

# UCLA LUSKIN SCHOOL COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE 2020

## CALL FOR COMMUNITY PARTNER APPLICATIONS

The 2020 UCLA Community Collaborative Program is inviting applications from economic justice, housing and community development organizers, advocates, cultural workers, and leaders to join a six-month university-community applied research program. From January 9 through June 4, 2020, Community Partners will collaborate with urban planning, public policy and public health graduate students in a weekly workshop held on Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Over the two academic quarters, most classes will be held near a Gold Line station in Boyle Heights. This year's program will be led by anti-displacement, housing, and Community Land Trust organizer Sandra McNeill; and will partner with staff and members of East LA Community Corporation (ELACC).



### TO APPLY SUBMIT:

- Application Cover Sheet
- Statement of Interest
- Optional: Letter of support (if sponsored by an organization)

### BY EMAIL TO:

[sandra@sandramcneillconsulting.com](mailto:sandra@sandramcneillconsulting.com)

**EARLY DEADLINE: December 1, 2019**

(Applications received after this date are not guaranteed to be reviewed)

# DISRUPTING SPECULATION, DEFENDING COMMUNITIES

*“Every day somebody’s apartment or house is turned from a home into a commodity and put on the market, and they join the ranks of the displaced.”*

- Rebecca Solnit, *Hollow City: The Siege of San Francisco and the Crisis of American Urbanism*

Globally, there has been a shift toward land and housing serving as an investment tool rather than satisfying the basic human need for shelter. Residential real estate now constitutes 42% of global wealth. In Los Angeles, there are major racial and ethnic wealth disparities, with Latino and Black households having about 1 cent for every dollar of Whites’ wealth. Renters – who make up 63% of all Angeleno households – have not fared well as their homes have been commodified, and they have almost no opportunity or leverage to intervene in the real estate market to protect their family’s interests or to keep their communities whole.

The 2020 Community Collaborative applied research project will bring Community Partners together with UCLA Graduate Students to address the question: **HOW CAN WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES OF COLOR DISRUPT THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF SPECULATIVE CAPITAL THAT IS RAISING HOUSING COSTS, CREATING DISPLACEMENT, AND DESTABILIZING NEIGHBORHOODS?** A key intervention we will examine is tenants’ first right to purchase their buildings when landlords sell. We will also research strategies attempted internationally, from Berlin to Rio, and determine applicability to our local challenges. And, among other strategies, we will investigate the feasibility of a cross-neighborhood or multi-city strategy to target egregious speculators.

Through a collaboration with ELACC, we will analyze how each intervention could be deployed in Boyle Heights and Unincorporated East Los Angeles — and inform future campaigns of ELACC, their partners, and sister communities within the LA region to counter speculative activities by placing land, housing, capital and the real estate development process under community control.

Community Partners will:

- Gain new skills in an applied learning environment.
- Receive free access to some university resources including urban planning courses and faculty.
- Receive a certificate of completion from the UCLA Department of Urban Planning.

UCLA Luskin Community Collaborative is a program of the UCLA Department of Urban Planning.

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**ABOUT COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE:** The Community Collaborative Program has emerged from a joint initiative of UCLA's Department of Urban Planning and the Center for Labor Research and Education, launched in 1991 to engage community organizers and the labor movement in shaping community development policy in Los Angeles. For three decades, UCLA's Community Scholars Program has provided opportunity for community organizers, civil rights' activists, and union organizers engaged in collectively making LA a better place to live and work to participate in a unique applied research project with UCLA undergraduate and graduate students. For more information on past Community Scholars projects, see: <https://luskin.ucla.edu/urban-planning/student-projects/>.

While the original Community Scholars program has evolved into a combined undergrad-graduate student program under leadership of the UCLA Labor Center, in 2020 Luskin is continuing the tradition by launching the UCLA LUSKIN COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM, which will pair Community Partners with UCLA Graduate Students to carry out an applied research project on a timely and pressing community development challenge.



**TEAMS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS:** The Urban Planning Department has already accepted a diverse and motivated cohort of Urban Planning, Public Policy and Public Health graduate students into this year's Community Collaborative program. After the January launch of the program, we will create teams of Graduate Students and the selected Community Partners to develop proposals for disrupting real estate speculation – in the form of organizing campaigns, community-controlled institutions, programs and/or policies. The Students will contribute a host of research, analytical and communication skills honed through their graduate studies, and the Community Partners will bring knowledge and relationships to bear as they critique and vet the viability of each potential approach. The Graduate Student-Community Partner teams will thus engage in an iterative process of research, analysis, and reconfiguring of the mechanisms.

**FACULTY:** The 2020 Community Collaborative Program will be led by Sandra McNeill. For over three decades, Sandra's work has addressed the problem of wealth and resource inequity. For the past two years, she has consulted nationally with community-based organizations, coalitions and local government on anti-displacement strategies, housing policy, and community land trusts. From 2007 to 2017, Sandra served as the Executive Director of T.R.U.S.T. South LA, a democratic and permanent steward of land advancing community-driven strategies in both gentrifying and disinvested neighborhoods of South Los Angeles. She has provided strategic leadership to various community/labor/faith coalitions which have: obtained direct economic benefits for South LA residents; increased equitable parks and active transportation resources in Los Angeles County; and secured affordable housing and quality local jobs in LA's transit-adjacent development. Sandra received her M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA in 1997.



Each Community Collaborative class will feature presentations from — and opportunity to dialogue and consult with — guest practitioners, organizers, advocates, and academics from Los Angeles and beyond.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Sandra McNeill, Instructor

[sandra@sandramcneillconsulting.com](mailto:sandra@sandramcneillconsulting.com)

323-404-0796

## DISRUPTING SPECULATION, DEFENDING COMMUNITIES

UCLA LUSKIN SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE 2020

# COMMUNITY PARTNER APPLICATION

Please submit an application with the below information, statement of interest, and optional letter of support to **Sandra McNeill** at [sandra@sandramcneillconsulting.com](mailto:sandra@sandramcneillconsulting.com) by **DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**. Note that any applications submitted after this preferred deadline are not guaranteed to be reviewed. The application may be submitted as either a Word document or .pdf.

## APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Please include the following information:

**TITLE:** *COMMUNITY PARTNER APPLICATION FOR 2020 UCLA LUSKIN COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM ON "DISRUPTING SPECULATION, DEFENDING COMMUNITIES"*

**APPLICANT NAME:**

**PREFERRED PRONOUNS:**

**ADDRESS:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

**ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION (If applicable):**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION (In one paragraph, describe your background as an economic justice, housing or community development organizer, advocate, cultural worker or leader):**

## STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Please attach a statement of interest, *of no more than two pages in length*, that includes:

- 1) How you feel the Community Collaborative Program will benefit you and your work?;
- 2) What you think you have to offer the UCLA Luskin 2020 Community Collaborative Program?;

*And, if you are being sponsored by an organization:*

- 3) Information about the organization's mission and your role/contribution.

## OPTIONAL: LETTER OF SUPPORT

If an organization will be sponsoring your participation in the 2020 Community Collaborative Program, you may wish to include a Letter of Support from the organization as part of your application.