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**2009 National Cohousing Conference  
& International Cohousing Summit: *Growing Community*  
Backgrounder**

*"Part of what makes cohousing attractive is that it is a sustainable housing model that works well for many Americans. Cohousing supports old-fashioned community in a new-fangled way. Using conventional financing and legal structures, cohousing typically uses production housing to help control costs. It's a new kind of neighborhood with private homes and a rich social environment where infants to seniors can grow and age well. With over 115 communities in America, cohousing is the next sustainable trend in housing."* Craig Ragland, Executive Director, Cohousing Association

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**New Conference, New Way:  
*Growing Community* Conference  
Leads Cohousing Movement**

Cohousing Association's concept for its Annual Conference, ***Growing Community***, to be held this June in Seattle, brings together international leaders for a summit, and then let's these new thoughts dominate the proceeding conference. This vision for creating a 'think tank' environment is matched with instant publication of primary discussion topics and keynote highlights, allowing innovative immediate communication of conference synergies. Instead of having the conference's influential results be felt **after** the event, ***Growing Community*** takes early outcomes and makes them available **during** the event.

Developed and hosted by the Cohousing Association of the US, ***Growing Community*** is an ambitious multi-phased conference on cohousing with pre-conference workshops, tours and events designed to inform and instruct—with an interactive twist of collecting new information and distributing these powerful concepts during the conference.

Attend and learn why housing experts consider cohousing the sustainable solution for families, seniors and empty nesters alike.

—*MORE*—

**Growing Community Events & Conference**

- **International Cohousing Summit (by invitation)—Sunday, June 21 thru Tuesday, June 23, 2009**
- **Pre-Conference Workshops and Tours—Wednesday, June 24 thru Friday, June 26, 2009**
- **National Cohousing Conference— Friday, June 26 thru Sunday, June 28, 2009**

*Inquire about free, pre-conference events and media passes!*

**2009 Presenters Include:**

**Margo Adair and Bill Aal**

Margo Adair and Bill Aal are co-directors of Tools for Change, a training, facilitation and mediation firm.

**Bryan Bowen**

Architects, PC practice includes passive solar single-family homes, eco-retrofits, multifamily housing, mixed-use projects, and commercial work.

**Diana Leafe Christian**

Author, *Creating a Life Together: Practical Tools to Grow Ecovillages and Intentional Communities* and *Finding Community: How to Join an Ecovillage or Intentional Community*.

**Raines Cohen**

Northern California Cohousing regional organizer and a Cohousing Coach.

**Mandy Creighton and Ryan Mlynarczyk**

Practical activists and educators, traveling 12,000 miles around the US by bicycle visiting and documenting people living in sustainable communities.

**Charles Durrett**

Architect and author, introduced the concept of cohousing to the U.S. from its success in Denmark.

**David Ergo**

Conducts training seminars in financial management, communication and conflict resolution.

**Chris ScottHanson**

Author, *Cohousing Handbook: Building a Place for Community*.

**Jan Gudmand Hoyer**

One of original founders of the Cohousing Movement in Denmark and internationally recognized architect of numerous cohousing communities. Author of the seminal paper, *The Missing Link between Utopia and the Dated One-Family House*, 1968.

**Liz Logan, MA**

Facilitator, trainer, speaker, and strategic planning consultant.

**Kathryn McCamant**

A licensed architect and co-author of the book *Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves*.

Coho/US Board Co-President and Chair of Conference Program Committee, Professional facilitator and group process consultant.

**About Cohousing:**

Cohousing is a type of collaborative housing in which residents actively participate in the design and operation of their own neighborhoods.

Cohousing residents are consciously committed to living as a community. The physical design encourages both social contact and individual space. Private homes contain all the features of conventional homes, but residents also have access to extensive common facilities such as significant open space indoor and outdoor play areas for kids, and a common house, which may include a large dining facility, commercial kitchen, guest rooms, laundry facilities, and workshop.

Cohousing originated in Denmark in the late 1960's, and was promoted in the U.S. by architects Kathryn McCamant and Charles Durrett in the early 1980s. The Danish concept of "living community" has spread quickly. Worldwide, there are now hundreds of cohousing communities, expanding from Denmark into the U.S, Canada, Australia, Sweden, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Belgium, Austria and elsewhere. Many of these countries will be represented at the International Leadership Summit, contributing their ideas to this Conference.

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*"We are seeing the same type of progression in cohousing communities here as we witnessed in Denmark...the first cohousing projects in Denmark were more progressive art communities, then gradually families became involved. More and more diverse cohousing communities are being built in America today, including cohousing communities for seniors,"* Charles Durrett, conference presenter and author of *Senior Cohousing: A Community Approach to Living Independently. The Handbook.*

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**Growing Community** Conference Partners and Sponsors:

University of Washington College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Kraus Fitch Architects, Inc.

Cohousing Coaches

Wonderland Hill Development Inc.

McCamant & Durett Architects

The Cohousing Company

Diana Leafe Christian

Cohousing Collaborative

Northwest Intentional Communities Assoc.

Heartwood Cohousing

Cohousing Partners

Cohousing Advocates

Bryan Bowen Architects

Cohousing Resources

Schemata Workshop

Eris Weaver

Chef Seattle

Liz Logan Consulting

**About Cohousing Association of the US:**

In 1988 Charles Durrett and Kathryn McCamant introduced cohousing to the United States. This concept took root in the 1997 National Cohousing Conference and through the subsequent formation of the national non-profit, The Cohousing Network. In 2003 the organization name was changed to **Cohousing Association of the United States (Coho/US)**. **Coho/US** seeks to promote and advance cohousing. The Association defines its value by its success in raising the awareness of cohousing, the objective information provided to potential cohousers, and the network of mutual support fostered among existing communities and professionals who develop, design and build cohousing neighborhoods.

**MORE INFORMATION** on *Growing Community* and Coho/US at [www.cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org)

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