
HOMES FOR ALL ST. LOUIS

Organizing Tenant Power for
Housing Justice

What is Homes for All?

- Homes for All is a campaign started in 2013 by the Right to the City Alliance, a national organization comprised of housing and land justice organizations throughout the nation
- Homes for All St. Louis was inaugurated in July of 2018 after discussion amongst Dutchtown South Community Corporation constituents and various left-wing political organization zeroed in on housing as a primary concern in the St. Louis area



Above- members of Homes for All South at their inaugural convening, October 2017

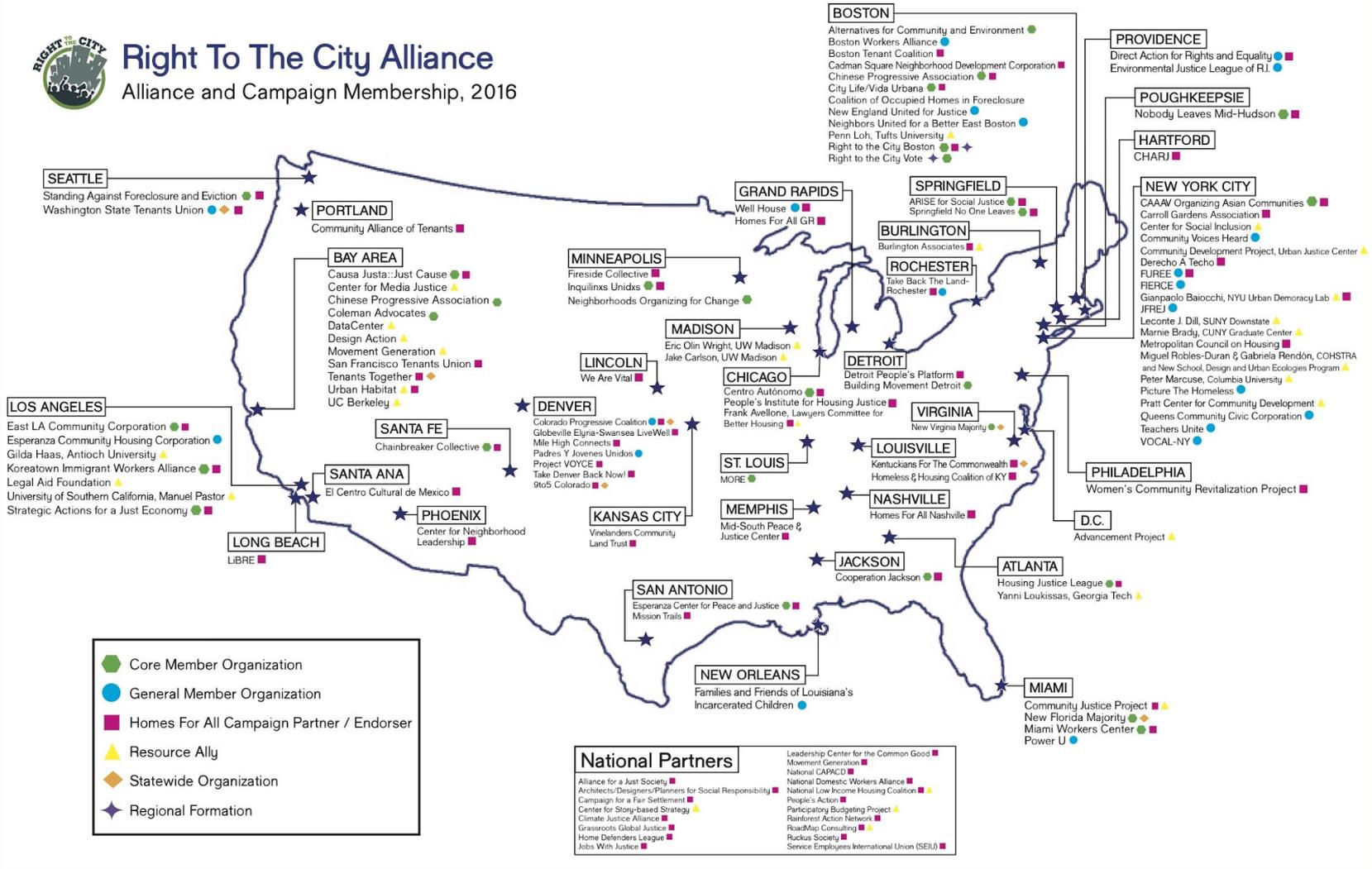


Left- housing and land justice organizations at the Right to the City and Neighborhood Funders Group at the Atlanta Convening, July 2018



Right To The City Alliance

Alliance and Campaign Membership, 2016



Organizing Principles

- The guiding and foundational principle underscoring all Homes for All organizing is that **“the most impacted people must lead”**
- This is to ensure that the perspectives of those who are most impacted by issues of housing injustice are not lost in attempts to address it, so that these most impacted peoples will be the primary participants in the fight for their rights as human beings and the improvement of their material interests
- To this end, the **tenant union** is the central organization of any Homes for All coalition, as it is through tenant unions that residents most impacted by housing injustice can marshal their collective power for the betterment of their conditions, and the conditions of impacted residents at large

Homes for All Coalition Organizations

- Homes for All coalitions are comprised of **member** and **ally** organizations. **Member** organizations have voting power in HFA coalitions, while **ally** organizations do not.
 - Member organizations are grassroots/base organizations, meaning that the rank and file of these groups are in charge of actions of their groups
 - Example: Tenant unions, autonomous political organizations, etc.
 - Ally organizations are organizations that do not have the same grassroots/base orientation of the member groups, but provide invaluable assistance to the coalition, such as legal aid and resource acquisition
 - Example: non-profit organizations, legal service organizations, community corporations, etc.

Goals

- In the short term, we of Homes for All St. Louis seek to help organize and found tenant unions throughout the city and county, particularly in areas where we have already begun to work with residents for housing justice (Dutchtown, South City generally, Chesterfield, Ferguson)
 - We will also advocate for better enforcement of current laws and inspection criteria in low income housing
- In the long term, we seek to shape housing legislation that will center the needs of tenants and residents, as well as build autonomous organizations to exercise residents' power
 - Attach Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) to future real estate development in the St. Louis area
 - Found a Community Land Trust
 - Implement rent control in the city and county, then in the state