

CULVER CITY SPEAKER SERIES 6.19.19

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

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Culver City is hosting a [Speaker Series](#)! The Speaker Series intends to inform the community and continue a dialogue around issues of importance affecting Culver City that will be addressed in the City's General Plan Update. Everyone who lives, works, plays, and/or learns in Culver City is invited to join in the discussion! [Access written summaries and videos for past events on the Speaker Series page.](#)

Culver City partnered with Antioch University Los Angeles to welcome [Randy Shaw](#), Executive Director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, San Francisco's leading provider of housing for homeless single adults. Shaw's new book, [Generation Priced Out: Who Gets to Live in the New Urban America](#), highlights the pricing out of a new generation of working and middle-class residents from the nation's most progressive cities. Shaw began his talk with a discussion of Culver City and its transformation from the blue-collar town that he grew up with in the second half of the twentieth-century to the rising tech hub of today with soaring home prices and rents. He identified two primary factors that have contributed to the current crisis in housing affordability in Culver City and elsewhere: the predominance of single-family zoning, which severely restricts the supply of housing units, and the opposition of multi-family developments by homeowners associations and neighborhood groups attempting to preserve neighborhood character.

Shaw had suggestions for how Culver City might address the housing affordability crisis. He advocated for building more housing throughout the city, targeting the greatest density in areas with access to public transit. He called for the adoption of inclusionary zoning laws that require affordable units be provided in new market-rate multi-family residential projects, noting that an increase in maximum building heights would make such projects more economically feasible. He also recommended the City enact protection for renters, including rent control and "just cause" eviction protection. In a spirited question and answer session following his talk, he engaged community members on a wide range of topics including: the need for the City to work with corporations bringing employees into the city to provide housing options; how rent control leads to more stable communities; and the rights of teachers and service workers to be able to afford housing in their own community. The main take away was Shaw's message that Culver City has an opportunity to provide more housing options and that the resulting diversity would better the city.

We would like to extend our appreciation to [Antioch University Los Angeles](#) for hosting, [Sprouts](#) for feeding everyone, [Parks, Recreation & Community Services](#) staff for child care, and a special thanks to the City's Housing Division for sharing resources (see below) on addressing homelessness and attending to answer the community's questions. Make plans now to attend our next event, 'Innovation in Urban Design.' Scheduled for Wednesday, July 17 at the [Helms Design Center](#), this event features architect and urbanist [Gerhard Mayer, AIA, LEED AP](#). [Learn more about it and RSVP here.](#)

RESOURCES

[Culver City Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness](#)
[Culver City Toolkit for Addressing Homelessness for Culver City](#)



"What we learned is the age of suburbia is an isolated and unique historical phenomenon."

- Randy Shaw

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