



2017 NOW! Conference Recap

Housing Colorado's 2017 NOW! Conference was a tremendous success. The event took place from October 11th-13th at the Vail Marriott. With 830 people registered, this made our 29th annual conference the largest yet. Increased involvement meant more collaboration and a greater network of supporters of affordable housing. Vail was buzzing with excitement over innovative solutions, potential deals and partnerships, and inspiring educational sessions.

Wednesday started with our morning boot camps; it was 3 sessions of great primer courses for those new and rising in the industry or for those interested in topics that they are not directly familiar with. The opening of the conference was our Wednesday Opening Luncheon with Jonathan Rose – a compelling and inspiring session about rethinking housing solutions to serve low-income communities well and effectively. Housing Colorado also released our new public communication piece, *Benefiting Communities*, explaining the positive reasons why citizens should support affordable housing development.



Then, we broke for conference workshops. Over the course of the three days, there were 45 workshops within 7 conference tracks. The tracks were Stable Homes, Small Communities, Asset Management, Policy, Professional Development, Finance and Development. Wednesday evening we had a fun time with drinks in the conference exhibit hall at our Wednesday Welcome Reception.



Thursday breakfast began with a deep dive on federal policy with the Housing on the Hill session featuring David Gasson from Boston Capital, Bryan Keller from RubinBrown, Mike Morrison from Novogradac, and Beth Mullen from CohnReznick. Also at breakfast, Housing Colorado announced the rebranding of our organization and gave a first look of our new logo. More updates to follow soon! There

were workshops in the morning and afternoon on Thursday. During lunch, Housing Colorado awarded Senator Don Coram with the Legislator of the Year award for his bold, bipartisan support for the affordable housing trust fund. Attendees also heard from Ali Solis of MakeRoom, a federal level advocacy group garnering support for affordable housing. In the afternoon, we hosted a favorite event again this year – Housing Colorado's members-only wine-tasting. This led up to our networking dinner at BOL, a cool, sophisticated bar with bowling; it took networking to the next level of fun!

Friday morning had us face our fears with Michelle Poler's keynote. She became an internet sensation for her YouTube project and Ted Talk "100 Days Without Fears." She urged us to take risks out of our comfort zone. Friday morning's workshops included the 2017 Design Charrettes and the sneak peek of an upcoming research report on what is driving unaffordability in Colorado. Finally, we celebrated the incredible



work of affordable housing professionals, programs and projects in Colorado at our annual Eagle Awards. The award winners were Don May, Maureen Hewitt, Renaissance at North Colorado Station, Sanderson Apartments and the Eviction Prevention Program. The People's Choice winner was Renaissance at North Colorado Station. Also at the awards luncheon, we thanked our 2017 conference co-chairs Matt Zarlengo and Carrie Kronberg. Carrie will be joining us again for 2018, along with our newly announced co-chair Michael Thomas. We also announced next year's dates in Vail, October 3rd-5th.

Thank you to our 2017 Conference Committee!

Brooke Akins	Erin Drake	Christina McKasy	Kim Snetzinger
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If you are interested in volunteering on next year's conference committee, contact regan@housingcolorado.org.

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Lastly, a huge thank you for all who joined and participated from the Housing Colorado Staff! It was a pleasure to serve you!

Pictured Left to Right: Roberta Trujillo Administrative Associate, Emily Nilsen Membership & Communication Specialist, Regan Robertson Conference & Event Manager, Sara Reynolds Executive Director

Learn more about Housing Colorado at www.housingcolorado.org.