



People & Places 2017

MAY 31 – JUNE 2 • ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA



Network for Developing Conscious Communities

All the right people. In the right place. At just the right time.

A message from the hosts as they announce the [People & Places 2017 Agenda](#)

Planning for People & Places 2017 has been building for about a year. A lot has changed. New proposed federal and local policies are seeking to dismantle the progress we have consciously worked to achieve in community development. Children are being verbally assaulted at school solely because of their race and culture. Investor markets for affordable housing development have been shaken.

But not all the changes have been negative. Huge marches and packed town hall meetings around the country demonstrate powerful resistance to policies and rhetoric that are antithetical to American values. Municipalities from coast-to-coast have dedicated millions of local public dollars to affordable housing, community reinvestment, and poverty reduction through ballot initiatives. The partners in People & Places have fielded countless calls from our placemaker networks, offering help to defend programs, resources, and regulations critical to supporting our work. People are standing up for a society that invests in all its members.



EBHO resident leaders rally in Oakland, CA

But what does all this mean for community development? What should my organization, my community do?

Honestly, it is hard to tell. On the one hand, how do we focus on the technicalities of the investor rate for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit when our neighbors are being deported or targeted for violence? On the other hand, the need for effective placemaking has never been greater. People still need homes, access to investment and healthy places, creative expression, and economic opportunity.

We know it cannot be an either/or. Our own national organizations have been challenged to bridge the gap between narrower interest in the programs and resources we prioritize at the federal level, and the broader need to uphold American institutions, democracy and social justice. It's a challenging gap to straddle. And like you, we are still figuring it out.

People & Places 2017 offers us an opportunity. We have a chance to come together and figure out how an unprecedented national context impacts the all-too-familiar challenges facing placemakers. The draft [agenda](#) released today tries to meet that opportunity.

We will go to Capitol Hill during our time together, a significant addition from the first People & Places in 2015. But the agenda also acknowledges that not all challenges and solutions come from Washington. Local ballot initiatives and organizing campaigns are resulting in significant new resources. We will learn from local advocates how they achieved victory and – in some cases – learned from defeat. Your peers will share how they are creating programmatic solutions for blight remediation, equitable development, and asset growth in rural America, among other areas.

We will examine how threats to federal spending, tax reform, immigrant rights, and consumer protection could affect disinvested places and communities of color – and what we can do about it. How are placemakers offering support to those targeted for deportation? Are rural communities positioned for greater support? Less? What are the place-based implications for healthcare reform?

This event is made for you. And by you. The goal of People & Places is not to answer these questions, but rather to build a platform and process that gets us one step closer to solutions.

Please be there. That platform and process is built from your voice. Your field needs you in THIS place. At THIS time.

View the [agenda](#). And [register now](#).

Sincerely,

Seema Agnani, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
Ron Hantz, Network for Developing Conscious Communities
Noel Poyo, National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
Cy Richardson, National Urban League
Frank Woodruff, National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations



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