

In October, we are focusing on our Unsung Heroes who help create affordable housing by serving as specialists or technical experts. Every piece of the puzzle is necessary to create great affordable housing, and we rely on a variety of experts in our industry to ensure that our projects work. These Unsung Heroes are the techies, number-crunchers, legalese-interpreters, and artistic minds behind affordable housing projects.

Aaron Geisler, Senior Network Administrator, Housing Resources Group (HRG)



Aaron is responsible for making sure that computer equipment and software (including the network server equipment) is working and effective, and that HRG's website is functional. Resident managers in HRG's 28 apartment buildings, maintenance staff, leasing/compliance department, and administrative functions all depend on computers to accomplish HRG's mission. Because of Aaron's dedication and skill, HRG staff rarely deal with computer downtime, their systems are secure, and e-mail traffic is very

well-managed. Although others in the organization are available to cover his responsibilities in his absence, Aaron makes himself available at all times to help answer questions and solve problems. He gives the leadership team excellent input regarding efficiency and policy. He takes additional responsibility for employee education about appropriate and safe use of our network and the internet. In addition, Aaron also considers the needs of our residents, helping to design and arrange low-cost internet access for our apartment buildings, and implementing computer centers at some buildings. Aaron does all this and more, with good cheer and a very special sense of humor!

Abbey Norris, Public Art Manager, SouthEast Effective Development (SEED)

Abbey goes above and beyond her job to develop partnerships with schools, community centers and residents to ensure that SEED's public art program meets the needs of Southeast Seattle's diverse community and is recognized as a model public arts program. She takes the initiative to work with the media to ensure that SEED is featured and recognized in the community. She also designs and maintains SEED's website.

Jill Fleming, Chief Financial Officer, Capitol Hill Housing (CHH)

Jill single-handedly revamped CHH's financial systems, allowing staff to more effectively monitor portfolio funds and complete audits in a timely fashion. She has risen beyond normal work requirements on managing a broader (and new) workload during staffing shortages.

Brad Schmitcke, IT Manager, Common Ground (CG)

In a short time, Brad has become THE most popular member of a pretty great CG staff. His hire, after a stint as a temporary employee, resulted in a standing ovation at a monthly staff meeting. Brad manages Common Ground's IT network, trouble shoots (and actually fixes) computer problems, and is key to keeping the work flowing at Common Ground. There are 2 offices and several staff who work from remote locations. Brad has improved significantly the ability to communicate effectively with each other regardless of location throughout the state. A priority for CG in 2008 is expanding the company resources available to support our staff. Brad is key to this initiative. For the first time, IT capacity is matching the staff's technical skills and experience. CG Seattle moved offices a couple of months ago.....always an ugly activity. Brad made the move work electronically.....phones, computers, server, printers, fax are all up and running within a week. His pre-planning, overtime work on move day, and trouble shooting on the first day in the new office made an amazing difference. Thanks to HDC for allowing us to honor Brad's contributions.

Megan Nelson, Attorney, GordonDerr LLP



Megan is a valued member of the GordonDerr team. Passionate about affordable housing issues, Megan is a board member for the Eastside Habitat for Humanity. She's working to ensure the Greater Seattle area continues to be accessible to people of all incomes, helping to keep our community a vibrant and diverse place.

Roger Tucker, Director of Architecture, Environmental Works

Roger has been working with Jan Gleason, Executive Director of Environmental Works, for 22 years. He is extremely modest and, being second in command, rarely gets the acknowledgement he deserves. Because Roger always insists our projects are a TEAM effort, which for the most part they are, he attempts to avoid recognition for his exceptional design abilities and leadership skills. Roger is an absolute jewel to work with.



Seattle Incentive Zoning Action Alert!

HDC Affinity Group engages broad pool of residents to testify at

October 7th Hearing

Know someone concerned about whether they can afford to continue living in Seattle or worried that they will never be able to buy a home in the city? Invite them to share their concerns with the Seattle City Council at a Public Hearing on October 7th!

This hearing is held in the evening at 5:30 so average citizens can participate. Click here for an invitation you can forward to friends and family. They do not need to be a land use expert, they just need to believe that hardworking families should be able to afford a home near their job and still be able to put food on their table. It can be a board member, friend, neighbor, teammate, partner, or your adult child living in your basement.

While the input of expert affordable housing developers remains crucial, HDC's Incentive Zoning Affinity Group is supplementing our traditional approach by recruiting others to share their concern about housing. This approach not only demonstrates the wide community interest in the future of housing in Seattle, but reframes the debate to focus more on the vision for an affordable Seattle rather than remaining mired in debates over data.

Click [here](#) to see more information about our messages, supporting facts and sample testimony. Please contact Anna Markee, HDC's Seattle outreach director, if you would like to get involved or have any questions, anna@housingconsortium.org.

Eastside Affordable Housing Advocacy

Help advocate for more resources for affordable housing development in East King County

Budget season has begun. Most ARCH cities are in the process of putting together their 2009-2010 budgets. This is a perfect time to step up advocacy for increased resources for the ARCH Housing Trust Fund. Once again, HDC's simple message is: 1) reevaluate and increase the jurisdiction's housing assistance goals, and 2) consider options for a dedicated funding source. Key dates for relevant public hearings, city council sessions, and other events can be found on HDC's website at: [Greater King County Affordable Housing Calendar](#).

Most importantly, here some of the upcoming Eastside Budget Public Hearings:

Bellevue: Nov. 17
Bothell: Nov. 25
Kenmore: Nov. 10, Nov. 24
Kirkland: Nov. 18
Newcastle: Nov. 18
Redmond: Oct. 21, Nov. 18

Please contact Rachel Krefetz, HDC's suburban outreach director, if you would like to get involved or have any questions, rachel@housingconsortium.org.

Employment Opportunities for Housing Organizations

See the [HDC employment listing page](#) for more current listings. Deadline for newsletter posting is 25th of the month. All prior postings are erased unless the posting organization renews its posting.

- [Coalition Coordinator, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition](#)
- [Housing Assistant, Capitol Hill Housing](#)
- [Maintenance Worker, Low Income Housing Institute](#)
- [Director of Resident Organizing, East Bay Housing Organizations](#)
- [Housing Manager II, Archdiocesan Housing Authority](#)
- [Director of Compliance & Training, Archdiocesan Housing Authority](#)
- [Senior Housing Developer, Low Income Housing Institute](#)
- [Housing Developer, Low Income Housing Institute](#)
- [Consultant for Research on Tenant Populations, Capitol Hill Housing](#)
- [HR/Operations Manager, Building Changes](#)
- [Executive Director, St. Andrew's Housing Group](#)
- [Program Director \(Coalition on Regional Equity Program\), Sacramento Housing Alliance](#)
- [Resident Manager of The Seneca, Capitol Hill Housing Improvement Program](#)
- [Assistant Manager at The Holiday, Capitol Hill Housing Improvement Program](#)
- [Resident Manager of The Bremer & John Carney Apts., Capitol Hill Housing Improvement Program](#)
- [Major Gifts Director, Habitat for Humanity East King County](#)

- **Executive Director, Hospitality House**

Workshops, Seminars, Conferences

- **October 1, 2008, Issaquah, WA**
SAHG's Johnson Hill Apartments Renovation/New Construction Celebration
- **November 5-7, 2008, Chicago, IL**
5th Annual AHF Live Tax Credit Developer's Summit: What's Next for Affordable Housing?
- **November 5-7, 2008, Boston, MA**
Spectrum's Annual Symposium
- **November 7, 2008, South Seattle, WA**
DNDA's Annual Fundraising Event: Links to the Community
- **November 14, 2008, Seattle, WA**
LHI 6th Annual Benefit Auction & Banquet
- **November 20-21, 2008, Seattle, WA**
Spectrum Tax Credit Certification (C3P) 2008 Classes



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Submissions to: haley@housingconsortium.org | Deadline for job ads 25th of the month.