

All In Denver Statement Supporting DIY Housing

All In Denver is a non-profit advocacy organization that believes an equitable city where all people prosper and thrive is within our reach. Recently, our membership has become concerned by the closure of DIY (“Do It Yourself”) living and creative spaces in Denver. To support our artistic community, and to highlight yet another by-product of an affordable housing crisis that is impacting too many segments of our community, All In Denver has developed the following statement of support and action.

All In Denver urges Denver’s civic leadership to pro-actively respond to the DIY housing crisis:

- 1. Housing for Denver’s creative community is critical to our city’s economic vitality:** As housing costs have increased in Denver, it has become more difficult for members of our creative community to thrive in our city. For decades, creative individuals have been pioneers in previously vacant districts such as Lower Downtown and RiNo that have evolved into the centers of Denver’s prosperity. These districts once provided both attainable housing and a welcoming environment that fostered the creative expression that has made Denver distinctive. But due to the growth of our city, the grassroots creative community, which is central to Denver’s identity and competitive edge, is now on the verge of extinction due to the lack of housing options.
- 2. DIY housing should be pro-actively encouraged and supported:** The DIY housing that was recently shuttered in RiNo is critical to the continued incubation of artistic expression in Denver. Following the tragic Ghost Ship fire in Oakland, this type of housing is now under siege throughout the nation. We urge Denver civic leaders to support DIY housing through appropriate changes to citywide zoning and land use regulations. Targeted subsidies can bring buildings into compliance with health and safety standards. Public/private partnership approaches should include funding from commercial districts that have profited from the existence of thriving creative communities.
- 3. Bolder actions are required to support affordable housing and stabilize neighborhoods.** All In Denver continues to urge more innovation and investment to address our city’s housing shortage. The DIY housing crisis is yet another indicator that the lack of affordable housing is threatening to collapse the city’s economic foundation as Denver becomes increasingly unaffordable for a wide spectrum of households. Our civic leaders must seek voter approval in 2017 or 2018 to bond the affordable housing half-mill levy already approved by City Council and Mayor Hancock in September. A further bold step would fund an additional half-mill and set aside \$100 million in the 2017 General Obligation Bond measure to significantly increase the resources for Denver’s severe affordable housing shortage. This solution will help preserve Denver’s identity as both a creative and a diverse city. It would create and preserve thousands of affordable units within several years, prevent the displacement of households and entire neighborhoods, and address a crisis that is rapidly reshaping our city.



Who We Are: All In Denver is a 501(c)4 non-profit advocacy organization that believes an equitable city where all people prosper and thrive is within our reach. Together, we support equitable policies and civic investments that grow prosperity for all, and we identify and launch bold leaders that advance the greater good. All In Denver Founding Members: Brad Segal, Jami Duffy, Kimball Crangle, Dan Aschkinasi, Lance Bross, Andrea Buglione, Jonathon Cappelli, Bree Davies, Yvette Freeman, Tom Gougeon, Ben Kelly, Will Kralovec, Elizabeth Munn, Tony Pigford, Melinda Pollack, Susan Powers, Hilarie Portell, Nick Swett and Sean VanBerschot.

Learn more at www.AllInDenver.org.