

# Conference 5\_mixdown (1)

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

affordable housing, development, communities, housing, economic status, parkside, polluting, built, question, live, healthy, dwayne, real estate development, economic activity, matter, environmental justice, community development corporation, industries, part, iron sharpens

## SPEAKERS

De'Wayne Drummond, Leon Robinson, Chris Spahr

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- L** Leon Robinson 00:00  
Hi my name is Leanne Robinson and I'm here with my co partner Dwayne Johnson. And we're here with iron sharpens iron. And today our guest is it. Could you introduce yourself?
- C** Chris Spahr 00:21  
Sure, my name is Chris Spahr, and I'm the Executive Director of the centennial Parkside Community Development Corporation. Well, great. Okay.
- D** De'Wayne Drummond 00:28  
I got a question. What is affordable housing?
- C** Chris Spahr 00:32  
Oh, that's a good question. First of all, we just want to thank you, Leon and Dwayne for letting me be a part of this. I love your guys' show. And what is affordable housing? I think affordable housing is housing that can be made available to anyone and everyone no matter their economic status. That means a lot of different things, depending on a lot of different neighborhoods. We know that in Philadelphia, we have a big affordable housing issue, and that we have lots of lots of market rate housing being built across the city. But when it comes to affordable housing, due to the cost of construction and the lack of real subsidies, it's very hard to build it at the same pace as market rate housing. And so we have a lot of folks who are finding that they can't, they can't find housing that suits their economic means. And I really honestly think that housing is a human right. And that housing should be available to anybody, no matter what their economic means. And not only just housing, but housing that is safe, that is healthy, that is sustainable, and that folks never have to worry about losing

**L** Leon Robinson 01:44  
secondary, secondary. How does equitable development plays a part in your work experience?

**C** Chris Spahr 01:51  
Well, I think it's directly related to the question you previously asked me about affordable housing, I think, you know, there's different kinds of development and development can be seen as a good thing or a bad thing. I think that Development Act that is equitable, is development that raises up everybody in the community. So it's not just helping a certain few, but it's helping everybody, especially the people who have lived and fought for that neighborhood. For decades, it is housing that it is development and housing and commercial spaces that support the existing community, and create space for everyone, no matter their economic means or status. Okay, what is a bad when you say, it's a good thing and a bad thing? What is some of the examples of a bad? That's a great question, I think development that is not inclusive of the needs of the community. So, you know, we know that we work in a capitalist society, and real estate development is certainly a way that folks can make good money off of and there's nothing wrong with that. In fact, that is why there's programs out there to train our, our, our residents, and our neighbors and our communities to be able to get into real estate development, so they can build their own wealth. But when development is, is held by just a few individuals in the city, that the means to do the development, and that that development is only there to make the developers money without concern for the quality of housing that's being built, the health of the housing that's being built. And to your previous question, the affordability of the housing. That is I think, where development becomes bad, because it's not development for everyone, no matter what their economic status is, and we'll come back to that hope, your haste because that's, that's important to me.

**L** Leon Robinson 03:39  
And when it's a good thing,

**C** Chris Spahr 03:41  
I think developments a good thing, because development brings economic activity to communities. And so, you know, we see a lot of communities who may not have access to the same amenities that other communities they might not have access to, to basic amenities like, like a grocery store, or a laundromat or restaurant. And, you know, development can bring that economic activity and it can create that that exact housing that we need, we need more housing, so that everybody has a place to live,

**D** De'Wayne Drummond 04:08  
environmental justice. What does that mean?

C Chris Spahr 04:14

You're asking questions about a lot of words that are used a lot, and sometimes they lose their meaning because we lose them so much. So. So to me, environmental justice is a term that means that no matter your economic status, I think I keep coming back to that phrase, you have a right to live in a healthy environment, a healthy space. So we shouldn't, you know, it shouldn't just be low resource communities that are living next to a pollutant polluting factory. You know, it should be that everybody no matter their economic status, the ability to live in a healthy setting. And so when we're thinking about where we're going to place our industry Trees. First of all, we should make our industries healthier for everyone. But if there are going to be polluting industries, then it'd be someplace that isn't going to affect the population around them. Because as we know, we've seen through history, the least resource communities that end up being adversely affected by those those polluting activities. And so we all deserve a space to live that's it's healthy, that safe, it's clean, and where we can raise, you know, the next generation of people to be to have have good health and have prosperity. Great.

D De'Wayne Drummond 05:29

Thank you so much. I know some more sessions going on at this wonderful, wonderful conference that we are at at the man theatre, and Parkside. We thank You. We thank you so much for sitting down at a table, having a conversation with us. Liana Dwayne, iron sharpening iron. Thanks. Thank you. Thanks. Thank you.