



Dear City Life/Vida Urbana & Boston residents, Thank you for fighting for our neighborhoods. We support you!

We agree that residents, especially people of color, need to lead on anti-displacement and that housing activists from outside the neighborhood should follow their lead. Thank you for coming to YIMBYtown and making your case in person.

We are listening with an open heart and ask you for the opportunity to meet for an honest and direct conversation.

We would also like to share with you some information about who we are.

YIMBYtown Boston was organized by local activists who are fighting to improve their neighborhoods and create housing that all people can afford. The conference was organized by volunteers and it was a lot of hard work. Many of us are renters and have experienced displacement or the threat of it. Some of us live in suburbs that resist allowing any more people in.

Most of our budget was paid to Roxbury Community College and local catering businesses. We raised scholarship money so that anybody from Roxbury and surrounding neighborhoods could attend at no cost. No private developers contributed to the conference, although we did accept sponsorships from nonprofit affordable housing groups.

Our conference speakers included many powerful people of color such as Rep. Chynah Tyler, Chrystal Kornegay, Leslie Reid, Angela Park, Kristen Jeffers (“The Black Urbanist”), and Jarrid Green from Democracy Collaborative in Washington, DC. We are proud that this conference attracted over 300 people from Boston and across Massachusetts, and from as far away as California and the United Kingdom.

We understand that Boston and Massachusetts have a history of housing racism which continues to shape where people of color can live, and this affects the housing choices for all of us. Many towns throughout the state have built few or no apartments for young people, families, and seniors to avoid newcomers. Different communities require different strategies—and we need to have friends and allies in all of those places.

Yes, housing is a human right. Let’s work together on solutions to provide homes for every family in the state.

Sincerely,

The Boston YIMBYtown 2018 Planning Committee