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NEW SOLUTIONS FOR  
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Submissions open  
11.16.15–1.30.16  
[tinyhomeschicago.org](http://tinyhomeschicago.org)

### **SEEKING PROPOSALS FOR TINY HOMES TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS**

*AIA Chicago teams up with Landon Bone Baker Architects, Windy City Times, and Pride Action Tank to launch national architecture competition aimed at providing speculative housing proposals for homeless young adults.*

**NOVEMBER 16, 2016**—From Los Angeles, CA to Denver, CO, tiny homes are in the spotlight as architects and activists are turning toward “living small” as a potential solution to homelessness. **AIA Chicago** announces a nationwide Tiny Homes Competition, encouraging students, architects, designers and the public to plan and design a community of tiny homes for unsheltered homeless young adults, ages 18 to 24. According to the 2015 Chicago Homeless Count and Survey, 31% of the unsheltered homeless population are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old. This competition both raises awareness of younger homeless populations while also providing viable design solutions to a contemporary social issue. **The competition—generously funded by the Alphawood Foundation—opens to the public November 16, 2015, and will close January 30, 2016.**

Lead Sponsor AIA Chicago is championing this competition. **Zurich Esposito**, AIA Chicago's Executive Vice President, notes, “Our organization sees tremendous value in design as catalyst for social innovation. The competition opens the door to this possibility.”

In order to provide genuine context and conditions for the submitting architects and designers, the specifications of a grouping of real, vacant sites in a Chicago neighborhood where affordable housing might be developed will be used. Competitors are encouraged to consider location and tenant needs while envisioning the 10-12 tiny homes and adjacent communal space mandated in each competition entry.

**Catherine Baker**, principal at Landon Bone Baker Architects—another Lead Sponsor of the competition—states, “The tiny homes, while not new in concept, will allow us to explore more nimble and affordable forms of housing and alternate community structures. The competition will also challenge the existing zoning laws and suggest new uses for vacant city lots.”

A jury of accomplished architects, including **Landon Bone Baker's Jeff Bone** will join with community leaders and housing experts **Sol Flores (founding executive director, La Casa Norte)**, **Bennett Haller (Principle Adviser, Department of Urban Design and Planning, City of Chicago)**, **Marisa Novara (Director, Metropolitan Planning Council)**

and **Kasey White (student at Kennedy King College)**. Winners will be announced in February 2016.

The competition is being held in conjunction with Chicago's first-ever Tiny Homes Summit, taking place April 18 and 19, 2016, at the University of Illinois – Chicago. The winning submission will receive a \$5,000 award, in addition to a \$5,000 fee to obtain architectural drawings of their final design. Their prototype tiny home will be constructed full-scale and exhibited during the summit.

“This effort is meant to bring new ideas for affordable housing to Chicago's environment,” said **Tracy Baim**, publisher of Windy City Times and founder of the Pride Action Tank, two of the Lead Partners on the competition. “Thousands of people remain without consistent, reliable housing in this city, yet we have the land to make room for models to fit all needs.” **Kasey White**, student juror adds, “I was once a homeless youth here in Chicago. There are not many housing programs for youth/young adolescents to have a safe comfortable space to utilize while in this life-trying situation.”

Those interested in entering the competition can visit [www.tinyhomeschicago.org](http://www.tinyhomeschicago.org) to view the competition brief detailing submission guidelines. AIA Chicago is offering a one-time **Interested Parties Meeting** to answer any questions on **Tuesday, December 2, 5:30–7:00pm** at AIA Chicago offices, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago. Visit [aiachicago.org](http://aiachicago.org) to RSVP. Press are welcome to attend this event.

## **ABOUT AIA CHICAGO**

Founded in 1869, AIA Chicago represents nearly 3,000 licensed architects, architectural interns, and allied professionals in northeastern Illinois. AIA Chicago is the second largest AIA chapter in the nation.

## **ABOUT THE APLHAWOOD FOUNDATION**

Alphawood Foundation is a Chicago-based, grant-making private foundation working for an equitable, just, and humane society. Each year we award grants to organizations, primarily in the areas of advocacy, architecture and preservation, the arts and arts education, promotion and protection of the rights of LGBT citizens and people living with HIV/AIDS, and other human and civil rights.

## **ABOUT LANDON BONE BAKER ARCHITECTS**

Landon Bone Baker Architects is a hands-on, full-service architectural practice and the 2014 winner of AIA Chicago's Firm of the Year Award. “Good design is for everyone.”

## **ABOUT PRIDE ACTION TANK**

PAT is a new, results-driven group that addresses challenges facing individuals and groups within LGBTQ communities through a collaborative process of inquiry, advocacy and action. It is a project of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

## **ABOUT WINDY CITY TIMES**

Windy City Media Group serves the diverse communication needs of the LGBTQ community. It produces Windy City Times, Chicago's 30-year-old weekly LGBT newspaper, as well as a website, community events and benefits.

**Additional Partners:** AIDS Foundation of Chicago, All Chicago, Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Chicago Commission on Human Relations, Chicago Design Museum, Chicago Dept. of Public Health, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago Urban League, City Treasurer Kurt Summers, Cook County Land Bank, Metropolitan Planning Council, Moxie, National Public Housing Museum, Polk Bros. Foundation, Project&, The AIA Chicago Foundation, The Center on Halstead, YWCA.

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