

## Message from Board President

The Conference Committee has been meeting, discussing potential conference agendas and logistics, and has settled on the following theme for the 2023 Annual NPC Conference: *Bridging HomeUnity*.



**The theme “Bridging HomeUnity” encompasses many of our visions and values as individual NPCs, as well as the Coalition’s mission:**

**The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition will unify, educate, empower, and strengthen community organizations in their provision of affordable housing and community revitalization activities.**

As we know all too well, provision and preservation of affordable housing is a lofty notion, but in reality, is complex, as it is intertwined with and impacted by political, social and economic factors.

And that’s where we nonprofits come in! So many of us are grassroots organizations, often formed in response to a community need and committed to serving our individual communities. Because of this, we are uniquely positioned to understand the history and perspectives of our communities and to meaningfully contextualize their struggles and successes as we labor together, making progress, no matter how small, towards bridging the gaps that separate citizens from appropriate homes.

We can tap into information about the unique makeup of our community to contemplate and evaluate, in small and large ways, what does and does not work in our particular communities; understanding that effective strategies vary from community to community.

But, how do we get to our goal?

**As members, we view our communities not as geographic descriptions, but as vibrant collectives whose health depends on the functioning – and thriving – of all its members.**

**Perhaps we take notes from other Inclusive Communities and use some of their guiding principles as our own objectives:**

- Members are respected and valued such that, as a whole they strengthen the community, and the community helps them to meet their basic needs so that they can live with dignity, engage actively, and contribute to the community.
- Meeting basic needs, such as access to affordable housing, requires that members also have resources to obtain such needs.
- At the micro level, individuals feel safe, respected, and comfortable in being themselves and expressing all aspects of their identities.

Our NPC Annual Conference provides ideas, information, and access to resources, and time to connect with others. Consider this gathering to engage – using your community’s perspective – and bring your ideas to the discussions, too.

We know that one policy, or even many, won’t get us to our goal. But, by being creative and exploring many paths we can continue a long-historied conversation and make progress. As so many of our clients will attest, we seek “Progress, not Perfection.”

CGP

Cassandra Perry