

Creating Housing in Cowichan: From Ideas to Action

Dragons' Den Activity

Panelist Biographies

McGill University

Dr. Avi Friedman

Dr. Friedman is Professor of Architecture at McGill University, and leads his own architecture firm. He has published more than 15 books on topics related to community sustainability and housing. He has spoken at countless conferences around the world and has participated in the realization of many design projects through his professional practice. He is regarded as an absolute expert both in theory and practice on issues relating to sustainability, housing, and community. He is a leader in advocacy, and a role model to those who see public outreach and education as a vital component to planning great communities.

Dr. Friedman was named by design and architecture magazine, Wallpaper as “one of the top 10 style setters who will most influence the way we live in the next quarter century.” He is an expert in the design and implementation of affordable and sustainable building practices at the unit and community levels, and specializes in market acceptance, construction and resource efficiency. He is the recipient of several awards including the Progressive Architecture Research Award, the J.-Armand-Bombardier Prize for Technological Innovation, the Manning Innovation Award of Distinction and the World Habitat Award.

M'akola Development Services

Danielle Deni, *Project Manager*

Danielle manages all moving pieces of a project, from its conceptual phases through to construction and occupancy. She prepares proposals, funding applications, housing reports, and also facilitates community engagement events. Danielle enjoys seeing projects come to fruition, from research and feasibility analysis, to construction through to completion.

Danielle has a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Public Health and Social Policy from the University of Victoria.

City of Nanaimo

John Horn, *Social Planner*

John Horn is a Social Planner for the City of Nanaimo and in that role he works with government, social service agencies and local citizens to address social issues including; homelessness, affordable housing, social exclusion, age friendly cities, youth engagement and vibrant public spaces.

John was born in Zimbabwe, grew up in Nanaimo and earned a Bachelor's degree in Literature at Concordia University in Montreal. His professional background includes 15 years in the non-profit sector



as a social worker working with a wide range of clients from children to adults in a variety of settings from institutions to private homes.

Prior to joining the City of Nanaimo John worked in the Republic of Ireland as a planner for the City of Dublin. His work there focused on the revitalization of disadvantaged urban neighborhoods and included a role in the reform of policing in Northern Ireland under the Good Friday accords.

John is a journeyman carpenter, a Registered Professional Planner, a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, and holds a Graduate Diploma in Financial Management from the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants.

Vancity

Lilian Chau, *Community Investment Portfolio Manager*

Vancity is a values-based financial co-operative serving the needs of its more than 523,000 member-owners and their communities in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Victoria, Squamish and Alert Bay. We use our assets to help improve the financial well-being of our members and to develop healthy communities that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

Lilian Chau is Vancity's Community Investment Portfolio Manager in Impact Real Estate where she develops and manages entrepreneurial partnerships and innovative financial tools to support non-profits to acquire, develop and manage community-owned assets. With a background in community planning, she now has a special focus to accelerate the growth of social purpose real estate in the region.

BC Community Land Trust

Tiffany Duzita, *Director of Development*

Tiffany Duzita is the Director for the Community Land Trust, responsible for operations and execution on the future growth plans of the organization. Growing up in Metro Vancouver she has developed a passion for affordable housing and the importance it plays in the vitality of local communities. As an accomplished real estate professional, she brings 18+ years of experience and leadership to the Community Land Trust to build upon its mission to deliver affordable homes to families, individuals, seniors, and special interest groups.



Project Overviews

Providence Village Housing Society

The Sisters of St. Ann have long had the vision of providing housing on the land they gave to the Vancouver Island Providence Community Association (VIPCA). In 2009 the Providence Village Housing Society (PVHS) was incorporated to enable the development of a housing project on the VIPCA land.

A 35-acre parcel was identified and with funding from BC Housing and CMHC the plan for Phase One has now been fully developed. Currently a rezoning application is ready to go to the Municipality of North Cowichan and PVHS has applied for charitable status to enable VIPCA's transfer of the land.

Cowichan Lake Elder Care Society

Our group began as a Select Committee of the Town of Lake Cowichan to address the need for an elder care facility in our community. Our efforts are inclusive of Youbou, Mesachie Lake and Honeymoon Bay as well as the Town of Lake Cowichan. The committee has since evolved into an incorporated society. We have some very realistic leads on some properties that may be realized through one of a few avenues including donation, land lease or mortgage. We have an informal partner with first hand experience in this sort of project who will give advice and input. We have elder care and health care experience on our Board as well as municipal representation. We look forward to participating in the workshop and the feedback we will receive.

Hiiye'yu Lelum (House of Friendship) Society

Hiiye'yu Lelum Society has been operating in the Cowichan Valley since 1975 addressing the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people by providing holistic programs and services. Recognizing the tremendous need for additional housing stock that is affordable, safe, and secure, Hiiye'yu Lelum has created a plan to construct a multipurpose building that would offer current, enhanced, and new programs and services, and 40 units of housing for community members, including transitional units for mothers who are at-risk of having their children apprehended at birth. We are currently in the process of securing land on-reserve, and connecting with a number of community partners to move this project forward.

Ladysmith Resources Centre Association

The LRCA's proposed affordable housing project would consist of 36 units. The makeup of units would be 10 studio apartments, 23 one bedroom apartments, and three two bedroom apartments. The Project would bring together three populations facing barriers to safe, secure and affordable housing. These include seniors, families, and folks with developmental disabilities. The underlying premise of the project is the creation of not just housing, but a home for residents - in a diverse community that grows stronger over the years. The physical design incorporates indoor and outdoor communal space that capitalizes on the tremendous views offered by its sight. The LRCA, as the largest social service organization in Ladysmith, will be uniquely positioned to integrate its existing programs into the building. Once the residents have moved in, the LRCA will also be working with them to develop social enterprises that offer job skills, and increased capacity for residents and the LRCA.

