

# Pittsburgh People's Assembly for Fair and Equitable Housing

**Session 1: 11:15am–12:30pm**

## Schedule

- 9:30am–10:00am Arrival and Registration
- 10:00am Welcome and Overview
- 11:00am–11:15am Break
- 11:15am–12:30am Breakout Session I
- 12:30am–1:15pm Break (Lunch)
- 1:15pm–2:30pm Breakout Session 2
- 2:45pm–3:30pm Closing

## Tenant Organizing 101

Auditorium

**How can we take collective action with our neighbors against our landlords to win dignified living conditions?** By ourselves landlords are able to take advantage of us because of the power they accumulate via the rent we pay them. They can raise our rent and ignore maintenance requests seemingly with impunity. However, when we come together with our neighbors and make collective demands, that power dynamic is inverted because landlords rely on our rent payments for their passive income. Come learn what tenant unions are, why you should be in one, and how to get started. Tenant unions fight for tenants!

**Panelists:** Sebastian Fernandez Giraldo, Raleigh, NC & DSA National Housing Justice Commission; Destiny Brown & Tara Campbell, Dayton Tenant Union (Moderator: Jeremy Sabo, Pittsburgh DSA)

## Pushing Back Against Corporate Landlords

Room 202

Housing is a human right, but existing policies have made it a source of profit for the few. How are local and global policies driving the skyrocketing cost of housing and what can we do about it? As we face growing threats from predatory corporate landlords, how can we shift the policy paradigm and *make housing a human right for all*?

**Panelists:** Pittsburgh City Council Member Deb Gross, Dr. Sabina Deitrick, Pitt Graduate School of Public & International Affairs & Co-director, Urban and Regional Analysis Program at the University Center for Social and Urban Research; Bob Damewood, Regional Housing Legal Services (Moderators: Daniel McClymonds, PhD candidate-Pitt Sociology & Jackie Smith, Human Rights City Alliance & Pitt Sociology; Student support leader: Daniel Page\*)

## Advancing Right to Remain and Right to Return for Black Pittsburghers

Room 203

How can we work to remedy the long history of *serial forced displacement* of Pittsburgh's Black Residents? What steps can we take to advance community development *without displacement*? How can we work together to start bringing Black Pittsburghers home? And how can fair housing be a form of reparations?

**Panelists:** Carl Redwood, Hill District Consensus Group, Randall Taylor, Penn Plaza Support & Action Coalition, Carol Hardeman, Hill District Consensus Group (Moderator: Dr. Rashad Williams, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public & International Affairs)

## Alternatives to Market-Driven Housing: Community Land Trusts & Land Banks

Room 204

How can we make housing permanently affordable for all residents? What are community land trusts and how do they work? Learn about CLTs in Pittsburgh and how we can work to strengthen and promote this model for community stability and housing affordability.

**Panelists:** Dr. Omer Ali, Department of Economics, University of Pittsburgh; Crystal Jennings-Rivera; City of Bridges Community Land Trusts; Sally Stadelman, Pittsburgh Land Bank (Moderator: Jeimy Ibarra, PA United & Pittsburgh Housing Justice Table)

## Session 2: 1:15pm–2:30pm

### Student Housing Struggles

Auditorium

What's shaping student housing markets and how can students fight back? How can students organize across campuses to bringing a sustained student voice into Housing Justice Table work? What solutions can we promote as alternatives to expensive and crowded, unsafe student housing? (Facilitators/ Connor Chapman-Pitt Graduate Student Union, Katie Emmert; Student support leaders: Emilia Ferretti\*, John Butler\*)

### The Pittsburgh Housing Justice Table: A Coalition to Win Change



Room 202

This breakout will be run by leaders of the Pittsburgh Housing Justice Table, a coalition of organizations and advocates that has won major policy changes to advance housing justice. We'll talk about some of our current campaigns: securing a Right to Counsel to protect tenants from evictions, advancing a Tenant Bill of Rights, building capacity for social housing, and more. We'll also share how people can get involved in these campaigns and our coalition. If you want to learn how to roll up your sleeves with us to win real policy changes this year, this is the breakout for you! (Facilitators: Dave Breingan & Nora Gonzalez)

### Housing and Community Health

Room 203

Healthy Communities rely on affordable, quality housing but they also require other supports to ensure individual and community well-being. Panelists outline connections between housing and related needs such as transit, health care, and environmental justice and discuss ways to connect struggles for affordable housing with work to advance other individual and community needs.

**Panelists:** Dr. Jim Dunn, Professor & Director, McMaster Institute for Healthier Environments & Director, Canadian Housing Evidence Collaborative; Cheryl Stephens Pittsburghers for Public Transit; Dr. Jason Beery, Equitable & Just Greater Pittsburgh (Moderators: Thea Young & Rachel Nunes, Thomas Merton Center; Student support leader: Divasha Gupta\*)

### Let's Build Cooperative Housing in Allegheny County!

Room 204

How can we create **permanently affordable** housing solutions for Pittsburgh? What can we learn from successful housing cooperatives around the country and world? What steps are underway to expand cooperative housing that will make housing affordable and accessible to more residents, and how can we work to accelerate these developments? We will also share ideas for student housing co-ops. (Facilitators: Randall Taylor and Jackie Smith; Student support leader: Vivian Mamas\*)

*\*Student support leaders are Pitt students enrolled in Pitt's Community Initiative's Urban Sociology course this term. They are mentored by co-learner **resident scholars** who have been working to help share knowledge and skills and to support our People's Assembly for Fair and Equitable Housing. Special thanks to resident scholars **Ms. Leeretta Payne** and **Ms. Betty Picket** for their outstanding commitment to this project.*

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