

NOVEMBER 9TH - 12TH, 2016



HOUSING SUMMIT



HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOUSING IN THE 21ST CENTURY



AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

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) ~

City of Pittsburgh Human Rights Proclamation

... **WHEREAS**, One ... initiative that resulted from the United Nations' [Year of Human Rights Learning] is the "Human Rights City" project that aims to develop "Human Rights Cities" throughout the world in an attempt to build infrastructure for racial justice, conflict prevention, human security, sustainable development, and create a place for active civic engagement at the local, national, and global level; and,

WHEREAS, a Human Rights City is one whose residents and local authorities, through on-going discussions and creative exchanges of ideas, come to understand that human rights, when widely known as a way of life, assist in identifying the issues and informs the actions in the community, for meaningful, positive economic and social change; and,

WHEREAS, as a Human Rights City, Pittsburgh will be joining other human rights cities around the world in working to provide leadership and advocacy to secure, protect, and promote human rights for all people; and,

WHEREAS, being a Human Rights City makes it a model for communities in the U.S. and around the world to witness practical ways the human rights framework can make every citizen a partner of sustainable change; [...]

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby affirm its commitment to human rights by declaring Pittsburgh a "Human Rights City." [...]

~Passed in Council on Tuesday, April 6, 2011.

Dedication

*To all those who have been exiled from this place in the name of “progress,”
—from the Haudenosaunee peoples to East Liberty’s Penn Plaza residents—
We will not let your stories be forgotten.*

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

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





*The Swoon mural piece - taken in Braddock Feb of 2011,
we try to build community, and in reality, communities build us.*

~Edward Murray

Pittsburgh Housing Summit
Human Rights and Housing in the 21st Century
November 9-12, 2016

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 breaks this silence by bringing attention to the people and stories that have been made invisible.

What has happened to the thousands of low-income Pittsburgh residents displaced as public and affordable housing is demolished to make room for new condos, sports facilities, and business incubators? What conditions have led so many people from countries around the world to uproot their lives and move to a foreign place? What has happened to the Haudenosaunee peoples, the original inhabitants and caretakers of our region's land and water?

Our Summit seeks to draw our attention to such questions through the voices of our invited speakers and workshop participants, films, and cultural contributions of spoken word, poetry, and visual artists. We capture some of this content in our program and hope that this document will help inspire our growing housing justice movement in Pittsburgh. As housing insecurity impacts a growing number of people in Pittsburgh and other cities around the world, this Summit seeks to uncover the *global* factors that are driving displacement. We hope these conversations will help advance new visions of how we can come together to build vibrant and healthy communities where all residents can enjoy the full range of human rights.

At its root, the question of how our city and region develop is about our relationships to each other and to the land. This same struggle is apparent in the very origins of this country, and is reflected in the sentiments expressed by Chief Seattle in the 1800s: *"The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. But how can you buy or sell the sky? The land? The idea is strange to us... Every part of the earth is sacred to my people."*

On behalf of the Housing Summit Steering Committee, I thank all who have participated in this project, and I hope our Summit attracts new people to this work. We look forward to continue building a movement for housing justice by "making a path as we walk," together.

~Jackie Smith, *Housing Summit Coordinator,*
Professor of Sociology, & Global Studies Faculty Fellow,
University of Pittsburgh & Organizer, Pittsburgh Homes for All Coalition
& Human Rights City Alliance

“Community: ‘Sharing One Skin’”

by Jeanette Armstrong, (Okanagan)

...The Okanagan perception of the self and that of the dominant culture has to do with the ‘us’ that is place: the capacity to know we are everything that surrounds us: to experience our humanness in relation to all else and in consequence to know how we affect the world around us.

The Okanagan word for “our place on the land” and “our language” is the same. We think of our language as the language of the land. This means that the land has taught us our language. The way we survived is to speak the language that the land offered us as its teachings. To know all the plants, animals, seasons, and geography is to construct language for them.

We also refer to the land and our bodies with the same root syllable. This means that the flesh that is our body is pieces of land come to us through the things that the land is. The soil, the water, the air, and all the other life forms contributed parts to be our flesh. We are our land/place. Not to know and to celebrate this is to be without language and without land. It is to be dis-placed.

The Okanagan teach that anything displaced from all that it requires to survive will eventually perish. Unless place can be relearned, all other life forms will face displacement and then ruin.

As Okanagan, our most essential responsibility is to bond our whole individual and communal selves to the land. Many of our ceremonies have been constructed for this. We join with the larger self and with the land, and rejoice in all that we are. We are this one part of the Earth. Without this self and this bond, we are not human.

Excerpt from *Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Globalization* Editors: Jerry Mander and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Sierra Club Books, 2006).

Schedule

Wednesday November 9

- 4:00 PM “¡Arriba los que luchan! The Triple Nexus of Emerging Housing Struggles in Santiago, Chile”
Ernesto López-Morales, University of Chile. 4217 Posvar Hall, University of Pittsburgh
- 6:00 PM Book launch and signing, Mindy Thompson Fullilove, *Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America and What We Can Do About It, Second Edition*. Kaufmann Center, Elsie H. Hillman Auditorium, 1825 Centre Avenue

Thursday November 10

- 12:00-2:00 PM Book panel and discussion with Dr. Mindy Fullilove, *Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America and What We Can Do About It*. Hosted by Pitt's School of Social Work. 2017 Cathedral of Learning
- 6:30-9:00PM "*Where is Home? How Housing Instability Affects Us All*"
Opening plenary-120 David Lawrence Hall, University of Pittsburgh
Keynote speaker: Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD, Professor of Urban Policy and Health, The New School. Speaker Introduction by **George Moses**, Former Board Chairman, National Low-Income Housing Coalition
Spoken Word Artist: Joy KMT
Reception to follow program

Friday November 11

- 10:30 AM Press Conference and Rally with Homes for All Pittsburgh and Pitt United Students Against Sweatshops. Posvar Hall, Bigelow Blvd. Entrance
- 11:00 AM-3:00 PM Neighborhood Tour—visiting the Hill District, North Side, Beechview, and East Liberty neighborhoods to illustrate housing conditions and community organizing in Pittsburgh
- 3:00-4:00 PM Neighborhood tour debriefing/discussion, (all are welcome) 105 David Lawrence Hall
- 7:00 PM "*Big Money and Local Lives: Globalization and the Affordable Housing Crisis*" Plenary Panel-120 David Lawrence Hall, University of Pittsburgh
Keynote Speakers: Desiree Fields, urban geographer, University of Sheffield (UK) and **Ernesto López-Morales**, Associate Prof. of Urban Planning at the University of Chile, Santiago
Spoken Word Artist: Dave Harris
Reception to follow program

Saturday November 12

Location: Frick Fine Arts Building

8:00AM- Breakfast/ networking

9:00-10:45 AM Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

Opening Call to Community: Imam Hamsa

Plenary Panel "*Taking Back the Land: Global Perspectives on Land Reform and the Human Right to Housing*" **Keynote speakers: Max Rameu**, organizer and author of *Take Back the Land*, and **Rob Robinson**, International Alliance of Inhabitants, Nat'l Economic and Social Rights Initiative

11:00 AM-12:15 PM Workshops Session #1

12:15-1:30 PM Lunch—Neighborhood/Thematic networking time

1:45-3:00 PM Workshops Session #2

3:15-4:30 PM Closing Strategy Session "*Building Movements for Housing Rights: Global-Local Lessons and Links*" 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.

Root shock Summit keynote speaker Dr. Mindy Fullilove develops the idea of “root shock” in her book, which is based on research in Pittsburgh’s Hill District. Root Shock refers to the individual and community trauma associated with dislocation, for those who are displaced as well as those who stay. Displacement disrupts the lives of people and communities in ways that have long-lasting, inter-generational impacts. Individuals suffer physically, socially, emotionally, and economically. The community loses the social connections essential to individual and collective health and well-being.

Serial forced displacement This concept refers to the repetitive, coercive upheaval of groups. Communities displaced via 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. Immigrants displaced from home countries often face housing insecurity and constant threat of deportation. Sociologist Saskia Sassen calls this process a “savagely sorting of winners and losers,” and her research shows how contemporary global financial and development policies are “expelling” growing numbers of people from communities around the world.

Renter nation This term refers to the trend of declining homeownership that is making renters a growing majority in the U.S. 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 Homes for All Campaign is working 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 (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 Housing justice is based on the following key principles: First, housing is a human right. Second, safe, decent, affordable housing is essential for building strong communities. Third, all residents must have a voice in shaping housing policy, and housing policy should address the needs and interests of *all* residents. Fourth, a policy priority is to preserve and expand affordable housing for low-income communities and communities of color. To fulfill their mission, housing justice advocacy groups have been fighting for housing preservation, rent control, and community and renter empowerment.

Workshop block #1 11:00AM-12:15PM

Tales of Displacement and Local “Root Shock”

Residents most impacted by housing insecurity will share their experiences and describe how the city’s development policies have transformed Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods and communities. Organizers working with displaced and housing insecure residents will help participants gain a better understanding of conditions in our city, including neighborhoods altered by encroaching university campuses.

Speakers: **Jonathan Reyes**, Braddock Carnegie Library Art Lending Collection; **Lisa J. Gonzalez**, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing & Homes for All Pittsburgh; **Carol Hardeman**, Hill District Consensus Group

Facilitators: **Tony Fabio**, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh & **Patricia Parker**, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing

Location: Frick Fine Arts Room 202

Resident Rights and Remedies

Learn about the legal resources and community agencies that can help residents get assistance when facing 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**, MPA, Executive Director Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations; **Lyle Wood**, Acting Regional Director, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission; **Kevin Quisenberry**, Community Justice Project

Facilitators: **Mary Ohmer**, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh; **Sabina Dietrick**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Location: Frick Fine Arts Room 203

Taking back the land—Part 1: (Dis)investment and Displacement

This workshop uncovers the processes of investment and disinvestment that contribute to the global process of *serial forced displacement*. In particular, the role of global finance and local/city policies and financial institutions in determining how communities’ land is used is explored, as are some of the strategies communities have used to defend their right to stay.

Speakers: **Desiree Fields***; **Max Rameau***; **Ernesto Lopez Morales***; **Malcolm Torrejón Chu**, National Right to the City/ Homes for All Coalition

Facilitator: **Laura Wiens**, The Union Edge, Labor’s Talk Radio

Location: Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

Gender and Housing: Opportunities with new City Women’s Rights Ordinance?

How does the affordable housing issue impact women in particular? How does gender identity impact peoples’ ability to find secure and decent housing? What opportunities does the new City ordinance on women’s rights provide for those working for housing justice?

Speakers: **Ronell Guy**, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing; **Marcia Bandes**, Cities for CEDAW Coalition; **Ciora Thomas**, Community Human Services

Facilitator: **Michael Goodhart**, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh & Human Rights City Alliance

Location: Frick Fine Arts Room 204

Workshop block #1 11:00AM-12:15PM (Continued)

Films: *Building Alternatives*

- Know Your Rights: The Human Right to Housing (5 mins.)
- Streets of Dreams (16 mins.)
- Movement for Justice in El Barrio (17 mins.)

Discussion will follow film screening

Facilitator: Roger Rouse, University of Pittsburgh Global Studies Center, TBA-Northside Coalition for Fair Housing

Location: Posvar Hall, Room 1700 (*Posvar Hall is located across from the Schenley Plaza tent*)

Workshop block #2 1:45-3:00

Repetitive “Root Shock”: Immigrants’ experiences in Pittsburgh

This workshop considers connections between the forces of economic globalization that displace people from communities outside the United States and the forces that have displaced/disrupted neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. How does continued housing insecurity impact immigrant residents of our city? What happens to people when they are displaced from multiple homes and communities? How can communities fight the forces that divide us?

Participants: Speaker TBA: Acculturation for Justice, Access and Peace Outreach(AJAPO)

Leslie Aizenman, MPPM, Director, Refugee & Immigrant Services-Jewish Family & Children's Services; TBA Latino Family Center

Facilitator: Brenda Sólkez, Community Justice Project

Location: Frick Fine Arts Room 202

Renter Nation: Tenants’/Renters’ Unions as tools for building collective power

This workshop describes projects to organize renters in order to enhance collective voice in relation to landlords and to help shape public policies in ways that protect people’s *right to stay* in the communities where they have grown up or where they have chosen to live while enjoying protections from dislocation and unfair treatment by landlords.

Participants: Ronell Guy, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing; Carl Redwood, Hill District Consensus Group; George Moses, Former Board Chairman, National Low-Income Housing Coalition; Malcolm Torrejón Chu, National Right to the City/Homes for All Coalition

Facilitators: Waverly Duck, Sociology Department, University of Pittsburgh & Anu Jain, Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies Program (Pitt) & Coalition for Racial Equity in the Arts

Location: Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

Workshop block #2 1:45-3:00 (Continued)

Taking back the land—Part 2 Building Community Resistance and Resilience

How have people struggled to resist global processes of *serial forced displacement* and to build sustained communities? This workshop features accounts of popular struggles to take back control of the places where individuals and communities live and thrive.

Participants: **Bonnie Young Laing, MSW, Ph.D.** California University of Pennsylvania, Department of Social Work & Hill District Consensus Group; **Max Rameau**;* **Rob Robinson**;* **Hillary Caldwell**, NYC Community Land Initiative

Facilitators: **Mary Ohmer**, School of Social Work & Center for Race and Social Problems, University of Pittsburgh

Location: Frick Fine Arts Room 203

Homes are not Enough: Elements of Strong Communities

Building a city where human rights are a priority requires a radical re-thinking of many aspects of public policy. This workshop considers what it would take to achieve communities where residents enjoy all of the basic human rights they need to live life to their full potential. People need not just good, secure homes, but they need access to good jobs, transportation, quality education, food, and a healthy environment. How is the work of community activists in Pittsburgh and elsewhere contributing to achievements in advancing such a vision of peoples' *right to the city*?

Participants: **Jason Beery/ Jamil Bey** Urbankind Institute; **Alyssa Lieberman**, United Students Against Sweatshops; **Molly Nichols**, Pittsburghers for Public Transit; **Dawn Plummer**, Pittsburgh Food Policy Council

Facilitators: **Helen Gerhardt**, Homes for All Coalition; **Antonia Domingo**, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement & USW

Location: Frick Fine Arts Room 204

Films: Fighting Foreclosure and Eviction

- *For Sale: The American Dream* (25 mins.)
- *A Dream Foreclosed* (11 mins.)
- *Fighting for Our Homes* (6 mins.)

Discussion will follow film screenings

Facilitators: **Roger Rouse**, University of Pittsburgh Global Studies Center & **Reggie Good**, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing

Location: Posvar Hall, Room 1700 (*Posvar Hall is located across from the Schenley Plaza tent*)

*See Speaker Biographies page in this booklet



The tree in the window - it was taken Dec of 2009 on the Duquesne Works, next to an old slag car, in close proximity to Dorothy 6. While photographing the area, I constantly thought about jobs, working class jobs, a good living without reliance on higher education, I imagined a worker or foreman, looking out this window, and wondered what they were thinking. ~Edward Murray

“The People Belong to the Land”

by Winona LaDuke (Anishinaabe)

The teachings of our people concerning our relationships to the land are deeply embedded in our language. For instance, in Ojibway, “*nishnabe akin*” means “the land to which the people belong.” This implies an entirely separate paradigm about property rights from that contained in discussions which are held in the U.S. courts. “*Nishnabe akin*” doesn’t mean “the allotment to which the people belong,” nor does it mean “the land that belongs to the people.” It means that we belong to the land. This concept is accompanied by many teachings, one of which is that our relationship to the land is just that—a relationship. Not a bargaining of rights versus responsibilities. In a relationship with the land, responsibilities are already implicit. ...

Excerpt from *Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Globalization* Editors: Jerry Mander and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Sierra Club Books, 2006).

Housing Summit Film Screenings

All films will be shown in Posvar Hall, Room 1700, located across from the Schenley Plaza tent

Workshop Session #1, 11:00am-12:15pm Building Alternatives

Know Your Rights: The Human Right To Housing (2012) -- This short video by the National Lawyers Guild emphasizes that access to affordable housing is a universal human right and suggests how international covenants recognizing this right could be used in U.S. courts and in political struggles for fair housing. (5 mins.)

Streets of Dreams (2013) -- Inspiring portraits of grassroots activists in communities of color who are using a community land trust (CLT) to preserve affordable housing and promote development. CLTs avoid displacing longtime residents while opening the door to affordable homeownership for low-income residents. (16 mins.)

Movement for Justice in El Barrio (2010) – This group, inspired by the Zapatistas and adherents of The Other Campaign, have had incredible success fighting gentrification in East Harlem by taking on U.S. and transnational property developers and the politicians who support them. Here's how they did it. (17 mins.)

Workshop Session #2, 1:30-2:45pm Fighting Foreclosure and Eviction

For Sale: The American Dream (2012) -- The housing bubble burst nearly six years ago. The banks have lifted a freeze on foreclosures. Government relief has been too limited. And public housing budgets have been slashed. However, activist groups like Take Back the Land have found innovative ways of fighting back. (25 mins.)

A Dream Foreclosed (2013) -- An interview with Laura Gottesdiener about her book of the same name in which she first outlines the racist history of U.S. housing policies and then gives examples of the ways black Americans have been challenging foreclosure and eviction in recent years. (11 mins.)

Fighting for Our Homes (2009) – This video shows how people in Los Angeles responded to the financial crisis and the government's emphasis on bailing out the big banks rather than the homeowners who had been victimized by the aggressive marketing of sub-prime mortgages. Focusing on Latinos in the San Fernando Valley, it argues that combating these problems is much better done collectively than on one's own. (6 mins.)

To Live in the U.S. You Need...
By *Mujeres Unidas*' Writing Workshop

Self-worth, strength, power, reasons, circumstances, necessities, assimilation,
resilience, bravery
Balls to blindly try and achieve, and imagination to mask the solitude
Hope, desire to better the conditions of our community
To breathe, dream, have a voice, worthiness, courage, work, love, papers
Desire for a better life
Dollars
Courage, desire to get ahead in life
Solidarity with other communities so we can unify and fight together
Strong lungs, a sea of tears, sweat and strength, and a heart that can break and
resuscitate in one deep breath
To be around family, have pictures of my loved ones,
and have no fear of the police when passing a checkpoint
Strength to leave your home
Desire to give your family a better life

To live in the US you need...
To leave children, to cross three borders
To hug your dreams, practice acceptance, and have an open mind
To know why and for what you are here
To believe in the worth and strength of principles

To live in the US you need...
To have a car so everything can be done faster and easier
A job to pay the rent
To pronounce your name in a Gringo way
To communicate your feelings and value the feelings of others
To not feel the pain of not belonging
To hold onto the stories of your ancestors
Mexican music
To speak Spanish at home
To integrate yourself and to understand the convictions of others
To feel safe, and be able to support your people,
for an American dream

Excerpted from the article "Mujeres Mágicas: "The Power of Storytelling and the Right to Write" by Karina Muñiz from **Power in Place**, Volume 21-1 *Race, Poverty & the Environment (RP&E)* 2016." **Karina Muñiz** is the political director at *Mujeres Unidas y Activas*. She has worked for over 15 years as an organizer and activist for racial and gender justice, household worker rights and immigrant rights, as a Xicana ally.

I Breathe
By Edward Murray

I breathe easy in Braddock
I walk amongst all the hustle and bustle on the borough's boulevard
A sharp dressed man, creases rigid and hard
Light brown cords cuffed up and a black leather jacket buttoned down,
To the ground
Double barrel I wear my apparel
Hair pinned trigger, I figure
A gun metal grey tie and a cigarette behind my ear
And I figure I'm bigger than life
I pocket a knife and a pistol and I whistle as I whittle down the boulevard

I walk big league placidly amid the noise, the choice
I walk remembering peace befriends a quiet voice
Each step my gators take the sidewalk ends and the very next step the sidewalk begins
I pass a homeless vegetarian woman with a dog and a will work for food sign
Who lays tax free on this sidewalk of beginnings and endings, and I
I hate to hate and hate to discriminate
And I hate to see ghosts who walk like they are alive and talk as though they have already
died inside, and I
I see through their invisibilities and insecurities and I see their divisibility
Sister, do not hesitate, fate will not be late

I blatantly sigh, as a working class robot walks by, and I
I hate to hate and hate to discriminate
And I hate to see robots tell their souls to stand at attention and I see them sell their goals
with every intention to make a grand & to take a stand and walk to the work bus stop hand in
cold metal hand
I see them obey their gravity of contentment and fear the chaos of freedom
Brother do not hesitate for fate will not be late

I tip toe like tic tac toe
Through zombies that lay like dead bodies, and I
I hate to hate and hate to discriminate
And I hate to see zombies sell their souls to submit to consumption, consuming drugs like
money, cars, purses, women, food; trying to fill the holes in their souls by spending rolls of
dollar bills that burn in their pockets
I see their addiction to consumption consuming them
Do not hesitate for fate will not be late

I breathe easy in Braddock
I walk amongst the ghosts, robots and zombies, the hustle and bustle on the borough boulevard, and I
I breathe easy in Braddock

Talking to the Diaspora

By Lee Maracle

[Excerpt I]

*Forced out
The spatial or geographic property of being scattered over
a range
a volume
an area
worldwide in distribution

*On Turtle Island anyone who is not Indigenous
is part of some Diaspora

I wonder about language with its raw frayed fringes
delicately trying to express spirit
as each word drips from lips to rest in blank spaces
between us
Mangled by emptiness, the words are deflowered
When addressed this Diaspora
sometimes responds, debating,
educating, arguing, buying time,
stealing fifteen minutes from our space
this quarter hour so vital to our desire to regroup
profanes our peace

[Excerpt II]

From the summit of mountain ranges
words fall through the Diaspora's moral sky holes
In their descent they scrape meaning from cliffs
words blend with the chaotic rhythm of crushed rock
bind them to the plastic saran-wrapped food
perverted oil fuel Styrofoam-insulated buildings

It's a crazy kind of song
the mountain cliffs contort, the captains send infantry
Stripped naked, reshaped surfaces children can't play on
each transformed object screams
buy me, I will transform you
Base advertisements claim power can be yours
just buy this bobble, 99 cents, be the daughter

of an Ozzied Harriet caricature erasing blemishes

Under the bared skin of scarred mountains
stone is syringed, battered and extricated
dragged out by and lathed into new spears
to become bullets aimed at children
the relatives of others of the Diaspora
The captains conjure killing machines
erasing meadows and eradicating gullies

The eye line of progress becomes civilized
cheap labour's coinage—exchange power

Progress offends future
kills the monarch butterfly
wings flapping ineffectual
starves bees, melts ice

[Excerpt III]

Progress has no melody

Incarcerated in bloodletting
Metropolitan nightmares
 drown justice
 Hands out,
 Dancers wave to sunrise
as the sun sets
It opens its own veins, fries ice
storms, trees pop and snap
decorating the world in destruction
 My ancestors halt breath
 mouth glottalized x's
 Machu Picchu to Iqualuit
voices circle the globe, earth moves
Progress thrives on children's blood
 No one copes

Progress is a corporate superstition

Corporate myth inspires global toxicity
 Its mythology is omniscient
Sockeye, cedar, even raven prefer death
to challenging its legendary omnipresence
The surreal nightmare hounding earth
driving sockeye to scurry to outside edges
of sanity, scrambling for one last gasp at reason
failing, the poisoned water drives her to suicide

[Excerpt IV]

Desperate people don't make clean decisions

Cobalt-hued polished steel shafts
 exterminate joy
intervene in the easy journey
 Breath rasps
 shreds
 swallows sanity
As though it were the monarch fighting to butterfly its way
 through a hurricane
while earth rushes herself to a new season
before the old one has been properly interred

Excerpts from *Talking to the Diaspora*, published by ARP Books (Arbeiter Ring Publishing), Winnipeg Copyright ©2015 Lee Maracle. Reprinted by permission.

Lee Maracle is a member of the Sto: Loh Nation and the author of many critically acclaimed books. Maracle is the Traditional Teacher for First Nation's House and an instructor with the Centre for Indigenous Theatre and Support for Aboriginal Graduate Education at the University of Toronto.

Speaker and Artist Biographies

Desiree Fields is an urban geographer at the University of Sheffield (UK). Her research theorizes the rise of financial markets, actors and imperatives as a contemporary process of global urban change. With a particular focus on housing, Fields is interested in how the link between real estate and finance is being reconstructed since the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, how residents experience this process, and its implications for housing policy and advocacy. She was trained as an environmental psychologist and urbanist at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD, is professor of urban policy and health, The New School. Dr. Fullilove's research has focused on the health problems caused by inequity. She is the author of *Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America and What We Can Do About It* and *Urban Alchemy: Restoring Joy in America's Sorted-Out Cities*, both of which are based on her research in Pittsburgh's Hill District. She is currently leading a study of Main Streets in New Jersey. Many of the state's more than 500 municipalities have a functioning Main Street. What are these streets like? What is their function in today's city?

Dave Harris is spoken word poet and playwright from West Philly. As a playwright, his plays have been featured at Philadelphia Young Playwrights ("Nerds 101" 2008), New Haven Arts and Humanities Co-Op High School ("Constitution Ave." 2015), Yale Playwrights Festival ("Exception to the Rule" 2015), the Annual Festival of New Work ("The Promised Land" 2014), the Calhoun Cabaret ("Exception to the Rule" 2015), UMASS Amherst ("White History" 2016) The 24 Hour Plays: Nationals ("The Birth of Toby" 2016) and the Yale Repertory Theater ("White History" 2016). As a poet, his work has been published in The Huffington Post, *Button Poetry*, *Upworthy*, *The Blueshift Journal*, *The Root*, *The New Journal*, and *The Misanthropy* amongst others. He loves all his mothers.

Joy KMT is self-taught&queer&black&femme&hood&poet&mother&lover&. She works from the possibility of the personal to be collectively transformational. Her work often blends the magical with the reality of living at the crossroads of multiplicities. She is the producer of *Her Voice: The Stories, Tales and Myths of Women of Color*, which premiered in the Sunstar Music Festival, and *Testify: A Black Womanhood Series*. Her poetry has appeared in *Check The Rhyme: An Anthology of Female Emcees and Poets*, *Amistad: Howard's Literary Journal*, *Black Girl Dangerous*, *Blood Lotus*, an *Online Literary Journal*, *Backbone Poetry Journal*, *The Feminist Wire*, *Pluck! the Affrilachian Journal of Arts and Culture*, *Fledgling Rag*, *Near Kin: Words and Art inspired by Octavia Butler*, and is forthcoming in *Sugared Water*.

Ernesto López-Morales is Associate Professor at the University of Chile and PhD in Urban Planning from the Development Planning Unit, University College London. He is also associate researcher at the Centre for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES) where he focuses on land economic, gentrification, neoliberal urbanism and housing in Chile and Latin American cities. He is author of *Urbanismo proempresarial y destrucción creativa* (Redalyc, 2013), and co-author of: *Planetary Gentrification* (Polity Press, 2016). He co-edited *Global gentrifications: Uneven development and displacement* (Policy Press, 2015). His other published research assesses exclusionary displacement through rent gap analysis in the urban redevelopment of inner Santiago, Chile. In addition to his academic work, López-Morales works in cooperation with activist organizations including the *Movimiento de Pobladores Ukamau* in Chile and the 06600 *Plataforma Vecinal y Observatorio de la Colonia Juarez* in Mexico.

Edward Murray is the author of *Stranger's Pilgrimage*. He is an artist, photographer, and poet. Edward has been published in *Dionne's Story*, two anthologies of poetry and prose for the awareness of violence against women, as well as several other publications, including most recently, *The Brentwood Anthology*. He is a member, and past president, of the Langston Hughes Poetry Society of Pittsburgh. He is a member of the Pittsburgh Writer's studio, Writer's Playtime, and the Pittsburgh Poetry Exchange. Edward is also a member of the Photographic Section of The Academy of Science and Art of Pittsburgh, AgWorks, as well as a photographer contributor to *Transformazium's log*. His work can be seen and heard at elmurray.com and around The Braddock Carnegie Library. Email: edleemul@verizon.net.

Max Rameau is a Haitian born Pan-African theorist, campaign strategist, organizer and author. Max has organized around a broad range of human rights issues impacting low-income Black communities, including Immigrant rights (particularly Haitian immigrants), economic justice, LGBTQ rights, voting rights, particularly for ex-felons and police abuse, among others. As a result of the devastating impacts of gentrification taking root during the housing "boom," in the summer of 2006 Max helped found the organization which eventually became known as Take Back the Land, to address Land issues in the Black community. Max is part of the Center for Pan-African Development, a think tank producing theory, paradigms and campaign models. Max provides movement support to organizations and organizers.

Jonathan Reyes is ambition and testimony wrapped in a cloth of guiding love. He encourages others to stand up regardless of situation, and is proof that whatever curveball life throws at you, you can overcome it. In 2009 Jonathan was arrested and plead guilty to a misdemeanor involuntary manslaughter as a result of mishandling his legal firearm. He lost a friend that night and made a public promise to remain uncorrupted, do his time and come home to be a successful member of society so that his good friend, Blaine Salutric, not have passed in vain. He makes good on that promise today with a successful 3 years of marriage, 4 children and a bright present and future. He is an Arts and Culture Facilitator at the Braddock Carnegie Library, a fist pumping social justice warrior and has a history of poetry and song writing. Jonathan has faced homelessness, lost 1 of his 4 children, and struggled to find employment post incarceration. All of these trials (and many more blessings) are the history that guides his work through Arts and Culture and his connections with local activist and community organizations.

Rob Robinson is a cofounder and member of the Leadership Committee of the Take Back the Land Movement and a staff volunteer at the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI). After losing his job in 2001, he spent two years homeless on the streets of Miami and ten months in a New York City shelter. He eventually overcame homelessness and has been in the housing movement based in New York City since 2007. In 2009, Rob was chosen to be the New York City chairperson for the first official mission of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing to the United States. He works with the US Human Rights Network to facilitate activist delegations to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva Switzerland. Rob has worked with homeless populations in Budapest Hungary and Berlin Germany and is connected with housing and land movements in South Africa and Brazil. He works with the European Squatters Collective, International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI); Landless People's Movement (MST) and the Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB), and is the coordinator of the USA Canada Alliance of Inhabitants. He is a member of a social justice media collective which produces and airs a weekly program, "Global Movements/Urban Struggles" for WBAI Radio in New York City.



NSF Try and Try again taken in Sep of 2009. I do not know the name of this location though still know how to get there. I find this photo to be optimistic, try and try again, climb your mountain before it climbs you. ~Edward Murray

Stay Involved!

The following groups and websites can help you stay connected to the housing justice movement work in our region. It will take efforts from everyone to help transform our city!

Homes for All Pittsburgh is a coalition of people and groups building a movement for housing justice in Pittsburgh <http://homesforallpgh.org/>

Northside Coalition for Fair Housing is a lead sponsor of the Housing Summit and organizer of the city-wide tenants/renters union being launched at the Summit. If you are a renter, you now have a chance to join with others to ensure that landlords follow laws pertaining to maintenance and tenants' rights. Now is a great time to get involved! <http://www.northsidetenants.org/>

The **Pittsburgh Housing Summit** has brought together many different groups and individuals around the city, and will remain active as a site for resources and collaboration on the human right to housing. Resources including films, books, discussion guides are on the website to encourage residents and organizations to convene discussion groups and promote awareness about housing issues. <http://housingsummitpgh.org>

The **Human Rights City Alliance** is working to implement human rights in the city and region, and promotes community action and government policy and practices that enhance the realization of human rights for all residents. www.pghrights.org

Upcoming Opportunities for Action

- December 10th is International Human Rights Day—Actions will be planned for housing justice—see websites above for details.
- Black and White Reunion's 19th Annual Summit Against Racism, Saturday, January 21, 2017. This year's theme is "Polarization to Cooperation: HOW Do We Get There?" summitagainstracism@gmail.com
- Send feedback on the Housing Summit and suggestions for next steps: housingsummit@pitt.edu



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. City-County Building; 414 Grant Street; Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2464 Phone: 412-255-2600 Human.Relations@pittsburghpa.gov

¿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 Steering Committee

Antonia Domingo, United Steelworkers, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

Waverly Duck, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh

Tony Fabio, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

Michael Glass, Urban Studies Program, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs,
University of Pittsburgh

Ronell Guy, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing

Anupama (Anu) Jain, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Program (Pitt) &
Coalition for Racial Equity in the Arts

Mary Ohmer, Community Organization and Social Action Program, School of Social Work & Center
for Race and Social Problems, University of Pittsburgh

Khalid Raheem, Community organizer, Hill District Consensus Group

Carl Redwood, Hill District Consensus Group

Roger Rouse, Global Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh

Monica Ruiz, Casa San Jose

Brenda Sólkez, Community Justice Project

Summit coordinator:

Jackie Smith, Professor of Sociology & Global Studies Center Faculty Fellow,
University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance

Alina Bodea, Assistant Coordinator

Community Organizational Co-sponsors: Casa San Jose, Hill District Consensus Group, Hill House Association, Homes for All Coalition-Pittsburgh, Human Rights City Alliance, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), Northside Coalition for Fair Housing, United Steelworkers, University Human Rights Network

University of Pittsburgh Co-sponsors: Global Studies Center, Architectural Studies, Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), Consortium for Injury Research and Community Action (CIRCA), European Studies Center (ESC), Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), School of Social Work, Department of Sociology, Office of the Provost-Year of Diversity, United Students Against Sweatshops; University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR)

Special Thanks

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Emily Simons (logo & program cover) emilymsimons@gmail.com

Henry Smith (design/artwork) art-smith.com





PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

CASA SAN JOSE

HILL DISTRICT CONSENSUS GROUP

HILL HOUSE ASSOCIATION

HOMES FOR ALL COALITION PITTSBURGH

HUMAN RIGHTS CITY ALLIANCE

**LABOR COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN
ADVANCEMENT (LCLAA)**

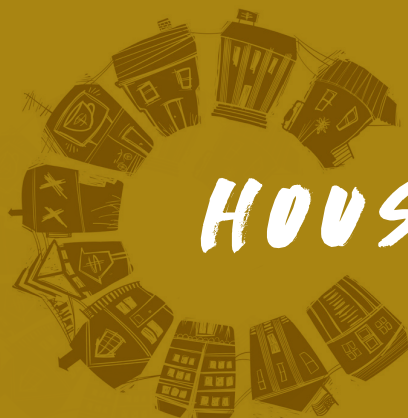
NORTHSIDE COALITION FOR FAIR HOUSING

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MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**FOR THE HOUSING SUMMIT HAS BEEN
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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH,**

**THE NORTHSIDE COALITION FOR FAIR HOUSING, AND THE UNI-
VERSITY OF PITTSBURGH'S
YEAR OF DIVERSITY INITIATIVE.**



HOUSING SUMMIT