



RIGHT TO THE CITY ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2013



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Photo credit: Jed Brandt

Dear Right To The City Supporters,

Since before I was born, my mother was a tenant organizer. My earliest memory of any type of organizing campaign was as a knock-kneed four-year-old, in pigtails and a summer dress, standing outside our landlord's office in support of what was to be an 18-month rent strike in our garden apartment complex. The strike yielded key improvements and protections for the residents, many of whom were new families and senior citizens, including moving over half of the units into rent stabilized status.

When I was a bit older, I remember asking my mother why, with the range of social justice issues that were so important to our family, did she spend all her time focused on housing organizing. Her answer was simple: "Housing is a bedrock issue. When you have a safe, healthy, affordable home in which to rest your body, feed your children and love your family, anything else is possible." That message created a vibrant vision for me – a vision that every family has a dignified, affordable, and healthy home and community where they can thrive without fear of displacement.

Housing justice has been a cornerstone of Right To The City's platform since our inception. We emerged in response to the rise of gentrification and the displacement of low-income communities of color from their historic urban neighborhoods. In our early years, we worked on preserving and expanding public housing. From 2010 to 2012, we focused heavily on the foreclosure crisis, helping spread eviction defense tactics, fighting for progressive policies, and mobilizing around bank and Wall Street accountability.

In 2013, the media began touting a "recovering" housing market, but the grassroots groups that comprised RTC saw a worsening affordability crisis for poor and working class communities across the country, particularly for renters. Due to decades of federal disinvestment from subsidized housing, along with deregulation and unbridled private sector control of the housing market, we were seeing an increasingly dire shortage of affordable homes in our cities.

In response, RTC members came together to push back on the growing narrative that "the housing crisis was over." We clarified our strategy and emerged with a renewed focus on preserving and expanding truly affordable housing, especially in the rental market. Our national multi-year campaign, Homes For All, was officially launched in 2013, and we hit the ground running. The campaign became a place to unify our constituencies—public housing residents, homeless families, tenants and homeowners in foreclosure, and renters—around much needed housing policy reforms and transformative demands to increase community control of land and housing.

Over the course of the year, we grew substantially. Our membership increased by seven organizations, and 25 local and national partners joined Homes For All. We built new systems to support member leadership, while our work achieved significant policy impacts. Assembling the resources to meet the needs of this rapid growth has been a challenge—a challenge we are ready to take on. A central focus for RTC moving into the next fiscal year is diversifying our foundation support and increasing our individual donor giving. As we move into 2014, with a strong national campaign and infrastructure, we are dedicating significant time to building new relationships with foundations, stewarding our current partnerships, and conducting more grassroots fundraising to sustain the financial health of the alliance and provide a broader range of opportunities for individuals, organizations, and our members to support RTC and each other.

As we look back on 2013, we are tremendously proud of our accomplishments. We thank our allies and funders for their support and our dedicated members for their leadership toward building democratic, just, and sustainable 21st century cities. As we look forward, the right to dignified, affordable, and healthy housing will remain a frontline fight in winning our right to the city. We are committed, more than ever, to bringing this vision to reality!

- Onward

Rachel Laforest, Right to the City Alliance Executive Director

THE RIGHT TO THE CITY ALLIANCE

ABOUT

Right To The City Alliance (RTC) emerged in 2007 as a unified response to gentrification and a call to halt the displacement of low-income people, people of color, LGBTQ communities, and youth of color from their historic urban neighborhoods. We are a dynamic member-driven alliance of over 50 grassroots racial, economic, and environmental justice organizations working together to build democratic, just, and sustainable 21st century cities.

WWW.RIGHTTOTHECITY.ORG



OUR APPROACH

Through national and trans-local campaigns, thematic work groups, capacity building programs, and regional infrastructures, RTC supports grassroots organizations in achieving progressive urban policy change at municipal and national levels.



1

STRENGTHENING URBAN JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS

Through national work groups and convenings, RTC member organizations build relationships, exchange models and best practices, and innovate new strategies that strengthen their local and collaborative work. Additionally, RTC supports our alliance members through providing organizational development and capacity building support, political education, and civic engagement training.

2

BUILDING A NATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE CITIES

Through building strategic partnerships between community based, policy and advocacy, labor, and environmental groups, RTC is building a movement for democratic, just, and sustainable 21st century cities. Together with allies and partners we work to create a future in which low-income families of color can live and work with dignity in the city, benefit socially and economically from the city, participate fully in decision-making about the city, and contribute to and enjoy the culture of the city—in short, **a future in which urban working class communities of color win a right to the city.**

3

ACHIEVING TRANSFORMATIVE LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLICIES

Through national, regional, and trans-local campaigns, RTC works to advance new and transformative social and economic models; and achieve signature policy changes at the local and national level in a range of fields, including racial and economic justice, civic participation, public and affordable housing, ecological justice, and criminal justice.

THE RIGHT TO THE CITY PLATFORM

LAND FOR PEOPLE VS. LAND FOR SPECULATION

The right to land and housing that is free from market speculation and serves the interests of community building, sustainable economies, and cultural and political space.

LAND OWNERSHIP

The right to permanent ownership of urban territories for public use.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The right of working class people of color, women, and queer and transgender people to an economy that serves their interests.

INDIGENOUS JUSTICE

The right of First Nation, indigenous people to their ancestral lands that have historical or spiritual significance, regardless of state borders or urban or rural settings.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The right to sustainable and healthy neighborhoods and workplaces; quality health care, and reparations for the legacy of toxic abuses such as brownfields, cancer clusters, and superfund sites.

FREEDOM FROM POLICE & STATE HARASSMENT

The right to safe neighborhoods and protection from police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and vigilante repression of communities of color, women, and queer and transgender people.

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

The right to equal access to housing, employment, and public services regardless immigration status and without the threat of deportation by landlords, ICE, or employers.

SERVICES AND COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

The right of working class communities of color to transportation, infrastructure, and services that reflect and support their cultural and social integrity.

DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION

The right of community control and decision making over the planning and governance of the cities where they live and work, including the right to public information without interrogation.

REPARATIONS

The right of working class communities of color to economic reciprocity and restoration from all local, national, and transnational institutions that have exploited and/or undermined the local economy.

INTERNATIONALISM

The right to build solidarity between cities across national boundaries without state intervention.

RURAL JUSTICE

The right of rural people to healthy and stable communities that are protected from environmental degradation and economic pressures that force migration to urban areas.



Causa Justa/Just Cause
launch rally for Homes For All
Photo credit: Rose Arrieta

2013 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

After focusing our energy in 2012 on large national mobilizations demanding Wall Street and bank accountability for the foreclosure crisis, the membership of RTC decided it was time to move toward a more comprehensive strategy around housing justice, urban democracy, and development without displacement. 2013 was a year of significant growth including launching our Homes For All campaign nationally, deepening our movement building work, achieving national policy impact, and refining our infrastructure to more effectively support and strengthen local organizing work. Here are highlights from our 2013 program work:

FIGHTING FOR HOMES FOR ALL

Homes For All is our new national campaign that brings together grassroots and policy groups in a coordinated effort to advance a national strategy to preserve and expand truly affordable housing, increase models of community controlled housing, fight displacement, strengthen renters' rights, and continue the fight for bank and Wall Street accountability and regulation.

RTC publicly launched Homes For All in March 2013 with local actions in 10 cities calling for the right to "Remain, Reclaim, and Rebuild" our cities. Over 1,000 residents came out in force to demand truly affordable, dignified, and healthy housing for all. Since the launch, more than 25 organizations have joined the campaign. Together we have formed a formal partnership with the National Low-Income Housing Coalition.

Homes For All had an ambitious and successful inaugural year. In 2013, the campaign focused on three main areas of work:

1. Restore funding owed to the National Housing Trust Fund by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac through a new litigation strategy;
2. Win more progressive leadership in the Federal Housing Finance Agency through completing the "Dump DeMarco" campaign; and
3. Strengthen local organizing efforts to expand renters' rights (including access to healthy, sustainable, and quality housing) and increase models of community controlled, permanently affordable housing through launching and coordinating trans-local initiatives and campaigns.

For information on how you can get involved in Homes For All, visit:

WWW.HOMESFORALL.ORG



Members rally for affordable housing with Springfield No One Leaves
Photo Credit: Joe Oliviero



THE HOUSING CRISIS IS FAR FROM OVER

Housing is no longer affordable or stable for a large sector of the U.S. population. 20 million renters (half the total renter population in the U.S.) pay more than 30 percent of their income on rent, including 10 million who pay more than 50 percent. This is the greatest number of “cost-burdened” renters on record. Despite rising home prices and an “improving” housing market, more than 13 million homeowners remain underwater, owing more on their mortgages than their homes are worth.

Sources: The State of the Nation's Housing 2013, by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University and Wasted Wealth: How the Wall Street Crash Continues to Stall Economic Recovery and Deepen Racial Inequity in America, by Alliance for a Just Society

13 MILLION STILL
HOMEOWNERS UNDERWATER.
20 ARE
MILLION COST
RENTERS BURDENED
PAYING MORE THAN 30% OF THEIR INCOME ON RENT.

HOMES FOR ALL 2013

JANUARY

MARCH

APRIL



- The Homes For All Organizing Committee meets in New York City to plan the campaign launch and develop the narrative communications strategy, media messaging, and branding for the campaign with support from the Center for Story Based Strategy.



- Over 1,000 affected residents mobilize for a day of action in Atlanta, New York, Boston, Springfield (MA), San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Miami to mark the official launch of Homes For All.



HOMES FOR ALL
RECLAIM. REMAIN. REBUILD OUR CITIES.



全民安居 索回、居留、重建我们的城市！
¡HOGARES PARA TODOS! ÉSTA CIUDAD ES NUESTRA.
HOY LA REDEMOS, AQUÍ NOS QUEDAMOS Y JUNTOS LA RECONSTRUIMOS!

WWW.HOMESFORALL.ORG

- A delegation of Homes For All members attend the annual Low-Income Housing Coalition policy conference and develop a formal partnership with the National Low Income Housing Coalition.



- During a congressional hearing with then Acting Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Edward DeMarco, Homes For All members, including Ramon Suero a homeowner facing eviction, lead a civil disobedience action calling for principal reduction and an end to DeMarco's disastrous leadership. During live C-SPAN coverage, RTC members disrupt the hearing by shouting demands and waving signs that read "Dump DeMarco" and "Principal Reduction" calling on Obama to replace Edward DeMarco for being a singular barrier to progressive policies which would support millions of underwater homeowners. Ramon Suero and four others are arrested.



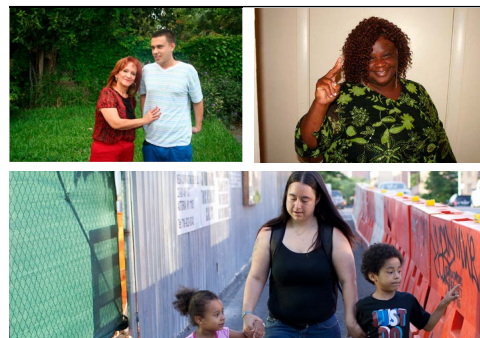
MAY

- Homes For All partners participate in a protest led by Occupy Our Homes and Home Defenders League at the Department of Justice around their failure to prosecute bank officials for their crimes related to the foreclosure crisis. Hundreds of directly affected homeowners shut down the Department of Justice building for the better part of a day. 27 homeowners and allies are arrested.



RTC and our allies in the “Dump DeMarco” Campaign move a step closer to a win when Obama announces his nomination of Representative Mel Watt (D-NC) to replace Edward DeMarco as Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Notice of Termination
of Employment
Edward DeMarco



- RTC co-sponsors the release of [Wasted Wealth: How the Wall Street Crash Continues to Stall Economic Recovery and Deepen Racial Inequity in America](#), a report that details the impact of the foreclosure crisis in communities of color including the long-term effects. The report is authored by Alliance for a Just Society and produced in partnership with the Home Defenders League and New Bottom Line.



JULY

RTC and the National Low-Income Housing Coalition file a historic lawsuit against the Federal Housing Finance Agency for violating the 2008 Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA). HERA requires that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac contribute a percentage of their revenue to the National Housing Trust Fund, a fund created to support low-income, affordable rental housing. Despite reporting \$28 billion in record setting profits in 2012, the banks have failed to contribute any money into the Fund. Our lawsuit, which also includes three individual plaintiffs, demands that FHFA pay the \$568 million they owe in back contributions. If successful, our lawsuit would secure the largest new investment in low-income affordable housing in more than 30 years.

The national lawsuit receives news coverage in the Wall Street Journal, Associated Press, New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Politico, and more than 50 other online and print publications.



Over 40 representatives from Homes For All member groups gather in Brooklyn for a retreat to map out a three-year plan for the campaign. The retreat results in a [STRATEGIC PLAN](#) that articulates: the four pillars of the campaign; key strategies around our national demands and trans-local campaigns; and benchmarks for base building, leadership development, and capacity building.

Participants in the Homes For All retreat, including Jaymie Kelly of Minnesota, hold a direct action at the home of J.P. Morgan Chase's CEO Jamie Dimon for the bank's role in kicking out homeowners in foreclosure, like Jaymie, onto the street. Jaymie Kelly leads the action demanding principal reduction so she can remain in her home.



SEPTEMBER

- Two Homes For All trans-local sub-committees form.
 - 1) Right to Remain Committee: to address development without displacement and renters' rights, and
 - 2) Our Homes Our Land Committee: to explore models for permanently affordable and community controlled housing.
- A delegation from the Our Homes Our Land Committee attends the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference in Philadelphia and builds relationships with the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, Burlington Associates, and the National Community Land Trust Network. As a result, these organizations collaborate with RTC to develop and implement a three-part webinar series on community land trusts, tailored to Homes For All partners.
- The first rendition of the [CAN'T WAIT LIST](#), Homes For All's online organizing platform and story bank, launches internally. 10 Homes For All member organizations collect 90 stories (translated in English, Spanish, and Chinese) of residents impacted by the housing and affordability crisis in America.

Watch our new video about the [CAN'T WAIT LIST](#)

The Can't Wait List

Tired of waiting for housing that's truly affordable? Join the Can't Wait List. Fight for Homes for All.



OCTOBER

Underwater homeowners and renters in Los Angeles, Boston, Atlanta, and Minneapolis take to the streets for a day of action calling for a moratorium on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac evictions and for the Senate confirmation of Mel Watt as the new Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.



NOVEMBER

- The Homes For All Organizing Committee convenes to conduct an assessment of the campaign in 2013 and solidify tactical plans for the next year. The committee identifies concrete 2014 goals, including priorities for the trans-local subcommittees, new research and policy reports, a new political education curriculum, and an organizing plan for the Can't Wait List.

Timeline Photo Captions:

Page 7: Sharis Delgadillo, Occupy Our Homes Atlanta, Page 8: Rose Arrieta, Jed Brandt, Page 9: Jed Brandt, Yasmeen Perez, Page 10: Mike Leyba, Joe Oliviero

DECEMBER



After two years of organizing for new, more progressive leadership, RTC and our coalition partners in The New Bottom Line win a major victory! The Senate confirms Mel Watt as the new Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. This win is the result of thousands of phone calls and emails to senators, numerous direct actions putting pressure on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, dozens of frontline RTC members risking arrest, and hundreds of brave homeowners and renters sharing their personal stories of how FHFA policies hurt them and their families. With the disastrous reign of Edward DeMarco over and Mel Watt as the agency's new Director, RTC and our coalition partners can get to work moving progressive policies like principal reduction, ending Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac evictions, securing the "Right to Rent," and funding the National Housing Trust Fund that will support millions of low-income renters and homeowners across the country.

- RTC, in partnership with the Dudley Street Initiative and The Community Land Trust Network, launches a community land trust webinar series beginning with a Community Land Trust 101 training. Over 30 individuals representing 12 Homes For All organizations interested in starting or joining existing community land trusts participate in the first training.



4 PILLARS OF THE HOMES FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

NATIONAL WORK

Achieve signature policy changes that expand truly affordable housing at the national level, including restoring funding to the National Housing Trust Fund.

TRANS-LOCAL WORK

Win coordinated, multi-city local housing justice campaigns that expand renters' rights and increase community control over land and housing.

BASE BUILDING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Grow our base of impacted residents and develop conscious and civically engaged movement leaders from urban working-class communities of color.

CAPACITY BUILDING & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Strengthen the capacity of our local member organizations and RTC as a whole through skills building training, infrastructure support, and national movement building.

HOMES FOR ALL TRANS-LOCAL INITIATIVES

RIGHT TO REMAIN: EXPANDING TENANT AND RENTERS' RIGHTS

A campaign to pass "Just Cause Eviction" and "Renters' Bill of Rights" policies in multiple cities, states, and regions.

OUR HOMES, OUR LAND: INCREASING COMMUNITY CONTROLLED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A trans-local work group to increase models of community controlled, permanently affordable housing. The initiative supports the proliferation of tactics to liberate vacant properties and establish alternative economic models of housing like community land trusts. In addition, this group will explore and promote strategic policy tools that will support permanent affordability and community control of land and housing, provide technical assistance and organizing trainings, and engage in research and policy development.

RENTAL SECURITIZATION AND PRIVATE EQUITY PROJECT: RESEARCHING NEW WALL STREET LANDLORDS

A trans-local research and organizing project investigating the economic impact of rental securitization by Blackstone Group and other cash investors in the single family housing rental market. The project is researching the long term implications rental securitization will have on low-income communities, laying the groundwork for future policy campaigns around regulation. We recently released our first pilot research report, ["Blackstone: Atlanta's Newest Landlord"](#), based on consumer surveys in Atlanta, Georgia.

DEMOCRATIZING OUR CITIES

After several years of conducting non-partisan Engaged Voter Organizing (EVO) trainings and voter outreach and education camps, RTC spent 2013 focused on assessing our civic engagement strategy and our long term program model. Based on a survey of our members' civic engagement expertise and capacity building needs, we developed a longer term vision for this area of RTC's work, including the discussion of a "municipal organizing toward state power" strategy with partners like Florida New Majority Education Fund, Virginia New Majority Education Fund, and National People's Action. This strategy will include continuing our EVO trainings along with starting a more advanced training institute to increase knowledge around running ballot initiatives, starting 501(c)(4) entities, and developing civic leadership from the grassroots base. The first pilot of our Building Municipal Power Institute will run in late 2014.

Another aspect of our civic engagement work has been supporting our local members and RTC regional formations in the development of C4 partner entities. In 2013, Right To The City Boston successfully formed a C4 organization, Right To The City Vote. Right To The City Vote has been instrumental in developing a shared platform that highlights community stabilization demands.

In 2013, RTC continued our partnership with Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) to promote the expansion of participatory budgeting in New York City, Boston, San Francisco, and Saint Louis. The process in New York grew from 8 to 10 City Council districts with 17,000 people participating, 80 percent of whom were people of color. The 2013 cycle opened up more than \$14 million in public funds to direct, community-based decision making.

The City of Boston initiated the first youth participatory budgeting process in the U.S. for \$1 million in capital funds. Right To The City Boston groups worked to prepare their members to sit on the steering committee for the process and engage youth and families connected to their organizing work.

In San Francisco, Supervisor David Chiu initiated a pilot process for \$100,000 in discretionary funds. RTC supported our member groups Coleman Advocates and Chinese Progressive Association San Francisco in organizing their membership and local communities to participate. Winning projects included a campaign to educate seniors about consumer scams, one-time back rent and homelessness prevention grants for up to 25 households, employment training and job matching for youth, and 500 new Chinese language books for public libraries.

Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE) in Saint Louis ran their very first participatory budgeting project in the Ward 6 neighborhood. The process was both racially and economically diverse, with African American women being the largest group participating. Winning projects included proposals for new streetlights, security cameras, and trashcans.

RTC also held an "Organizing for PB" workshop at the annual Conference for Participatory Budgeting in North America in Chicago. Participation in this workshop more than doubled from the previous year and was evaluated as one of the best conference components for grassroots activists and community organizers.

Through serving on the national board of PBP and organizing in multiple cities, RTC has been instrumental in spreading participatory budgeting and connecting grassroots organizations to ensure marginalized communities are stakeholders in the budgeting process. 2013 concluded with an invitation to the White House in 2014 for a special meeting to explore the use of participatory budgeting with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds.





Rachel Laforest speaking at the Participatory Budgeting Conference. Photo Credit: The Participatory Budgeting Project

NATIONAL MOVEMENT BUILDING

Building cross-sector, collaborative strategies remains a core pillar of RTC's work. As such, RTC has been active in a number of national coalition campaigns and "alliances of alliances."

Since 2011, RTC has been an active member of the management team of The New Bottom Line (NBL), a coalition campaign comprised of four national organizing networks—the Alliance for a Just Society, National People's Action, PICO National Network, and RTC—working together to win public policy to regulate how banks do business in the wake of the 2008 economic crash. After winning the "Dump DeMarco" campaign, achieving more progressive leadership of the Federal Housing Finance Agency with the appointment of Mel Watt as its new Director, NBL began a sunset process that effectively concluded in early 2014. NBL was an unprecedented alliance driven by the desire from groups across sectors to align into one campaign. The relationships built and the experience of organizing and winning together will have lasting impacts on future fights. A final report produced on NBL's work highlights the accomplishments and the important lessons learned.

RTC also served on the leadership body of Unity Alliance, an "alliance of alliances" including RTC, the National Domestic Workers Alliance, the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, the National Guest Workers Alliance, Jobs With Justice, and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance. Unity Alliance amplified the impact of our base building organizations and national alliances, positioning low-income people, people of color, and migrants as key voices in national politics. Unity Alliance also served as an incubator for

new formations like the United Workers Congress, which builds national power for organized workers in nine sectors excluded from labor laws, and 99% Power, which mobilized thousands of affected residents to actions demanding accountability from big banks and Wall Street.

At the end of 2013, seeking to open up space for new national formations to emerge as the political tides shifted and new opportunities arose, Unity Alliance announced that it would be closing in early 2014. All the organizations involved in Unity remain close allies in the movement who are committed to building new vehicles to help us collectively advance social justice. A final report based on Unity's work and lessons learned will be released in mid-2014 and will be available on our website.

RTC continues to be an active member of Home Defenders League (HDL), a coalition campaign addressing issues of principal reduction and bank accountability for the foreclosure crisis. In particular, RTC and HDL worked together, along with other partners and allies, to secure bi-monthly negotiations with the vice presidents of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to discuss our demands of a moratorium on evictions, principal reduction, "Right to Rent" for foreclosed homeowners, and direct response and remediation of 99 individual foreclosure cases.

In October, RTC moved our office to The Commons Brooklyn near downtown Brooklyn. RTC was one of several other progressive organizations, such as the Brecht Forum, Families United for Racial and Economic

Equality (FUREE, a local member organization of RTC), and Participatory Budgeting Project, to move into the office space in 2013. Together we are creating a new and exciting social movement space in the heart of Brooklyn.



FORECLOSE
ON BANKS
NOT PEOPLE

Members of RTC join Home Defenders League for the 'Bring Justice to Justice' action demanding that the Justice Department prosecute bank officials for crimes related to the foreclosure crisis.

URBAN ENCUENTRO

URBAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE STRUGGLE FOR THE SOUL OF THE CITY:
GLOBAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013
7:00 pm-9:00 pm

THE NEW SCHOOL
66 FIFTH AVENUE,
KELLEN AUDITORIUM
NEW YORK, NY, 10011

RACHEL LAFOREST
Right to the City Alliance

MIGUEL ROBLES-DURAN
Director,
Graduate Program in
Design and Urban Ecologies

From Occupy, to housing squats,
to counter-power structures, to
participatory decision-making—
urban social movements are
re-imagining urban democracy.
This panel features local and
national intellectuals, organizers
and activists at the forefront
of global and local movements
constructing urban alternatives



Transatlantic Right To The City Roundtable
Photo credit: Lenina Nadal

LIFTING UP THE RIGHT TO THE CITY FRAME

URBAN ENCUENTRO

RTC and The New School's Design and Urban Ecologies program have been building a collaborative partnership since the end of 2012. RTC helped organize one of the program's first "Urban Encuentros"—a panel titled "Soul of the City: Global and Local Perspectives on the Right to the City," which featured local and national intellectuals as well as organizers and activists at the forefront of movements constructing urban alternatives. The event brought organizers and students together to explore how urban social movements—from Occupy to housing squats—are re-imagining urban democracy.

MY BROOKLYN, OUR CITY

In June, As part of the citywide My Brooklyn, Our City campaign, RTC hosted a screening of the documentary film My Brooklyn followed by a discussion about gentrification in New York City. The event was attended by over 100 Brooklyn residents and Homes For All partners and included a presentation by RTC member group Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE) on their organizing work against gentrification and the redevelopment of Downtown Brooklyn.

FROM LISBON TO LOS ANGELES: TRANSATLANTIC RIGHT TO THE CITY ROUNDTABLE

In November, RTC and the New York branch of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung partnered to co-host a first ever Right to the City Transatlantic Roundtable. This historic meeting brought together housing justice groups from across Europe and the United States, all influenced by Henri Lefebvre's 1968 book, Right to the City, which called for the transformation of access to urban life. Together, we discussed theoretical frameworks, local conditions in our respective cities, and organizational strategies and tactics to protect and expand housing rights for all our cities' residents.

Roundtable participants included: EncounterAthens, Budapest's A Város Mindenkié (The City is for All), Paris's Droit au Logement (Right to Housing), Hamburg's Recht auf Stadt (Right to the City), Lisbon's Habita – Colectivo pelo Direito à Habitação e à Cidade (Collective on Housing Rights and the City), and Valencia, Spain's Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca (Movement of Mortgage Victims); RTC member groups Occupy our Homes Atlanta, the Bay Area's Causa Justa :: Just Cause, East Los Angeles Community Corporation, and New York's Picture the Homeless; and staff from RTC and the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.



Community members gather to watch *My Brooklyn*, a documentary about the redevelopment and gentrification of downtown Brooklyn. Photo credit: Jed Brandt

GROWING OUR BASE

RTC grew from 45 to 52 member organizations in 2013. We now have representation in 22 cities across the country.

We increased our social media presence from 4,525 to 5,691 followers on Facebook and from 1,300 to 2,241 on Twitter in 2013 alone.

We grew from 53 unique individual donors in 2012 to 93 donors in 2013.

2013

52 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

5,691 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

2,241 TWITTER FOLLOWERS

93 DONORS



2013 FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Income **\$351,189**

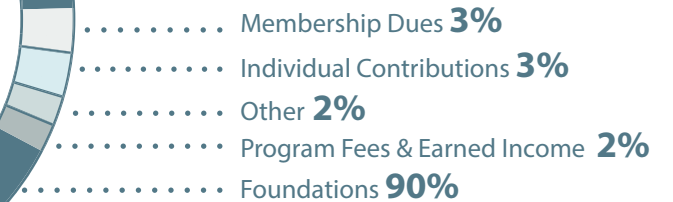
Total Expenses **\$628,430**

Beginning Net Assets \$415,526

Ending Net Assets \$138,285



INCOME BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE



Fundraising **19%**

Admin **25%**

Program **56%**

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES **\$353,865**

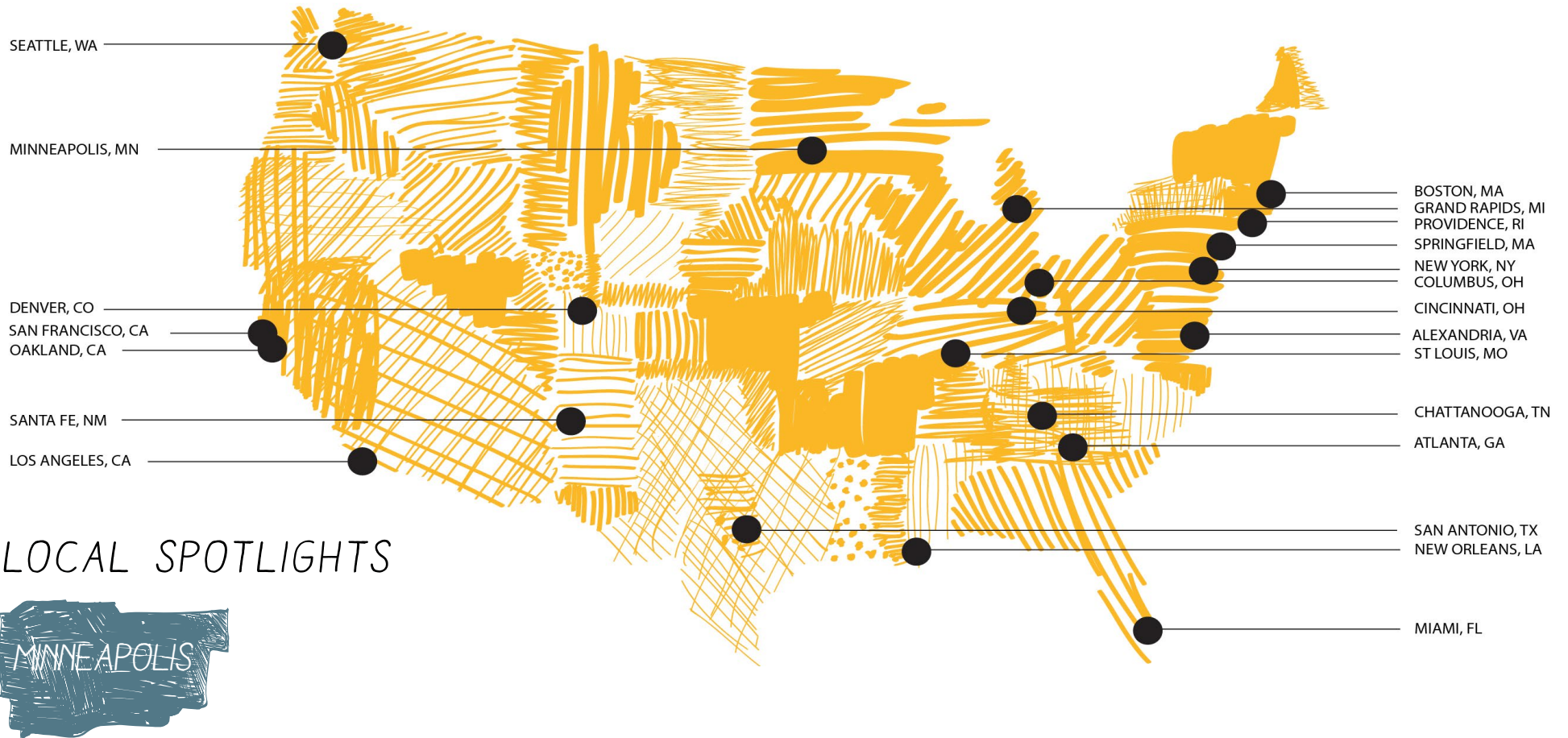
Program Expense Breakdown by percent:

Personnel	60%
National Campaign Activities and Movement Building	34%
Communications	6%

* These figures are based on our unaudited 2013 financials and only represent the activities of Right to the City Alliance, not the activities of our fiscal sponsees.

MAP OF MEMBER CITIES

*CURRENTLY WE HAVE OVER 50
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS IN
22 CITIES ACROSS 18 STATES*



LOCAL SPOTLIGHTS

HOUSE PASSES HOMEOWNER BILL OF RIGHTS IN MINNESOTA

In May of 2013, RTC member groups Minnesota Neighborhoods Organizing for Change and Occupy our Homes Minnesota were part of a coalition campaign that successfully passed a Home Owner Bill of Rights through Minnesota's House of Representatives. The bill, aimed at protecting homeowners from foreclosure, requires loan servicers to communicate all options to homeowners; requires loan servicers to offer loan modifications to all eligible homeowners; bans "dual tracking;" requires servicers to assist homeowners in submitting documentation regarding the foreclosure process; and allows homeowners to take the servicer to court to stop foreclosure if the servicer fails to comply with any aspect of the law.



HASSLE FREE HOUSING VICTORY

RTC member Causa Justa :: Just Cause was instrumental in pressuring San Francisco's Board of Supervisors to pass a number of tenants' rights policies in 2013, including Hassle-Free Housing legislation that will make current anti-harassment protections stronger and easier to enforce. Hassle-Free Housing legislation will allow tenants to collect damages from their landlords for each incident of harassment. Tenants will soon have an option to take their harassment claims to the San Francisco Rent Board and have a mediated session with the landlord or master tenant to try and resolve the issue. If there is no resolution, but it is clear that tenant harassment is taking place, the Rent Board's Administrative Law Judges can send their findings to the San Francisco City Attorney, who can pursue the case. This win is a great example of the growing strength of the tenants' rights movement in San Francisco.



EAST LA GOES UP AGAINST BIG DEVELOPER AND WINS!

RTC member group East Los Angeles Community Corporation (ELACC) and local partners in Frente de Apoyo al Comité de la Esperanza (FACE) were successful in halting the \$2 billion redevelopment proposal and subsequent demolition of Wyvernwood Garden Apartments—1,187 rent controlled apartments in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles. As a result of the coalition's advocacy, the developer Fifteen Group cannot move forward with the development plan until the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department conducts a peer review of several findings in the proposal's Environmental Impact Report and considers a preservation alternative for the rent controlled apartments.

4 WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO RIGHT TO THE CITY



FACEBOOK

"Like" our page to stay up to date on all of our latest activities and get access to loads of interesting articles and graphics related to gentrification, urban development, and community organizing.

Find us at WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/RIGHTTOTHECITYALLIANCE



TWITTER

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RIGHT TO THE CITY MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



RTC Staff (from left): Mark Swier, Yasmeen Perez, Rachel Laforest, Tony Romano, Lenina Nadal

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Kalila Barnett, Alternatives for
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Paulina Hernandez, Strategic
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Tony Samara, George Mason University
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Melanie Griffiths, City Life/Vida Urbana

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Occupy Our Homes Atlanta

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Florida New Majority Education Fund
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2013 Interns: Aurash Khawarзад, John Arnos, and Shannon Murray



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