

Cohousing ABQ Vision Statement

Overview: Our vision for CohousingABQ is to build an intentional community to support social interactions between neighbors through common Danish-style cohousing design and practices. This includes, parking on the perimeter, smaller, closely-spaced homes, and a common house for shared activities and shared meals one or more times per week. We plan to build dwelling units that meet the Passivhaus standard or other similarly high energy efficiency standards. Our more general plan is to adhere to sustainable and environmentally conscious models for building construction, onsite gardening and farming, and day-to-day community operation. We also plan to develop a community that attracts people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives and to provide for free play and other programming that support children and adults alike to thrive. Finally, we also plan to interact positively with, serve, and benefit from the larger community around us.

Our Values

The residents of CohousingABQ's vision is to build an intentional resilient community that fosters healthy families and individuals and respects the environment through an ecologically responsible, harmonious relation with our natural ecosystem and one another. We value "Right Livelihood" by sustaining ourselves in an ethical fashion, where feeding ourselves through our own labor on the land and local farms around us is a hope and desire of ours.

We value building and site design that promotes a balance between privacy and social mingling, a safe space for children to play, human movement in preference to automobiles, inclusion of disabled people in homes and outdoor spaces, and visual beauty and harmony. We value building construction methods and processes that are ecologically sound and using materials, energy, water, air, waste, soil and other resources in environment-friendly ways.

We value efficient use not only of natural resources, machines and materials, but also of people's skills, energy and time. We value equity and justice, recognizing that while we desire a fair and equal distribution of both contributions to the community and benefits received, sometimes fairness might not entail strict equality.

We govern ourselves democratically, using consent to make decisions. We take each other's needs and wants seriously and at the same time expect and help each person to balance his or her individual agenda with what seems best for the community. We treat each other and communicate with each other in ways that reflect kindness, consideration, respect, openness, honesty, neighborliness, and non-violence. When conflicts arise, we value direct, open, non-violent resolution.

We respect solitude and privacy. We respect vegetarians, vegans, and omnivores. We honor and nurture children. We honor the elders and their needs for aging in place. We intend to maximize people's ability to live in our community if they have or develop disability, by planning for systems which facilitate various levels of assistance.

Within the umbrella of sharing the above values, and intentions, we seek and welcome diversity of race, culture, gender, age, class, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, religion, etc. We are open to forming new views and practices that further understanding and fairness as our community adds new members, evolves, and people change.

We strongly discourage ownership of guns, agree to moderate use of alcohol, and agree to not use illegal drugs and tobacco in the common spaces. We hope to develop economic alternatives such as sharing tools, encouraging home-based businesses, and developing satisfying activities that reduce reliance on paid outside entertainment. We intend to create a space and system whereby meals are shared on a regular basis. We want to create a community where more psychic energy is generated than drained, and where fun and celebration happen regularly.

Goals for CohousingABQ

Environmentally Sustainable Living Through Design and Practice: Strive for zero-waste in community activities and spaces; Build homes & common house that meet the Passivhaus (PHIUS) standard or other high energy-efficiency standards; Optimize shared resources, community interdependence, and energy use through smaller townhouse-style private homes with common house that include guest/visitor rooms and common land; Support cooperative child and after school care; Support community-wide bulk purchasing and storage; Maximize sharing of commonly used resources and amenities, such as tools, cars, etc;

Urban Gardening: Devote land and shared work to an urban farming environment, that includes things such as organic gardens, orchards, aquaponic greenhouse, chicken coops, and beekeeping; Establish relationships with the small farms in the neighborhood (Red Tractor, Chispas) and maybe create a CSA program; Use local organic food for common meals as much as possible;

Wildlife Habitat and Environmental Site Systems: Promote protected extensions of the Rio Grande Bosque open space corridor on our community site and off site; Be aware of watershed impact and pursue stormwater detention and purification before releasing storm water back into the nearby waterways. Build swales and berms to capture water and use greywater and roof runoff for irrigation.

Physical and Emotional Health: Use only environmentally responsible and chemically safe materials for construction and community uses; Promote activities such as biking, running, and

playing together; Build inside and outside places for solitude as well as shared community gatherings; Provide spaces for yoga, meditation, a quiet Zen garden for downtime; Promote open communication through life's struggles; Promote shared work that creates togetherness but also utilizes people's skills and energy in order to minimize paid contractor work.

Social Connection/Cohousing: Optimize social interaction through overall site design that includes a common house; Understand design as an important living and connecting element; Shared weekly meals; develop decision making and community management skills; Community governance through consent; Develop opportunities for social mingling such as movie nights, hikes, potlucks, dance lessons etc; Create a community design that encourages togetherness; Have fun together.

Diverse Beliefs, backgrounds and abilities: Foster acceptance, equity, and inclusion; Participate in neighborhood association; Invite neighborhood to gatherings; Create a timebank to replace some purchases or contracted services with skills of residents; Provide options for subsidized/affordable units; Actively seek all ages/races in the community; Respect all religions and welcome compassionate religious and political discussions; Encourage awareness in our local, statewide, and national civic process.

Confident inquisitive children; Recruit families with kids to ensure that kids are a permanent presence and not a tolerated minority; Build spaces within the community that allow for children of all ages to explore their creativity, run, roam and play freely; Develop ways for community members to share in the teaching of children; Promote interaction of children with peers, other adults, and with the wider outside neighborhood;

Living Well: Include wellness amenities in the community that are climate appropriate for Albuquerque; Respect individual's needs for solitude, privacy, and downtime. Limit day-to-day operating needs of the community to something that each adult can accommodate without undue burden on their family responsibilities or their full-time job and without creating inequality in our ability to share in the maintenance of the common areas. Commit financially to outsource other less regular or more difficult maintenance; Keep the shared community spaces clean and organized;

Universal Design and Accessibility: Adhere to universal design practices; Include in each unit and common house at least one no-step entrance and one accessible bathroom on the same floor to ensure 100% "visitability" for persons with physical impairments or disabilities.