Nonprofits are a key vehicle for funding, building, and shaping affordable housing and green infrastructure projects. These organizations are also key private-sector advocates on behalf of environmental and housing policy, able to dedicate paid staff times towards researching, lobbying, and mobilizing on behalf of their organizational interests. With technical expertise and ability to hone in on particular areas of concern, nonprofits are well-recognized players in both housing and environmental policymaking.

AUDIENCE

- Affordable housing developers
- Supportive housing staff
- Community land trust employees
- Tenant advocates
- Tenant legal services
- Environmental advocacy and conservation organizations
- Park conservancies
- Neighborhood associations

GUIDING CONSIDERATIONS

1) Greening and sustainability are essential for creating a healthier world, both for people and the planet. Green gentrification does not negate the importance of these investments, it just necessitates approaching this work through an intersectional, historically-rooted lens

2) Limited resources, scarcity mentalities, and the risks of “mission creep” are obstacles for housing and environmental nonprofits in expanding their realm of consideration to holistically account for green gentrification. Resource-sharing and technical assistance are valuable tools

3) Environmental justice and housing justice efforts will not be as successful without deep consideration of the other

4) Realigning environmental and housing nonprofits to better account for the intersections of environment and housing can be a model for public bureaucracy

Example Best Practices

- Incorporate lessons and case studies about green gentrification into staff trainings
- Develop clear organizational language around green gentrification in policy advocacy
- Dedicate organizational capacity to face the complicated nature of green investments head on, leaving adequate space for the conflict and tension that may arise in the process
- Set aside material resources for building housing work into environmental advocacy and vice versa
- Use institutional capacity and reputation to publicly stand behind enforcement of anti-displacement policies, uplifting community voices in the process