



**HOUSING
FUTURES**

WHAT IS HOUSING FUTURES MONTH?

Building on the promises of the Fair Housing Act, every April, PolicyLink's Housing Futures Month calls on each of us to consider how we can contribute to designing and implementing housing models that allow everyone the stability and ability to dream about and pursue bold futures.

Housing Futures Month engages people from all backgrounds, including policymakers, housing advocates, developers, architects, and community members, to envision and work towards creating inclusive, affordable, and sustainable housing models for the future.

The goal of Housing Futures Month is to raise awareness of the important role that housing plays in shaping our communities and individual lives, and to encourage collaboration and innovative thinking to address our current and future housing challenges.



PROMPTS FOR LEARNING

Some key considerations we are holding throughout our work that may support your exploration this month.

How do we apply abolitionist and liberatory frameworks to housing in order to both dismantle current systems and create a new world with new systems - instead of the same old world with reconfigured systems?

How do we invoke Black, Brown, and Indigenous spatial and temporal imaginaries in envisioning and creating these new worlds and new futures?

How do we reimagine the ways we collaborate with impacted people and communities to build sustainable power?

How do we co-develop new solutions for tackling housing insecurity and creating equitable housing futures outside of the crisis-response model and the sense of time urgency that leaves little time and space for communities and individuals to plan for and live out their futures?

How can we decentralize wealth accumulation as one of the primary goals of housing policy?

How do we decommodify housing as the foundation on which health is built and center it as a platform of health, culture, and community?

WAYS TO CELEBRATE HFM IN YOUR COMMUNITY

There are many ways to celebrate Housing Futures Month in your community! The key is to create opportunities for learning, engagement, and action, and to bring together diverse voices and perspectives to build a more equitable and just future for all.

Panel Discussions: Invite experts, activists, community leaders, and policy makers to participate in panel discussions on various topics related to housing, such as gentrification, eviction, community land trusts, and public policy.

Workshops: Facilitate workshops on topics such as community organizing, affordable housing finance, and policy advocacy. These workshops could be designed to equip participants with the tools and skills needed to take action and advocate for change.

Film Festivals: Organize a film festival showcasing films and documentaries about housing futures, community-led housing solutions, and the impact of gentrification and displacement. You can find some suggestions for films at policylink.org/housing-futures-month-syllabus.

Film Screenings: Show films or documentaries that highlight housing issues and their impact on communities. This can help to raise awareness and spark conversation about the importance of housing stability and security.

Art Exhibitions: Host an art exhibition featuring works that address the theme of housing futures and the impact of housing insecurity on communities. This can help to bring the issue to life and create a space for reflection and dialogue.



Book Clubs: Host a book club to read and discuss books that explore the themes of housing futures, gentrification, and displacement. This can help to deepen understanding and provide a space for meaningful conversation and reflection.

Public Demonstrations: Organize a public demonstration or rally to raise awareness about the importance of housing stability and security and to call for change.

Youth Empowerment: Engage young people in the conversation about housing futures by hosting youth-led workshops and discussions. This can help to build the next generation of housing advocates and leaders.

Community Art Projects: Organize a community art project to create public art that celebrates housing futures and the importance of intergenerational stability.

Housing + Community Tours: Organize community tours to visit sites of housing injustice and displacement, as well as successful community-led housing solutions. This can help to build solidarity and create opportunities for dialogue and learning. Organize housing tours of innovative and sustainable housing solutions, such as co-housing and community land trusts, to celebrate the progress being made in creating new and equitable models for housing.

Public Dedications: Hold public dedications to commemorate the efforts of community leaders and advocates who have worked tirelessly to create more just and equitable housing futures or host an awards ceremony to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to advancing housing futures and creating more equitable communities.



HOUSING FUTURES MONTH SYLLABUS SELECTIONS

Download our curated readings, songs, and films about the challenges and opportunities for creating equitable housing futures at policylink.org/housing-futures-month-syllabus.

Watch: HFM Film Club

Jim Crow of the North
documentary

The Space Traders episode of
Cosmic Slop

The Pruitt-Igoe Myth

Homecoming: A Film by Beyonce

MINE by Rise-Home Stories

Root Shock

by Mindy Thompson Fullilove
(2004)

Urban Alchemy

by Mindy Thompson Fullilove

Walking the Clouds

by Grace L. Dillon (Editor)

Decolonizing Wealth

by Edgar Villanueva

Read: HFM Book Club

The Fight for Fair Housing

by Gregory D. Squires

Race for Profit

by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

Cities Imagined

by Walter Greason and Julian
Chambliss

Sundown Towns

by James Loewen

*Black Geographies and the Politics
of Place*

edited by Katherine McKittrick
and Clyde Woods

Beyond Settler Time

by Mark Rifkin

Fictions of Land and Flesh

by Mark Rifkin

Listen: HFM Playlist

Radical Imagination podcast

Circuit City

by Moor Mother

A House is Not a Home

by Luther Vandross

A List of Demands (Reparations)

by Saul Williams

Time

by 4Hero ft. Ursula Rucker

The Rain

by Missy Elliot

Bed of Roses

by 4Hero ft. Jody Whatley

Everybody is a Star

by Sly and the Family Stone

HOUSING FUTURES