

## **Duluth Housing Strategies Conference**

**November, 14<sup>th</sup> 2025**

### **Program Schedule**

**8am – Registration Opens**

**8am-9am – Coffee & Networking**

**9am-9:15am – Mayor’s Welcome**

***Roger Reinert, Mayor, City of Duluth***

**9:15am-9:45am – Duluth’s Development Potential**

Duluth is poised to grow more over the next decade than any other period in the last fifty years. *How* we grow is up to us. How can we meet the growing demand for housing and create neighborhoods that truly support our community.

***Elissa Hansen, President & CEO, Northspan Group***

**10:05am-10:50am – The Best Sites and Products for New Housing in Duluth**

A new housing study tells us the Duluth market needs a wide variety of new housing products. Learn about the best places to build them from city leaders and local experts.

***Matt Staehling, City Administrator, City of Duluth***

***Matt Baumgartner, President & CEO, Duluth Chamber of Commerce***

*Additional panelists TBA*

**11:10am-11:55am – Show Me the Money: How to Finance Housing Projects in Duluth**

What financing tools are available for housing developers in Duluth? Financial experts and experienced developers will share their strategies for leveraging local resources to fund successful projects.

***Jason Aarsvold, Senior Municipal Advisor, Ehlers, Inc.***

***Tom Church, Senior Housing Developer, City of Duluth***

*Additional panelists TBA*

**12:15pm-1:15pm – Lunch Provided**

**12:45pm – 1:15pm – Keynote Address: Using Your Improv Mindset to Solve Sticky Problems**

***Tane Danger, Co-Founder, Theater of Public Policy & Danger Boat Productions***

**1:30pm-2:15pm – Building Balanced Neighborhoods: Duluth’s Housing Action Plan**

What does it mean to build “balanced neighborhoods?” How is Duluth preparing to make this happen and how can this approach support our community as a whole?

***Tricia Hobbs, Executive Director, Duluth Economic Development Authority***

***Jenn Moses, Manager—Planning & Development, City of Duluth***

***Tane Danger, moderator***

**2:15pm-2:45pm – Networking Break**

**2:45pm-3:30pm – Downtown Duluth: Case Study**

Duluth’s downtown has begun its transformation from a business district to a residential neighborhood. This panel will explore strategies to make our downtown a welcoming space for everyone who uses it.

***Meghan Elliot, Principal & Founder, New History; Principal & Founder, Jillpine***

***Kristi Stokes, President/C.O.O., Downtown Duluth***

***Michele Reeves, Principal, Civilis Consultants***

*Additional panelists TBA*

**3:45pm-4:15pm – The Future of the Arrowhead: What a Thriving Duluth Means for Northeast Minnesota**

As Duluth grows and thrives, Minnesota’s entire Arrowhead region grows and thrives. How can Duluth lead in partnership with our neighbors to create an intentional and sustainable approach to regional growth?

***Shaun Floerke, CEO & President, Boreal Waters Foundation***