

Lindsey Ronay

A&S Outstanding Scholarship research and Creative Activity Award Committee

A&S Dean's Office

Gardiner Hall

University of Louisville

Louisville, KY 4020

Greetings:

Enclosed is my full awards packet for the UofL Arts and Sciences Outstanding Scholarship research and Creative Activity Awards Committee:

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March 16, 2021

Lindsey Ronay
A&S Outstanding Scholarship Research and Creative
Activity Award Committee
A&S Dean's Office
Gardiner Hall
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292

Dear Ms. Ronay

It is an honor to write this letter of support for Dr. John Gilderbloom, a long time faculty member of the University of Louisville. In my opinion, Dr. Gilderbloom's record of accomplishments at the university is highly deserving of recognition for his accomplishments in Category V (Career Achievement) of the Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity Award criteria. Professor Gilderbloom's career spans 37 years, the last 33 of which have been spent as Associate Professor and Professor at the University of Louisville.

Over the years, Dr Gilderbloom has proven to be a prolific academic researcher in addition to his record as a "rainmaker" securing for the university large federal grants. During his time at the university, Dr. Gilderbloom served as Project Director and Principal Investigator of 1.6 million dollar United States Department of Education Urban Community Service Grant and Co-Principal Investigator of a 2 year Environmental Protection Agency Grant totaling \$342,000. He also administered several smaller grants, which were cash and in-kind matches for the larger grants.

Dr. Gilderbloom is the author or co-author of seven books including *Rental Control: A Sourcebook*; *Rethinking Rental Housing*; *Community Versus Commodity: Tenants and the American City*; *Promise and Betrayal: The University and the Battle for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods*; *Invisible City: Housing, Poverty, New Urbanism*; *Chromatic Homes: The Joy of Color in Historic Places*; and *Chromatic Homes: The Design and Coloring Book*. Various books were published in well regarded university presses such as Temple University Press, State University of New York Press, University of Texas Press, and University Press of Kentucky. In addition to the books, at Dr. Gilderbloom served on three separate occasions as Special Guest Editor for the environmental focused journal, *Sustain*.

Dr. Gilderbloom's has a distinguished record of publications in highly regarded outlets. His vita reveals the width and scope of his contributions in the areas of housing, planning, public administration, environmental justice, sustainability, and other urban affairs related disciplines. Dr. Gilderbloom has published research articles in some of the most prestigious journals in the fields of Planning, Urban Affairs, Housing, Public Administration, and Sustainability, including the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Urban Affairs Quarterly*, *Social Forces*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Housing and Society*, and *American Review of Public Administration*. In recent years, Dr. Gilderbloom has branched out from his early emphasis in the area of housing to exploring questions of vital import such as environmental justice and the effect of pollution on health outcomes. His research on environmental justice holds great promise not only for

exposing problems in areas of the city of Louisville but also for providing information regarding other segments of the nation.

Dr. Gilderbloom's contributions to academics and urban studies has gained wide recognition outside of the immediate Louisville community. In 2007, he was nominated by a panel of judges as one of the top most influential Urbanists in the world by the journal *Planetizen*. In 2014, Dr. Gilderbloom was selected to join as a fellow the Harvard University Scholars Strategic Network. In 2016, the *Journal of Urbanism* recognized the article "Historic Preservation's Impact on Job Creation, Property Values, and Environmental Sustainability" (John I. Gilderbloom, Matt Hanka, and Joshua Ambrosius. *Journal of Urbanism*, 2(2), 83-101, Fall 2009) for being the most cited article in their journal.

Dr. Gilderbloom is well deserving of the Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity Award in the Category of Career Achievement. He has a long and sustained record of outstanding achievement. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at sgkove01@louisville.edu.

Sincerely,
Steven Koven
Professor of Urban and Public Affairs



March 7, 2021

Dear Awards Committee

I am pleased to nominate John I. "Hans" Gilderbloom for the UofL A&S Outstanding Award for Research and Creative Activity. John has long been a most productive urban scholar, urban policy practitioner, and supporter of the UofL Urban mission. Here are just a few brief summaries of his activities that demonstrate his prominence in the field of urban affairs.

- Dr. Gilderbloom is a Professor Planning, Public Administration, Public Health, and Urban Affairs program at the University of Louisville, where he also directs the Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods <http://sun.louisville.edu>).
- Since 1976 he has been credited as a major player in getting passed and defending the enactment of tenant protections against unfair evictions and unreasonable rents in over 125 cities including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and over 100 New Jersey cities.
- His research on the housing and transportation needs of the disabled and elderly provided a justification for Congress to pass the Americans Disability Act according to Planning Magazine.
- He has also demonstrated his ability to partner with non-profits, government, developers and banks to create and renovate attractive, affordable, and sustainable homes in neighborhoods. He has also linked this success to traffic calming by converting fast multi-lane one-way streets into calmer two-way streets for greater walkability, biking and transit use.
- He encourages neighborhood regeneration by empowering grassroots citizens to create livable neighborhoods by cleaning up graffiti and litter as well as painting and repairing homes.
- He was an effective advocate for ending the U.S. Embargo of Cuba testifying in the US Senate. The State Department also asked him visit Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Russia on a friendship tour.
- His research has encouraged cities to take a more active role in reducing air, water and ground pollution, improving the life span, prosperity, housing, and health of those communities.
- Since earning his Ph.D., Gilderbloom's research in urban sustainability has appeared in eight co-authored or edited books or journals, 63 scholarly peer-reviewed journals, 30 chapters in edited books, 11 monographs and 31 opinion pieces in newspapers and magazines including: Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Sun-Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Courier-Journal, and USA Today Magazine. The New York Times (among other newspapers in the Netherlands, Japan and Russia) ran a Sunday feature of his work on renewing poor neighborhoods.
- He is a Fellow of the Scholars Strategy Network housed at Harvard.
- He served on the board of Directors of the Neighborhood Development Corp for twenty years focusing on renovation of historic homes in West Louisville.
- He was recently nominated as one of the 100 most influential urbanist in the world by Planetizen



John has also long been an active supporter of regeneration of West Louisville. John brings a wealth and diversity of experiences that would make him a valuable advocate for other down and out Kentucky cities.. He is eager to serve. I hope you will carefully consider this nomination.

Sincerely,

Gregory D. Squires



University of Dayton
Master of Public
Administration

March 17, 2021

Dear Prof. David Brown and members of the faculty awards committee,

I am writing to support my mentor, colleague, and friend Dr. John Gilderbloom as recipient of the 2021 University of Louisville Arts and Sciences Outstanding Research and Creativity Award. He is an asset of the UPA Department and should be honored for his creative research contributions to the university, community, and field. He is passionate about his work and supportive of his students' development as researchers by including them as full partners in his research projects. I would not be where I am today without the guidance and support I received as a student in the UPA Ph.D. Program from Dr. Gilderbloom.

I first met John when I visited UofL in early Spring 2007, while shopping for Ph.D. programs as a student completing my MPP degree at the Johns Hopkins University. Other faculty members at the time neglected my visit, but John made time to meet with me, discuss collaborative projects we could work on together, and to take me on a guided tour of urban Louisville. His interest in me led to my choosing UofL for my doctoral education as a University Fellow. I was not assigned to a faculty member as a Research Assistant, but I voluntarily chose to work with John for the 3 years I took to complete the program—and for many years after graduation.

I was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and made Director of the MPA Program 3 years ago at the University of Dayton, a top-ranked Public Affairs program at a top-ranked national university. My placement and, ultimately, professional success would not have been possible without John. John and I have co-authored 7 papers published in the top journals in urban studies. Our work together accounts for about two-thirds of my peer-reviewed publications. Without him, my research output would be a fraction of what it is.

In recent years, John has continued his impactful work on housing and community development but merged this agenda with the most important issues of our times – sustainability, environmental justice, pollution and life expectancy, and the COVID-19 pandemic. His work is on the cutting edge of applied social science with a firm foundation in the scientific method and accepted quantitative empirical methodologies.

Most importantly, from my view, he continues to collaborate with students and alumni on this vital work (alongside other national experts). His CV and application packet for the award speak for themselves - this work has generated numerous peer-reviewed publications, several books, and countless opinion pieces in widely read publications online and in print. He takes his responsibility as a public intellectual seriously and believes in disseminating his research for public consumption by policymakers and non-experts alike.

In sum, I cannot say enough good things about John Gilderbloom. I strongly encourage you to consider him for this award due to the quality and quantity of his published work, his partnership with students, and his commitment to applied science with an impact outside the academy on the most important issues of our day.

Best regards,



Joshua D. Ambrosius, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Political Science
Director, Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program
go.udayton.edu/mpa
jambrosius1@udayton.edu

15 March 2021

Attn: Professor David Brown
University of Louisville Arts and Sciences

Re: Outstanding Research and Creativity Award

I am providing this letter of support for Dr. John Gilderbloom, a colleague and mentor of mine for the past 10 years. My hope is that I can reinforce the both the intellectual merit and scholarship in consideration for the University of Louisville Arts and Sciences Outstanding Research and Creativity Award.

I began working with John around 2008 and it has been the most productive relationship in my career. We have over 6 highly lauded peer reviewed articles together our work on sustainable neighborhoods and walkability set a standard for high level research, being published in 2015 and widely lauded with over 200 citation and features in The Atlantic, The Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal.

Since that time, we have extended that work to look at different street types and also to challenge thinking about the development of cities. Our work shows it is important to think about economic and social advancement in parallel—that you can have growth without displacement. I am extremely proud of this work and view John as one of my key collaborators. It is not every day that you find this kind of mentorship and outside of your own institution. And in my case, I was able to benefit from a relationship that was not only prolific but was very supportive.

This aspect of support and mentorship is important. John is not only an esteemed academic he is a human being with a heart-of-gold. Very rarely do you encounter people who not only care for the downtrodden and disenfranchised, but who are willing to stand up and fight for them. John is one of these individuals. He is both compassionate and bold. He has been willing to take difficult stances about some of the social and environmental issues that continue to divide our communities. This advocacy-oriented approach has been recognized by people throughout government. To name a few, these include: former Presidents Clinton and Obama; leadership in the City of Louisville and West Louisville; organizations like the Ford Foundation, the Congress for New Urbanism and Urban Land Institute. He embodies the idea of "service above self" and this is an area where I have learned from him.

In sum, Dr. Gilderbloom is scholar without many parallels, and a huge asset to the University of Louisville, and I'm delighted to refer him for this award.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support.
Sincerely,

William Riggs, PhD, AICP, LEED AP
Associate Professor, University of San Francisco
wriggs@usfca.edu



16 March 2021

Dear Awards Committee:

I would like to nominate Dr. John Gilderbloom for University of Louisville Arts and Sciences Outstanding Research and Creativity Award. I have known Dr. Gilderbloom for over eleven years and I personally can say he is one of the most productive individuals that I know in academia. During his career Dr. Gilderbloom has made a substantial impact not only at the University of Louisville but in the fields of urban affairs, sustainability, housing, and public health.

Dr. Gilderbloom is a rare full package of a professor. Dr. Gilderbloom is an excellent and creative teacher. As evident in his student evaluations and his faculty reviews. He provides excellent service to the institution, whether it is running a research center or serving on committees, he truly has a passion to serve the University of Louisville. But in my opinion, his best quality is his innovative research. He continuously publishes his research in top journals in the fields of urban affairs, housing, sustainability and public health. He has published articles in high quality journals, such as: *JAMA*, *The Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *The American Review of Public Administration*, *Housing Policy Debate*, and the *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*. During his extensive and impressive career, he has continued to focus on the use of innovative methodology in his work. He has also has a number of notable books, such as *Rethinking Rental Housing*, *Invisible City* and *Community Versus Commodity* just to name a few. His research has helped to reframe how we think about spatial issues in public policy. In addition to his strong academic publishing recorded, Dr. Gilderbloom has also been very successful at finding research funding and completing community related research. This research connected a number of his policy ideas to practice. His research has been funded at over \$1 million dollars. The University and other organizations have given him awards and accolades for this research, which I argue shows that Dr. John Gilderbloom is an outstanding and creative researcher.

I could continue with Dr. Gilderbloom's accomplishments, but to best sum up John Gilderbloom, he is dedicated to the University of Louisville, the success of his students, and to pushing forward our understanding of urban affairs, housing and public health. In closing, there is no one else that better embodies the creativity and the research mission of the University of Louisville. I give Dr. Gilderbloom my full endorsement without reservations. No one else is more deserving of such an award.

Wesley L Meares, PhD
Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Administration
Augusta University
(706)- 604-2759
wmeares@augusta.edu

March 15, 2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of in support of the nomination of Professor John I. "Hans" Gilderbloom to the College of Arts and Science Award. He is an excellent nominee for this Award he is an example of what a professor in an urban/metropolitan university should and could do to serve its local communities.

I have known Professor Gilderbloom for over 20 years as the director of the Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods (SUN) at the University of Louisville. We had multiple collaborations during the infancy of his center as he supported some of the minority students from Speed School allowing them to learn and grow with experiences beyond engineering. He demonstrated a great mentoring ability and care for diversity and personal growth.

Louisville is a city with many diverse people from different religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. As an active member of several non-profits, I invited and observed Dr. Gilderbloom present and discuss issues of interest to the International Community in Louisville and to welcome and create a challenging dialogue with our visitors from other countries.

It is also clear that his publication and national recognition is clear and I will not expand on them. However, in closing, I reiterate my affirmative and unconditional support for his nomination and applaud your college on having such an exemplary faculty member.

Best Regards,



Adel S. Elmaghraby



March 8, 2021

La Glenda Reed,
Community Organizer
2500 Montgomery Street Suite 9
Louisville, KY 40212

John Hans Gilderbloom is a gun shot survivor. He is a badass fighter who never turned his back on social issues. He is fearless, passionate, and refuses to be intimidated. He has accomplished much working Civil Rights icons such as Harvey Milk, Cesar Chavez, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Bernie Sanders, Jesse Jackson and Vice President Gore. He stood up to Secretary Andrew Cuomo and his bullying at HUD demanding that I increase the number of jobs created by HUD programs.

John I. "Hans" Gilderbloom is not your everyday pedestrian academic that hides in a office as a keyboard warrior that in the end accomplishes little. They see their job as mandating the status quo. He is on the streets from the hood to the holler to the White House. He has been repeatedly warned that his research for equitable and justice. One attempt caused him to lose part of his hearing and vision. He not only survived but thrived taking the ringing ears and morning headaches into action. More recently the Louisville police department and University of Louisville reported another credible assassination attempt for his research on how big polluters are prematurely causing

shorten lifespans and ruining poor neighborhoods—both white and black. . For his own safety, police have told him to move out of Kentucky in an undisclosed location.

He is considered a legendary figure in urban affairs. His finger prints are all over cities throughout the world. He has been credited as a major player in getting legislation passed at the local, state and federal level: fair rent ordinances passed in many cities covering millions from Los Angeles to San Francisco to New Jersey., eviction control legislation, Americans Disability Act, HOPE VI, calmer streets legislation, and defending environmental protection laws. Dr. Gilderbloom is a Professor in the Graduate Planning, Public Administration, Sustainability, and Urban Affairs program at the University of Louisville, where he also directed the highly lauded Center for Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods for 30 years before it was moved to Washington D.C. with Neighbourhood Associates Corporation (<http://sunlouisville.org>). He was formerly Professor of Economics and Business.

In an international poll of thousands of Urbanists, planners and architects, Professor Gilderbloom was ranked one of the “top 100 urban thinkers in the world.” Since earning his Ph.D., Gilderbloom’s research in urban sustainability has appeared in eight edited books, 62 scholarly peer-reviewed journals, 35 chapters in edited books, 11 monographs and 35 opinion pieces in newspapers and magazines including: Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, , Chicago Sun-Times, San Francisco Chronicle, New York Times, Courier-Journal, USA Today Magazine, and is syndicated with City Lab/Bloomberg.

The New York Times ran a Sunday feature of his work on renewing poor neighbourhoods and ran a small opinion piece on pollution. His most recent books on stabilizing and regenerating neighbourhoods came out in 2019:

<http://www.chromatichomes.com> . He has consulted for National Geographic, Presidents (Bush, Clinton and Obama), Mayors (Jerry Abramson, Bernie Sanders), Senators (McConnell, Schumer); Governors (Jerry Brown, Andrew Cuomo and Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development (Cuomo, Cisneros). He has consulted with the Mayors of Moscow, Russia; Habana, Cuba; San Jose, Costa Rica, and over fifty US Mayors. He has brought in over \$3.5 million dollars in federal, state and local grants and has won numerous awards including the University of Louisville medal for outstanding research and his likeness is commended on a backlit picture of him. He loves teaching, research, and community service at home and around the world. In January of 2020. After polluters demanded his SUN Center be closed, Dr. Gilderbloom was named a Fellow at the Neighborhood Housing Associates Corporation in Washington D.C. and was invited to move his Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods (<http://sunlouisville.org>) to Washington D.C.. He has also been named to head up the "Institute for Environmental Justice . Peace out

Sincerely,

La Glenda Reed, Community Organizer & Director, SEI

cc: We the People, U of L Center for Sustainable Neighborhoods, Portland Museum, Neighborhood Associates, City View Park, . Habitat for Humanity

Self Esteem Inc. 2500 Montgomery Street Suite 9 Louisville, KY 40212 (502)-873-6301/Laglendareed@aol.com

March 16, 20221

Greetings:

I am applying for Category V (Career Achievement of the Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity Award) with a career that has lasted for nearly 40 years. Previously, I have brought in \$3.5 million dollars in competitive federal money and lots of consulting and speaking engagements jobs for U.S. HUD and U.S. State Department involving work with Andrew Cuomo, Henry Cisneros (he also wrote an introduction for my book), and Hillary Clinton. The President of the United States, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of HUD, President of Harvard and New York Times, along with many foreign leaders have praised my work.

President Clinton had me sit in his inauguration box at the Presidential parade. I later was asked to help edit the State of the Union Address where I pointed out it would be the first such speech that did not mention housing along with terrible arcane language used by Vice President Gore about the "information highway." I put in the proposed that tax cuts would result in greater homeownership opportunities.

With my past accomplishments, I have made a significant impact on critical decisions involving political participation, climate change, COVID-19, environmental regulations, sustainability, and green economic development. I think I deserve a career achievement award for research and creative activity.

In my mid-twenties, I was recruited to work in government and research and data analysis for Governor Jerry Brown, HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, President Bill Clinton, and Vice President Al Gore. In addition, I was brought back to HUD to work with HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo to calculate job growth from federal partnerships with developers and local government. Despite a great deal of pressure by Secretary Cuomo's aids to "change my numbers on jobs created" I stood up to him and would not back down. The paper was later published in a peer reviewed journal but the story until now was held back. Chronicled below is a substantiation of my academic, activist, and government career. This unequivocally support my desire and commitment to join you in fighting for climate equity and environmental justice.

I am also coordinating a research grant on variations of COVID-19 by cities out of non-profit Neighborhood Associates Corporation in Washington D.C. headed by Bobby Austin who was formerly program officer for African American outreach for the Knight Foundation. I have published numerous articles on this research ranging from op-eds to peer reviewed research. The world's second most highly ranked medical journal, Lancet, recently accepted it because of its timeliness a pre-publication article this past January. I am also currently collaborating with medical schools researchers on how the environment shapes COVID-19 cases and deaths. Our research explains 75% of the variation across cities and this is why our research is now under review in the world's top medical journals. I also recently got a publication in Harvard Medical Journal Primary Care and Social Science and Medicine.

For example, cities with high level of pollution have higher rates of COVID-19. Or finding out that states with Republican Governor's enforcing "no mask policies in cities" have significant increases in COVID-19 cases. We are also finding how COVID-19 connections between race and density.

I have attached my Vita. The international survey by Planetizen.com ranked me as one of the world's top urban thinkers—number 67 and if you count just those alive and are in the United States an even smaller group of top thinkers. I have co-authored or edited seven books and journals, 63 academic articles, 33 book chapters, and numerous op-ed pieces in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *American Banker*, *Washington Post*, *Governing Magazine*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *USA Today Magazine*, *Los Angeles Times*., and currently syndicated by City Lab / Bloomberg. I have been profiled in the *New York Times Sunday*. In March of 2013, the University awarded me the highest University honor the Presidential Medal for Distinguished Faculty Research, a campus wide award that recognizes "outstanding research" among the 2,036 faculty members including medicine, engineering, and sciences. This marked the first time someone in the field of environmental studies, sustainability, planning or sociology had been selected for this honor. They not only put a banner up but also a permanent picture of me back lit along University Avenue. I had an all-star list who served on my board of Directors: Derek Bok, President of Harvard, Marilyn Melkonian, President of Telesis, Donald Turner of Bridge Housing Corporation, and Mark Dowie, MIT and founder of Mother Jones.

I currently have a consulting company that works with developers to maintain affordable, dignified and accessible housing. Together, these developers have built roughly \$2.8 billion dollars in real estate and created nearly 16,000 housing units in 23 underserved and poor neighborhoods. Since 1992, I worked as a consultant to the Washington D.C. based Telesis, which has built 15,000 housing units in 23 cities costing \$2.5 billion dollars. In Indiana, I consulted on the construction of green housing units in Muncie and Indianapolis, and started up a boutique historic preservation company with a value of \$4 million dollars. I am an expert in the design of livable neighborhoods from street to housing to commerce design.

I have a long and distinguished record in housing and have been hired to consult with two former Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development in Washington D.C. I have been pleased to advise mayors of many cities, including Houston and Louisville, on urban job creation, neighborhood housing trends and university-community partnerships.). I am proud of my role in providing science, data, and facts in the successful passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. According to *Planning Magazine*, my research on creating greater access for those with disabilities was the backbone to convincing Congress to pass the act that has made the lives of 18 million Americans an improvement in their quality of life. Moreover, I know how to swing a hammer, paint, saw and have my students building houses for Habitat for Humanity—inspired by the work of Donald Turner in the South Bronx. I have a great deal of practical experience in renovating hundreds of boarded up homes which are featured in my latest books with plenty of before and after shots.

Both Republicans and Democrats have praised my long history of how my research has influenced legislation at the local, state, and federal level. Such comments have come from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, in proclamations from the Senate, as well as the House and from the Office of the President of the United States. In the past, the U.S. State Department invited me to teach community-building practices to delegations Russia, South America, Australia, Israel, Netherlands, and Ireland. Moscow State University asked me to give lectures over a 9 day period in five Russian cities; I also spent seven days in Venezuela advising the newly elected Socialist government on historic preservation and economic development. I also spent 18 months in Cuba leading friendship tours to Cuba and advising government leaders along with Andres Duany on green urbanism. . I have also

worked in the past with former California Governor Edmund G. Brown on local enactment of rent control and eviction controls; Secretary of HUD Henry Cisneros on university-community partnerships and HOPE VI; Secretary of Housing and Community Development Andrew Cuomo on job creation estimates made by HUD grants. I was also asked by President Clinton to add text on his State of the Union address, do media relations, and the proposed tax cuts would result in greater homeownership opportunities. I also advised Dr. Michael Stegman Special Counsel to the U.S. Treasury on the dynamics of housing foreclosure. Finally, I expressed concern about chemical safety storage issues in Louisville's Rubbertown to President Obama's special assistants in the West wing and was pleased to see that these unsecure chemicals found improved security with fencing and police.

My books have influenced policy makers, neighborhood activists and elected leaders. My second book, *Rethinking Rental Housing*, was named the "The most significant piece on housing policy written in the last 40 years," by the President of the APA. My 2008 book, *Invisible City: Poverty, Housing and New Urbanism* documents my consulting work on two other large developments of around 350 housing units in Newport and Covington that are considered a success. Of my many accomplishments, I am most proud of the Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods. Our Center brought in roughly \$3.5 million in competitive federally funded grants, and half a million dollars in cash grants. One of the partnerships I helped leverage from a \$3.1 million dollar grant roughly 35 million dollars to revitalize one of Louisville's troubled neighborhoods using green planning principles. This is documented in my book, *Promise and Betrayal: University and the Battle for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods*, which includes an introduction by former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros. This project resulted in the renovation of 550 boarded up housing units, 75 single-family shotgun and camel-back houses, and a decrease in crime. Our center also transformed an EPA Super Fund site into the Kentucky African American Heritage Museum. We also helped to convert an abandoned school into a senior housing development. It was also featured in the Sunday New York Times for best community practices for a University. I currently am consulting with a green developer for a \$67 million dollar mixed use development out of an abandoned hospital that won approval by the Mayor of Louisville..

In May of 2018, University Press of Kentucky (UKP) released my latest book, "Chromatic Homes: The Joy of Color in Historic Places", which has gotten a great buzz with blurbs from such planning icons as Richard Florida, Jeff Speck, Donovan Rypkema and Harvey Molotch along with an introduction written by former Assistant to the President Obama and former five term Mayor of Louisville: Jerry Abramson. UKP also published a companion piece where we teach people the basics of enhancing and renovating abandoned homes. An academic journal review called it "an uplifting dazzling masterpiece." My eighth book, *Ten Habits of Livable Places: Creating Healthy, Safe, Prosperous and Sustainable Neighborhoods*, which is undergoing edits and we are talking with a number of top shelf publishers. One of President Obama's top aids has already reviewed the book as significant contribution. This book covers the best policies to fight climate change in Amsterdam and Portland. I am also editor of a book series with Praeger on toxic cities. Finally, I have been encouraged to write another book called "Methods for Social Change" which demonstrates how research grounded in science, data, and facts can win passage of policies. It talks about how I brought to review bogus research, which is harmful to poor, minorities, disabled and elderly.

I have received honors for my research on public policy from the American Society of Landscape Engineers, Western Governmental Research Association, American Planning Association Chapter Award, American Planning Association Kentucky State Award, Journal of Applied Behavioral Science, United States Senate, Sierra Club, Vice

President Gore, Harvard Innovations in Government, President Clinton, Republican Congressional Committee Medal, Mayor of Houston. Preservation Kentucky Sustainable Practice, American Institute for Architects, Kentucky Book Festival, Southern Kentucky Book Festival, and Books by the Banks. Of special note is the citation from Vice President Gore's Sustainability Council and the Sierra Club was a national award and highlighted the need for environmentalists to renew inner city neighborhoods by making them green, prosperous, safe, and healthy. I was just one of two faculty members here at UofL designated a Kentucky Humanities Fellow and asked to go around to various cities and towns in Kentucky to make presentations. on renewing neighborhoods. .

I love to teach. I am a proponent of experiential learning —a pedagogical practice I will continue. I have brought my classes to Havana, Amsterdam, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, Portland (OR) and Washington D.C. My graduate seminars have been in Urban Sustainability, Environmental Policy, green planning, housing and community development, historic preservation, urban biking, urban sustainability, graduate research methods, and environmental policy. I have won two separate "best teacher awards" at two different Universities and my evaluations average "good to excellent" scale with several classes at perfect 5.0 levels. I prefer students to read the "great books" on environmental policy to textbooks. My best pedagogical gift is working with graduate students. I am known to attract more graduate students to our programs, co-author more publications and place Ph.D. students in more jobs than any other Professor in our Department. A look at my 100 plus C.V. shows that I have co-authored with 36 different graduate students peer reviewed articles and have placed more graduate students in jobs than any other faculty member in Urban and Public Affairs. I have mentored ten Ph.D. students who now hold jobs at Universities as Deans, Chairs, and Full Professor. I should also add that many other students have become successful affordable, green and dignified housing developers in the private sector. I also take students out on Saturday mornings to show them how to renovate a building by working with non-profit groups such as Habitat for Humanity and for profit developers.

I realize this is a lot to squeeze into one letter but I want to make it clear how excited about your outstanding research award.. My fingerprints are on hundreds of U.S. cities concerning disability, homeless, minority, and renter rights. While I have accomplished much, I have much more to do and working at ASU which has some of the best Professors smartest students, and community leaders in the nation.

I submit to you my unrelenting passion for education demonstrated by my teaching ,research, activism, and service for climate equity, housing, community ,environmental justice, and coming up with federal policies that end the biggest health crisis we have ever experienced. I got another ten years in my fuel tank to teach graduate students the art and science of impactful research.

Sincerely,

John I. "Hans" Gilderbloom Ph.D.

University of Louisville Presidential Medal for Distinguished Faculty Research and Creative Activity
Top 100 Urban Thinker Planetizen International Survey

Professor of Planning, Public Administration, Sustainability, Urban Affairs.

Home of the Top Ranked (#14) Planning Program in North America by Journal of Planning Education and Research

Director, Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods Washington D.C.

Fellow, Neighborhood Associates Corporation, Washington D.C.

<http://www.sunlouisville.org>

<http://www.chromatichomes.com>

Numerous lectures by Gilderbloom posted on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ra3U8h4MSY>

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Every social movement needs someone from the university to provide science, facts, and data to back up their case. My fingerprints are all over some of the most important legislative victories for progressives. My research was instrumental in supporting the claims of these civil rights groups demanding fairness and no discrimination in housing, transportation, commerce, and recreation. I am proud to say that I have a long and distinguished record of working personally with some of the great leaders of the Civil Rights movement: Martin Luther King III, Cesar Chavez, Harvey Milk, Bobby Austin (Repairing the Breech and my boss) homeless advocate Mitch Snyder, Tom Hayden, Cary Lowe, Jane Fonda, and Donald Turner, as well as groups like grassroots disability advocates, and tenants' rights activists. .

1969-1982 Most of my work was in the area of housing and environmental policies. As a teenager, our church was involved in farmworker rights where we took a train down to San Jose to work on canning fruit. I also started a Students for Democratic Society (SDS) at my local high school calling for student protest to shut down our local high school, promote "free speech" rock concerts at the local park. Later we worked on the grape boycott and organized protests at the local Safeway in Millbrae. Later, while working at HUD, I was Directed by Governor Brown to work with Cesar Chavez on farm worker housing. We marched and advocated together along with sharing meals. Similarly, I worked with Harvey Milk on renters rights and our conversation on rent control is featured in the movie "Milk".

1975—present I have been a national leader in renters rights defending rent control and eviction controls for millions of tenants from California to New Jersey. I started a tenants union in Isla Vista and Santa Barbara in 1975 and wrote pieces on landlord skyrocketing profits. These pieces got the attention of newly elected Governor Jerry Brown of California whose administration invited me of work in housing and community development legislation. I played a key role in convincing Governor Brown to veto the legislation to ban cities from enacting rent control. I started a new organization called CHAIN (California Housing Action and Information Network). I ended up going to graduate school at University of California at Santa Barbara which became the birthplace of the renters rights movement in California. I helped shape legislation that allowed cities to adopt rent control and nondiscriminatory eviction processes. I wrote a book called "Rent Control: A Source Book" on how to organize, pass, and write a model rent control law. During this time, I worked with local renter rights groups to advocate "as an expert" for fair rent regulation and eviction controls. Rent control was passed in Berkeley, West Hollywood, Santa Monica, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other places. Today, all of California is covered by rent control.

1995-1989 After leaving California, I began documenting the challenges of people with disabilities in Houston.. We called it the "invisible jail" where there are no bars but significant access barriers within and outside a home. According to Planning Magazine, this research was fundamental for the successful passage of Americans with Disability Act by President George Bush. Even the number of parking spaces 6% reserved for the disabled was determined by our research.

"Creating the Accessible City: Providing for Low Income, Elderly and

Disabled People." (1990) by John Gilderbloom and Mark Rosentraub American Journal of Economics and Sociology Volume 49, Number 3 (July) pages 271 to 282

1986 - 1990 While teaching in Houston, I aligned with Mitch Snyder, recognized leader and tireless advocate for homeless rights. I was deeply involved in the review of proposed legislation to ban cities from enacting rent control laws and environmental protections. It was a time sensitive issue so I sent to HUD Secretary Jack Kemp to convince him to withdraw President Reagan's ban by pointing out the many flaws of the research from made up data, poor research design, and funding from special interest groups:

1991 "Scapegoating Rent Control: Masking the Causes of Homelessness" by Richard P. Appelbaum, Michael Dolny, Peter Dreier and John Gilderbloom Journal of the American Planning Association Volume 57, Number 2 (Spring) pages 153 to 164.

1992 Sham Rent Control Research: A Further Reply by John I Gilderbloom Richard P. Appelbaum, Michael Dolny, Peter Dreier Journal of the American Planning Association Volume 58, Number 2 (spring) pages 220-224

When I arrived at the University of Louisville, it was requested by President Donald Swain to design and implement a program to help heal the racial divisiveness of a city with a long record of segregation, poverty, racism, and pollution. I was the key organizer of the program, which brought some degree of racial peace on and off campus:

1992 "Meeting the Challenge of Diversity through Celebration" by Victoria L. Guthrie, William Friedlander and John I. Gilderbloom College Student Affairs Journal Volume XI Number 3 (Winter) pages 15 to 24.

The University President then asked me to use my skills and knowledge to transform what USA Today called one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the nation. I got support from 70 organizations, elected leaders, foundations, Mayor, and eventually earned a large competitive grant from Department of Education, HUD, and EPA of \$3 million dollars. The money helped spark a renovation of 512 abandoned housing units, and over 125 newly built shotgun homes. We wrote many peer reviewed articles about it and summarized it in this book:

2005 "Promise and Betrayal: The University and the Battle for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods". With Rob Mullins Albany, New York: State University New York Press. 2005 228 pages

SUN (Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods that I founded) got a lot of local, nation and international attention. Martin Luther King III commended the regeneration of the program. Even a member of my advisory committee, Donald Temer, who was the United States envoy for rebuilding South Africa, recommended to President Nelson Mandela to disregard the Soviet Union proposal of building Le Corbusier skyscrapers. Instead we showed what we were doing in West Louisville was a model by going human scale with renovating abandoned buildings and building small shotgun houses. We also had the President of Harvard, Derek Bok, who served on our board of advisors, wrote an enthusiastic review. Additionally, the

awards came in from U.S. Congress, HUD, and New York Times and numerous newspapers around the country.

In between all of this, I was invited by the Cuban government to help with design issues concerning housing and transportation issues. With the blessing of the U.S. government, I provided consulting services and friendship tours over a span of 20 years. I received an award by the Cuban architectural union as well. I became an advocate for lifting the embargo for travel, goods and testified in Congress. I was selected to address the U.S. Senate on lifting the Cuban Embargo and got President Obama to support this act. Subsequently, both the Venezuela and Russian governments tapped me to consult with their housing and preservation officials. I also took jobs working in Australia and Israel on housing issues.

2013 – now With a New York Times op-ed I started challenging the conventional wisdom that pollution of our water, soil, and air. I have written numerous op-eds and scholarly articles in medical and environmental journals. I participated in a popular film documentary “Robbertown” which is now streaming on Amazon.

“Louisville’s Record High Pollution in Black Neighborhoods Points to Systemic Racism”

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2020/06/25/louisville-pollution-dirty-air-black-neighborhoods-systemic-racism/3223469001/>

"Gregory D. Squires, John Hans Gilderbloom, and Wesley Meares.. "Pollution, Place, and the Unnecessary Tragedy of Premature Death: Lessons for Covid-19," *Planetizen* June 20, 2020,

<https://www.planetizen.com/features/109556-pollution-place-and-unnecessary-tragedy-premature-death-lessons-covid-19>

John Hans Gilderbloom and Gregory D. Squires 2020. “The Health Emergency

That’s Coming to West Louisville,” *CityLab* April 22.

<https://www.citylab.com/perspective/2020/04/air-pollution-covid-19-health-environmental-justice-poverty/610366/>

Trailer for “Robbertown” documentary that features John Hans Gilderbloom available on Amazon.com:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrMldXh08I>

I currently serve on the Department diversity committee and serve on the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Black Reparatory Group that produces Larry Muhammad’s plays in New York and Los Angeles.

Threaded throughout my career, as a Professor is an intricate pattern of commitment to rich diversity in this country and on the world stage. So excited to bring that wealth of experience wisdom and a continued thirst for fairness to your esteemed University.

May 15, 2026

Short version

John Hans Gilderbloom recently retired from the University of Louisville and is a senior fellow at Global Urban Development (GUD) in Berkeley, California. His award-winning Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods now operates within GUD. Dr. Gilderbloom has authored 67 peer-reviewed articles, eight books, and a wide range of opinion pieces published in leading outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times*. He is currently at work on his ninth book, *Methods of Social Change: How to Change the World with Big Data*. More information is available on his website: <https://www.sunlouisville.org/> along with the film that I have a cameo appearance as the "Professor"

<http://www.climateofhopefilm.org>

Longer yet better and rockin version:

Urban planning legend Dr. John Hans Gilderbloom is an internationally recognized urban scholar, author, and public intellectual whose work has helped redefine the relationship between cities, public health, sustainability, and social justice. Recently retired from the University of Louisville, he now serves as a senior fellow at Global Urban Development, where his award-winning Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods continues its work advancing innovative research on healthier and more livable cities.

Dr. Gilderbloom is the author of 67 peer-reviewed scholarly articles, eight books, and numerous influential essays and opinion pieces published in major national outlets including the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times*. He is currently completing his ninth book, *Methods of Social Change: How to Change the World with Big Data*, an exploration of how data, science, and civic engagement can transform society.

Beyond academia, Dr. Gilderbloom's work has inspired film and public debate on climate change, environmental justice, and urban inequality. He inspired and has a cameo in the forthcoming feature film *Climate of Hope* (<http://www.climateofhopefilm.org>) inspired by his recent book *Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet*. (<http://www.sunlouisville.org>) Directed by three-time Emmy Award winner Chris Nolan, the film is scheduled for theatrical release in Fall 2026 and perhaps a series on a streaming channel.

Bios For Harvard Blog

Dr. Gilderbloom is a Professor in the Graduate Planning, Public Administration, Sustainability, Urban Affairs program at the University of Louisville, where he also directed the highly lauded Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods at 30 years before it was moved to Washington D.C. in 2020 with Neighborhood Associates (<http://sunlouisville.org>). Dr. Gilderbloom has been appointed Distinguished Scientist to lead a research effort on the impact of Pollution on COVID-19, Health, Housing, and Learning. In an Planetizen international poll of thousands of Urbanists, planners and architects, Professor Gilderbloom was ranked one of the “top 100 urban thinkers in the world.” Since earning his Ph.D., Gilderbloom’s research in urban sustainability has appeared in eight edited books, 63 scholarly peer-reviewed journals (including Lancet, Social Science and Medicine, Cities) 30 chapters in edited books, 11 monographs and 35 opinion pieces in newspapers and magazines including: Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Harvard Medical School Primary Care Blog, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Chicago Sun-Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Courier-Journal, USA Today Magazine, and is syndicated with City Lab/Bloomberg. Email: John.Gilderbloom@louisville.edu

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Recent op-eds in national newspapers:

Harvard Medical School Primary Care: How many children are hurt by pollution?

<https://info.primarycare.hms.harvard.edu/blog/children-hurt-pollution>

Louisville Air Quality West End Suffers While others Prosper

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2021/01/28/louisville-air-quality-west-end-suffers-while-others-prosper/6558314002/>

"Louisville's Record High Pollution in Black Neighborhoods Points to Systemic Racism" by John I. "Hans" Gilderbloom, Gregory D. Squires, and Wesley Meares

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2020/06/25/louisville-pollution-dirty-air-black-neighborhoods-systemic-racism/3223469001/>

https://ncrc.org/pollution-in-black-neighborhoods-part-of-louisvilles-systemic-racism/?mc_cid=3692596f8b&mc_eid=1ab127ccb3

"Gregory D. Squires, John Hans Gilderbloom, and Wesley Meares.. "Pollution, Place, and the Unnecessary Tragedy of Premature Death: Lessons for Covid-19," *Planetizen* June 20, 2020,

<https://www.planetizen.com/features/109556-pollution-place-and-unnecessary-tragedy-premature-death-lessons-covid-19/>

John Hans Gilderbloom and Gregory D. Squires 2020. "The Health Emergency

That's Coming to West Louisville," *CityLab* April 22.

<https://www.citylab.com/perspective/2020/04/air-pollution-covid-19-health-environmental-justice-poverty/610366/>

<https://shelterforce.org/2020/07/21/pollution-place-and-the-unnecessary-tragedy-of-premature-death-lessons-for-covid-19/>

[LEO weekly:](#)

https://www.leoweekly.com/leo_author/gregory-d-squires-john-hans-gilderbloom-wesley-l-meares/

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/20062020/louisville-kentucky-black-lives-matter-rubbertown-environmental-justice>

New York Times opinion /letters:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/18/opinion/the-causes-of-shorter-life-expectancies-in-america.html>

Two really good videos one done by Dwan Turner and the other by James Bruggers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvacxkfyNSQ&t=118s>

https://insideclimatenews.org/news/23062020/video-kentucky-primary-environmental-justice-rubbertown-charles-booker-amy-mcgrath?fbclid=IwAR0qICzyrsMJ-5mQsZWpw_pSqFtkXOEvd05b2sNUd-p3Q_e4T4f2vv8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvfzPupklrc>

Trailer for "Rubbertown" documentary that features John Hans Gilderbloom available on Amazon.com:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrMldXh08I>

Russell:

<https://outlook.office.com/mail/search/id/AAQkADNiOWQ1MjAwLTUyYmEtNGMyZS1iMzllWU3NTFhZWRkYmJjNgAQAL4OWJtqGOLJt9nCXSBNm0%3D/sxs/AAMkADNiOWQ1MjAwLTUyYmEtNGMyZS1iMzllWU3NTFhZWRkYmJjNgBGAAAAAAW887JEjWNSrri8gN2sOfMBwDhjMM0JvBRQbP0PDSUSfZgAAAAuHRQAAC7B8rjIX4DSKELHI8ua2rPAAL30P4iAAABEgAQAByi%2By7lC4RPsVWL3d3VikA%3D>

1405 Highland House Renovation

<https://vimeo.com/443421272>

Paristown Green:

<https://vimeo.com/443422118>

Rubbertown:

<https://vimeo.com/446302598>

Here is the direct link to the comment form:

<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/advanced-planning-and-sustainability/urban-government-center>

Paristown Green:

<https://vimeo.com/443422118>

Bad condition of the earth: flooding, drought, fire, poor crop yields

<https://projects.propublica.org/climate-migration/>

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<https://www.wave3.com/2021/02/18/muhammad-ali-boulevard-chestnut-street-could-become-two-way-streets/>

https://www.wdrb.com/news/louisville-aims-to-convert-several-1-way-streets-to-2-way-traffic/article_f1ed09ba-6ca8-11eb-bd3a-43e59d6e2acf.html

Why one-way streets are bad for Everyone except Speeding Cars Washington Post by Emily Badger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYNsUdRrxIU>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/04/17/why-one-way-streets-really-are-the-worst/>

Two Ways to fix urban problems by John Hans Gilderbloom and William Riggs (Planetizen)

<https://www.planetizen.com/node/75629/two-ways-fix-our-neighborhoods>

Two Ways Can Fix Declining Downtowns by John Hans Gilderbloom

<https://www.planetizen.com/node/69354>

John Hans Gilderbloom, Urban Planning Legend

A Message from Marc Weiss, Chairman and CEO of Global Urban Development (GUD)

Dr. John Ingram Hans Gilderbloom, after a 37-year career at the University of Louisville (UofL) and his retirement in 2025, has joined **Global Urban Development (GUD)**. We are thrilled. Throughout his tenure at UofL, he earned numerous honors for his teaching, research, and service, including the distinguished UofL Presidential Medal for Research. The university also commemorated his legacy with a permanent backlit portrait on University Avenue.

Dr. Gilderbloom has now brought the award-winning Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods—along with its research grants—under the GUD umbrella. He currently lives and works near GUD's offices in Berkeley.

Founded in 2001, GUD is a dynamic, results-driven international policy organization and a global network of 1,000 respected experts across 65 countries. Its mission is to advance a world in which all people can live and thrive in harmony with one another and with nature. For nearly 25 years, GUD has maintained a structure that supports academic freedom and encourages solution-oriented policy innovation.

Global Urban Development refuses funding from coal, liquor, tobacco, and chemical corporations—unlike UofL, which has attempted to obstruct scholars from conducting critical research on pollution that poses lasting harm to people, places, and the planet. To appease toxic, often foreign-owned industries, university officials removed \$20 million worth of federally funded research from their public websites. This decision has undermined Louisville's prospects for genuine urban revitalization. Today, the new reality in downtown is a landscape of half-empty office towers, including the once-vibrant and iconic Humana Building.

Dr. Gilderbloom's research on deadly pollution will now be securely preserved on GUD's platforms, along with his peer-reviewed articles, opinion pieces (in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Los Angeles Times*), YouTube videos, and films. There is hope that his research reports will eventually return to Louisville to be housed in a college, library, or nonprofit institution.

Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods (SUN) (<https://www.sunlouisville.org>) has joined forces with GUD to become one of the most influential policy-oriented organizations globally. Since its inception in 1978, SUN has achieved significant milestones, including:

- **Legislative Advocacy:** Successfully championing eviction protection and fair rent laws in over 200 cities and states since 1977.

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- **The Americans with Disabilities Act:** Playing a crucial role in providing data instrumental in the passage of this landmark legislation and earning a medal from the Republican Congress.
- **Community Development Initiatives:** Partnering to generate nearly \$100 million for the renovation of homes and neighborhoods, creating spaces that are attractive, affordable, and community oriented.
- **Sustainability Leadership:** Demonstrating that sustainable practices not only generate jobs but also cultivate livable communities.
- **Public Health Advocacy:** Raising awareness about the impact of urban environmental toxins, which contribute to serious health issues and can reduce life expectancy by up to 12 years in 1,000 communities around the United States.

Carla Snyder, Executive Producer of *Climate of Hope* and International Woman of the Year for Promoting Peace

Every film is a gamble, and only a rare few truly resonate with audiences. That's why we're thrilled that three-time Emmy Award winner Chris Nolan has taken on Dr. Gilderbloom's work as a project with transformative potential. Chris built an extraordinary career in New York, crafting more than a thousand advertising campaigns for major brands such as Google and Apple. He later expanded his creative reach on the West Coast, earning even greater recognition through his remarkable films and influential commercial work.

Film director Chris Nolan shared this reflection:

"Dr. John Hans Gilderbloom's insights and research illuminate the heart of my upcoming film, *Climate of Hope*, a Mission Impossible-style story set for release in 2026. The movie follows two of his students, driven to action by his compelling book *Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet*, which champions hope rather than despair. After spending a long evening in conversation with him, I was struck by the turbulence he has endured because of his work—smear campaigns, threats to his safety, even surviving a gunshot. He reminds us that cities are not just static structures—they are living, breathing souls with dreams, despairs, and hopes. They are truly the future of the planet."

Dr. Gilderbloom is a legendary figure in urban affairs, shaping cities around the world through his work in urban development, sustainability, housing, public health, climate resilience, and transportation.

He served as an advisor to Vice President Al Gore's White House Sustainability Commission and Livable Communities initiative. During President Clinton's second term, Dr. Gilderbloom contributed to the editing of Clinton's first State of the Union address—an effort that inadvertently put him at odds with Vice President Gore, who wanted to emphasize the hazy "growth of the information highway" rather than "growth of homeownership." He was also instrumental in convincing Governor Brown to veto anti-tenant legislation and allow cities to protect tenants against unfair evictions and pass fair rent control laws.



Dr. Gilderbloom also crafted speeches, videos, and book introductions for Henry Cisneros, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, advocating for universities to play a central role in revitalizing distressed urban neighborhoods. His career achievements earned him the American Sociological Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in Urban and Community Studies, and he currently serves as Director of the Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods.

Beyond his reputation as a leading urban planner, Dr. Gilderbloom stands out as a visionary dedicated to advancing sustainable solutions in an era of climate upheaval. He is the author of eight award-winning books, including *Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet*. His influence extends across journalism and public discourse, with hundreds of articles, speeches, and op-eds published in outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *USA Today Magazine*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Harvard Medical School Primary Care Review*, and *The Lancet*, the world leading medical journal as a pre-publication. He has been featured on CNN and C-SPAN with President Clinton praising his work leading HANDS (Housing and Neighborhood Development Strategies) on revitalizing cities. Taken together, his body of work forms a powerful manifesto for the future of urban life—one that points the way toward a more resilient and hopeful tomorrow.

John I. Hans Gilderbloom is widely regarded as one of the most influential voices in urban affairs, shaping national conversations on sustainability, housing, public health, and transportation. His outspoken advocacy has earned him a reputation as a formidable opponent of the tobacco, liquor, chemical, and coal industries—opposition that has brought smear campaigns and even physical threats. He survived a gunshot wound from an assailant attempting to silence him, emerging with hearing and vision damage but an undiminished resolve. His influence can be seen across U.S. cities through the plans, policies, and progressive initiatives he has helped inspire:

- Since 1976, Dr. Gilderbloom has played a significant role in advancing and defending tenant protections—particularly safeguards against unfair evictions and excessive rent increases—in more than 150 cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, and New York, as well as in the states of Oregon and California, both of which have enacted rent control laws. According to *Planning Magazine*, his research on the housing and transportation needs of disabled and elderly Americans helped provide the justification for Congress to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act. In recognition of this work, he received a Congressional Medal from the Republican-led Congress.
- In 1976, Dr. Gilderbloom worked with Leonard Weinglass, the attorney for the Chicago Seven, after the Hearst family sought legal defense for Patty Hearst following her involvement with the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) and the violent acts associated with the group. Dr. Gilderbloom's research into the FBI's controversial COINTELPRO program—designed to disrupt and discredit leftist movements—helped frame Hearst's case as a striking example of government overreach and manipulation. The circumstances surrounding her kidnapping and subsequent actions exposed the damaging consequences of this covert program. Recognizing the injustice and political embarrassment tied to COINTELPRO, President Jimmy Carter ultimately issued a pardon to Patty Hearst in 1979, and the program itself was later disbanded. This case underscored how unchecked

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government surveillance and interference could profoundly distort justice and individual accountability.

- On November 21, 1980, according to the New York Times, President Ronald Reagan blamed homelessness on rent control. He went further by urging Congress to block nearly one billion dollars in community block grants from cities that had rent control policies. In response, Mitch Snyder, leader of the nationwide Homeless Coalition, reached out to Dr. Gilderbloom to challenge the President's argument that a free and unregulated housing market was the solution to homelessness. Dr. Gilderbloom, working alongside Dr. Richard Appelbaum, conducted a comprehensive study on the effects of rent control and found no evidence linking it to increased homelessness. On the contrary, their research showed that cities experiencing the most severe homelessness were often those without rent control. This compelling evidence ultimately persuaded HUD Secretary Jack Kemp and members of Congress to halt the proposed legislation, demonstrating that data-driven policy—not political rhetoric—was essential in addressing homelessness.
- Dr. Gilderbloom has shown a strong capacity to collaborate with non-profits, government agencies, developers, and financial institutions to create and revitalize attractive, affordable, and sustainable neighborhood housing. He connects these achievements to traffic-calming strategies, particularly the conversion of high-speed, multi-lane one-way roads into calmer two-way streets that support walkability, cycling, and public transit.
- Dr. Gilderbloom's SUN team partnered up with non-profits, developers, and government to renovate or build new nearly \$100 million dollars in affordable, attractive, safe, and loveable homes in Louisville, Covington, and Newport—all featured in his book *Invisible Cities*.
- Dr. Gilderbloom promotes neighborhood revitalization by empowering grassroots residents to create more livable communities—cleaning up graffiti and litter, and using vibrant chromatic colors to accentuate architectural details, as explored in his book *Chromatic Homes: The Joy of Color in Historic Places*.
- He is currently a Fellow at Scholar's Strategy Network, started by Harvard Professor.
- Dr. Gilderbloom was an effective advocate for ending the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, testifying in the US Senate. The State Department asked him visit Venezuela, Cuba, Costa Rica, and Russia on a friendship speaking tour of hostile countries to the U.S.,
- Dr. Gilderbloom's research has encouraged cities to take a more active role in reducing air, water, and ground pollution, which will improve lifespan, prosperity, housing, and health.
- Dr. Gilderbloom was a professor for 37 years in the Planning, Public Administration, Public Health, and Urban Affairs program at the University of Louisville, where he also directed the Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods. Before that, he taught at three other universities: University of California, Santa Barbara; University of Wisconsin, Green Bay; and University of Houston. He will soon start teaching again via Zoom.
- Since earning his Ph.D., Gilderbloom's research in urban sustainability has appeared in eight books, several edited books and journals, 70 scholarly peer-reviewed journals, 30 chapters in edited books, 11 monographs, and 31 opinion pieces in newspapers and magazines. *The New York Times* (as well as other newspapers in the Netherlands, Japan, and Russia) ran a Sunday feature of his work on renewing neglected neighborhoods.
- He was ranked as one of the top urban thinkers in the world by Planetizen.



- He served on the Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Development Corp for 20 years, focusing on renovation of historic homes in West Louisville.
- He served as a consultant for Presidents (Bush, Clinton and Obama), Mayors (Bernie Sanders, Jerry Abramson), Senators (McConnell, Schumer), Governors (Jerry Brown, Andrew Cuomo) and Secretaries of HUD (Cuomo, Cisneros).
- He has consulted with the mayors of Moscow, Russia; Havana, Cuba; San José, Costa Rica; Melbourne, Australia; and numerous U.S. cities, including Burlington, Houston, Newport, Louisville, Newark, Berkeley, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and Chicago. His expertise has been sought by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury during the Obama administration, as well as by figures such as the late gay-rights leader Harvey Milk, Burlington Mayor and U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, Martin Luther King III, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Charles Schumer, and Don Turner, a senior U.S. advisor to President Nelson Mandela on housing policy. In the course of this work, he also discovered that several members of his own family had lived under the brutal system of apartheid.
- He restored a neglected Butterfly Garden outside the Louisville Zoo to honor children whose lives were cut short by cancer, substance-related tragedies, gun violence, accidents, and other causes. He raised thousands of dollars to commission a striking stone butterfly for the site and to install 558 memorial bricks, each bearing the name of someone lost. The garden serves as a place of healing, reminding those who grieve that they do not walk alone.
- Beginning in 1992, under the mentorship of Marilyn Melkonian, I developed a vision for creating attractive, affordable, civil, colorful, and lovable homes. Starting in Washington, D.C., and Louisville's City View, this work ultimately resulted in the construction of 16,258 homes in ten states, representing \$2.6 billion in development. President Clinton recognized this community development work, sought my input for the State of the Union Address, and I was later hired by Secretaries Cuomo and Cisneros, along with an economist, helping to create 44,200 well-paying jobs in construction, plumbing, electrical work, roofing, masonry, and landscaping.
- During my years at the University of Louisville, I also led the Department of Urban and Public Affairs in placing more professors—12 in total—into leadership roles around the world than any comparable department, including positions in top government agencies and the private sector.
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