

MASSACHUSETTS SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE

YIMBYtown 2018 conference in Boston Sept. 20-23



Last year, the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance helped bring a delegation of local housing activists to YIMBYtown in Oakland. They were so enthusiastic that they offered to host this year's conference here in Boston!

The theme of this year's meeting is inclusive communities. How can we overcome local opposition to new housing, especially affordable housing, while at the same time building alliances with groups that are fighting gentrification and displacement in today's overheated market?

"One of the reasons the conference is being held in Roxbury is to underscore the fraught racial history of zoning and housing policy that has all too often limited where low-income people and communities of color can live," said Beyazmin Jimenez, a member of the conference's local planning committee. "This is a neighborhood impacted by the need for more affordable homes as well as displacement pressure."

To that end, speakers include Rep. Chynah Tyler of Roxbury, Kristen Jeffers of the popular "The Black Urbanist" blog, Joey Lindstrom of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, and Angela Park, who is a national expert on equity and inclusion and who will conduct multiple workshop trainings for participants. Other speakers include Harvard professor and economist Ed Glaeser, along with over two dozen breakout sessions over two days.

We hope you can join us!