HOUSING JUSTICE CONVERGENCE

IMAGINING A FUTURE BEYOND THE HOUSING CRISIS



March 7th - 9th 2025

Tiohtià:ke // Montreal, QC

housingjustice.now

FRIDAY SATURDAY March 7th March 8th 9 AM Housing Big Tech Justice & Academic VS. Anti-Housing Caucus Colonial Justice Movements 10 AM Community Tenant Financing Organizing Street 11 AM for Intervention Skill Caucus Housing Share Liberation 12 PM Welcome Lunch & Silk-screen Workshop Housing Front Lines Research in of the 1 PM Action Housing Decommodi-Tenant across NYC & Building Crisis fication Organizing MTL Accessible of the Fight to Futures Housing Win Market 2 PM Migrant Justice Labour Artist in a Caucus Caucus Coalition Building Housing Open Space 3 PM Crisis Movement Building Shaping Housing Policy 4 PM for Housing Justice for the Future 5 PM Women of Diverse Origins 5 à 7 Annual Protest: Take back the Night 6 PM 7 PM Sunday Abolish Rent Programming **Book Launch** and more inside 8 PM

HOUSING JUSTICE CONVERGENCE

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- Meet the Organizing Team

The HJC is being hosted by SEIZE, a movement incubator advancing economic democracy and solidarity. Focused on shifting power to workers and communities within ecological limits, SEIZE supports organizations driving systemic change.

It previously authored From Crisis to Consensus, a report capturing insights from 60 housing organizations across Canada on housing justice challenges and solutions.

Check out the full report

From Crisis to Consensus





The Housing Justice Convergence is a national gathering of tenant organizers, policy advocates, artists, street intervention workers, academics, and all working to resist displacement and build community-led housing solutions.

Each session at the Housing Justice Convergence is designed to foster connection, strategy, and collective action. While no session has a predetermined outcome, each creates space for learning, organizing, and movement-building to challenge the forces of speculation and exclusion.

Movement-building requires working across differences through solidarity and shared principles. The Housing Justice Convergence creates space for open dialogue, accountability, and collective learning to strengthen our movement and deepen our commitment to housing justice.

Collective Basis of Unity

The organizing team is united by the following guiding principles:

- Inclusivity & Accessibility
- Collaboration & Action Orientation
- Class Consciousness
- Political Independence & Movement Accountability
- Anti-Oppression & Pro-Solidarity
- Continuous Learning

The Housing Justice Convergence is about building power, forging solidarity, and advancing housing justice through collaboration, strategy, and action.

Let's use this space to strengthen our movements, share our knowledge, and fight for a future where housing is for people, not profit.

Logistics

There are many opportunities to engage outside of scheduled programming, including tabling from local vendors and community organizations, the helpful welcome desk, media broadcasting, and more!

Welcome Desk

Our helpful volunteers and organizers are here to help you! If you have questions about the programming, discord, or other general conference details, please ask the Welcome Desk!



Broadcasting & Media

Media representatives are attending HJC to document and amplify key discussions. The Media Center, located behind the elevators, is where journalists will be conducting interviews, airing live radio broadcasts, and more! Participants are encouraged to engage with media, share their insights, and extend the impact of the convergence beyond the time we have together.



Childcare

Child supervision is provided by convergence volunteers with experience in childcare. The childcare area is located in the same building as the conference center in the "Zen Den" on the 5th floor in room MB 5.285. Childcare will not be available on Sunday.

To sign up for childcare, please register at housingjustice.now/childcare



Logistics

Let's get you situated! The convergence is taking place at two main locations: Concordia University and Milton-Parc.

1450 Rue Guy, Molson Building (MB) 9th floor

Concordia University Conference Centre

All main programming on March 7th and 8th will take place at the conference centre. Panels, caucuses, and workshops will take place in this building as well as childcare, tabling, and lunch service on Saturday.

3714 Avenue du Parc

Co-op Bar Milton Parc (BMP)

March 9th will begin with a brunch at Co-op BMP in Milton Parc - an important Montreal neighbourhood and community land trust. The walking tour will depart from Co-op BMP to learn more about the radical history of housing and activism in downtown Montréal.! Nearest metro is Place-des-Arts (green line): the 80 North bus will take you directly to the venue, or it's a brief 10-15min walk.

1455 Boulevard De Maisonneuve O

Reggie's Co-op Bar

Reggie's Co-op Bar is located on Concordia University's downtown campus, a short 5 minute walk (outdoors or underground) from the conference centre. The bar is wheelchair accessible and includes gender neutral washrooms.

1400 Boulevard de Maisonneuve, LB-2

SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation

The launch of the book Abolish Rent is hosted at SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation, conveniently located at Concordia University's downtown campus, first floor of the Library Building (LB). This venue is wheelchair accessible and the building includes gender neutral washrooms.

Session Intentions

These sessions serve as starting points, participants are encouraged to bring their experiences, insights, and creativity to shape the conversations and build power together.

Panel Discussions

Panels help build shared analysis, deepen understanding of historical and contemporary housing struggles, and connect movement actors across sectors.

Workshops

Workshops strengthen movement capacity by equipping participants with tangible skills and strategies for housing justice organizing.

Caucuses

Caucuses ensure that frontline voices shape movement priorities, fostering intersectional approaches to housing justice.

Networking

Networking creates opportunities to bridge movements, build trust, and cultivate long-term collaboration for housing justice.

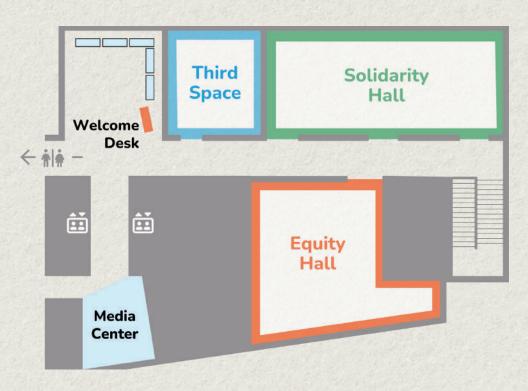
Walking Tours

Walking tours ground housing justice in place and lived reality, reinforcing the importance of community-led solutions and resistance.

Coalition Building Open Space

This session catalyzes new coalitions and campaigns, ensuring the energy of the convergence extends beyond the event itself.

Conference Center



Tabling









Justseeds Moccasinfootprints



People's Phone Project

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th 12:30PM - 2:00PM



Front Lines of the Housing Crisis

♥ Solidarity Hall

Join us for a compelling panel discussion that delves into the multifaceted consequences of the housing crisis. This session will highlight the lived experiences of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people navigating emergency and transitional housing services. Our panelists will address the systemic issues exacerbated by the housing crisis and provide practical tools and strategies for communities to respond effectively.

SANDRA WESLEY Stella, L'amie de Maimie

MAGGIE CHITTSPATTIO Resilience Montreal

LORRAINE LAM Shelter Housing Justice Network

OLIVIA DUMAS Prison Justice

WAYNE "DOC" JAMES Prisoner Re-Entry Support

FREEMAN Prison Justice



Housing Research in Action Across NYC & MTL

Equity Hall

In this workshop, Jayne, Rob, and Eric will present emerging work that they are collaborating on across housing justice organizing on Turtle Island and internationally, where they are especially exploring the role of people with lived experience of homelessness in mobilizing research for action and advocacy. They will highlight lessons and challenges they have noted in their own research and work, while questioning how academia and research can contribute to movements for social justice. Following a brief introduction, they will facilitate a workshop, drawing on the experiences and knowledge of attendees to build shared understandings of points of possibility for organizing across experience on the housing spectrum.

ERIC GOLDFISCHER CUNY-Queens College

FRED BURRILL POPIR

HANNAH BRAIS Old Brewery Mission

JAYNE MALENFANT McGill University

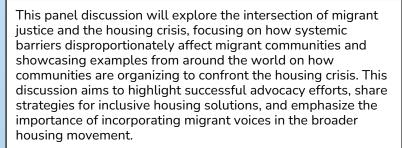
ROB ROBINSON Partners for Dignity and Rights

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th 2:00PM - 3:30PM

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Migrant Justice in a Housing Crisis

♀ Solidarity Hall

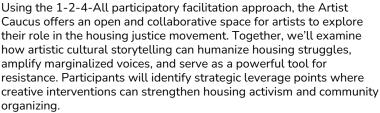




ABDULLA DAOUD The Refugee Center
KAREN COCQ Migrants Worker Alliance
MOSTAFA HENAWAY Immigrant Worker's Center
VARDA NISAR The South Asian Women's Community Centre

Artist Caucus: Culture & Resistance

♀ Equity Hall

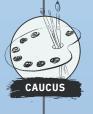


In addition to dialogue, this session invites all to actively create art for the housing bloc of the International Women's Day March! We'll be making simple and accessible protest puppets that draw connections between housing rights and women's rights. Whether you want to pick up a paintbrush, craft something bold, or simply engage in conversation, this is a space to connect, create, and build cultural resistance together.

LILY SCHWARZBAUM Artist

ALYSE TUNNELL Radical Care Coaching and Facilitation

NORMAN NAWROCKI Author, Activist, Artist





Labour Caucus

Third Space

The fight for housing justice and the fight for workers' rights are deeply interconnected. This caucus creates a space for housing justice activists, union members, and labour organizers to come together, share experiences, and explore opportunities for solidarity between

This session will provide an open forum for union members and organizers to discuss the role of organized labour in housing struggles, from workplace housing advocacy to union-led tenant organizing. Participants will identify shared challenges, strategic leverage points, and pathways for deeper collaboration to strengthen both the labour and housing justice movements.

Whether you are a union member, a housing organizer, or someone looking to bridge these struggles, this session offers a chance to connect, strategize, and build power together.

LISA FREEMAN Canadian Labour Congress

RICHARDO TRANJEN Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives



FRIDAY, MARCH 7th 3:30PM - 5:00PM



Movement Building for Housing Justice

O Solidarity Hall

The fight for housing justice is growing, but to win, we need a strong, coordinated movement that transcends cities, sectors, and struggles. This keynote panel will explore how we build power, sustain momentum, and organize effectively to challenge displacement, rent hikes, and the financialization of housing. Bringing together frontline tenant organizers and long-standing housing advocates, this conversation will highlight key organizing strategies, the role of direct action in tenant struggles, and how grassroots campaigns can shape policy and systemic change.

CATHERINE LUSSIER FRAPRU

BRUNO DOBRUSIN York South-Weston Tenant Union

RYAN MACRAE PEI Fight for Affordable Housing

NATHAN BIRD Victoria Tenants Union

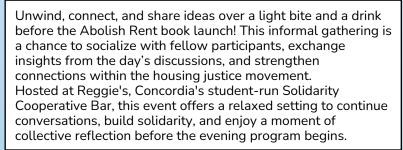
GAETAN HEROUX 230 Fightback

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th **5:00PM** – **6:30PM**



5 à 7 Mixer at Reggies Solidarity Co-op

Q Reggie's - 1455 Blvd. De Maisonneuve Ouest





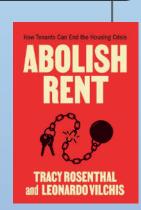
FRIDAY, MARCH 7th **6:30PM** – **8:30PM**



Abolish Rent Book Launch

 $oldsymbol{Q}$ SHIFT - 1400 Blvd. De Maisonneuve Ouest

As part of the Housing Justice Convergence, the launch of Abolish Rent invites participants to explore radical solutions to the housing crisis. This groundbreaking book delves into the structural injustices of the housing market, the history and impact of rent abolition movements, and bold visions for a future where housing is a universal right, not a commodity.



END OF DAY 1 - LETS STAY CONNECTED!

Join our HJC Discord to keep the conversation going, connect with fellow attendees, share photos from the convergence, and continue organizing for housing justice! If you need help navigating or logging in, our team at the welcome desk is happy to assist!

OR Code on back cover



SATURDAY, MARCH 8th 9:00AM - 10:30AM



Housing Justice & Anti-Colonial Movements

QEquity Hall

This panel examines the deep intersections between the fight for housing justice and the ongoing struggles against colonialism. Featuring Indigenous voices from Turtle Island to Palestine, the discussion will illuminate how displacement, land theft, and housing insecurity are not isolated crises but systemic tools of colonial capitalism. Panelists will explore the ways communities resist the commodification of housing and land, reclaim sovereignty, and build collective alternatives rooted in justice and self-determination. This session aims to foster cross-movement solidarity, recognizing that the struggle for a home is inseparable from the broader fight for liberation.

STEFAN CHRISTOFF Activist & HJC Organizer
TIRO MTHEMBU Good Trouble Network YQR
ROBBIE MADSEN Writer & Ethno-botanical Healer
AHMED ABU SHABAN Al-Azhar University - Gaza



Big Tech vs. Housing Justice

O Solidarity Hall

This panel will explore how emerging technologies, particularly AI and real estate apps developed within Montreal's "AI ecosystem," are shaping access to housing and contributing to gentrification. Highlighting real-world examples, the presentation will uncover the ways these tools impact housing struggles and discuss experimental, community-based approaches to auditing apps as a means of resistance. Led by AI for Housing Justice, a collective of researchers and activists dedicated to examining the intersection of technology and housing equity, this session will feature insights from Alessandra Renzi, one of the project's lead researchers and coordinators. Join us for an engaging discussion on how communities can push back against Big Tech's encroachment on housing justice.

ALESSANDRA RENZI Concordia University

TAMARA VUKOV Anti-eviction Mapping Collective

SOHNIA KARAMAT ALI Parc Extension Action Committee

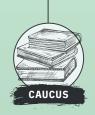
AMY DARWISH Comité d'Action de Parc-Extension

CYNTHIA BLACK Livmore High Park Tenants'
Association

Academic Caucus: Scholarship in Action for Housing Justice

Third Space

Using the Knowledge Café facilitation approach, the Academic Caucus provides an open and collaborative space for academics to examine their role in the housing justice movement. This session invites researchers, educators, and students to connect, share insights, and explore how academic scholarship can contribute to evidence-based advocacy and transformative housing solutions. Through informal discussions, collaborative brainstorming, and collective inquiry, participants will examine how research can support grassroots organizing, policy interventions, and movement-building.



ALEXANDRE PETITCLERC Université de Montréal JAYNE MALENFANT McGill University

SATURDAY, MARCH 8th 10:30AM - 12:00PM

Community Financing for Housing Liberation

Solidarity Hall



LENA LEBTAHI COURCOL New Market Funds RYAN COLLINS-SWARTZ Tapestry Community Capital

ZACK BRADLEY Kensington Market Community Land Trust

OLIVIA CHAMPAGNE SEIZE & HJC Organizer





Street Intervention Caucus

QEquity Hall

The Street Intervention Caucus creates a dynamic and inclusive space for outreach workers, harm reduction advocates, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness to connect, share strategies, and strengthen coalitions. This session will explore strategic leverage points for bridging the work of street outreach teams and housing advocates to advance the "Housing as a Human Right" framework. Participants will engage in open dialogue, collaborative problemsolving, and practical skill-sharing, exchanging tools and approaches to address the challenges faced by unhoused communities. Using the World Café participatory facilitation method and rooted in principles of care, dignity, and solidarity, this caucus is a space to build relationships, amplify frontline perspectives, and deepen the collective fight for housing justice.

LORRAINE LAM Shelter Housing Justice Network

JAY VANISLE Les Nocturnes

RYAN DONAIS Tiny Tiny Homes Founder

MOHAMMAD Tlachiuak Atelier ABDALREZA ZADEH



Tenant Organizing Skill Share: Strategies for Building Tenant Power

♥ Third Space

This interactive session, utilizing the Fishbowl Dialogue facilitation approach, brings together tenant union representatives to share their experiences, strategies, and lessons learned in the fight for housing justice. Participants will explore the fundamentals of base-building, direct organizing, and grassroots mobilization, discussing practical approaches to strengthening tenant unions and amplifying tenant-led movements. By examining successful mobilization strategies and identifying strategic leverage points, participants will gain insights into how tenant movements can grow beyond local campaigns and connect to broader housing justice initiatives.

ALYSE TUNNELL Radical Care Coaching & Facilitator

SHI TAO ZHANG Chinatown Roundtable Organizer

LIV REIJNS Community Organizer

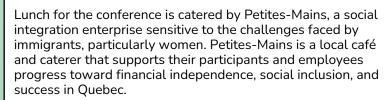
MARIE-LOURDES ACORN Board Member GARNIER

SATURDAY, MARCH 8th 12:00AM – 1:00PM

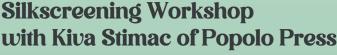
2:00AM - 1:00PM

Lunch!

♀ Solidarity Hall



There are a variety of lunch options to cater to various dietary needs: Vegetarian, Vegan/Dairy-Free, and Gluten-Free. Please specify which option you would like to the event volunteers. If unsure, please inquire about allergens.



Third Space

Join renowned artist and printmaker Kiva Stimac of Popolo Press for a live silkscreening session! Kiva will be setting up a solo print station, offering participants the chance to collaborate in printing an original design for housing justice. Bring your own blank or scrap paper, as well as t-shirts or fabric items you'd like to transform with this housing justice themed artwork. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in creative activism and take home a one-of-a-kind print in support of the movement!







SATURDAY, MARCH 8th

1:00PM - 2:30PM



Tenant Organizing: Fight to Win

Solidarity Hall

As the housing crisis deepens, tenant organizing has become one of the most powerful tools to resist displacement, challenge exploitative landlords, and demand systemic change. This panel brings together tenant organizers from across Turtle Island to share frontline strategies, victories, and lessons from the fight for housing justice. Panelists will discuss successful campaigns, direct action tactics, and base-building strategies that have strengthened tenant unions and won critical protections. From rent strikes and eviction defense to policy advocacy and cross-city solidarity, this conversation will explore what it takes to build lasting tenant power and shift the balance away from speculation and profit-driven housing models.

STEPHANE TAYLOR SLAM · MATU

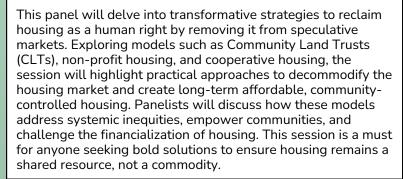
MELANIE BUDISUSILO Vancouver Tenants Union

STEFAN HODGES West Broadway Tenants Committee

TRACY ROSENTHAL LA Tenants Union LEONARDO VILCHIS LA Tenants Union

Decommodification of the Housing Market

Equity Hall



FAIZ ABHUANI

Brique par Brique

JESSICA CABANA

Verdun Landtrust

MAKA TA JANE O'BRIEN DAVIS

Chinatown Roundtable Organizer Canadian Network of Community

Land Trusts

NIKLAS AGARWAL

More Housing Cooperative Collective



Building Accessible Futures: Housing Design, Care, and Advocacy

OThird Space

This interactive workshop will examine the intersection of housing justice, accessibility, construction, and disability justice, bringing together frontline advocates, community organizers, and care practitioners. Using the Fishbowl Dialogue approach, participants will explore how universal design, sustainable construction, and accessible housing models can break down systemic barriers.

From rethinking urban design to building community-driven alternatives, this session will highlight practical strategies, policy shifts, and cultural transformations needed for truly accessible and just housing.



JODY NEGLEY Ex Aequo

RYAN DONAIS Tiny Tiny Homes Founder

ALYSE TUNNELL Radical Care Coaching & Facilitator

HUBERT GENDRON-BLAIS Réverbérations d'une crise

ALLIE PAULD Disability educator, scholar-activist

and content creator

SATURDAY, MARCH 8th 2:30PM - 3:30PM

Coalition Building Open Space

♀ Solidarity Hall

This interactive session invites all Housing Justice Convergence attendees to connect, collaborate, and lay the groundwork for collective action ahead of the Shaping Housing Policy for the Future panel. Using the Open Space Technology facilitation approach, this dynamic forum provides a space for participants to share experiences, identify common challenges, and strategize pathways for building strong coalitions in the fight for housing justice.

As the conference nears its conclusion, this session will serve as a catalyst for emerging collaborations, capturing the energy and ideas that have surfaced throughout the event. It is an opportunity to capitalize on unforeseen topics of interest, encourage the formation of affinity groups, and spark new projects. Whether you are looking to deepen existing alliances or forge new connections, this open space is designed to turn conversation into action and strengthen the collective power of the housing justice movement.



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SATURDAY, MARCH 8th 3:30PM - 5:00PM



Shaping Housing Policy for the Future

○ Solidarity Hall

This closing keynote panel will examine the role of policy in addressing the housing crisis and envisioning a future rooted in equity and accessibility. Panelists will explore innovative policy frameworks and strategies that prioritize affordable, community-controlled housing while confronting the systemic barriers perpetuating housing insecurity. Topics will include tenant protections, non-speculative housing models, and policy tools to combat the influence of speculative markets. Join us for a forward-thinking discussion on how grassroots advocacy, research, and collaboration can shape transformative housing policies for generations to come.

DRU OJA JAY SEIZE & HJC Organizer

CHIARA PADOVANI York South-Weston Tenant Union

JOHN CLARKE 230 Fightback

RICARDO TRANJAN Canadian Centre for Policy

Alternatives



SATURDAY, MARCH 8th 5:00PM - 7:00PM



Women of Diverse Origins Annual IWD Protest: Take back the Night

♀ Place Norman-Bethune - 1530 Blvd. de Maisonneuve 0

This powerful event highlights the intersections of gender, housing, and safety, demanding an end to the systemic inequalities and violence that disproportionately impact women and gender-diverse individuals—especially those experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. This protest is a call to action for reclaiming public spaces and advocating for housing as a human right. By joining this march, we honor the leadership of women in the struggle for housing justice and recognize that the fight for safe, affordable, and dignified housing is inseparable from broader struggles against gendered violence and oppression





RSVP REQUIRED, PWYC!

housingjustice.now/montrealalaise





Organizing Brunch

Q Co-op BMP - 3714 Avenue du Parc

Kick off your final morning at the Housing Justice Convergence with the Organizing Brunch at Bar Milton Parc Solidarity Cooperative (BMP). This informal yet energizing gathering provides a space for activists, organizers, and participants to connect over good food and meaningful conversation. Share ideas, build relationships, and discuss strategies for advancing housing justice while enjoying a delicious brunch in a vibrant, community-driven space.



SUNDAY, MARCH 9th 11:00AM - 2:00PM



Gentrification & Community Resistance in Montréal: A Walking Tour

O Depart from Co-op BMP

Closing the Housing Justice Convergence, this immersive walking tour explores the history and impact of the Milton Parc Community Land Trust (CLT), North America's largest urban land trust, while also examining the broader effects of gentrification on Montréal's neighborhoods. Departing from Co-op BMP, participants will uncover how grassroots organizing transformed Milton-Parc into a thriving hub of cooperative housing and community-controlled spaces, resisting speculative development. Blending storytelling, soundscapes, and critical reflection, the tour will also incorporate elements of Réverbérations d'une crise, a soundbased investigation into the housing crisis. Participants will visit key sites of gentrification, hear the voices of affected communities, and engage with the ongoing struggles for housing justice, deepening their understanding of how nonspeculative housing models and grassroots resistance shape the city.

ARTISTS FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

Sunday, March 9th 8PM - 11PM **P'tit Ours** 5589 Avenue du Parc

Artists for Housing Justice is an evening of film, music, and performance dedicated to the fight for housing as a human right. This benefit event brings together artists using their craft to challenge displacement, resist gentrification, and amplify the voices of those most impacted by the housing crisis.

Through film screenings and live performances, the event will highlight the role of cultural resistance in the housing justice movement. The program features the short documentary *Resilience* by *Dimitra Woolgar-Papandreou* and live performances by *Stefan Christoff*, *Norman Nawrocki*, *copcarbonfire*, *and guitarist Anas Hejam*. Suggested donation of \$10, with all proceeds supporting the Housing Justice Convergence.

PWYC

\$10-25 suggested



CONTRIBUTORS



CUPE | Canadian Union of Public Employees

THE YOUTH HARBOUR LE HAVRE JEUNESSE



SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE





CONCORDIA STUDENT UNION











COMMUNITY PARTNERS











































Réverbérations d'une crise:

une enquête sonore sur le logement à Montréal





GALERIE **LEONARD & BINA ELLEN** ART GALLERY







About the Organizing Committee



The Housing Justice Convergence organizing committee emerged from the Housing Working Group following the launch of the report, From Crisis to Consensus. Rooted in filling the diverse needs identified across the grassroots housing sector, this convergence is part of SEIZE's broader sectoral strategy: building collective capacity, power, and specialized resources across key sectors like housing, media, food systems, technology, & land-based industries. By uniting labour and social movements, we can seize opportunities, respond to collective challenges, & drive transformative economic change.

SEIZE is committed to the housing justice movement, but we believe in collective leadership. We'd love to see the Housing Justice Convergence grow and evolve in the years aheadand that starts with you!

Shape the Movement & Contribute to the Key Takeaways Board! Help collectivize our note-taking process! Your insights will be turned into an infographic for us all to reflect on in the years to come.

Join us in **Crafting a Collective Statement!**What demands should we be making together?
Add your voice during the Open Space and shape our collective agenda.

Tenant Organizing Fund - Should We Build It?
- Could a dedicated fund help fuel organizing efforts?

This is our movement, our future - let's build it together!









