



Imagine Housing
building eastside communities

The Blueprint
February 2018

Advocacy Day 2018: Our Voices Make a Difference



Early this year, we asked for your help encouraging Washington state legislators to pass the past-due Capital Budget, and you delivered! This complex and vital budget includes the State Housing Trust Fund, which is a major source of funding for the construction of affordable housing. We were relieved when the budget was passed with \$106.8 million for that fund. As Representative Nicole Macri said at Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day this year, "the capital budget would not have passed without pressure from housing advocates."

On February 1st, Imagine Housing staff, board members, and community supporters joined hundreds of people from across Washington

state in Olympia the annual day of advocacy to continue our conversations with legislators. Still upcoming this year are several bills that housing and homelessness advocates urge the House and Senate to pass:

- House Bill 2578 and Senate Bill 5407, closing a fair housing loophole that allows landlords to discriminate against tenants who use rental assistance;
- House Bill 1570, protecting an existing modest fee paid to file real estate related documents which is the most important source of funds to combat homelessness in Washington; and
- House Bills 1239, 1831, and 2667 and Senate Bill 5609, funding life-saving services preventing homelessness and supporting seniors and people with disabilities.

As our meetings with legislators were wrapping up on Advocacy Day, the House Judiciary Committee voted to advance HB 2578 to the House floor for a vote. This bill bans source of income discrimination and prevents landlords from disallowing renters to use Section 8 vouchers and other rental assistance programs. This is why we advocate - because we know our voices *do* make a difference.

Our thanks to all our Imagine Housing friends who have taken the time to reach out to your lawmakers about these policies.

You can read more about current proposed legislation impacting affordable housing and homelessness [here](#).

Celebrate Athene's Grand Opening: February 21, 2018

[Join us](#) for Athene's Grand Opening on Wednesday, February 21, 2018!

It's not every day that we open a new community and we are very excited to share it with you. Athene, with 91 apartment units, was in development and construction for over 4 years and as of December 2017 is now open to provide much needed housing for low-income seniors.

Join us for a rare opportunity to see every aspect of this community and meet the Imagine Housing team and our community residents.

In addition to lunch and a brief program including a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, you'll have the opportunity to take a short tour of the apartment community.

Support our Mission—2018 Imagine Gala & Auction



Register now! The 25th Annual *Imagine* Gala & Auction, on Saturday, March 24, 2018, is a wonderful night of fun, food, and celebration of our work together to build stronger communities. Proceeds from the event ensure that we continue to provide important basic needs items, community meals, and affordable rent to more than 1,400 families, seniors, and veterans.

Visit our website to [register](#). You can also help by [sponsoring](#) the event or by [donating an item](#) for the auction.

Volunteer Profile: Jeff Churchill

At the end of 2017, Jeff Churchill concluded his 9-year term of volunteer service with Imagine Housing. An Imagine Housing and Red Vines 1 board member, he has served as Secretary, Vice President, and President of the boards.

We are so grateful for Jeff's time, knowledge, and leadership in service of our mission!

What drew you to Imagine Housing?

The mission of Imagine Housing resonates with me both personally and professionally. I believe that inclusive communities, economically and otherwise, are stronger and richer communities. Imagine Housing has an exciting role in making that happen. Credit to Clare Moe for connecting me to Imagine Housing 10+ years ago.



What is the most rewarding part of being an Imagine Housing board member?

This is a hard question! Certainly, participating in the creation of affordable homes for local families was very rewarding, as one might expect. Also, I was honored to get to know extraordinary people from all walks of life, both on the board and staff, and through the course of work on the board.

Is there a project or accomplishment you are most proud of during your time on the board?

Over the past decade Imagine Housing has built a reputation as the go-to affordable housing developer on the Eastside. That is a credit to the professionalism of Imagine's staff and the dedication of the board over many years. The organization is well-positioned to do even more to bring affordable homes to individuals and families on the Eastside.

What is a fun fact about you or something you enjoy outside of work?

Outside of work I enjoy music, being outdoors, and marveling at how children grow and learn so quickly.

30Bellevue - Construction Update

If you find yourself in Bellevue near the I-405/520 intersection, take a moment to drive by 3030 Bellevue Way NE and check out the construction site for 30Bellevue!

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#) to get photo updates as the new apartment community is built throughout this year.

