



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inter-Faith Housing Loans Executive Director to The Housing Trust

Two of Santa Fe's leading affordable housing organizations are now collaborating on new initiatives to build and preserve more affordable housing. After the departure of the Housing Trust's Executive Director Justin Robison, Daniel Werwath has stepped in and will lead both organizations, serving as Acting Executive Director of the Housing Trust.

Daniel Werwath is currently the Executive Director of New Mexico Inter-Faith Housing, the nonprofit developer of the Siler Yard project. Mr. Werwath began his career in affordable housing as a Housing Counselor at the Housing Trust in 2003. Before joining New Mexico Inter-Faith Housing in 2014, Mr. Werwath provided housing planning services to cities and counties around the Mountain West and served as a technical assistance provider for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development through the national nonprofit Enterprise Community Partners.

"I'm very excited to return to the Housing Trust at such a critical moment for housing affordability in Santa Fe," said Mr. Werwath, adding "we have so many exciting initiatives to bring forward in the near future to make meaningful impact for Santa Fean's struggling with record high housing costs and the impacts of the pandemic."

Along with Mr. Werwath, the Housing Trust has also retained Nellie Martinez, the former Deputy Director of the organization and longtime employee of Century Bank, to grow homebuyer lending programs.

New initiatives are being launched on the foundation of long-standing Housing Trust programs that provide homebuyer education, one-one-one housing counseling, and down payment assistance. New projects include the Arroyo Oeste development, a 20-unit subdivision about to break ground in partnership with local contractor Arete Homes of Santa Fe, and two more homeownership projects with over 30 units are also in the pipeline.

In addition, land for over 1,400 new homes will be made available in the third and final phase of the Tierra Contenta community. The organization has also just submitted a \$1.1 million Community Development Financial Institution grant request to the Department of the Treasury, which will provide much needed capital for more down payment assistance.

"We're very happy to have Daniel on board," said Jack Hiatt, President of the Housing Trust Board of Directors. "We were founded 28 years ago on the premise that people from Santa Fe should be able to live in their hometown. That's our guiding vision for this collaboration, that we are certain will result in a major increase in output of affordable homes and apartments".

The Housing Trust has developed 720 affordable homes and 193 affordable rental apartments, counselled nearly 5,500 potential homeowners, and provided downpayment assistance and purchase subsidies to 2,500 lower-income families. It operates a community land trust with 90 scattered site units and has also assisted more than 500 renters through special programs for unhoused and chronically disabled clients.