



**TINY HOMES**  
C O M P E T I T I O N

**Project Title:**

Tiny Homes Chicago Competition

**Dates:**

November 11, 2016–January 30, 2016 (Competition)

April 18–19, 2016 (Model Home Construction)

**Project Description:**

In the fall of 2015, AIA Chicago set out to explore ways that design could address the epidemic problem of youth homelessness. According to the 2015 Chicago Homeless Count and Survey conducted by the City of Chicago, 31% of the unsheltered homeless population and 19% of those that are sheltered are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old. These numbers are startling. LGBTQ-identifying youth are disproportionately affected by early homelessness after being rejected by their families and communities. In developing a design competition that would create potential solutions, AIA Chicago worked collaboratively with local housing advocacy groups and affordable housing design leaders, Landon Bone Baker Architects, along with LGBTQT advocacy groups, such as Pride Action Tank and Windy City Media. AIA Chicago leveraged its knowledge of building codes, zoning codes and city development processes to craft a brief that would seriously **challenge the city's codes to develop an alternate option for affordable housing**. The process that AIA Chicago developed for the competition was Chicago-specific, but can be replicable in other cities or environments.

AIA Chicago's Tiny Homes Chicago Competition asked members of the global design community to create ideas for permanent, programmed and supportive housing for homeless young adults.

Tiny homes have been often explored as models for housing the homeless in cities. In this particular case, creating an intentional community of homeless LGBTQ youth using tiny homes would provide an affordable and safe living environment. Further, the autonomy provided by a tiny house would help cultivate values of modern living: responsibility, autonomy, and security.

The competition invited submissions for a speculative tiny house community that would house 10–12 individuals in separate units on four connected vacant lots, as well as a structure for community gatherings and support staff. The brief required submitters to physically connect each tiny home so that the plans would comply with zoning using a townhome ordinance, as Chicago's laws limit one building per lot.

We received over 400 submissions from 16 countries. The winning design—a trio of architects living and working in Chicago—created a simple tiny home design that allowed for plentiful light, storage, and informal spaces for gathering. **A full-scale working model of the winning design was constructed for the first-ever Tiny Homes Summit**, during which leaders from the built environment came together with politicians, LGBTQ advocates, and nonprofit groups to present transformative case studies for housing.

The competition did more than create a speculative design: Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel toured the model tiny home, and has since issued an RFI soliciting ideas for tiny houses. Through this RFI process the city may offer up to \$2 million to implement a tiny house project.

This project addresses **the New Urban Agenda commitment to ensuring that all citizens have access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination**. Directed by AIA Chicago leadership, Tiny Homes Chicago is working with the City of Chicago to advance smart urban planning and design—specifically related to the vacant lots and disinvestment in certain Chicago neighborhoods. The project offers new options toward a lower-cost solution for much-needed housing in Chicago; particularly for those young adults living without stable housing.

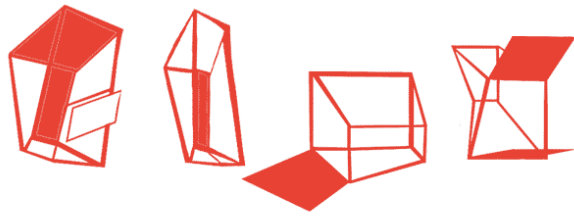
Understanding that one predictor of adult homelessness is youth homelessness, AIA Chicago embarked on a long-term investment in creating a more equitable future for Chicago using unconventional design models to house the city's most vulnerable populations. **Today, the city is creating legal pathways to make these developments possible—a step closer to ensuring that all Chicagoans, regardless of race, age, or sexual orientation, will have a safe place to call home as well as the support needed to thrive.**

## Windy City Times Chicago 2014 LGBTQ Homeless Youth summit

Prior to the Tiny Homes Competition a youth summit was held in 2014. The results from the summit informed the Tiny Homes Competition.



## Tiny Homes Competition



# TINY HOMES

COMPETITION

NEW SOLUTIONS FOR  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Submissions open  
11.16.15–1.30.16

[tinyhomeschicago.org](http://tinyhomeschicago.org)

### Competition Jury

The competition jury was composed of leaders in the fields of architecture, planning, social services, and students.



**Benet Haller** AICP, Assoc. AIA  
Planner  
City of Chicago



**Sol Flores**  
Executive Director  
La Casa Norte



**Marisa Novara**  
Vice President  
Metropolitan Planning Council



**Jeff Bone** FAIA  
Partner  
Landon Bone Baker Architects



**Brent Brown** AIA, LEED AP  
Founding Director  
bcWORKSHOP



**Kasey White**  
Student  
Kennedy-King College



**AIA**  
Chicago



## Tiny Homes Competition

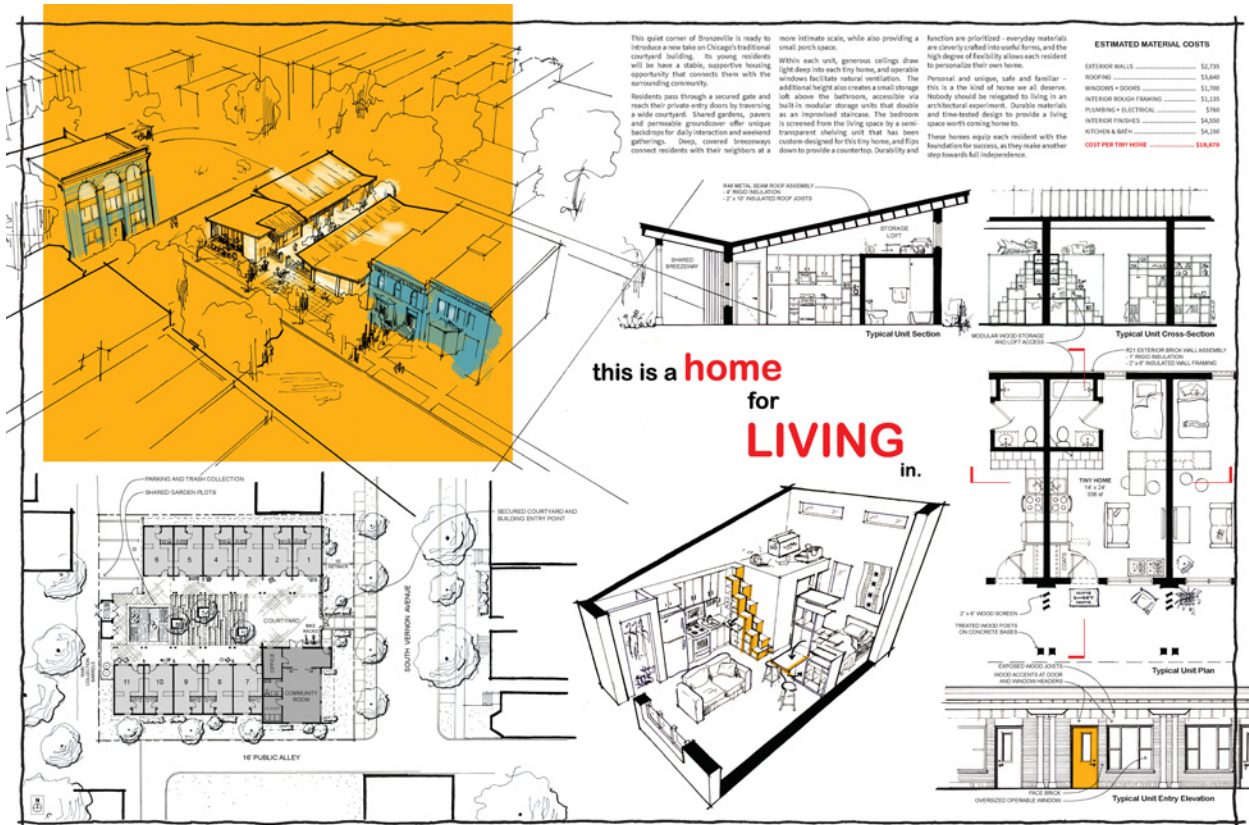
The competition site was composed of four vacant lots in Chicago. The competition brief required the submission to respond to context, sustainability issues, affordability, and clientele.



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Chicago



## Tiny Homes Competition



Winning entry project board by Lon Stousland, AIA (associate architect, Antunovich Associates), Marty Sandberg, AIA (partner, Via Chicago Architects), and Terry Howell, AIA, LEED GA (associate architect, Antunovich Associates).



Design team at opening celebration inside Tiny Home Model.

## Tiny Home Summit

Pride Action Tank conducted the Tiny Home Summit in Chicago in 2016. The summit attracted over 200 participants.





## Tiny Home Summit

A full scale model of the winning entry was featured at the summit.



Winning entry model home (exterior)



Design team with general contractors from Price Construction



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## Tiny Home Summit



Winning entry model home (interior)



Mayor Rahm Emanuel touring the model tiny home with the architects, Catherine Baker, AIA of Landon Bone Baker Architects, and Tracy Baim of Windy City Times. (credit: Hal Baim/Windy City Times)



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## Next Steps for Tiny Homes

The mayor of Chicago is currently investigating options for tiny houses.



**Mayor Rahm Emanuel**

@ChicagosMayor

Follow

To create new affordable housing for low-income Chicagoans, @ChicagoDPD issued a Request for Information to evaluate the viability of tiny homes, or stand-alone structures to serve homeless residents in the city. More about this innovative initiative: [cityofchicago.org/tinyhomes](http://cityofchicago.org/tinyhomes)

### Chicago has big plans to build tiny homes!

Tomorrow Mayor Emanuel will announce an initiative to create new affordable housing options in neighborhoods across Chicago. The Department of Planning and Development has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to evaluate the viability of tiny homes in Chicago.

Tiny homes are stand-alone structures that contain minimally-sized living areas, sleeping spaces, kitchens and bathrooms. The RFI specifically seeks proposals with a focus on the potential for tiny homes to serve residents experiencing homelessness and seniors in the city.

The initiative will be supported by funding from the City's fee on house sharing companies like Airbnb and the Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund, which receives fees paid by developers.

10:40 AM - 10 Jun 2018



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