

Madison Cohousing Community Information Sheet



LINDEN COHOUSING

<https://lindencohousing.org/>

Contact: LindenCohousingRRF@gmail.com

Size of site: less than 2 acres

Move-in year: 2019



Description

Linden Cohousing is an intergenerational intentional community consisting of 45 one-to-three bedroom units in an urban neighborhood on the vibrant east side of Madison, Wisconsin. We welcome people of all racial, and economic backgrounds, all cognitive and physical disabilities, and any sexual orientation. We are dedicated to creating a diverse, caring community through sharing material resources, common meals, celebrating our life events, and working and playing together. We care for the earth by promoting sustainable living practices. We hope to nurture connection and collaboration with our neighborhood and broader community.

Physical Space

One multi-family building with 45 one, two, and three bedroom units; attached commercial space dedicated as artist studios.

Unit Sizes: 670 – 1510 square feet

Accessibility: All units are visitable

Affordable Units: 11, **Market Rate Units:** 34

Shared Property: Common house, Guest rooms, Community garden, Playground, Workshop, Laundry, Kitchen, Patio, Underground parking

People

74 Residents: 67 adults, 7 children

Age Range: 1 month – 86 years

Community Meals: 2-3 meals/week: Prepared by community, potluck, bring your own

COMMUNITY VALUES

<p>Caring Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes respect, compassion, kindness, and empathy - An environment filled with humor, fun, joy, ritual and celebration - Being neighborly 	<p>Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusive, accessible and welcoming to a multiplicity of people of a variety of means - Reflective of the wider community
<p>Intentional Community Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuously building trust among community members - Affirming, inclusive, and effective group process - Shared Responsibility and voice - Connection & collaboration with the neighborhood and broader community 	<p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Environmental impact o Financial resources o Human resources of time, talent, and abilities o Balance between privacy and community involvement

Process

Decision-making: Modified consensus

Consensus/Consent where *every member* indicates their preference through a **five-finger process**:

- Five Fingers = I really agree with this.
- Four Fingers = It's great.
- Three Fingers = It's good.
- Two Fingers = I'm OK with it.
- One Finger = I can live with it.
- A Fist = Objection

The proposal is either adopted or, if an objection is present, is sent back for further consideration. It then either is tabled or comes back to the membership for a final consideration.

75% Majority, by household

If/when a proposal comes back for a "final consideration," the same process is used to seek consent/consensus; if there are unresolved objections, the proposal goes to a 75% vote (by household, not by member), and then either passes or fails.

Committees/Groups

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES represent the many different groups in the Linden Community and are key to our communication and governance process. Board, Administration Committee, Community Life Committee

POLICY-BASED GROUPS are formed from the policies approved by the Membership: 3Mc (Conflict Resolution), Building & Grounds, Common Space Coordination, Finance, Participation Hub, Resales/Rentals/Friends

STANDING GROUPS are formed by the Board or the Oversight Committees based on a perceived ongoing need in the community: Annual Meetings, Art Curation, Data & Info Management, Digital Communication, Education/Programming, Gardening, Meals, Newsletter, Safety, Strategic Planning, Sustainable Living

TASK GROUPS are formed on an as-needed basis by Committees and Groups and may be time-limited in nature.

Examples: Capital Budget, Farmers Market, Kid's Group, Resident Assistance Fund, The Linden Cares (TLC) Group

Unique Features

Linden is paired with a commercial space, dedicated as artist studios. The artists currently rent space from an owner, and they are now in the process of creating an artists' cooperative named **Ground Floor Studios Artists' Cooperative**, and are seeking to buy the space. Linden and the Artists seek to collaborate in as many ways as possible.

