“Democracy (In) Action” Report

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  Keith has been a member of CVH since 2006 and is a leader in CVH’s Public Housing Campaign. He served on the Member Research Team for this research project. He is a resident of Lincoln Houses in Manhattan.

Public Housing Resident Leaders

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  Community Voices Heard (CVH) Member & Public Housing Campaign Leader
  Shenia has been a member of CVH since 2001 and is a leader in CVH’s Public Housing Campaign. She served on the Member Research Team for this research project. Shenia never participated in her Resident Association before, but is now interested in running for RA President at Twin Parks in the Bronx.

- **Gloria Wilson**
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  Resident Association Secretary for UPACA 6 & CVH Member
  Gloria is a CVH member who has been participating in her RA for three years and is the current Secretary of the RA at the UPACA 6 development. Gloria is concerned with the ways in which NYCHA blocks much-needed resources from reaching her RA.

- **Anne Washington**
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  CVH Board Member & Public Housing Campaign Leader
  Anne has been a CVH member since 2005 and a public housing resident for 32 years. She is a CVH Board member and leader in CVH’s Public Housing Campaign. Anne does not participate in her RA largely because she does not get the critical information on NYCHA policy that she needs to organize. Anne is interested in improving the official resident participation system so that it helps residents build power.

- **Erik Crawford**
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  Resident Association President of Davidson, Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Member & CVH Member
  At 31 years old, Erik is one of the youngest official resident leaders in the entire NYC public housing system. Erik is currently RA President of the Davidson in the Bronx, RAB member and a CVH member. He is concerned with holding official resident bodies, NYCHA and HUD accountable to the federal regulations that guide the official resident participation system.
National Perspective Panelists

- **Jaron Browne, Lead Organizer**  
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  People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER), San Francisco (CA)  
  Jaron is a Lead Organizer with POWER (People Organized to Win Employment Rights) in San Francisco. Jaron is helping to build a powerful campaign for community-driven, accountable and sustainable development among low-income homeowners and public housing residents as a lead organizer in the San Francisco neighborhood of Bayview Hunters Point. Jaron is also an active member of POWER's leadership development projects and a co-author of *Toward Land, Work, and Power*, a book that POWER released in 2005 analyzing the political economy of San Francisco. POWER is a founding member of the Right to the City (RTTC) Alliance. Jaron participates in public housing work at the national level through the RTTC's HUD Workgroup, which is completing another research project on public housing involving the efforts of RTTC organizations from seven different cities.

- **Hashim Benford, Lead Organizer**  
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  Miami Workers Center, Miami (FL)  
  As an organizer, Hashim is working on the Miami Workers Center campaign for green jobs and housing. While working with the MWC grassroots council Low-Income Families Fighting Together (LIFFT), Hashim organized tenant unions for the MWC Renter's Rights Campaign and has also helped with the eight year struggle to win justice for the former residents of Scott Carver Homes. He is a graduate of Florida International University, where he earned a BA in Sociology/Anthropology and an undergraduate certificate in Women's Studies. The Miami Workers Center is a founding member of the Right to the City (RTTC) Alliance. Hashim participates in public housing work at the national level through the RTTC's HUD Workgroup, which is completing another research project on public housing involving the efforts of RTTC organizations from seven different cities.

- **Deangelo Bester, Campaign Director**  
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  Housing Justice Movement of National People’s Action (NPA), Chicago (IL)  
  The HJM campaign is a national campaign that is fighting to preserve all forms of subsidized housing and expand the federal budget on these programs. DeAngelo left an Organizing Director position at SEIU to pursue his passion of community organizing with NPA back in Chicago. For the past three years he has worked on a variety of issues at NPA such as education, worker justice, immigration, predatory/payday lending, and foreclosures. DeAngelo is also part of NPA’s National Training Team. During his tenure with NPA DeAngelo has designed political and popular education trainings around structural racism, human rights, and strategic campaign development.

**Critical NYC Council Members**

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