



Community Voices Heard is launching a new program!

Overview

End of the Line: Housing Survival in New York is a 10-month immersive, transit-based public program that examines how the region's housing affordability crisis shapes where working New Yorkers can live—and how far they must travel to survive.

The Problem

New York City faces one of the most severe housing affordability crises in the United States. Rising rents, stagnant wages, and uneven development patterns have forced many essential workers—including teachers, nurses, transit operators, service employees, and municipal staff—to relocate far beyond the neighborhoods where they work.

As a result, thousands of New Yorkers now endure multi-hour daily commutes from distant boroughs or neighboring counties. These extended travel times carry significant consequences:

- Reduced time with family and community
- Increased physical and mental health strain
- Higher transportation costs relative to income
- Reinforcement of long-standing racial and economic segregation patterns
- Reduced civic engagement and neighborhood stability

While housing affordability is frequently discussed through statistics, policy reports, and zoning debates, the lived reality of this crisis remains largely invisible to many policymakers, cultural institutions, and residents outside the most affected communities.

The Program

Using New York's extensive public transportation system as both method and metaphor, the project invites participants to travel across the metropolitan region to witness the geography of housing displacement firsthand.

Each journey traces the daily commuting realities of essential workers, long-term residents, and families navigating the widening gap between wages and housing costs. From Harlem and Brooklyn brownstones to Bronx walk-ups, Queens row homes, Staten Island communities, and suburban developments across Long Island and Westchester County, the tour reveals the regional story of housing survival—one defined by displacement, resilience, and unequal



access to opportunity. By physically moving through these spaces, End of the Line transforms housing policy from an abstract debate into an embodied public experience.

End of the Line addresses this disconnect by creating a place-based learning experience that allows participants to see, hear, and feel the distance between housing and opportunity. By traveling the routes that thousands of workers navigate daily, participants gain a deeper understanding of how housing inequity reshapes the geography of the region.

The project also situates the current crisis within a longer history of urban planning decisions—including redlining, exclusionary zoning, public housing development, suburban expansion, and transit infrastructure investments—that have shaped patterns of segregation and displacement across New York.

Project Activities

Over the course of 10 months, End of the Line will host a series of guided transit-based tour stops, public listening sessions, neighborhood walks, and digital assets that connect housing, labor, and mobility across the New York metropolitan region. Participants will travel together using public transportation to experience real commuting conditions while engaging in dialogue with community members and subject-matter experts.

Programming elements will include:

Transit-Based Tours

Participants will travel with our Executive Director, Juanita Lewis and/or staff via subway, LIRR, Metro-North, and ferry routes to explore neighborhoods across all five boroughs and surrounding counties. The movement itself becomes a teaching tool, highlighting the time, cost, and complexity of long-distance commuting.

Neighborhood Walks and Site Visits

At each stop, guided walks will examine local housing typologies—including brownstones, row homes, apartment buildings, public housing developments, and suburban communities—while exploring how planning decisions and market pressures shaped these landscapes.

Community Conversations

Local residents, organizers, and workers will share personal narratives that illuminate the daily realities of housing displacement, commuting burdens, and neighborhood change.

Historical and Policy Context

Urban planners, historians, and housing advocates will provide context on zoning policy, redlining, suburbanization, and development patterns that continue to influence access to housing.

Creative Documentation

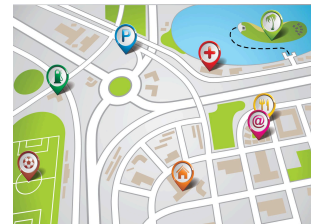
Artists, writers, photographers, and storytellers will document the journeys through essays, photography, audio storytelling, and visual media. This documentation will form a public archive capturing the lived geography of housing survival.

Public Forums and Dialogues

Select locations will culminate in facilitated discussions bringing together residents, policymakers, urban planners, and community organizations to explore potential solutions

Ways to Get On Board and Support the Movement

- Partner as a fiscal sponsor
- Host a community event and/or fundraiser.
- Join a stop with Juanita and/or our staff.
- Support marketing materials and promotion
- Sponsor table(s) during our Lights of Freedom Gala



Support for this initiative will enable the project to convene communities, amplify lived experiences, and create meaningful dialogue around the future of housing in New York.

For more information on the project and opportunities to partner with Community Voices Heard, please contact our Development Team via email at development@cvhaction.org