Community Conversation Guide

Join the conversation on

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Share stories
Explore solutions
Get involved

TheViewFromHere.org/Housing
Gracie Phillips lost her home during the Great Recession. Even with a job at Sacramento County Child Protective Services, she and her teenage son can only afford to rent a home that’s filled with cockroaches and termites.
Sacramento’s housing shortage affects everyone from middle-class renters priced out of desirable neighborhoods to NIMBY homeowners concerned about property values to homeless residents sleeping (and dying) on the steps of City Hall. There just aren’t enough affordable places to live.

Housing affordability is a complicated set of issues that affects us all. The May 2017 report on Sacramento County Renters in Crisis estimates that 62,000 of our low-income neighbors can’t afford safe and adequate rental homes. Due in part to a lack of housing supply, a whole generation of millennials may never be able to buy their own homes. Scholars and advocates point to historic housing policies that favored some of Sacramento’s residents, and excluded others. And despite a recent package of 15 housing bills signed by Governor Jerry Brown, current state and local housing policies are not making things better fast enough for those in real need.

Capital Public Radio’s multimedia project The View From Here: Place And Privilege took listeners on a deep dive into the history, politics and economics of affordable housing in Sacramento. We talked to developers and city planners, housing advocates, historians and attorneys, professors, property managers, renters, homeowners and people with no homes to create a one-hour radio documentary, a ten-part podcast and a series of dynamic civic storytelling events to bring our community together to find a way forward.

This discussion guide draws on hours of audio content to help you host conversations about housing affordability in your organization or community. It is shaped by our experience working with six organizational partners and 35 community advisors (see page 23) to create on-the-ground community engagement activities that bring diverse residents together to share stories, listen to one another and problem solve. Community engagement is how we serve our community—we listen and provide a space and tools to help tell stories and to create social impact. We are using public radio to build stronger communities.

Explore the Place and Privilege website to hear community voices, find resources and learn more: TheViewFromHere.org/Housing.
Getting Started

This guide will help you facilitate a community conversation to raise awareness about the multi-faceted crisis of housing affordability and how it impacts us all. It’s designed to help you to lead an engaging session that benefits your organization and community.

PROCESS

We’ve designed these conversations to be two hours long, though they can be longer or shorter. It’s ideal to invite participants with a range of views and experiences. You may want to have one or two guest speakers to introduce a podcast episode from the Place and Privilege website (TheViewFromHere.org/Housing) or play an audio clip and then talk about what that content means to them. After hearing the speakers and stories, participants can share their responses and experiences.

BEFORE THE EVENT

Every conversation is different. You’ll want to consider:

- How will this conversation support your organization’s goals?
- Who is your audience and what is motivating them to attend this event?
- How much time do you have for the event? (two hours is ideal)
- Will you need someone to translate the podcasts or group discussion?
- Look at the Place and Privilege podcasts at-a-glance (on page 8). What topics do you want to explore? Which podcasts do you want to play? Who will select and talk about the stories—guest speakers or the event organizer/facilitator?

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

For a Place and Privilege Community Conversation you’ll need to have a computer with internet access and external speakers. You may also want to have:

- Projector and screen (to show project website)
- Healthy snacks and drinks
- Name tags
- Sign in sheet and clipboard
- Pens
AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Welcome (15 min)
Meet each other, introduce the topic, and review goals, activities, and ground rules.

Listening Session (30-45 min)
Diverse speakers (or event facilitator) play a podcast clip/episode and talk about why the stories resonate with them.

Conversations (45 min)
Facilitator engages group in discussing the stories. Group identifies key ideas and topics. Participants reflect on what they can do to address housing affordability in their neighborhoods.

Wrap Up (15 min)
Discuss next steps and share final thoughts.

James Jones talks about his experience flipping homes with Rachel Hughes, a public housing resident, and jesikah maria ross, Capital Public Radio’s community engagement strategist.
TIPS

• Plan your conversation as part of a meeting, conference, or get together that is already scheduled through your organization.

• Reach out to community members you’d like to get more involved in thinking about housing affordability.

• Identify an event organizer/facilitator who will review this guide, coordinate speakers (if desired), handle logistics and lead the conversation activities.

After a community conversation, participants tend to feel fired up. So it’s good to be prepared with specific suggestions about next steps, either through your organization or other community initiatives.

LINING UP SPEAKERS & STORIES

You don’t need guest speakers. As the event facilitator, you can simply select and introduce a podcast episode or clip and then guide the discussion. If you’d like to involve more voices, you can:

• Identify one to two people from your community who can speak to different issues and realities associated with housing affordability.

• Invite the speakers to choose a podcast (or portion of podcasts) to play.

• Ask each speaker to listen to the selected podcast (or portion of podcast) and prepare brief remarks (3 minutes) about how the podcast resonated with them; for example what they appreciate about the story, what it tells us about housing affordability that people might not know, or what stood out to them.

• Encourage speakers to use their personal experiences to give context to the story and why they feel the selected story is important to hear and talk about.

After a community conversation, participants tend to feel fired up.
John Kraintz spent years living on the streets of Sacramento. Now he is the President of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee. Krantz estimates that up to 20 thousand people are unhomed in Sacramento County.
Episodes at a Glance

**Episode 1: What Does Privilege Have To Do With It?**
*Length: 44:42*
Insight host Beth Ruyak talks about *The View From Here*’s new project with *Place And Privilege* reporters Amy Quinton, Cosmo Garvin, Pauline Bartolone and Amy Westervelt. What they’ve learned through the personal stories of those hardest hit and living on the edge helps frame and define the crisis.

**Episode 2: Segregated Sacramento**
*Length: 33:34*
Sacramento is “a unicorn” in terms of diversity and lack of segregation, which is to say that it’s still pretty segregated. Reporter Cosmo Garvin looks at the creation of Sacramento’s patterns of racial and economic segregation, considering events on the local and national level.

**Episode 3: Sacramento Divided**
*Length: 31:48*
Reporter Cosmo Garvin continues the story of diversity and segregation through contemporary developments in the fight against residential segregation in Sacramento.

**Episode 4: Not Up To Code**
*Length: 16:56*
Reporter Amy Quinton rides along with Sacramento County Code Enforcement Officer Tim King on a tour of “problem properties” in the Arden Arcade neighborhood of Sacramento. He’s part of a team that responds to renters’ complaints while aiming to inspect all rental housing in the County once every five years.

**Episode 5: Beneath the Surface of Tahoe**
*Length: 29:24*
While tourists enjoy scenic views of Lake Tahoe, year-round residents face both the highest employment rate and the highest poverty rate in the region. Reporter Amy Westervelt finds an enormous housing crisis adding to the struggles of workers in this popular tourist destination.

**Episode 6: It’s the Supply, Stupid**
*Length: 12:50*
Lots of people say that California’s housing crisis is the result of well-intentioned (or not) policies that make it too hard to build housing. Reporter Amy Quinton tests this idea by talking to folks who see solutions in the housing market.

**Episode 7: After Homelessness**
*Length: 22:19*
Jessica Hodges and John Kraintz share their experiences and perspectives on being homeless and being housed. They talk about what needs to be done to support the thousands of people living without homes in Sacramento.

**Episode 8: Whatever It Takes**
*Length: 43:48*
Reporter Cosmo Garvin talks about Sacramento’s ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness with the mayor, residents of a permanent supportive housing project, the new County director of homeless services, the policy director at Sacramento Housing Alliance and the director of Sacramento’s largest homeless services organization. Hint: we’re in year eleven.

**Episode 9: The View From Here: Place and Privilege Documentary**
*Length: 51:00*
Amy Quinton, Cosmo Garvin and Pauline Bartolone report four neighborhood stories from Sacramento’s housing affordability crisis. Renters in the “missing middle” are people with median incomes who are being displaced from their homes or forced to live in substandard housing because of rising rents. A 71-year-old senior is on a desperate scramble to find a new home, after her landlord decides to stop accepting government housing vouchers from tenants. She’s lived in her apartment for 21 years and done everything right. Sacramento’s nonprofit hospitals are making huge investments in housing to protect their bottom lines. A formerly homeless man says this new program saved his life.

**Bonus Episode: Housing Stories from Next Generation Radio**
*Length: 30:00*
Six multimedia journalism students produced first-person stories showing how Sacramento’s housing affordability crisis affects young people living here. They found that college students, artists, unhomed youth and young families all face challenges finding safe, affordable housing and the services that would support their health.
Facilitation

Playing and discussing stories about housing affordability may generate a wide range of opinions, beliefs, experiences, and emotions. As the facilitator, you’ll want to create a space in which people feel comfortable sharing and listening to each other’s stories, feedback, and ideas. Here are some tips:

**PREPARE YOURSELF**

You don’t need to be an expert on the content themes but it is useful to be able to state why you (and your organization) are hosting the dialogue. You’ll want to prepare to point people to where they can get more information about the issues raised in the stories you play. Feel free to send participants to the Place and Privilege website (TheViewFromHere.org/Housing) for full-length versions of the media pieces they heard or to explore the project resources page.

It’s also a good idea to prepare in advance by listening to the podcast(s) you plan to share, process your own reactions, read through this guide and gather basic information about the issues raised in media pieces you play.

**PREPARE THE GROUP**

During group discussion, it’s important that people feel safe to speak their minds. It can help to engage the group to lay down some ground rules for the session. Here are some examples, but feel free to work with the group to create your own.

- We’ll show each other mutual respect and kindness. We recognize that everyone is exploring important but potentially challenging ideas.
- We’ll avoid generalizations about groups of people: my experience is not everyone else’s experience.
- We’ll use “I” statements (I feel…I think…I believe…I hear…) as a way of avoiding saying something that will devalue someone else’s perspective.
- If someone else’s beliefs make us uncomfortable, we’ll say so, but in a respectful and thoughtful way. We’ll challenge the ideas and not the person.
- We’ll show empathy toward one another—we are here to make our community a better and healthier place for everyone.
- We’ll use “one mic” which means when one person is talking, give them your attention by not interrupting. Listen attentively.
- We’ll keep what’s said in the room confidential to encourage honest discussion.

**REMEMBER**

To have fun and enjoy getting to know your neighbors. Sometimes people get wrapped up in emotion and the conversation can get heated, but that usually means someone cares deeply about the issue. Take a moment to acknowledge the experiences in the room that make this an important discussion for everyone and remind participants of the ground rules and goals (on page 11). Then, begin again.
TIPS

• Encourage everyone to participate. Factors like age, ethnicity, income levels, language and familiarity with a topic can influence how comfortable people feel about sharing their reactions. Keep this in mind and actively engage everyone!

• Pay attention not only to what the speaker is saying but also to the emotions behind their words and to what may be most important for them.

• If a lot of people show up, you may want to break people into smaller groups to discuss the stories they’ve heard and what it means to them. Make sure they report out their thoughts to the full group.

• Talk about the difference between “dialogue” and “debate.” In a debate, participants try to convince others that they are right. In a dialogue, participants try to understand each other and expand their thinking by sharing viewpoints and actively listening to each other.

• Be prepared for participants who might strongly disagree with each other. This can be a great opportunity for people to hear different viewpoints, but you should help keep the conversation on track and make sure everyone stays positive and respectful. (You can remind folks of the ground rules and goals again).

• Stay neutral. Your job is to guide the conversation without taking sides.

Kula Koning, Delilah Clay, Ashley Clark and Ty Jacob, members of Young Professionals of the Greater Sacramento Urban League, lead a community conversation on the history of residential segregation in California’s capital.
Conversation

Ok, ready to go? Here is our suggested sequence of activities for conducting the conversations. We’ve listed a suggested time for each activity so that the session is a total of two hours (not counting setup and cleanup). Feel free to adapt wording, exercises, or timing!

SETUP: 30–60 MINUTES

Arrive, set up chairs and tables, set out food and materials, test equipment (laptop, Internet, and sound), and do any other preparations for the conversation.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: 15 MINUTES

Once people are seated and ready to start, welcome them to the Housing Affordability Community Conversation. Introduce yourself, say something about the organization you are with, and what motivated you to organize this community conversation on housing affordability. Then lead a brief icebreaker exercise so people can get a sense of who is in the room. For example, have people go around the room and:

• Say their name and one sentence on why the housing crisis is an important issue to them.
• Say their name and what motivated them to come to a conversation on housing affordability.
• Share the goals for the conversation. You may want to have them on a flipchart.

After that, give the group an overview of the activities you’ll be doing in the session to achieve the goals. Share some ground rules for the group conversation so that it remains comfortable and respectful (see Prepare the Group on page 9 for ideas).

LISTENING SESSION: 30–45 MINUTES

If you’ve lined up guest speakers, invite them to say a few prepared remarks before or after playing a podcast episode or clip. If a speaker introduces the podcast, it’s useful to have her/him give some context or set the tone for your conversation. If they speak after the podcast, have them respond to it by sharing how the stories resonate with them, pointing out key ideas or experiences they feel are important. Alternately, as the facilitator you can do the same thing with your introduction or response to the podcast. Either way, the idea is to seed the conversation with some discussion points.

GOALS FOR THE CONVERSATION

1. To raise awareness about the causes and impacts of the housing crisis.
2. To build understanding and empathy for those struggling with housing affordability.
3. To listen and learn from one another’s experiences.
4. To identify steps we can take to address the issue and create opportunities for people to get involved.
CONVERSATIONS: 45 MINUTES

Use the following questions to engage the group in sharing their responses to the stories.

• What stood out to you about these stories?
• How do these stories relate to your own experience?
• How does hearing these stories impact how you think about housing affordability?
• Why is this problem so hard to solve?
• What might we do to help solve the housing crisis in our community?

WRAP UP: 15 MINUTES

Use the following questions to engage the group in thinking about what they heard and said during the conversation.

• What are you taking away from the stories and conversations we’ve had?
• What do we want to do next?

Ask a few people to share one thing they plan to do to address housing affordability. Summarize any main points and share why you think this conversation has made a difference.

Thank the group for their time and attention. Adjourn.

CLEANUP

• Consider what went well and what you’d change for the next community conversation.
• Rearrange chairs and tables as needed and clean the room.
• Celebrate!

Susan Lovenburg, California Forward’s Director of Partnerships for Economic Prosperity, listens to Wanda Lewis describe about how her life changed when she moved into affordable housing.
WHAT DOES PRIVILEGE HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

Insight talk show host Beth Ruyak talks with the Place and Privilege reporting team about what they’ve learned through their research and reporting on Sacramento residents facing challenges with finding safe, affordable housing. Historic housing and land use policies gave advantages to some people and excluded others based on race and income. African Americans, Latinos, families and seniors continue to be hit especially hard. Where you live and how you live determines your health. If you’re paying more than 30 percent of your income toward housing costs, you are “rent overburdened.”

Featuring

Amy Quinton, Environment Reporter, CapRadio

Cosmo Garvin, Freelance Reporter, Podcaster

Pauline Bartolone, Health Policy Reporter, Kaiser Health News

Amy Westervelt, Author, Freelance Reporter

Discussion Questions

• What stood out to you from the reporters’ comments and story clips?
• Were you surprised by anything the reporters said?
• How do you see the connection between place and privilege?
• How has Sacramento’s housing affordability crisis affected you and your family?
• What can we do to address the housing crisis?
SEGREGATED SACRAMENTO

Sacramento is “a unicorn” in terms of diversity and lack of segregation. Which is to say that it’s still pretty segregated. Reporter Cosmo Garvin looks at the creation of Sacramento’s patterns of racial and economic segregation, considering events on the local and national level. He talks with professors, geographers, researchers, historians and residents about redlining, racial covenants and how the New Deal was a bad deal for people of color. You’ll learn how these policies segregated Sacramento in the past and continue to do so in the present.

Discussion Questions
• What struck you about what you heard?
• What did you learn about redlining, redevelopment, and other housing policies?
• How has residential segregation impacted your family?
• Do you agree that segregation is a systemic problem? Why or why not?
• What actions can we take to reverse the trend of residential segregation?

Featuring
• Jesus Hernandez, Lecturer, UC Davis Department of Sociology
• Robin Datel, Professor, California State Sacramento Department of Geography
• Richard Rothstein, Research Associate, Economic Policy Institute
• William Burg, Historian
• Roy Jersey, Sacramento resident
SACRAMENTO DIVIDED

Reporter Cosmo Garvin tells the story of diversity and segregation through contemporary developments in the fight against residential segregation in Sacramento. His guests talk about segregation, integration, disparities, subsidies, inclusion and changes in contemporary city, county, state and federal housing policies. They outline the latest efforts to assess community housing needs. They say segregation will persist and increase unless policies are put in place to reverse historic trends.

Featuring

- Dan Rinzler, Senior Policy Analyst, California Housing Partnership Corporation
- Bill Kennedy, Attorney and Advocate, Healthy Sacramento Coalition
- Robin Datel, Professor, California State Sacramento Department of Geography
- Richard Rothstein, Research Associate, Economic Policy Institute
- La Shelle Dozier, Executive Director, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- Veronica Beaty, Policy Director, Sacramento Housing Alliance
- Greg Sandlund, Senior Planner, City of Sacramento

Discussion Questions

- What caught your attention in the podcast?
- Does your neighborhood feel diverse and integrated? How do you know?
- Do you think people have different experiences finding a home in Sacramento based on their race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other aspect of themselves?
- What did you learn about recent trends in neighborhood segregation?
- What could we do to reverse these trends?
NOT UP TO CODE

Reporter Amy Quinton rides along with a Sacramento County Code Enforcement Officer on a tour of “problem properties” in the Arden Arcade neighborhood of Sacramento. He’s part of a team that responds to renters’ complaints while aiming to inspect all rental housing in the County once every five years. As they drive through this low-income neighborhood, you’ll hear about code violations that frequently occur with problem property management companies, including bed bugs, cockroaches, mold, overflowing garbage dumpsters, crime and drugs. You’ll learn about code inspections and when renters should call code enforcement.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out to you after listening to this story?
- Have you ever lived in rental units similar to those discussed in this story?
- What did you learn about rental housing code enforcement in Sacramento County?
- Do you think current housing codes are sufficient to provide safe environments for families? Why or why not?
- How can we ensure lower income people have a safe and healthy place to live in Sacramento?

Featuring

- Tim King, Code Enforcement Officer, Sacramento County
BENEATH THE SURFACE OF TAHOE

While tourists enjoy scenic views of Lake Tahoe, year-round residents face both the highest employment rate and the highest poverty rate in the region. Reporter Amy Westervelt finds an enormous housing crisis adding to the struggles of workers in this popular tourist destination. This podcast takes a comprehensive look at the complexity of the housing affordability crisis in the Lake Tahoe region. There is no silver bullet solution because developers, both tourism and non-tourism businesses, professionals and tradesmen, families and ski bums, tourists, second home owners, and residents all need different things. There are many problems to solve in order to safely and affordably house everyone in the region, especially with rising income disparity.

Featuring

- Kati Warner, Lake Tahoe area second homeowner
- Stacy Caldwell, Executive Director, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
- Trina Gold, Lake Tahoe area former homeowner
- Lauren Suttie, Lake Tahoe area resident
- Elvia Lopez Esparza, Office Manager, North Tahoe Family Resource Center
- Amy Kelly, Executive Director, North Tahoe Family Resource Center
- Bill Martinez, Director, South Lake Family Resource Center
- Marlene Lopez, Laura, Eduardo and others, residents of residential hotels
- Heidi Hill Drum, Executive Director, Tahoe Prosperity Center
- Bill Roby, Executive Director, El Dorado Community Foundation
- Jesse Patterson, Deputy Director, League to Save Lake Tahoe
- Meea Kang, Principal, Domus Development

Discussion Questions

- What surprised you in this story about the housing crisis in Lake Tahoe?
- What did you learn about the tourist economy in rural California?
- What other obstacles make it hard for low-income residents to stay in a home?
- What are some of the different needs for residents at different income levels?
- What do you think should be done to support low-income families to find safe and affordable housing in communities with extreme income disparities?
IT’S THE SUPPLY, STUPID

Lots of people say that California’s housing crisis is the result of well-intentioned policies that make it too hard to build housing. Reporter Amy Quinton tests this idea by talking to the folks who see solutions in the housing market, including developers, industry experts and city planners. They talk about how a growing population and dwindling housing supply is driving up demand and driving up costs. This episode untangles the web of market conditions and policies that have led to a short supply of housing. It explores state and federal policies, environmental regulations, labor shortages and how to pay for affordable housing.

Featuring

• Todd Leon, Development Director, Capitol Area Development Authority
• Bernadette Austin, Associate Director, UC Davis Center for Regional Change
• Nikki Mohanna, Developer, Mohanna Development
• Sotiris Kolokotronis, Developer, SSK Developments
• Michael Strech, President and CEO, North State Building Association
• Greg Sandlund, Senior Planner, City of Sacramento

Discussion Questions

• What stood out to you in this podcast?
• What did you learn about the lack of housing supply?
• What factors do you think issues affect housing supply the most?
• How can we ensure lower income people have a place to live in Sacramento?
• Which of the solutions put forward resonates most with you? Why?
AFTER HOMELESSNESS

Two formerly unhomed adults share their experiences on becoming homeless and then living on the streets, in cars or couch surfing with relatives. Both of them are currently housed. They talk about the different ways they found places to live. Estimates of the number of unhomed and unsheltered people in Sacramento County vary, from 3,600 up to 20 thousand. You’ll learn that homelessness can happen to anyone. And that support and resources can be found at the largest homeless shelter in Sacramento, Loaves and Fishes.

Featuring

• Jessica Hodges, mother, Medical Administrative Assistant
• John Kraintz, President, Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee

Discussion Questions

• What did you notice in these stories?
• How do these stories relate to experiences you or your family have had?
• Do you think housing is a right or a privilege? Why?
• What resources are in your community to help individuals and families overcome challenges and find safe and affordable housing?
• What actions can we take to address homelessness in our community?
WHATEVER IT TAKES

Cosmo Garvin talks about Sacramento’s ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness with a range of stakeholders. Hint: we’re in year eleven. They explore housing affordability, poverty and lack of jobs as causes of homelessness. You’ll hear about Sacramento’s plan to provide services and housing for a growing homeless population, how to pay for those plans and how policies must change in light of the recession and changing economic realities.

Featuring

• Darrell Steinberg, Mayor, City of Sacramento

• Tameeka Knox, resident, 7th & H St Housing Community, Mercy Housing California

• Wanda Lewis, resident, 7th & H St Housing Community, Mercy Housing California

• Cindy Cavanaugh, Director of Homeless Initiatives, Sacramento County

• Veronica Beaty, Policy Director, Sacramento Housing Alliance

• Joan Burke, Director of Advocacy, Sacramento Loaves and Fishes

Discussion Questions

• What comes up for you after listening to this podcast?

• How do the ideas in the podcast relate to your experience?

• What is the biggest barrier to housing stability you see families in Sacramento encountering?

• What resources are in your community to help individuals and families overcome challenges and find safe and affordable housing?

• What actions can we take to make a difference?
THE VIEW FROM HERE: PLACE AND PRIVILEGE DOCUMENTARY

In this hour-long radio documentary reporters Amy Quinton, Cosmo Garvin and Pauline Bartolone weave together four stories of Sacramento residents facing the challenges of Sacramento’s housing affordability crisis.

You’ll hear from two African American renters in the “missing middle”—people with median incomes who are being displaced from their homes or forced to live in substandard housing because of rising rents—who have been disproportionately affected by the recession, housing foreclosures and racist housing policies.

Learn why 71-year-old Lynda Brooks is on a desperate scramble to find a new home, after her landlord decides to stop accepting government housing vouchers from tenants. She’s lived in her apartment for 21 years and done everything right.

Hear why Sacramento’s nonprofit hospitals are making huge investments in housing. Tony Price says this new program saved his life. It protects the hospitals’ bottom lines. But will this model provide a solution that can be scaled up to serve the thousands of sick and homeless residents needing a place to live now?

Featuring

• Amber Calloway, renter, mother
• Gracie Phillips, renter, mother
• Lynda Brooks, renter, senior, voucher holder
• Deborah Thrope, Supervising Attorney, National Housing Law Project
• La Shelle Dozier, Executive Director, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency
• Tony Price, formerly unhomed Computer Technician
• Chris Grabe, Social Worker
• Ashley Brand, Director of Community Health and Outreach, Dignity Health
• Joan Burke, Director of Advocacy, Sacramento Loaves and Fishes

Discussion Questions

• Which of these stories resonated most for you? Why?
• What’s important to you about affordable housing? Why do you care?
• What assumptions do we need to test or challenge in thinking about these issues?
• Do you believe housing is right or privilege? Why?
• What would it take to create change on the issues we’ve discussed?
HOUSING STORIES FROM NEXT GENERATION RADIO

During an intensive, week-long multimedia training, six talented journalism students reported personal stories of young people facing the challenges of the housing affordability crisis. They found that Sacramento college students, unhomed youth, artists and young families all struggle to find safe, affordable housing and services that would support their health. Reported by Isabella Lord, Nour Coudsi, Laura Tsutsui, David Rodriguez, Hilda Flores and Elizabeth Castillo.

Featuring

- Eroz Burse, housing voucher holder and student, Sacramento State
- Colin Ray Jackson, unhomed student, Sacramento City College
- Tyler Campbell, Singer/Songwriter
- Rebecca Rodriguez, student in the Teaching Credential Program, Sacramento State
- Jessica Lamar, single mother of eight children, who was evicted
- “Michelle” and her family of six living in an RV

Discussion Questions:

- What story hit you the hardest? Why?
- What did you learn about young people facing Sacramento’s housing crisis?
- How might the lack of safe and affordable housing impact young people differently than adults?
- Do you think housing is a right or privilege? Why?
- What policies do you think need to change to help provide housing for all?
Acknowledgements

This Housing Affordability Discussion Guide is part of The View From Here: Place and Privilege, Capital Public Radio’s multimedia documentary exploring the history, politics and economics of housing affordability in California’s capital. The project includes an hour-long radio documentary, an ten-part podcast and on-the-ground engagement activities that bring diverse residents together to share stories, listen to one another and problem solve.

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