



No Place Like Home: A Detroit Story of Loss, Learning, and Land Justice.

Medium Description

In cities scarred by displacement and foreclosure, a growing movement offers a new path to permanence. **No Place Like Home** follows a Detroit urban planner's journey into the heart of community land trusts—where land is shared, housing is protected, and power returns to the people. Through stories from Detroit, Toledo, and Grand Rapids, this film reimagines home as more than property—it becomes the foundation of collective resilience.

Long Version

No Place Like Home is a documentary that explores the transformative power of community-driven housing solutions in the face of generational displacement. Anchored by the personal journey of a Detroit urban planner—whose life has been shaped by childhood relocation and housing insecurity—the film explores how one woman's search for justice leads her to the revolutionary model of Community Land Trusts (CLTs).

These nonprofit, community-owned housing initiatives offer a bold alternative to the cycle of eviction, gentrification, and loss. By separating land ownership from home ownership, CLTs ensure long-term affordability, democratic control, and deep community roots.

Set against the backdrop of America's most challenged housing markets, the film follows four grassroots organizations in Detroit, Toledo, and Grand Rapids as they fight to reclaim neighborhoods and stabilize housing through collective ownership.

Through interviews, archival footage, and on-the-ground storytelling, **No Place Like Home** offers more than policy—it delivers hope, strategy, and a call to action for residents, advocates, and cities seeking equitable solutions.

At its heart, this film is a meditation on home—not just as a building, but as a legacy, a right, and a shared responsibility.

Screening - October 16th, 2025 - Tickets are limited.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/NoPlaceLikeHome-Film> to reserve your seats.

A thought provoking and insightful panel discussion with change makers, experts, and community development organization directors will follow the screening.



Synopsis

In neighborhoods once abandoned, Community Land Trusts (CLTs) offer a path forward—anchoring residents to their homes, preserving affordability, and nurturing democratic stewardship over land. This documentary brings these stories to life through Detroit’s activists and communities. CLTs span 314 shared-equity organizations across the U.S., with 60% enabling homeowners to cross into traditional ownership, derived from 30 years of research on 4,000+ housing units.

Film Details

Length: 45 minutes

Genre: Documentary

Produced by: Entrepreneur Exchange Group

Location: Detroit, MI

Film Screenings

- October 8, 2025 - Midwest Community Land Trust Conference - Madison, Wisconsin
- October 16, 2025 – Detroit “Love Building” Screening, Detroit, MI
- November 5, 2025 – National Microloan Conference, Detroit, MI

About the Filmmaker:

Angeline Lawrence—Producer/Executive Producer

She is the creative lead behind the film, representing Entrepreneur Exchange Group. Ms. Lawrence brings over 20 years of experience focusing on land use planning, economics, and community development. She left a permanent position to seek a deeper purpose to support communities and business owners. Given the current housing crisis, Angeline focused on community land trusts. She grapples with her own experience of displacement and loss while seeking solutions for others. No Place Like Home documents her journey and shares the insights she gleaned from community leaders, nonprofit housing developers, and industry experts.



Key Crew

Vonetta Gates – Producer / Videographer

An award-winning producer and journalist. She has worked with VVK PR + Creative, WDIV-Local 4, and produced the health talk show 'Primary Care with Dr. Lonnie Joe.' She also directs video teams for online broadcasts. She is a graduate of Wayne State University and Specs Howard School of Media Arts.

Devankar Mukhi – Director & Videographer

Founder of 888 Creative, a Detroit-based creative studio specializing in storytelling and strategy for mission-driven organizations. A graduate of Wayne State University, Devankar has led youth conferences, community dialogues, and multimedia projects amplifying Detroit's voices.

Raina White – Writer, Birth Worker & Communications Scholar

A communications expert who is a Graduate of Howard University (BA) and Wayne State University (MA). Ms. White has over 10 years' experience in nonprofit programming and storytelling. Raina is also a mother of three, who inspires her community-centered creativity.

Kambriana Crank - Research Assistant

A city planner and facilitator, she brings a human-centered approach to community development and place-making. Drawing from her diverse background in urban planning, economic development, and community engagement. She has extensive research experience and contributed to professional urban planning and academic research projects throughout her career.



Main Characters Background

Mark Crain is a community builder, policy expert, and organizational executive leading Dream of Detroit, a Muslim-led community development organization in the Dexter-Linwood neighborhood. Northwestern University graduate with degrees in Political Science and African-American Studies and a former campaign director at MoveOn.org.

James Hall III is a multi-faceted leader working at the intersection of community development and digital marketing. As a third-generation Toledoan, he co-founded Toledo Community Land Trust in 2023 to address systemic racism and restore neighborhoods like Toledo's historic Dorr Street. Simultaneously, he co-founded and leads Coddie Collective, a performance marketing consultancy specializing in socially conscious businesses and the solidarity economy.

Jeanine C. Hatcher leads GenesisHOPE CDC, a multi-service community development organization serving Detroit's Islandview Villages, and surrounding eastside neighborhoods since 2008. Under her leadership, GenesisHOPE has evolved from a volunteer-run organization to an 8-staff operation with a bold housing agenda. She received the Spirit of Detroit Award from Detroit City Councilman Coleman A. Young II in 2022, recognizing her leadership in advancing health equity through housing and community development.

Cailin Kelly serves as a business coach with Northern Initiatives, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) providing loans and business services throughout Michigan. Based in Grand Rapids, Kelly works directly with entrepreneurs and small business owners, providing technical assistance, financial planning support, and business development resources. She specializes in helping underserved entrepreneurs access capital and build sustainable businesses that strengthen their communities.

Dana A. Thompson is a clinical professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School and director of the Transactional Law Clinics Program, Community Enterprise Clinic, and Zell Entrepreneurship Clinic. A Michigan Law graduate ('99) and Detroit native whose father worked for Motown Records, Thompson has devoted her career to representing community-based organizations and small businesses on transactional matters to advance economic, racial, and social justice in urban communities.



Dakota Riehl serves as Senior Real Estate Development Manager at ICCF Community Homes, Michigan's oldest nonprofit affordable housing provider (since 1974). Based in Grand Rapids, Riehl leads innovative affordable housing projects, including community land trust development and brownfield redevelopment initiatives. He recently managed ICCF's groundbreaking \$600,000 brownfield TIF plan—the first housing-focused brownfield plan approved in Grand Rapids under new state legislation.

Eric C. Williams is a managing attorney leading the Detroit Justice Center's Economic Equity Practice, with over 20 years of experience as both an attorney and a business consultant. A native Detroit and Cass Technical High School graduate, Williams holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School, an M.Phil. in International Relations from Cambridge University, and a B.A. from the University of Michigan. He previously served as Director of Wayne State University Law School's Business and Community Law Clinic and practiced at major New York law firms Nixon Peabody and Winston & Strawn.