who Speaks for Me?
- Jesse Rabinowitz - National Homelessness Law Center
- Ronald Day - The Fortune Society
- **Moderator:** Kim Johnson - NLIHC

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**COFFEE BREAK** | [GRAND BALLROOM FOYER AND EXECUTIVE](#)

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

## PLENARY | [GRAND BALLROOM](#)

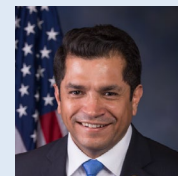
3:45 pm - 4:10 pm

### Onward

Diane Yentel - President and CEO, NLIHC

### Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA)

As a co-sponsor of the "Stable Families Act" and House champion of the "Eviction Crisis Act," Rep. Gomez will discuss his efforts to establish a Congressional Renters Caucus, as well as his support for transformative legislation to create permanent tools for preventing evictions and a new renter's tax credit.



4:10 pm - 4:55 pm

### Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Bambi Haynes-Brown - Georgia ACT President and CEO, NLIHC board of directors

### Keynote Speaker Dr. Jelani Cobb

Renowned author and journalist - will discuss the path forward to achieving housing justice.



4:55 pm - 5:00 pm

### Call to Action

Dora Leong Gallo - NLIHC board of directors (chair)



## THURSDAY, MARCH 21

8:00 am – 9:00 am

### Preparing for Capitol Hill Day Visits

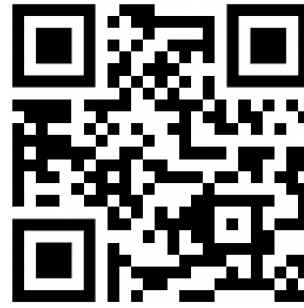
212 East Capitol Street NE

Washington, DC 20003

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

### Capitol Hill Day Visits

### Advocacy Resources:



## DON'T FORGET TO VISIT

### The Wellness Room | [HERMITAGE](#)



Need a place to relax, refresh, and reflect on the day? Visit the Wellness Room, where you'll find aromatherapy, ambiance, meditation, mindfulness and more. The wellness room offers space to focus on self-care.

### Advocacy Center | [ASHLAWN](#)



The advocacy center will be staffed by members of NLIHC's team who will provide advocates with tools, resources, and guidance on what to expect when meeting with members of Congress during Hill Day.

## #NLIHC50

### NLIHC celebrates its 50th year of advocacy in 2024!

Founded in 1974 by Cushing N. Dolbeare, NLIHC educates, organizes, and advocates to ensure decent, affordable housing for everyone.

NLIHC's 50th anniversary offers an opportunity to celebrate its history, achievements, and partners, while renewing the commitment to housing justice!

NLIHC is dedicated to achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice.

Share congratulatory messages, on NLIHC's 50th anniversary, via NLIHC's Engagefully app!

Share on social, and amplify **#NLIHC50**.

Be sure to also visit the **NLIHC Through The Decades** exhibit, at the entrance of Executive.





# THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS AND SPECIAL MEMBERS

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National Equity Fund

NeighborWorks America

Preservation of Affordable Housing

Technical Assistance Collaborative

Tennessee Housing Development  
Agency

The Corporation for Supportive Housing

UnidosUS

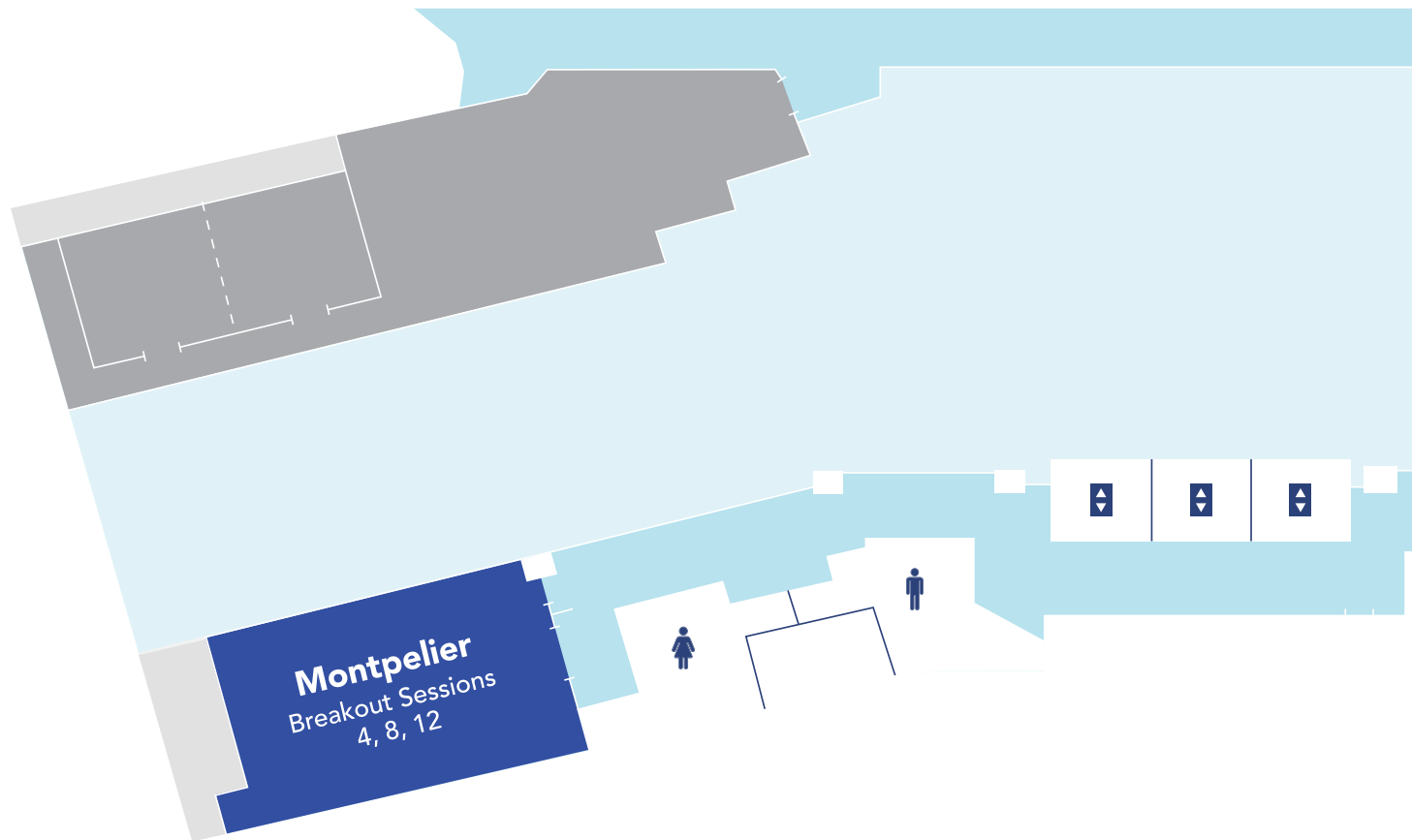
Zillow Group

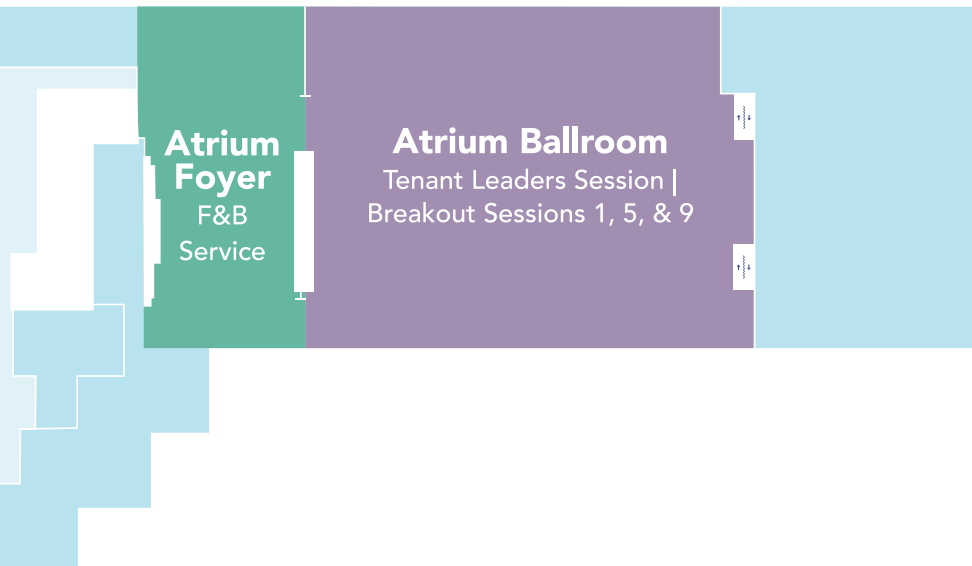
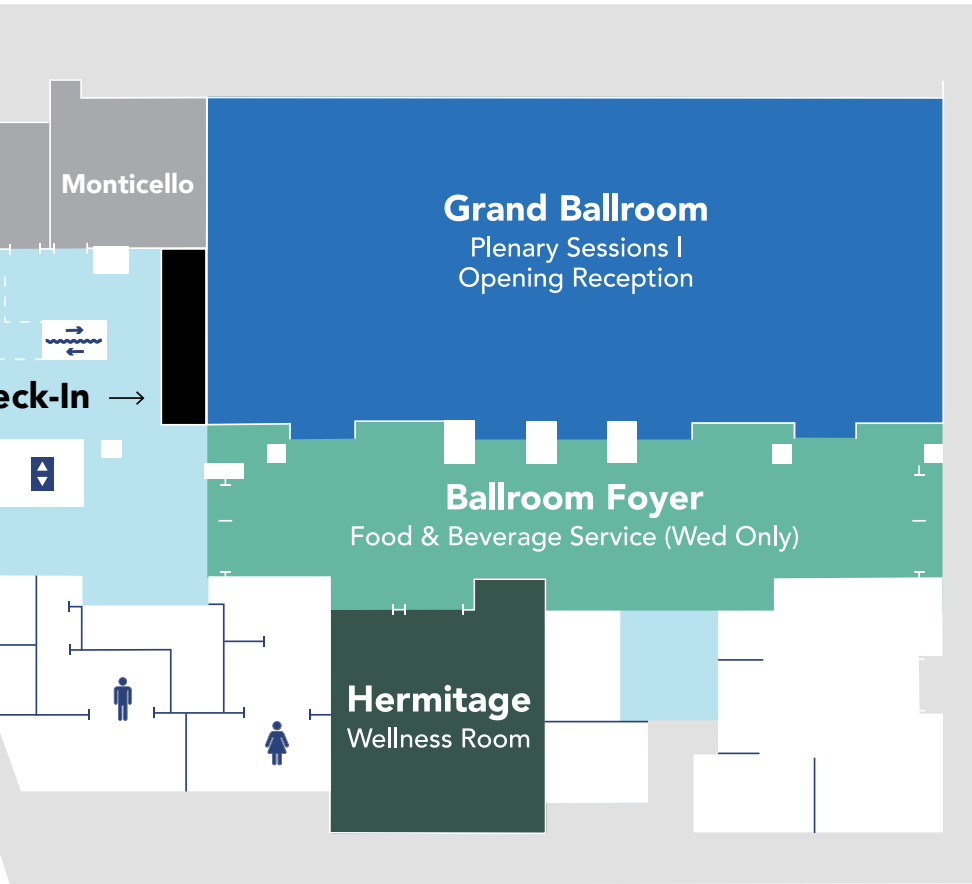















LOWER LOBBY LEVEL



MEZZANINE LEVEL





KEY	
	Check-In
	Grand Ballroom   Plenary Sessions & NLIHC50 Anniversary Reception
	Hermitage   Wellness Room
	Ashlawn   Advocacy Center
	Executive, Atrium Foyer & Grand Ballroom Foyer   Food & Beverage Service
	<b>Breakout Sessions, Tenant Leaders Session &amp; STP Convening</b>
	Atrium Ballroom   Tenant Leaders Session, Breakout Sessions 1, 4, 8, and Documentary Screening (Wed)
	Montpelier   Breakout Sessions 7, 11
	Sagamore Hill   Breakout Sessions 3, 6, 10
	Springwood   STP Convening & Breakout Sessions 2, 5, 9
	ELEVATORS
	RESTROOMS
	STAIRS

**DEAR NLIHC PARTNERS, FRIENDS, ALLIES, AND SUPPORTERS,**

NLIHC celebrates our 50-year anniversary in 2024! Since being founded by Cushing Dolbear in 1974, NLIHC has educated, organized, and advocated to ensure that people with the lowest incomes have access to decent, accessible, affordable housing. Throughout 2024, we are recognizing our 50th anniversary by looking back on our history and collective achievements, while also renewing our commitment to achieving housing justice.

Though much has changed in the past 50 years, our priorities remain much the same: bridging the gap between incomes and housing costs through rental assistance; expanding and preserving the supply of affordable rental homes; stabilizing low-income families and preventing evictions; and strengthening and enforcing renter protections. Join us this year in celebrating NLIHC's 50th anniversary by renewing your own commitment to our shared goal of achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice.

**Onward.**

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Diane Yewster". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a background of a city skyline at night.

NLIHC President and CEO

**March 19-21**

**Hilton Capitol Hill | Washington, D.C.**

**[www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)**