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June 2019

Cohousing Now!

The Questions We Learned to Ask Ourselves in Portland

by Karen Gimnig

The conference in Portland gave the cohousing movement much to ponder, or to use the word Courtney Martin used in her keynote, much provocation for us to continue to grow, not only in our numbers but in our values and our impact.

Cohousing came to the US as an architects' answer to how to live a better life, a social life, a community life. Traditionally, cohousing has been described by its architecture (clustered homes, common house, pedestrian pathways), and by the ways we engage socially (common meals, consensus governance, self management). As we came together in Portland, we asked ourselves whether we could be more. **More diverse, more affordable, more accessible, more impactful.**

These themes appeared in conference planning as the NextGen movement was launched. They were spoken in Portland at the pre-conference Board of Directors retreat, contemplating future goals for the Cohousing Association and the question of "Why CoHousing?". They threaded themselves in and out of our weekend together in the public presentation, in sessions, in side conversations, in the Keynote, and perhaps most of all in the energy among and between us all.

Even as we celebrated all that cohousing already is, we found ourselves asking what cohousing will be, what it can be, what we can do through cohousing to create a world that reflects our values and enters our dreams.

We asked what we can do to welcome not only the seniors who are bringing more cohousing to the US than any other group, but also the next generation of cohousers, young singles, families and children. We noted that it is not merely a matter of telling them about cohousing, it is also necessary to pay attention to their needs: spaces that are affordable, spaces that can be rented, spaces that are near their jobs and social

groups (often urban).

We asked what we can do to welcome diversity of wealth. What strategies can we use in an ever-climbing real estate market to bring down the cost of living in cohousing? Can we access government programs or partner with charities? Can we change the way we build or what we build? Can we shift the financial structures of our communities to focus less on financial investment and more on social investment?

We asked how we can increase the diversity of race, ethnicity and culture in our communities. What are the ways in which we unconsciously cater to people like us even as we wish we lived with more differences? How can we shift from an intention of welcome to an impact of making all welcome? What learning and awareness do we lack?

We asked how we, a movement of housing, can engage with those who have no house at all? What can we offer? What learnings can we share? How can the characteristics of community we treasure be shared for those who have none?

This is an exciting and expansive time for cohousing. We will be exploring these questions and more in the months to come in Webchats, Cohousing-L, Facebook, our blog, regional events, and more. Please **join the conversations** and be part of the future of cohousing.

Events

Simple Series is coming in 2020 and this is your chance to tell us what you want!

In 2020, The Cohousing Association will host a series of simple events around the country. Current plans include tours, workshops, and online conferences. We welcome event ideas, sponsors, hosts and planners in every part of the US.

We also want to hear from you! What would you like to see included in this versatile program? Share your thoughts on our feedback form **here** .

July 9 Shelly Parks
Great Marketing Events

July 25 Laird Schaub
Delegate or Die

July 29 Karen Gimnig
Embracing Conflict

5pm PT, 6pm MT, 7pm CT, 8pm ET
<https://zoom.us/j/202941610>

Full Webchat Schedule

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Rounds

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Introverts

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Community Donations

Does your community make an annual donation to CohoUS? We appreciate your support! Now is a great time to ask your treasurer to write the check for the donation you planned in your last budget cycle.

Not making a community donation yet? Now is a great time to start the conversation.

Blog

We Welcome Your Stories

Some of our favorite blogs are stories by people just like you. Tell us about your favorite community experience, your biggest learning, the beautiful thing your neighbor did. We'd love to share it. Submit to: karencohous@gmail.com

Co-living: A Growing Trend in Affordable Housing

By Trudy Hussman

As a student or young adult, did you ever live in a dorm or shared house to save on costs? Now called co-living, this form of housing is becoming more popular again. And it's not just because it's an affordable option, but also because it offers community — a feeling of belonging to a family-like group instead of living in isolation.

How Communities Can Better Address Racism and Racial Equality

By Joe Cole

While cohousing communities are overwhelmingly white, I see more and more people in the communities movement recognizing the need to address racism.

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In the News

New collaborative housing guide for old, young... and anyone really

The Fifth Estate

How community-led initiatives can help save the housing shortage

Public Sector Executive

Classified Ads

Forming Communities and Communities Seeking Members

Fair Oaks EcoHousing
Fair Oaks, CA

Evans Oaks Cottages
Silverton, OR

Washington Commons
West Sacramento, CA

Prairie Hill-Iowa City Cohousing
Iowa City, IA

Adams Creek Cohousing
Hood River, OR

Oakleigh Meadow Cohousing
Eugene, OR

Haystack Heights
Spokane, WA

Homes for Sale

4 Homes available
Emerson Commons by
Charlottesville, VA

2 story plus loft
Ashland Cohousing, OR

2 Bed/ 1 Bath Pleasant Hill Cohousing, CA

Building Now in Rocky Corner Cohousing
Bethany, CT

Unique View Home
Milagro Cohousing
Tuscon, AZ

Homes in Nubanusit Neighborhood & Farm
Peterborough, NH

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Daybreak Cohousing
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Cohousing Professionals

Fitch Architecture & Community Design

Directory - Find your community now!

[Click Here for the Cohousing Directory](#)

If your community has not created a new and accurate listing for the new website, please do that now. As part of that process you will need to create a new user account which will allow you to update your directory listing and access other website features.

Thanks for reading

[Cohousing Now!](#) provides news and events on Cohousing... Now! provided by The Cohousing Association of the United States. Please forward to your friends, communities, and other lists to spread the word about cohousing!

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