



Agreement Reached for Tiny House Village in Seattle's Central District

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Seattle, WA - A new tiny house community will be coming to 22nd and E Union St. in Seattle's Central District this fall. Property owner, the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, has reached an agreement with the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) and Nickelsville to house the tiny house village on church-owned land.

The agreement allows up to 15 tiny houses and a restroom pavilion to be located at 1419 22nd Avenue. The project is meant to provide safe housing for individuals and families currently experiencing homelessness. The village will be managed by Nickelsville in partnership with LIHI who will provide case management services and additional assistance to help move the residents into permanent housing. The project was developed as an innovative crisis response to homelessness by moving people into tiny houses instead of tents. However, Nickelsville will still maintain its tent encampment (currently located at 1010 S. Dearborn St.) in addition to the new tiny house village.

"Joining hands with the homeless is a vital part of our mission of reaching out to ALL of our neighbors in Jesus' Name," says Pastor Steven Olsen. "Our congregation has cherished its partnership with Nickelsville over the past six years, especially as we have been privileged to welcome the camp to our property for a year, and to continue as their church host in their present location. We are overjoyed to see that partnership expand to include LIHI, as well as Sawhorse Revolution, the Tulalip Tribes, and many others who are working together to create this beautiful new village. To us it is a powerful sign of justice, community and healing in a city where the harmful effects of gentrification have largely been allowed to continue unchecked and unchallenged."

LIHI Board President Melinda Nichols adds: "We're upping the game with this pilot project. We've created some wonderful partnerships and have listened to what the residents of Nickelsville want. Currently, emergency shelters are full, families and singles are being turned away and truly affordable housing is hard to find. This tiny house village will help transition people into more stable housing while in community with others. We're working with some great partners to create safe and comfortable homes. We hope to see this model replicated and improved upon over time."

South Seattle College, the Tulalip Tribes, Sawhorse Revolution and YouthBuild are among several community groups and pre-apprenticeship programs that plan to donate tiny houses to the project. The

tiny houses all differ in design, but will be safe, sturdy structures that will help protect many homeless individuals otherwise forced to sleep on the streets and under overpasses. The houses are less than 120 sq ft in design and will include basic electricity and insulation. The architects at Environmental Works have designed a site plan and restroom pavilion for the property as well.

Kitty DeBerry, a current Nickelsville resident, believes that the tiny houses are a good alternative for people experiencing homelessness. "Housing, four solid walls and a door that can close out the world, this is an essential need for a person's sense of safety, security and stability. The recent movement seen here in Washington, and throughout the nation, of supplying homeless populations with small housing units in long-term communities, has shown a large ray of hope upon a population that can use all the hope it can find."

South Seattle College-Georgetown is actively supporting several pre-apprenticeship programs in the area in an effort to make this tiny house village a reality. The tiny houses and restroom pavilion are being designed to be compatible with the residential neighborhood. The 8'x 12' tiny houses will be colorful and decorated by the residents and artists. The restroom pavilion will have plumbing and running water-- which will avoid the use of port-a-potties. The College will also sponsor a summit later this year on tiny houses.

Please see attached for a photo of a tiny house built by the Tulalip Tribes TERO program and a site rendering completed by Environmental Works.