



Alexander Berger  
Open Philanthropy Project  
182 Howard Street #208  
San Francisco, CA 94105

April 4th, 2016

Dear Alexander,

Thank you for your interest in the 1st North American YIMBY event that Better Boulder will host this June in Boulder. We hope this will be the first of annual “summits” in which activists, professionals and academics working in land use, housing, equity, urbanism, transportation, and sustainability sectors can network, learn from one another and share experiences. In response to the Open Philanthropy Project’s generous offer to potentially fund a portion of Better Boulder’s YIMBY 2016 event, we have outlined our vision for the gathering, listed potential topic tracks, and proposed a budget for scholarships and a portion of the event organizational costs.

### **A Vision for YIMBY 2016**

A two-day national gathering offering inspiration, tools, and a network to those who working to promote social innovation and sustainable development in cities across the United States and Canada. Billed as a YIMBY\* event, this gathering caters to activists, academics, and professions embracing change and actively building inclusive, vibrant and sustainable communities. *\*YIMBY = YES, in my backyard!*

This will be the First North American YIMBY event and we anticipate 60- 75 participants. Better Boulder has begun reaching out to it’s sister YIMBY organizations in 17 cities ranging in Canada and the United States and intends to recruit a broad diversity of participants in order to curate a rich dialogue and meaningful experience and expertise sharing.

### **Why YIMBY 2016?**

We have three goals for YIMBY 2016.

1. **Grow the YIMBY Movement:** Convene YIMBY-inspired individuals, organization leaders, and activists from across the country. Provide a forum for networking and learning and supporting one another. Event organizers will recruit YIMBY activists from across the country in addition to

encouraging Boulder and Denver Metro area residents to participate in the event and share their experiences.

2. **Facilitate Peer to Peer Learning:** The event will focus on specific topics that communities across the country struggle with and provide forums for facilitated, roundtable discussions. Through these dialogues participants can collectively explore obstacles they face, effective organizing tactics, coalition building techniques, challenges/risks/opportunities, and much more. From this sharing, participants will reach a better understanding of aligned interests and points of potential conflict in collaborations between urbanist/housing activists, developers, community leaders, and residents.
3. **Broadcast and Share YIMBY Opportunities, Concerns and Solutions:** By recruiting YIMBY innovators from across the country to convene in Boulder we will create an opportunity to display and share useful case studies and lessons learned. From these innovators' presentations participants will be positioned to discuss and debate the following:
  - What policy tools exist and are scalable? How do they differ in different cities?
  - What common understanding of the economics of urban infill can we develop?
  - What data about the cities represented can be shared/displayed usefully?
    - Income/affordability
    - Walkability/bikeability/transit accessibility
    - GHG emissions per capita
    - Housing production rates

### **Potential Topic Tracks**

We intend to have 2 keynote speakers - one to address the merits of urban sustainability and another to speak to the equity issues in communities like Boulder where the economy is thriving, but local land use/zoning restrict opportunities to move into the community and take advantage of the good jobs.

Better Boulder has recruited event organizing support from activists in Washington DC, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Austin. This group is currently in the process of identifying topics of interest and recruiting session leaders. Our current list of potential topics include:

- Anti-Development Referendum Battles
- Organizing / Responding to NIMBYs
- Economics of Urban Infill
- Walkability/Bikeability/Transit Innovations
- YIMBYs Unite: Working Together / Sharing Resources
- Land use/zoning & Equity

- Middle Income Housing
- Selling Sustainable Urbanism: Density's A-OK
- Innovative Infill

### A Preliminary Agenda

We are in the throes of event planning now, but here is an outline of how we anticipate YIMBY 2016 unfolding:

- Thurs, 6/17: Out of town participants begin arriving; Better Boulder Happy Hour
- Fri, 6/18: Noon start; Welcome speaker and lunch; afternoon sessions; networking happy hour
- Sat, 6/19: All day sessions (several tracks); evening presentation (open to the public)
- Sun, 6/20: Morning sessions, closing lunch, rides/hikes/tours in the afternoon

### Funding Needs for YIMBY 2016

We are applying to the Open Philanthropy Project to help us fund scholarships and a portion of the event organization costs, in particular, we need additional funding to pay for a part-time event organizer and to sponsor additional meals for participants since we've decided to expand the scope and duration of the event. Better Boulder also hopes to secure funding from the National Association of Realtors and we have begun to recruit local sponsors. Additionally, our organization is prepared to expend its limited financial resources and more extensive volunteer bandwidth to ensure the event is a success.

A budget for our funding request from Open Philanthropy Project follows:

<b>Event Scholarships (for 40 individuals)</b>		rates	quantity	
Lodging (2 nights; shared rooms; 20 rooms)		\$200.00	40	\$8,000.00
Flights (40 flights to Boulder)		\$500.00	40	\$20,000.00
<b>Event Organizational Costs</b>				
Friday Night Networking Happy Hour and Sunday Lunch				\$4,000.00
YIMBY 2016 Event Organizer (part-time, 6 weeks)				\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>				<b>\$37,000.00</b>



*Boulder Building Block Fund, Inc has agreed to Better Boulder's 501c(3) fiscal sponsor for a Open Philanthropy Project grant.*

### **A Bit about Better Boulder**

Established in 2014, Better Boulder is committed to sustainable urbanism, innovative design and progressive planning. We endeavor to bolster the livability, vibrancy and connectivity of our City and County. Better Boulder will realize this mission through:

- Nurturing collaboration and civic engagement.
- Educating and inspiring our leaders and residents.
- Advocating for and empowering progressive leaders.
- Stoking Boulder's entrepreneurial spirit and economic vitality.
- Propelling sustainable development and social innovation.
- Building a network of advocates and supporters that can mobilize to affect change.

While we recognize Boulder is a wonderful place to live and work, we are advocating hard to make it better and more inclusive. We believe we can create a community that is even more vibrant and welcoming for young people, has more places for our elders to thrive, provides more opportunities for our entrepreneurs – and that helps us live more lightly upon the earth

Thank you again for your consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out if you need any clarification on our vision for YIMBY 2016. We're also very open to your ideas and suggestions for making the event a success.

Sincerely,  
Ken Hotard  
Co-Chair  
Better Boulder