2018 CoHoUS Annual Meeting

Welcome
Introductions
Budget
Website
Involvement
Events
Closing
Q & A
Treasurer Report 11/2018

Cash on Hand

![Bar chart showing cash on hand for different years: 2015, 2016, 2017, YTD 2018. The chart indicates a substantial increase in cash on hand compared to previous years.](image-url)
Expense

- Payroll
- Cost of Events
- Contract Labor /Fees
- All Other
Creating community, one neighborhood at a time

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Cohousing is people living together in neighborhoods designed for community interaction and personal privacy.

What is Cohousing?

Cohousing is community intentionally designed with ample common spaces surrounded by private homes. Collaborative spaces typically include a common house with a large kitchen and dining room, laundry, and recreational areas and outdoor walkways, open space, gardens, and parking. Neighbors use these spaces to play together, cook for one another, share tools, and work collaboratively. Common property is managed and maintained by community members, providing even more opportunities for growing relationships.
Common Characteristics

**Connected Relationships**
The core of cohousing is living in relationship. Being connected benefits all of us. We cultivate a culture of sharing and caring. Site layout, size and architectural features promote frequent interaction and close relationships. Most communities find 20-40 units is about the right size to know each other well.

**Smaller Footprint**
Human impact on our planet is a common concern in cohousing and care for our environment is a core value. Living in community, sharing resources and designing for lower energy use and greener living all help us reduce our impact on the environment.

**Private Homes**
We live in private homes with all the amenities we are used to, including kitchens. Our homes are designed to look out to community and to have private spaces out of view. Connecting with community is easy and natural, but not required or constant. Privacy matters too.

**Common Spaces**
Shared property, usually including a common house, is part of what defines cohousing. These spaces allow us to

**Participation**
We make decisions collaboratively, using processes grounded in collaborative decision making. [Link] Taking time to

**Shared Values**
It can be hard to fully live values like green living, caring for neighbors and building community in our broader
Why Cohousing?

So many reasons!

Cohousing is an aspirational lifestyle. We choose cohousing both because of what it is and what we believe it can be. Cohousing increases joy and ease in our lives. More than that we choose cohousing because of what we believe it can do for our families, our cities, our nation and our world. This page is all about that aspiration. We who live in cohousing know that all of this is real and true. We also know that it doesn’t describe every person’s experience or every moment of life in community. There is a nitty gritty of cohousing and you’ll see it as you explore other pages on this site. On this page, join us in the vision, the dream and the lived experience of cohousing community.
Finding Cohousing

The community of people interested in cohousing is spread all over the country and includes those who live in cohousing, those who want to live in cohousing and those who want to help make more cohousing happen.

This page is all about helping those people find each other.
Create Cohousing

Cohousing communities are conceived by visionaries. Some are developers or landowners, most are simply people hungry for connection. No two communities are created in the same way, and as cohousing grows the variety of approaches to creating it is growing as well.

We find that successful communities engage in three interrelated processes:

- Gathering resources: people and money
- Building the physical structures of community: land, houses and common house
- Building the relational structures of community: connection and group process

Vision

Cohousing communities begin with a vision, often with just one burning soul. As that vision spreads and evolves, members join and the project takes shape. Some groups follow tried and true process while others forge the way for new innovations. All share a passion for living more closely with neighbors and more lightly on the earth.

The steps below walk you through the general process, though it tends to be messier than this with steps overlapping and intersecting. The linked pages provide detail, resources, sample documents and alternate approaches.
Living lighter on the planet starts with living lighter. Community means sharing more and consuming less. Collaborating on everything from green technology to recycling makes it all easier.

Even everyday activities like eating, laundry and arriving home after a long day become richer and more enjoyable when neighbors are close enough to share. Celebrations and rituals and flavor and build relationships.

Many stages of life depend especially on care from others: children need security, anyone can fall sick or injured. Cohousing makes it easy for neighbors at all stages to nurture each.
Community for the Health of it

2019 National Cohousing Conference
May 30 – June 2, 2019 Portland, Oregon

Something for everyone —
those exploring the idea, newly forming groups or existing communities.

• Cohousing Bus Tours & Open Houses
• 2-days of Pre-Conference Intensives
• Multiple Tracks of sessions: Build It – Live It – Sustain It
• Facilitated Discussions
• Networking Opportunities