

RHA Presents
2nd Annual Southwest Housing Summit
“Shared Vision. Local Action: Shaping Our Housing Future Together”
Tuesday, April 29, 2025 | 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Doors Open | 8 a.m.

8-8:30 a.m. | Registration Check-In & Breakfast

Welcome

8:30-9 a.m. | Welcome Speech

Description: Welcome and Introduction from the Regional Housing Alliance (RHA) Board

Speakers:

Pat Vaughn (RHA Chair and real estate investment and operations consultant)

Marsha Porter-Norton (RHA Vice-Chair and La Plata County Commissioner)

Morning Session

9:00-10:15 a.m. | Modular Manufacturing in the Region

Description: This panel showcases cutting-edge housing solutions from local innovative startups working to address affordability, sustainability, and construction efficiency. Panelists from Higher Purpose Homes, Timber Age, and Jiffy Block will present their products, discuss challenges and opportunities in the industry, and explore how developers, municipalities, and tribes can support these emerging solutions. Attendees will gain insights into new technologies and practical pathways to integrating them into housing projects.

Speakers: **Kyle Hanson**, Timber Age Systems

Ethan Defenbaugh and Nick Lemmer, Higher Purpose Homes

Randy Feuilly, Jiffy Block

Shak Powers, Regional Projects Manager Region 9 (Moderator)

Morning Break

10:15-10:30 a.m. | Coffee/Tea

Keynote Presentation and Q&A session

10:30-11:30 a.m. | Zoning Reform & Community Buy-In: Turning NIMBYs into YIMBYs

Description: The housing crisis in rural mountain communities, including the Southwest region of Colorado, requires thoughtful and pragmatic solutions. This session will explore how smart zoning reforms can help unlock housing opportunities while balancing community concerns. Attendees will gain insights on effective strategies to shift opposition to housing development, fostering local support and turning NIMBYs (Not In My Backyard) into YIMBYs (Yes In My Backyard).

Speaker: **M. Nolan Gray - Author of “Arbitrary Lines: How Zoning Broke the American City and How to Fix It”**

11:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. | After Keynote Presentation, Meet and Greet with Author Nolan Gray

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. | Lunch - Casual Lunch & Networking: Connect with Peers

Take a break for lunch and reconnect with colleagues and peers, while also meeting new attendees in a relaxed environment. It's the perfect opportunity to share insights, network, and build relationships.

Afternoon Session:

12:45-1:15 p.m. | "Missing Middle" Creative Financing & Public/Private/Partnerships

Description: In just a few years, building housing for the "Missing Middle" has become a major investment priority for the state. However, financing these projects require a set of strategies and programs that are completely different from traditional development. Learn how to combine traditional private capital with state and impact financing utilizing Proposition 123 funding.

Speakers: **Michael Leahey**, Castlewood Partners

1:15-2:15 p.m. | Innovative Pathways to Housing: Creating Models for Access and Affordability

Description: This session will explore innovative and collaborative approaches to improving access to affordable housing. Featuring insights from the City of Durango, HomesFund, and ECLT, we will discuss creative models that leveraged funding sources like ARPA and other housing solutions. Attendees will hear real-life examples, including a single mother purchasing a deed-restricted unit with HomesFund's support, and learn about the ways community partnerships are creating new pathways to homeownership. Join us for a dynamic discussion on overcoming housing barriers and fostering sustainable, affordable solutions.

Speakers: **Mike French**, Prosperity Officer, City of Durango

Pam Moore, Executive Director, Homesfund

Stefka Fanchi, President and CEO, Elevation Community Land Trust

Sarah Tober, Executive Director, La Plata Economic Development Alliance (Moderator)

Afternoon Break

2:15 - 2:30 p.m. | Coffee/Tea

2:30- 3:45 p.m. | Action, Insights and Lessons from Regional Public-Private Partnership Projects

Description: Explore regional examples of innovative housing solutions through public-private partnerships. This session will highlight projects that overcame significant challenges to bring people into homes. Using visuals and a moderated discussion, we'll examine the hurdles encountered, the creative solutions implemented, and the successes achieved. Gain valuable insights into the strategies that helped these projects succeed and create lasting, impactful housing opportunities for communities.

Speakers: **Emily Lashbrooke**, Exec. Director, Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation

Mark Garcia, Ignacio Town Manager

Brad Blake, Bayfield, Pine River Commons Developer

Eva Henson, RHA Contract Director (Moderator)

3:45 p.m. | Closing Remarks by RHA

4-5 p.m. | Cocktail Reception and Exhibitor Showcase Tables, Open to Public

Hors d'oeuvres provided, cash bar