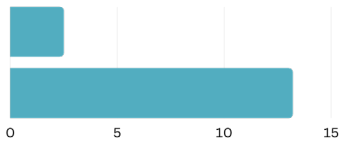


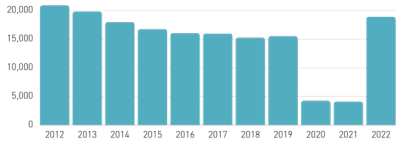


EQUITY AND ENGAGEMENT



U.S. homeowners stay in one home for a median of 13.2 years, while U.S. renters stay just 2.5 years.

Source: [Tenant Planet](#), 2019

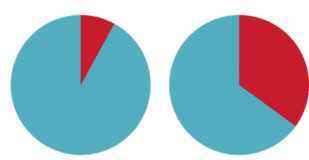


Eviction filings in Minnesota totaled 18,855 in 2022—the highest they’ve been since 2013.

Source: [Minnesota District Court System](#), 2023

Three-quarters of those interviewed in neighborhoods vulnerable to gentrification in the Twin Cities said that they or a friend/family member had been displaced.

Source: [Center for Urban and Regional Affairs](#), 2019



The North Minneapolis zip codes 55411 and 55412 account for only 8% of the city’s rental units, yet 35% of its evictions.

Source: [Center for Urban and Regional Affairs](#), 2019



62% of white Americans say they trust all or most of their neighbors, compared to 31% of Black Americans.

Source: [Pew Research Center](#), 2016

THE NEED

It is no coincidence that communities targeted by racist housing policies are the same communities experiencing higher rates of housing instability today. That environment of inequity designed by oppressive systems of racial hierarchy results in disconnected, distrusting, and further exploitable communities.

When you are unsure of how long you’ll live in your home, there is less incentive to know and support your neighbors. When you are continuously experiencing discrimination as a community, feelings of trust can become depleted. The high rates of forced transience result in neighborhoods full of powerful people who have been stripped of the connections and social capital needed to make significant changes for their community.

Our Equity and Engagement work is the heart of what we do and it takes almost half a million dollars in private donations from individuals and organizations to make this work possible each year. Your gifts toward this community-centered work move us closer to our vision of safe, strong, and vibrant communities.

Help make this vision a reality at: www.urbanhomeworks.org/donate.

OUR SOLUTIONS

At Urban Homeworks (UHW), we believe a dignified, stable home is the foundation from which equitable communities are built. Our Equity and Engagement (E&E) team was created with this in mind. Recognizing that community power lies within the people living in UHW rental homes, our E&E team centers the voices of our residents with every decision we make and every project we pursue. Our goal is to co-create communities where trust among neighbors is high, connections are strong, and historically silenced voices are amplified and heard to transform their neighborhoods. The three strategies we employ are:



PEOPLE-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Our People Oriented Development (POD) model builds important relationships between neighbors, businesses, and contractors to create sustainable, people-based solutions. Through monthly POD meetings, healing circles, and seasonal community events, we create a platform for residents to gather, connect, and build relationships with each other and with UHW staff.



HOMEOWNERSHIP PATHWAYS

Urban Homeworks' Homeownership Pathways program was born out of the strength of our POD relationships. Many of our longtime residents shared that they felt stable enough to go after their next dream of becoming a homeowner. Urban Homeworks now provides homeownership readiness courses to help walk residents through the process of purchasing a house and provides resources to help overcome the barriers that get in the way of homeownership.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

UHW believes that civic engagement includes meeting your neighbors, getting involved in your child's school, attending neighborhood gatherings, volunteering, voting, and so much more. We empower residents to step into leadership roles, share their insights, and collectively create solutions. We broadcast those solutions through policy forums and create spaces where our residents have the floor to speak truth to elected officials. Individual ideas, concerns, and solutions are joined into the building blocks of community efforts to bring greater justice and equity to our neighborhoods.

WHAT CHANGE LOOKS LIKE

"One of the best things about Urban Homeworks is the family vibe I get from them. I am not a rent check, I am a human, someone who has gotten respect from them and am more than willing to give it back in return. I have been introduced at one time or another to almost every Urban Homeworks [staff] member. I have had a housewarming thrown in my honor and I get prompt attention to my needs." - UHW Resident

12+

Resident POD meetings & celebrations per year

2
ANNUAL

Housing Justice Forums, amplifying resident voices to elected officials

16%

of UHW volunteers identified as BIPOC in 2022

13

Resident testimonies given in support of transformative legislation

Responding to Community Voices

In the first five months after the Stay-at-Home order in 2020, violent crime in the Ventura Village neighborhood in South Minneapolis increased by 73.8%. Urban Homeworks residents living in the neighborhood brought their concerns to our resident POD meetings, sharing that they and their children were scared. They were experiencing increased anxiety and trauma, and they wanted to move out of the neighborhood.

Their fear was compounded by an overwhelming lack of trust in the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) after the senseless & brutal murder of another unarmed Black man, George Floyd, at the hands of MPD. Residents were feeling under-protected and overpoliced. Urban Homeworks set out to find a solution.

In response to resident feedback, UHW formed the Southside Peacekeeping Coalition, intentionally bringing in businesses and organizations in the neighborhood to fund community-based solutions. Centro de Tyrone Guzman, Chase Bank, Norway House, Project for Pride in Living (PPL), Urban Homeworks, and Ventura Village Neighborhood Association joined together to hire neighborhood peacekeepers from the community to employ strategies such as de-escalation, mediation, and redirection of harmful and unsafe activity during school-release, after school, and evening hours during the summer.

The ongoing work of the Southside Peacekeeping Coalition is rooted in community feedback, and we continue to adapt and strengthen our strategies so that our residents can feel safe in their homes and engaged in their communities.



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