

# Keeping Philadelphia Affordable: Philly's Housing Crisis and Fighting for Affordable Communities

Women's  
Community  
Revitalization  
Project

Proyecto de  
Mujeres para la  
Revitalización  
Comunal

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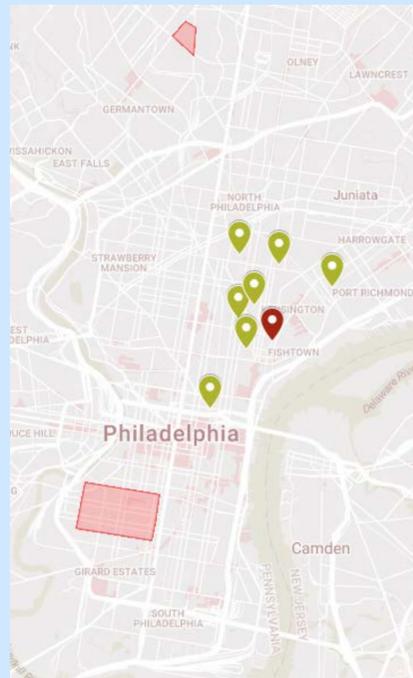
Field Placement: Women's Community Revitalization Project  
(WCRP)

Faculty Advisor: Liv Raddatz, Growth and Structure of Cities

Field Supervisor: Ariel Morales, WCRP Organizing and Advocacy Team

## About WCRP

- WCRP was formed in 1986 with goal of finding ways to improve their neighborhood to better the lives of local women and families.
- Philadelphia's first women-led community development organization.
- Develops affordable housing, leads community organizing campaigns advocating for public policy change, gathers community leaders, manages properties, and provides supportive services to tenants.
- Work to date: 10 developments, 282 new homes built, 20% wheelchair accessible unit, \$90 million invested in local communities.

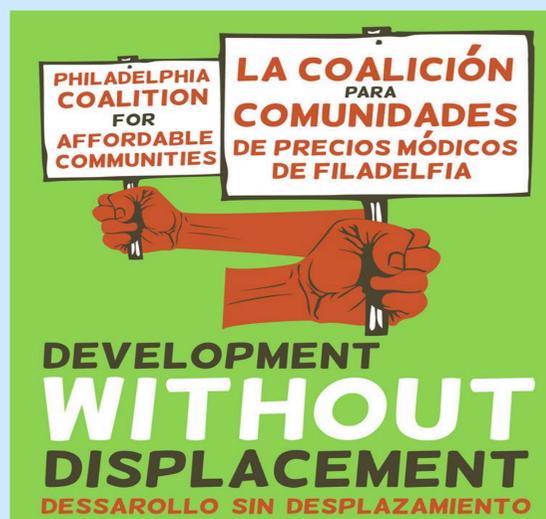


## Field Work

- Assist with future developments through community petition signature gathering and leadership identification
- Create materials for and participate in monthly advocacy committee meetings
- Research neighborhoods organizations and affordable housing issues and updates in and out of Pennsylvania
- Create coalition social media posts
- Participate in advocacy and organizing actions and support council hearings
- Update the supporter database

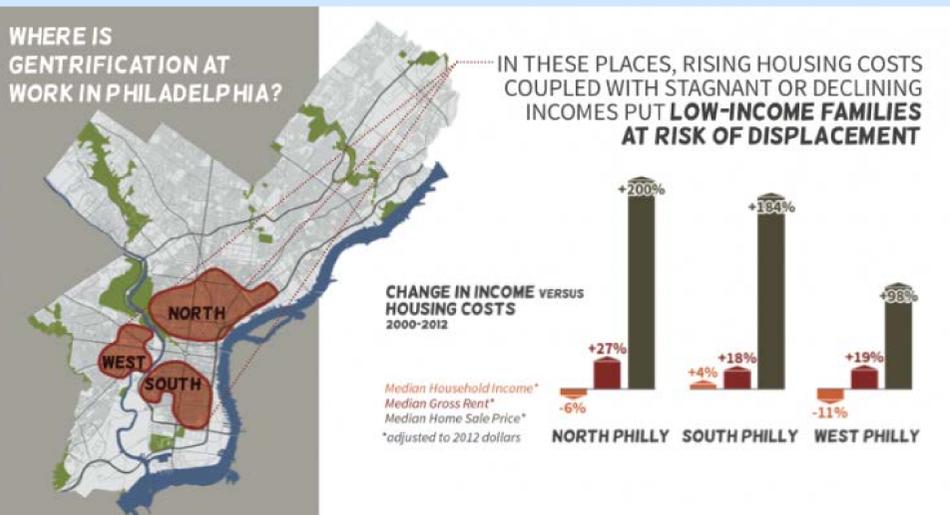
## The Issue

- Housing costs are skyrocketing while incomes shrink or stagnate
- Over 50% of Philly renters are cost-burdened
- 1,100+ affordable rental units are at risk over next 2 years from expiring tax credits
- Home sale prices up, inventory down
- Gentrification in N., W. and S. Philly
- Only ¼ qualifying families receive government housing assistance
- More than 400,000 Philadelphians live below the poverty line
- "Affordable" housing is out of reach for lowest-income families



## Learning Outcomes

- Learned about and examined potential solutions being used in Philadelphia and elsewhere (e.g. Community Land Trusts, Housing Trust Fund, impact fees, inclusionary zoning)
- Understood the function and organization of coalitions
- Gained practice and skills and in community outreach and political advocacy
- Met individuals impacted by the housing crises and heard their needs and stories
- Understood the roles of different sectors in creating and preserving affordable housing
- Complemented my academic major with hands-on learning and local engagement



## Moving Forward

-I find the work of housing and community development nonprofits necessary and inspiring but have discovered that I am most drawn to the broader, more regulatory role of government. I hope to start a career in local or federal government working at an intersection of housing rights and women's issues.

