

# **A Fishbowl Conversation: The Balance Between Responsible Economic Development, Gentrification and Displacement**

## **WHAT IS A FISHBOWL?**

A 'fishbowl' is a facilitated conversation between a diverse group of participants with traditionally divergent perspectives and experiences.

The fishbowl process involves two circles of chairs: an inner circle, where speakers will be prompted to converse based on questions prepared to deliberately solicit honest communication and an outer circle, where participants are invited to actively listen to the conversation within. Those in the outer circle are welcome to tap into the inner circle when they wish to participate in the conversation, allowing for fluidity of ideas and participation to emerge throughout the session. By design, the fishbowl provides for a rotating selection of viewpoints and opinions conveyed respectfully and productively.

The conversation circles are populated by a mix of specifically invited participants, selected to ensure a diversity of perspective voices; Audience members can 'work their way in' to the conversation circle by 'tapping in' during the course of the fishbowl.

## **FISHBOWL TOPIC**

The topic of this fishbowl will explore the balance, tension and potential solutions of responsible economic development and investment, gentrification and displacement.

## **PURPOSE**

The intent of this fishbowl is to provide a space for ULI members, industry experts, residents and organizations to discuss, probe, and unpack this timeless and universal struggle.

This fishbowl will provide an opportunity to honestly and frankly speak, to listen and to hear a variety of perspectives on the topic. The fishbowl facilitates learning and empathy of and between participants.

A fishbowl can serve as a foundation building block to building an equitable, attainable, diverse city and a first step to 'next steps'.

## IMPORTANT PROCESS CONSIDERATIONS

Inviting and involving the representatives that bring clear, diverse messages in the fishbowl's two discussion circles, as well as those invited to the 'listening' audience is essential to the effectiveness of a fishbowl.

Developing the 'right' conversation questions for our community is essential to facilitate an honest and productive conversation in a fishbowl.

Clear understanding and abiding by the fishbowl process and rules, the reason for them, is essential to the success of a fishbowl.

Host calls and meetings between fishbowl Facilitator and local stakeholders prior to the fishbowl to ensure there's an understanding of local issues, participants, opportunities and challenges. This understanding will help inform the fishbowl's prompting conversation questions.

## POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS

A fishbowl offers meaningful opportunities to build a healthier understanding among community interests and establish collaborations.

Again, the success of a fishbowl depends on having honest and diverse participation and participants!

Generally, participants should represent people *living* through gentrification and displacement, people involved in development/real estate/planning, people working professionally or as volunteers to create solutions.

## OTHER DETAILS

Venue needs to accommodate the design of a fishbowl and be located so to accommodate a diversity of participants.

## WHAT IS THE URBAN LAND INSTITUTE / WHAT DOES ULI DO?

The Urban Land Institute(ULI), headquartered in Washington DC, is a global research and education non-profit of over 44,000 members dedicated to providing

leadership and sharing best practices in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities.

ULI is considered the leading multi-disciplinary forum on development and land use issues through facilitating the open exchange of ideas, information and research throughout its community of public, private and not-profit members and partners. ULI does not lobby, as set forth in its by-laws.

ULI Nashville is the local office of the Urban Land Institute. Our over 800 local members represent every sector and every industry in middle TN working collaboratively to build a better community: architects, planners, engineers, public officials, academicians, community advocates, developers, bankers, land planners, students, attorneys, etc.

ULI Nashville and its members work on issues of density and land development, housing affordability, building for a healthier city, infrastructure and multi-modal transportation systems, excellence in design, supporting a creative class economy, the importance of urban manufacturing, et al.