

# NLBN Summit

## National Land Bank Network Summit

---

*Equipping land bank leaders with the tools to effect real, on-the-ground change*

### Agenda\*

#### Wednesday, November 3

---

11:45 - 12:00 PM Welcome

*Presenter: Brian Larkin - Director, National Land Bank Network, Center for Community Progress*

12:00 - 1:15 PM Keynote Luncheon - From Vacant to Vibrant: One Block At A Time

Keith Bynum & Evan Thomas are interior design gurus, television personalities, and real estate giants. They are best known for appearing on HGTV's hit show, *Bargain Block*, where they focused on renovating dilapidated starter homes. Join them as they discuss their journey and how they work to unlock the beauty within vacant and deteriorated properties to help restore neighborhoods and strengthen communities.

*Presenters: Keith Bynum and Evan Thomas, HGTV's Bargain Block*

1:15 - 1:30 PM Break

1:30 - 2:30 PM First Breakout Sessions: What Are We Doing with the Land?

#### Session #1 Homeownership

One of the signature goals of land banks throughout the country is to create pathways to homeownership. Land banks are in a unique position to connect residents with strong financial partners, and to extend access to mortgages beyond conventional bank-qualified buyers. This session will highlight recent examples of these types of partnership and will make the case for more robust financing for homebuyers of all income levels.

*Presenters: Dr. Brett Theodos - Senior Fellow and Director of the Community Economic Development Hub, Urban Institute; Adam Zaranko - Executive Director, Albany County Land Bank*

#### Session #2 Vacant Land Stewardship

Vacant lots make up more than 75% of land bank property inventories. This land presents a remarkable opportunity to address some of our most pressing

challenges, including access to healthy food, managing stormwater, upgrading aging infrastructure, restoring ecosystems, making neighborhoods safer, and building community wealth. Join this session to explore new national research on the ways land banks are making the most of vacant land.

*Presenter: Janell O'Keefe - Senior Program Officer for Michigan Initiatives, Center for Community Progress*

2:30 - 2:45 PM

Break

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Second Breakout Sessions: Big Picture Goals

### Session #1 Housing Opportunities for Generations to Come

Many communities with concentrated vacancy and abandonment are also in great need of quality affordable housing. Land banks and community land trusts are two entities that together can help reverse the trajectory of disinvestment and provide quality affordable housing that prioritizes community ownership and control. Hear directly from land bank and community land trust practitioners who are leveraging the different yet complimentary missions of these organizations to support a more resilient and equitable recovery for the communities they serve. Although there are already a few examples of land banks and community land trusts coordinating *effectively and in a sustained way*, there are still great lessons to be learned.

*Panelists: An Lewis - Executive Director, Tri-COG Land Bank; Ed Nusser - Executive Director, City of Bridges Community Land Trust; Hope Paxson - Vice-President of Programs and Housing, Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation; and Curtis Williams - President/CEO, Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation*

*Moderator: Kim Graziani - Senior Advisor for National Technical Assistance, Center for Community Progress*

### Session #2 Making Equity a Priority

Much of land banks' inventory is vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated because of historic disinvestment. This disinvestment was most often targeted towards specific racial and ethnic communities. Land bank inventory represents equity that has been stripped from communities, and these organizations are uniquely positioned to restc equitable outcomes. In this session we'll hear from leading land banks in the country about policies to address equity head on, as well as leaders in the community development field working on what it means to center people who live in communities in built environment transformations.

*Presenters: Jeana Dunlap - Policy Advisor and Urban Strategist; Shannon Snow - Executive Director, Omaha Municipal Land Bank*

3:45 - 4:30 PM

Virtual Awards + Grant Announcement

Announcement of a competitive grant for land banks coming in 2022!

## Thursday, November 4 (For Land Bank Staff and Officials)

---

- 9:00 - 10:00 AM    **Lessons Learned the Hard Way: Panel Discussion**  
Hear from the pioneers of the land banking field on the difficult lessons they learned during the rapid growth of the last decade.
- Panelists: Alison Goldey - Executive Director, Chatham County/City of Savannah Land Bank; David Mann - President & CEO, Lucas County Land Bank; and Katelyn Wright - Executive Director, Greater Syracuse Land Bank*  
*Moderator: Frank Alexander, Co-Founder and Senior Legal and Policy Advisor, Center for Community Progress*
- 10:00 - 10:15 AM    **Break**
- 10:15 - 11:00 AM    **Board Governance**  
Defining the role of land bank boards of directors. This session will tackle board appointments and training, best practices, and bylaws.
- Presenter: Sara Toering - Senior Fellow, Center for Community Progress*
- 11:00 - 11:45 AM    **Organizational Structure**  
Your organization's mission, vision, and staffing structure define your values and your abilities. During this session we'll discuss how to best establish an organizational structure and identity that allows your land bank to support local community goals.
- Presenter: Darnell Adams - Director of Detroit Community Initiatives, Gilbert Family Foundation*
- 11:45 - 12:00 PM    **Break**
- 12:00 - 12:45 PM    **Inventory**  
Land banks come in all sizes and forms, in various markets and regions of the country. The one unifying characteristic is that we all interact with land. This session explores how we best utilize data management to inform proactive acquisition and equitable disposition policies.
- Presenter: Austin Harrison - Assistant Professor, Rhodes College*
- 12:45 - 1:00 PM    **Closing Remarks**

*\*Course content may be subject to change.*