

Bios for CLTs and Community Organizing

- **Ashley Allen, [Houston CLT](#) (US)**

- Dr. Ashley Paige Allen serves as the Executive Director of the Houston Community Land Trust. She brings to the role non-profit leadership and program development experience in the areas of education, S.T.E.M., workforce development and affordable housing. As a community organizer for over 10 years, she helped develop and drive campaigns for improved homeless services, affordable housing policy, and education in Chicago, IL.
- Ashley served as a consultant with the Barack Obama Foundation where she was responsible for the planning and implementation of the foundation's initiative to develop the next generation of community organizers and advocates.
- Ashley's experience as a homeless youth is what ignited her passion to help increase housing accessibility and affordability for those that need it most. Ashley holds a B.S. in Food Science from Florida A&M University, an M.P.A from Governors State University and a Ph.D. in Cultural and Educational Policy with a concentration in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago.

- **Alejandro Cotte Morales, El Enjambe / [Caño Martín Peña CLT](#) (Puerto Rico)**

- Alejandro Cotté Morales holds a PhD in Social Policy from the Graduate School of Social Work of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, where he is an Adjunct Professor. He has 25 years of experience as a community social worker. From 1994 to 2002, he directed the Community Development Area of the Península de Cantera Project. In 2002, he became Director of Citizen Participation and Social Development for ENLACE and the Caño Martín Peña CLT. He was instrumental in guiding grassroots organizing and participation processes around those initiatives, as well as advising on comprehensive development.

- **Geert De Pauw, [Brussels CLT](#) (Belgium)**

- Geert De Pauw has been active for more than 20 years championing the right to housing in Brussels as an activist and community worker. In 2008, following a study visit to the Champlain Housing Trust, he began advocating for the establishment of a CLT in Brussels. He coordinated the CLT feasibility study that was commissioned by the Brussels Capital Region. He has been a coordinator of the CLT Brussels since 2012. He was also a co-founder of SHICC (Sustainable Housing for Inclusive and Cohesive Cities), a European partnership whose goal is to create a thriving CLT movement in Europe.

- **Tony Hernandez, [Dudley Neighbors Inc](#) (USA)**
 - Tony Hernandez is the Director of Dudley Neighbors Inc., a community land trust established by the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative in 1988. DNI has combined community ownership of land, community control of development, and permanent affordability of housing to revitalize a large section of Roxbury that had long been scarred by vacant lots, abandoned buildings, and arson-for-profit. DNI's high-profile success in achieving "development without displacement" has inspired other communities to create CLTs of their own in Boston and elsewhere. Tony has been a CLT homeowner for the past 18 years. He has a Master's degree in architecture.
- **Dave Smith, [London CLT](#) (UK) (moderator)**
 - Dave Smith is a community organizer, affordable housing practitioner and writer, based in London, England. From 2008–2014, he served as the founding Executive Director of the London Community Land Trust, which is now the largest CLT in the UK. Prior to this, Dave worked for the British Council and on Barack Obama's 2008 primary and presidential election campaigns. He is the Head of Community & Stakeholder Engagement for Eastlight Community Homes, and currently serves as the president of the board of directors of the London CLT. He holds degrees from King's College, the University of Cambridge, and The Bartlett School of Planning, University College London.