

25. Housing and Homelessness

A revolutionary change in our thinking, being and living can be summarized in a maxim popularized within community and housing movements of the 2020s to today: “the more beautiful, functional and beneficial our shared common spaces and systems are, the less we need individually, and the more we have to give to make our shared commons beautiful, functional and beneficial for all, for the long term.”

That change of thinking, being and living had applications and impacts far beyond the community and housing movements, but it was particularly evident in how we changed ways we live in communities.

People began coming together in towns, suburban neighborhoods and city districts and working to create shared spaces, gardens, facilities, and common solutions to shared needs and desires. We removed fences separating private property and homes, opening and creating larger shared spaces.

Commonly, in a neighborhood or block, with houses facing the streets, back yards were merged and combined into beautiful expansive spaces, with walkways, lush gardens, play areas, sitting areas, pools, hot tubs and water features, bar-b-que and/or outdoor eating areas neighbors all could share and enjoy.

These are much better and more social, fun and rewarding than individual backyards had been before, areas where children and neighbors can come together and enjoy the outdoors together.

At the fronts of homes, 2/3 to 3/4 of streets were removed and replaced by narrower delivery, walking and biking paths. Fences were removed, and front yards and previous streets and sidewalks merged into gorgeous gardens and paths we love to be out in, greeting people and being active and engaged.

We no longer need garages for cars, and we have far less personal stuff, so former garages have been converted into various alternate spaces: guest and guest worker living quarters, family and play rooms, greenhouses, workshops, places to make and showcase art and music, and rooms with other uses. Many are glass fronted or allow doors to open entirely, leaving the spaces open to front gardens.

Neighborhoods and districts band together to create solutions to common needs, like gyms, pools, playgrounds, high quality kitchens, dining rooms, high tech movie, learning and entertainment spaces, libraries, learning and study centers, woodworking and metal-working shops, art studios, dance halls, places for children, youth and elders to hang out, and indoor play rooms. We now find it more fulfilling to do things in those shared spaces with others than isolated in homes, because it's more social and fun, creates connections and relationships, which creates happiness, well-being and satisfaction, real wealth.

In these kinds of environments, where we naturally spend more time outdoors or in shared spaces and facilities, we spend less time isolated at home. That has allowed many to open to sharing living spaces. Guests and renters live in former garages and rooms we no longer hoard for private uses. That lowers costs of homeownership or renting per person, freeing us from having to earn so much money, or helping us buy if we'd been renting. It's common for property owners to become so dedicated to their living communities that they bequeath land, homes and resources to their communities when they die. That's let communities devote property to other uses, like entertainment centers, guest quarters, gyms, studios, and rentals producing community income. Individual needs decrease as shared needs are met.

Now, in 2060, it's common for enough people to have bequeathed property to communities that neighborhoods themselves have other models of ownership, morphing toward community campuses, owned and governed by inhabitants, in various models, ranging from democracies to principalities. Owners' goals are not to get rich selling their property. Rather, they are to help their communities become self-sustaining, so they can better support and provide high quality lives for their inhabitants.

Over time, many of the properties have been paid for, so there are no outstanding loans on them. Inhabitants are then free to work on making it all ever better, pursuing art, music and passions, and creating and sharing abundance and beauty, rather than paying banks. That's sustainable real wealth.

People in high-rise condominium and apartment buildings have done similar things, coming together to buy buildings, remodel spaces, create rooftop gardens, dedicate floors to other uses, convert garages into wonderful alternative spaces, build indoor greenhouses and other common areas. Many of those are now vertical shared community campuses. They're like vertical neighborhoods.

In more remote areas, people have come together to buy entire towns, abandoned or on the edge of collapse, revitalizing them, connecting them with modern network and information systems, creating good livelihoods, growing good food, and creating good lives. In some areas, people have bought raw land and built new models of community from scratch, with big, beautiful common spaces and small eclectic living spaces, in tiny homes, tents, dorms, treehouses and all kinds of other unique creations.

These changes have required gumption. We've had to change our ways of being, thinking, doing and behaving. Most have done that by working with shared Earth Citizen and other principles and values. We've changed, gotten up, gotten together, and worked out new ways of living together. That's hard.

We've had to learn to open, listen to and be aware of others, raise our states of being, work out conflicts and disagreements, find common ground, figure out how to make decisions together, and find fair ways to handle people moving in and out of communities. That's good work, though. It's led to creation of exceptional real wealth: happiness, fulfillment, meaningful work, creating and sharing abundance, community, love, care, support, service, beauty, respect, creativity, free and quiet time, fun, laughter, believing in what we do, and seeing the benefits of our efforts in lives and environments surrounding us.

Along the way, we realized not everyone had knowledge, abilities, tools, resources and characteristics needed to rise up and make something like this happen. So many people had been discarded, damaged, neglected, abused or disadvantaged by capitalism, folks who dropped-out, got displaced by jobs abroad, robots and technologies, never got decent educations or skills, suffered with untreated mental and emotional problems, were driven out of business by corporate monoliths, got sick and weren't treated or went bankrupt, gave up, or were alienated by other forces. Many of these people lacked the spirit, gumption, resources and characteristics to lift themselves up and create new lives with the changes.

Collectively, we realized we needed to create nurturing communities to support, revive, revitalize, empower and develop capacities of these people, so they could participate and thrive in the new worlds we were creating. Many communities take people like that in, care for them, love and support them, until they're contributing members of the communities themselves. There were so many, though.

Some of us got together and created plans for communities like these to nurture and develop people. We got grants, gifts and resources to build communities to take these people in and provided supports

they needed to shake it off, fan the sparks of their spirits back to life, acquire new knowledge and skills, build supportive relationships, and recreate themselves, collect resources and make new lives.

The new monetary and banking systems support that. The government just prints the money to support efforts to create real wealth, knowing the long-term social gains will more than offset resulting lowered values of money through inflation. Wealthy people support that, giving away money before they die, and all kinds of regular people support that, through a variety of crowdfunding schemes.

Rising Sun Community is a good example. Some Florida Earth Citizens put that together, raising money, providing planning, management and organization services, and converting the former Cape Carnival rocket base into several communities, with excellent homes, facilities and supports, and tapped into high performance *Connect Us* and *Inform Us* systems that help people to develop themselves quickly. It's like an Eliza Doolittle community for similarly disadvantaged people who were not sent to prison.

Inhabitants grow, prepare and share food together in beautiful gardens, kitchens and dining rooms. Excellent schools care for children, who are safe and thriving, while parents develop themselves. Counseling and support services are provided. All have free healthcare now, so people get healthy.

With counsel and help, all learn to create and meaningfully contribute to thriving lives and community. All work to make the community work, developing valuable experiences and references and resources to build lives with. Eventually, they "graduate" and are helped to find good fits in other communities around the world, where they contribute to creating real wealth, and new people take their places.

Such communities exist in all U.S. cities and in other places around the nation, helping people rise up. There is always a community like these somewhere people can become a part of, rather than being homeless, abandoned and neglected, becoming problems and drags on society. Nobody is homeless.

We can all find decent places to live, and we can all be parts of close communities, if we want that, and we can all develop education, knowledge, skills and relationships to thrive, if we want that. Most do.