

RESIST & BUILD

HOUSING AS A HUMAN RIGHT

How do we resist
gentrification &
displacement
and build a world
where housing is
truly a human right?



**IN THIS SERIES,
YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:**

**The founding of the first
community land trust by civil
rights organizers**

**The connection between co-ops &
squatters movements of the
1970s and 80s**

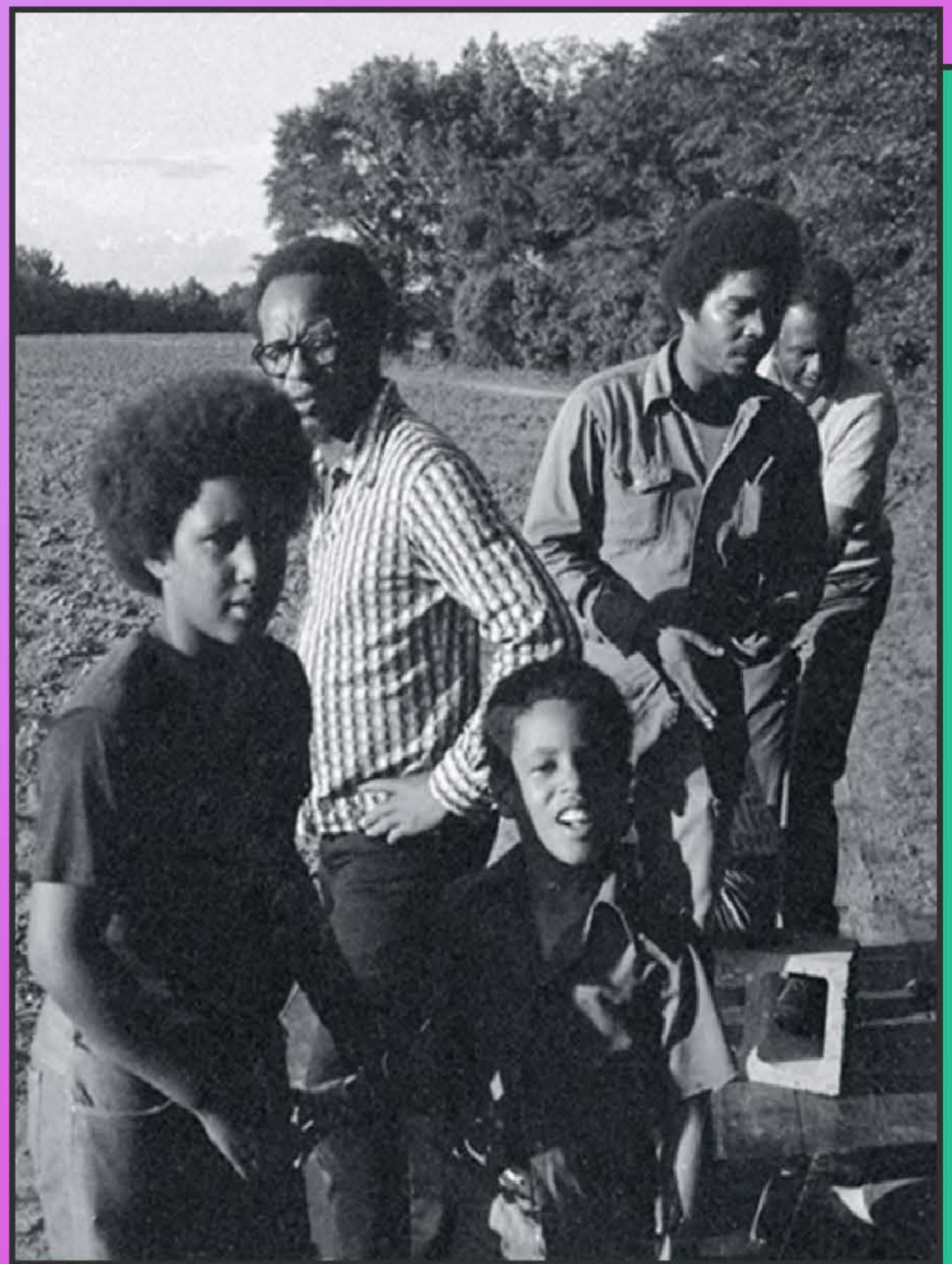
**Recent organizing wins for
CLT's and co-op housing**

CLT HISTORY: NEW COMMUNITIES INC

“In America, community land trusts have always been rooted in racial equity. Black sharecroppers in the rural South pioneered the model to protect their families from eviction by white owners during the civil rights movement.”

— Tony Pickett, Grounded Solutions Network

New Communities Inc was the first community land trust in the U.S. It was founded in 1969 by members of SNCC to provide safe haven for Black farmers in the civil rights movement. There are now over 225 CLTs across the U.S.



WHAT IS A COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (CLT)?

CLTs are non-profits that treat land as a public good. Because the land that CLTs own is held in trust and can't be resold for a profit, the model works to remove land from the speculative market. CLTs also often hold organizational commitments to support permanently affordable housing and community wealth building.

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CLTS IN ACTION: OAKLAND



Last year in the Bay Area, a group of unhoused Black moms started occupying a vacant home owned by a developer. After months of organizing and community eviction defense, Moms 4 Housing secured the sale of the house to the Oakland community land trust. They are looking to move more housing out of the speculative market and into permanent community ownership.

CLTS IN ACTION: PHILLY

Philadelphia Housing Activists to Set Up Community Land Trust for Unhoused People



In September 2020, after months of organizing and direct action, the City of Philadelphia agreed to put 50 homes into a community land trust to become permanently affordable housing for unhoused community members.

CO-OP HOUSING HISTORY: UHAB

“The Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB) was founded in the midst of New York City’s fiscal crisis in 1973, when racist housing policies and disinvestment led to poor living conditions for communities of color. UHAB sought to give residents the tools to rehabilitate and maintain their own cooperative affordable housing... Tenants gradually became shareholders in HDFC co-ops, a type of collectively owned, permanently affordable housing.”



— Urban Homesteading Assistance Board Website

CO-OP HOUSING IN ACTION: MINNEAPOLIS



The Tenants Who Evicted Their Landlord

In 2020, 38 families in a Minneapolis apartment complex banded together to buy their buildings when threatened with eviction by a negligent landlord. After years organizing, legal action, and rent striking, the tenants finally secured permanent, collective ownership of their homes as a limited equity housing cooperative.

LASTING IMPACT OF CO-OP HOUSING

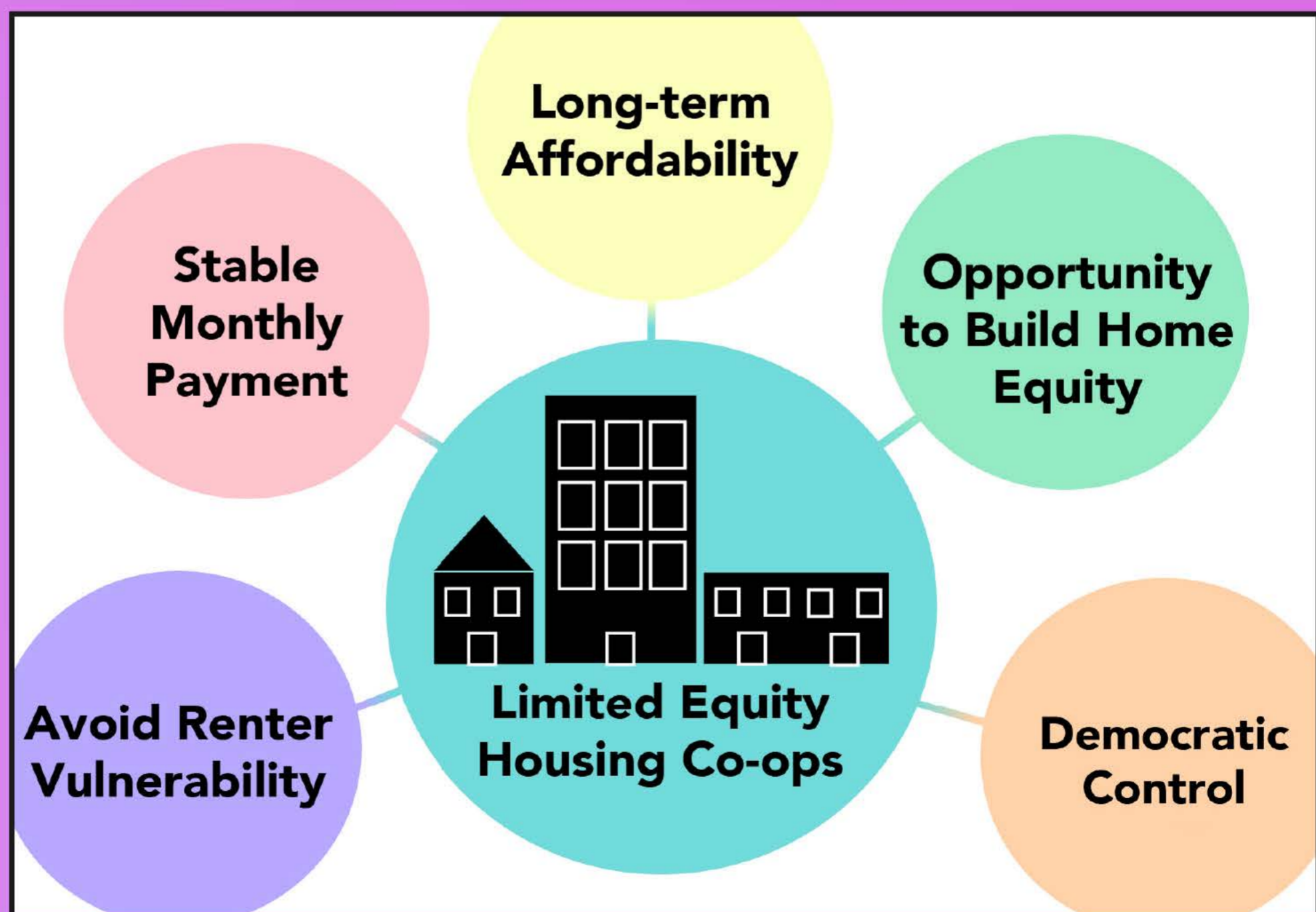
“When my parents moved to NYC in the 1970s landlords had abandoned many buildings and immigrants like my parents often squatted in them and slowly improved them over the years. Housing activists like the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board fought for the city government to turn these over to their residents. Despite living in one of the most gentrified areas of New York City, my family has been able to stay because we own our building as a limited equity cooperative.”

— Francisco Perez, Center for Popular Economics

WHAT IS A HOUSING CO-OP?

“A limited equity housing cooperative (LEHC) is a residential development owned and managed by a democratically governed, nonprofit cooperative corporation, such as a tenants’ union. Today there are an estimated 155,000 LEHCs in the U.S.”

“Limited Equity Housing Cooperatives” by The Next Systems Project



CO-OP HOUSING IN ACTION: OAKLAND

The East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative (EB PREC) is a community development co-op working to turn a racist, classist housing market into a tool that can build wealth for the groups most disenfranchised by it. They pool resources from the community to remove land from the speculative market and create permanently affordable, community-controlled homes in the Bay Area.



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