

November 3, 2022

Jenna Hornstock, Deputy Director of Planning, Land Use Helmi Hisserich, Senior Principal, LeSar Development Consultants



WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

#### Field Study Overview

- Immersive, 5.5 days
- Learning from:
  - Viennese social housing experts
  - Government officials
  - Residents
- Tours
- Peer-to-peer discussions





#### The Delegation

- 50 professionals
- Representing a wide range of leaders in housing

- State Assembly and Senators
- 3 Mayors/their offices
- Developers (for and non-profit)
- Community Based Advocates
- Government employees
- Land Use Attorney
- Philanthropy
- Think Tanks/Academia
- Gateway Cities COG
- From SCAG: Jacob, Jenna and Clint Lorimore!

#### **ABOUT VIENNA**

**Context for the Social Housing Model** 



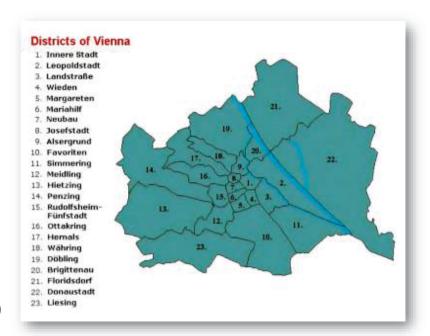
## **Quick Facts**



160 Square Miles23 Districts

Pop: 1,920,949 (Country: 8,979,894)

Government: Municipality & State



About Vienna

# Vienna solved their housing crisis

**1918** 

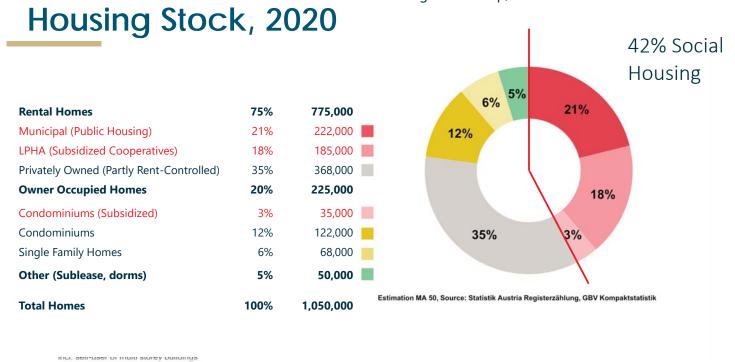


© State Hall of the Austrian National Library. Photographer, Albert Hilscher.

**2022** 

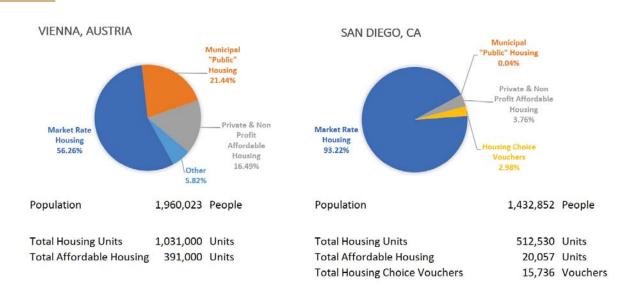


80% of residents earn below Social Housing income cap, ≤ 200% AMI



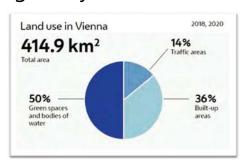
About Vienna

#### How a similar size So Cal city compares



#### **Built Environment**

- Smart City Plan:
  - Climate Adaptation
  - Mode shifts
- 47% of Viennese do not own cars
- Active Housing Policy





The Social Housing Model

#### What Social Housing Is...



- Several models, based on population
- Emphasis on building subsidies, not individual subsidies
- Subsidy scheme for different target groups
- Includes low and middle incomes
- Quotas for low-income and vulnerable groups

#### What Social Housing Is...



## How it Works: Permanent Funding Source

#### \$440 Million Annual Funding

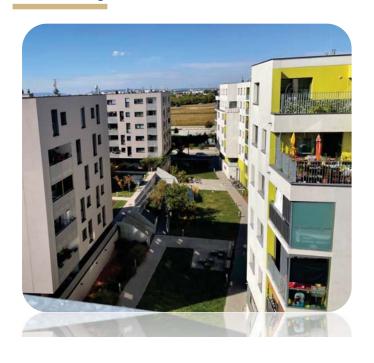
- \$240 M 1% tax on all salaries (50:50 employer/employee)
- \$200 M loan and ground lease payments, rental income



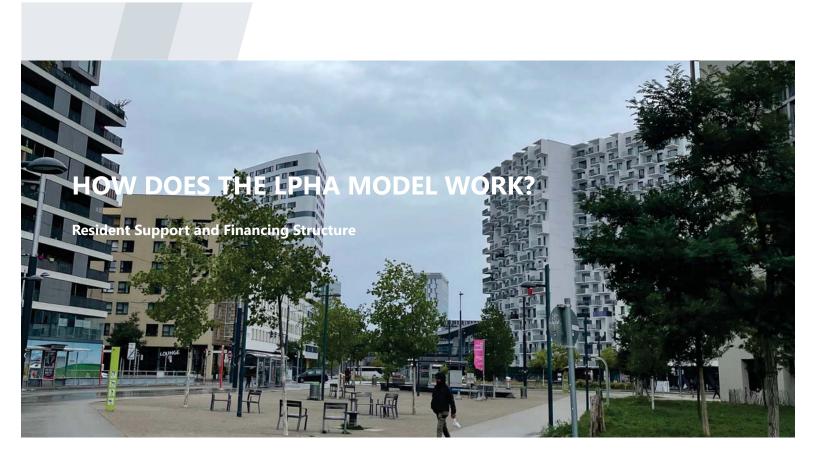
#### 2020 Budget

- \$355 M Development Subsidies (80.6%)
  - \$255 M New Construction
  - \$100 M Rehabilitation
- \$85 M Rental Assistance (19.4%)

# How it Works: Prospective Land Policy



- Target 15 Years of Land for Anticipated Residential Development
- 2019 Building Code Amendment:
  - Land Price Limited to \$17/sqft
    Floor Area for Subsidized Projects
  - Net Rent Limited to \$0.48/sqft
  - 2/3 Residential Floor Area
    Dedicated to Subsidized Housing



**Limited Profit Housing Association** 

(LPHA) Model

- 1980s, became dominant form of new construction and financing.
- Shifted social housing toward private nonprofit development.
  - Permanent funding source
  - Land acquisition
  - Developer competitions

- Mixed-income Product:
  - Two-thirds: below market
  - · One-third: market
- Allows rent to purchase after 10 years
- Excess profit recycled into new projects
- Finance structure is a *market* intervention
- Reduced land costs
- Reduced cost of soft debt, limit ROI
- Subsidies for lower rents

#### **How it Works: LPHA Finance Model**

Financing Components	Per Unit Avg. Cost:	\$244,000
Bank Loan	At least 15-year term	
Subsidy Loan (City of Vienna)	1% interest rate, 40-year term	
Tenant Contribution - construction costs, land costs	12.5% maximum share of construction costs (upfront equity)	
LPHA Equity Capital	3.5% interest rate	
Grants	For special needs populations, SMART apartments	

## **Limiting Costs = Limiting Rents**

- Housing is financed with debt and equity, whether subsidized or market-rate
- Lower financing costs means less equity and debt, which allows rents to be lower



# How it Works: Developer Competitions

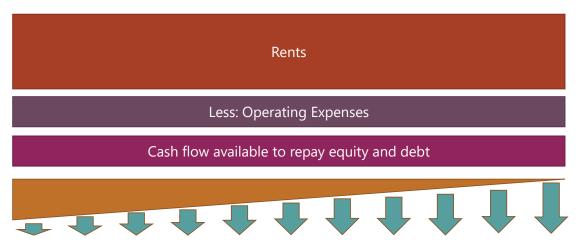
- Subsidized Projects > 500 Units
- Land Owned by City of Vienna or Wohnfonds Wien
- Architect/Builder Submits Fully Developed Project
- Panel Selection



#### LIHTC (TCAC) vs LPHA Model

#### **Low Income Housing Limited Profit Housing** Tax Credit (LIHTC) Invested by LP in **Association (LPHA)** exchange for federal Tax Credit Equity <</li> tax waiver City Subsidy Subsidy 1 • Bank Debt Recycled back into • Subsidy 2-X? new social housing Limited Profit Equity Tax Exempt Bond/ Future residents buy Tenant Contribution Bank Debt in at construction Requires incomes to · Middle-class included, up to average 60% AMI 200% AMI · Middle-class not possible • 1/3 of homes market-rate

# How it Works: LPHA Debt Repayment



Holding all else equal, lower Debt and Equity costs allow for more net cash flow, OR an equivalent reduction in rents. Excess profits recycled into the program

**Who Administers Social Housing?** 



# **Takeaways**

- Collective belief housing is a human right
- Commitment to the public good; belief that government can deliver it
- Inclusion of wider range of incomes generates broad acceptance (think Medicare)
- Comprehensive supports, including legal and social

- LPHA financing structure is an intervention in capital market
  - Mixes in higher incomes
  - Lower expected return on land and development
  - Profits recycled back into the funding stream
- Land banking and prospective land policies are critical

#### Putting it into Action - Opportunities



- REAP1 Projects
- REAP2
  - HIPP program structured to offer TA for development of public lands
  - Trusts/funds could explore finance structures
- Connect SoCal Land Use Strategies
- Other potential opportunities
  - City of LA Unite to House LA
  - LA County Land Banking initiative

Large Scale Mixed Use Development

#### Seestadt Aspern

- Airfield Redevelopment
- 593 Acre, brownfield
- U-Bahn Extension
- 25,000 future residents
  - Municipal Housing
  - Limited Profit Housing
  - Student Housing
  - Luxury Housing
- Hotel and Retail (20,000 jobs)
- 5 Billion Investment





# Seestadt Aspern

- Airfield Redevelopment
- 593 Acre, brownfield
- U-Bahn Extension
- 25,000 future residents
  - Municipal Housing
  - Limited Profit Housing
  - Student Housing
  - Luxury Housing
- Hotel and Retail (20,000 jobs)
- 5 Billion Investment



















#### Sonnwendviertel

- 75 Acres
- 17 Acre Park
- 5,500 Units
- 13,000 Residents
- 20,000 Jobs
- Central Rail Station
  - 100 Shops
  - EV Car Sharing Svc
  - 600 Parking Stalls
  - 1,100 Bicycle Stalls



Large Scale Mixed Use Development

#### Sonnwendviertel

- 75 Acres
- 17 Acre Park
- 5,500 Units
- 13,000 Residents
- 20,000 Jobs
- Central Rail Station
  - 100 Shops
  - EV Car Sharing Svc
  - 600 Parking Stalls
  - 1,100 Bicycle Stalls





















**Amazing People!** 





#### **Thank You!**

#### **Jenna Hornstock**

Deputy Director of Planning, Land Use, SCAG

hornstock@scag.ca.gov

#### **Helmi Hisserich**

Senior Principal, Lesar Development Consultants

Helmi@lesardevelopment.com

