the art of village-ing

Everyone Village, a Transitional Intentional Housing Community

2024 PIVOT Fellowship
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P.VOT ARCHITECTURE

Contents

Floral arrangments using garden flowers by Villager Vicky.

Acknowledgements

Sunflowers growing in the E1V Garden.

Introduction

The housing crisis in Oregon is one of the worst in the USA, with the state at its current population of 4.2 million experiencing a housing unit deficit of 110,819 units (Cohen, 2023 & OHNA Legislative Recommendations Report, December 2022). Of this deficit, 35,913 units are needed in the Willamette Valley alone (OHNA Legislative Recommendations Report, December 2022).

The housing shortage has created intense pressure on the housing market, particularly in larger cities like Eugene, where the housing vacancy rate sits at just 3% (Cohen, 2023). This low vacancy rate has resulted in a competitive housing environment, exacerbating the challenges faced by individuals trying to secure affordable housing. For many, this has led to homelessness. Statewide, it is estimated that 29,174 units must be built to house the unhoused population, with 8,972 of those units in the Willamette Valley region (OHNA Legislative Recommendations Report, December 2022).

A large portion of Oregon's housing deficit reversal efforts are directed towards creating housing solutions for the unhoused. The local picture in Eugene reflects this broader crisis; Lane County reported 3,085 individuals experiencing homelessness in January 2024. (Lane County PIT Count, 2024) The complexity of the crisis stems from multiple factors, such as economic inequality, lack of affordable housing, and individual circumstances.

Concurrently, the accelerated development of isolation in the general public (a reported 1 in 2 American adults experience loneliness) creates an urgent need to invest in community building initiatives (U.S. Public Health Service, 2023). Loneliness affects both housed and unhoused individuals, with those already marginalized by homelessness suffering even greater isolation from the larger community. Studies show that loneliness can have serious physical and mental health consequences, compounding the difficulties faced by individuals without stable homes (Siegel, 2006, Bower, 2017 & Ferrerio, 2021). The growing body of research on social isolation underscores the need for housing models that not only provide shelter but also foster social connections and community support. The challenge we face isn't just building more housing, but more socially sustainable housing.

One response to this crisis has been the adoption of the Housing First model, developed in 2013. This model emphasizes the provision of housing as the initial step in addressing homelessness, prioritizing shelter before following with optional social services. However, the Housing First model does not account for isolation in program participants, or the damages that loneliness can have on an unhoused individual's mental health and progress through the housing continuum. Research

suggests that solely providing unhoused individuals with housing results in individuals experiencing isolation and loneliness during the transition out of homelessness (Siegel, 2006, Bower, 2017 & Ferrerio, 2021).

In response to these intertwined crises, intentional community models offer a holistic approach to the social and housing issues at hand. Intentional Communities (IC) are defined as "groups of people who choose to live collaboratively and strive to create a lifestyle that reflects their shared values" (Kozeny, 1995). Intentional communities have long provided alternative ways of living that emphasize social cohesion and mutual support.

A popular form of IC's is Cohousing, where residents have private homes but share common facilities and responsibilities, creating a built-in support network. IC housing models foster interaction and cultivate social belonging among residents (Markle, 2015 & Reyes, 2022). Historically, intentional communities have emerged in response to societal needs for connection and the benefits of sharing resources, and they offer valuable lessons for addressing today's housing and loneliness crises.

In Eugene, Oregon, Everyone Village (E1V) is a transitional housing village program that recognized the lack of community in the Housing First approach, and has blended aspects of the Housing First model with a strong intentional community framework designed to foster relationships and

support networks among residents (Villagers). Gabe Piechowicz, founder and executive director of Everyone Village, understands that individuals benefit when housing efforts integrate social services and community-focused organization. The community facilitates social cohesion amongst residents and can provide an informative lens upon which individual experiences within transitional housing can be understood (Everyone Village, 2024).

Villager Cottages at Everyone Village

Purpose

A well-designed space alone is insufficient to address the need to rebuild communities and combat our "epidemic of loneliness" (U.S. Public Health Service, 2023), especially for those individuals working to transition out of homelessness. While well designed physical spaces can provide a crucial setting for human interaction, their full potential for building social cohesion is realized only when accompanied by social infrastructures that support and empower residents.

E1V has created an environment where residents not only have access to essential facilities but also benefit from a strong network of social support. The effectiveness of the transitional housing model in place at Everyone Village hinges on the integration of community oriented spatial design with social frameworks that facilitate community engagement, mutual support, and personal growth. This synergy between the built environment and community resources is crucial in facilitating a smooth transition for formerly unhoused individuals, ensuring that the space is fully and effectively utilized while minimizing additional challenges during the transition to stable housing.

By investigating the integration of built and social infrastructures at E1V, this project seeks to understand how these approaches to transitional housing design have been supportive for formerly unhoused individuals within the village.

Research Question

This project began with the intent to explore the broader question:

How can the architectural profession utilize Intentional Community housing models to address the housing and loneliness crises in Eugene, Oregon?

In narrowing down the scope of the project, I was introduced to the community of Everyone Village. The research then became focused on the unhoused component of the local housing crisis in Eugene, Oregon, which led to three further exploratory questions:

1. Are the benefits of community support in a housing arrangement similar between Cohousing communities and homeless encampments?

2. What is the current state of the movement for Tiny House Communities for the Unhoused?

3. How can design processes be used to cultivate community through collective placemaking?

Each of these questions contributed to the final research question explored in this project:

What role do Intentional Community components play in building community and mitigating the adverse effects of loneliness on formerly unhoused individuals at Everyone Village in Eugene, Oregon?

Thesis

Intentionally designed social and built infrastructures cultivate a sense of belonging and mitigate the effects of loneliness within Everyone Village by enabling the development of social capital amongst Villagers, between Villagers and staff, and between the village and the greater community.

exploration of existing literature & local context

Washington Jefferson Park, Eugene, Oregon. Register Guard, 2021.

The Housing & Homelessness Crisis in Oregon

Oregon is facing a significant housing crisis, with a statewide shortage of 110,819 housing units. This shortage reflects an incredible imbalance between the available housing stock and the demand for shelter, a problem that has escalated over recent years. The situation is particularly present in the Willamette Valley, where 35,913 of those housing units are needed to meet housing demand (OHNA Legislative Recommendations Report, December 2022). In cities like Eugene, where the housing vacancy rate is only 3%, the limited availability of affordable and accessible housing has led to an increasingly competitive market (Cohen, 2023).

The housing crisis is not just a matter of insufficient homes but also an urgent need to address homelessness. Across Oregon, 29,174 units are required to house the state's unhoused population, with 8,972 needed in the Willamette Valley alone (OHNA Legislative Recommendations Report, December 2022). The connection between the housing shortage and the increase in homelessness is clear. Without enough housing units to meet general demand, vulnerable populations are left without stable shelter, often forced into temporary or unsustainable living situations.

The impact of this crisis is starkly visible in Lane County, where the annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count recorded 3,085 individuals experiencing homelessness in January 2024. (Lane County, 2024) This count underscores the magnitude of the problem, revealing just how many people are living without shelter in the local region. Eugene, in particular, has been heavily affected, with 432 people per 100,000 in the population experiencing homelessness, significantly higher than the statewide rate of 350 per 100,000. (Cohen, 2023)

It is relevant to note that homelessness occurs at three levels:

Transitional homelessness: Those who lose their housing and interact with a homelessness response system (such as an emergency shelter) for brief periods of time.

Episodic homelessness: Those who frequently enter into and exit from homelessness.

Chronic homelessness: Those who remain unhoused for long periods of time; a year or longer.

(Colburn, 2022)

In addition to the statistics on the local Homeless Crisis, the economic implications of homelessness are significant. Studies have shown that the annual community cost of supporting an unhoused individual ranges from $30,000 to $100,000 per individual, which includes expenses related to healthcare, emergency services, and temporary shelter (Durrett, 2024a). These figures highlight not only the humanitarian need to solve the housing crisis but

also the economic incentives for finding long-term solutions. Investing in housing can reduce the financial strain on local governments and public services while offering individuals a path to stability. The modern rise in homelessness stems from a growing lack of affordable housing, as rising costs exact a significant toll on households with a range of vulnerabilities, including poverty, addiction, and mental illness (Colburn, 2022).

With vacancy rates low and demand high the state's housing system is under immense pressure, and the lack of affordable housing continues to push more individuals into homelessness. Addressing the crisis will require comprehensive efforts to increase housing supply, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, and to alleviate the economic and social costs associated with this shortage.

Finally, it is critical to discuss common misconceptions regarding homelessness. The drug use and mental illness that observers frequently blame as the cause of homelessness may instead represent a natural bodily response to the harsh and often traumatic conditions that people experiencing homelessness face on a daily basis. Researchers highlight the psychological concept of "scarring,"a phenomenon suggests that the longer a person which experiences a condition like homelessness, the harder it is to exit that state. These forms of hardship and trauma emphasize how adverse events may lower one's

mental health and emotional well-being. (Colburn, 2022) Approaching the housing crisis with this in mind is essential to addressing the root causes rather than superficial results of the issue at hand.

It should be noted that throughout this paper, I have gennerally chosen to use the term *homeless* and *Homeless Crisis* when discussing the broader issue as it is the terminology used by official government reports and scientific research. I commonly use the term *unhoused* or the phrase *individual experiencing homelessness* when describing individuals. These terms are interchangeable and do not refer to different groups of people.

The terms *homeless, houseless,* and *unhoused* are often used to describe individuals who lack stable, permanent housing. *Homeless* is the most commonly used term, though some consider it to focus more on the absence of a *home* as a place of belonging and safety, rather than the issue at hand: The lack of appropriate housing. Subsequent terms, such as *houseless* and *unhoused* are used to emphasize the lack of physical stable shelter or dwelling. Many advocates working in this realm prefer *unhoused* as a term that acknowledges the person's humanity and emphasizes the systemic factors contributing to the crisis.

Loneliness

Loneliness has become a widespread issue in the United States, affecting as many as 1 in 2 adults (U.S. Public Health Service, 2023). This growing sense of disconnection is not merely an emotional challenge but also a significant public health concern. Studies have shown that the health risks associated with loneliness are severe. The impact of being socially disconnected is equivalent to smoking up to 15 cigarettes per day, and the mortality risk linked to loneliness is greater than that caused by obesity and physical inactivity (U.S. Public Health Service, 2023). These findings demonstrate that social isolation directly harms both physical and mental well-being.
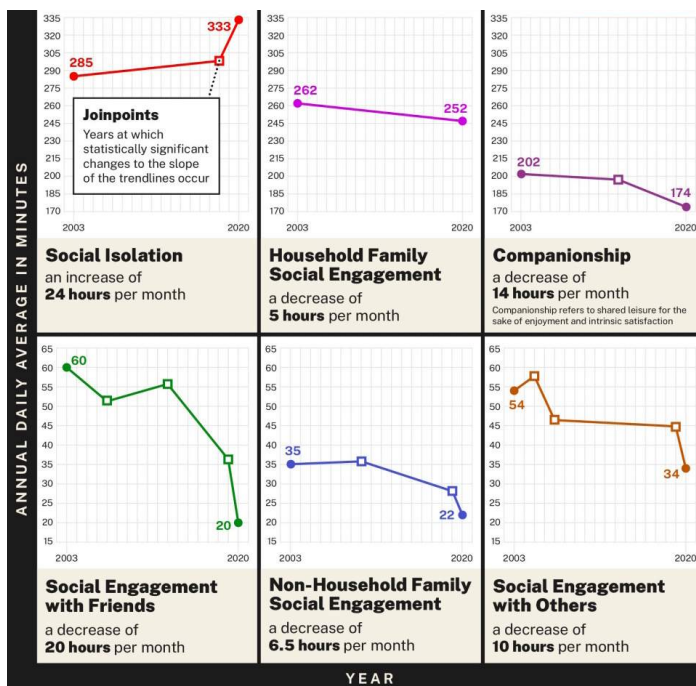
National Trends for Social Connection, U.S. Public Health Service.

The financial toll of loneliness is equally substantial. Among older adults, social isolation is responsible for approximately $6.7 billion in excess Medicare spending each year. (U.S. Public Health Service, 2023) This is largely due to the increased need for hospital care and long-term stays in nursing facilities, underscoring the significant strain loneliness places on healthcare systems. However, the adverse effects of loneliness are not limited to older adults. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to lower academic achievement in students and reduced work performance among adults. For employers, the cost of stress-related absenteeism due to loneliness is estimated to be $154 billion annually in the U.S. alone, highlighting the economic ramifications of widespread isolation (U.S. Public Health Service, 2023).

The following terms are important to understand when discussing Loneliness:

Isolation: Objectively having few social relationships, social roles, group memberships, and infrequent social interaction.

Loneliness: A subjective distressing experience that results from perceived isolation or inadequate meaningful connections, where inadequate refers to the discrepancy between an individual's preferred and actual experience.

Solitude: A state of aloneness by choice that does not involve feeling lonely.

Social Support: The perceived or actual availability of

informational, tangible, and emotional resources from others, commonly within one's social network.

Social Capital: The resources to which individuals and groups have access through their social connections. The term social capital is often used as an umbrella for social support and social cohesion.

Social Cohesion: The sense of solidarity within groups, marked by strong social connections and high levels of social participation, that generate trust, norms of reciprocity, and a sense of belonging.

(U. S. Public Health Services, 2023)

Loneliness and social isolation disproportionately affect unhoused individuals. Research indicates that those in supportive housing programs or housing initiatives designed to reduce homelessness often report higher levels of isolation compared to those in more community-focused housing environments (Siegel, 2006 and Ferrerio, 2021). Up to 10% of unhoused individuals have reported having zero social network members, meaning they do not have any personal relationships or support systems. Additionally, 21% of those experiencing any form of homelessness have reported having "no friends," which further exacerbates their sense of isolation. (Bower, 2017)

Several factors contribute to the isolation experienced by unhoused individuals. Many report they feel marginalized by society and face rejection from mainstream social interactions due to the stigma associated with homelessness. Others express feelings of rejection from family members and former companions, severing ties that could have provided emotional support. The transient nature of homelessness, where individuals frequently move between shelters, streets, and temporary accommodations, further limits their ability to form and maintain lasting social connections (Bower, 2017).

Addressing loneliness in the unhoused population is not just about improving personal well-being but also about alleviating its broader social and economic consequences. Individuals with support networks are more likely to receive social support within their network in times of need, and therefore are less likely to 'backslide' into homelessness. Addressing the Homeless Crisis in a permanent way must also consider the implications of loneliness on the crisis.

Intentional Communities

Intentional Communities (ICs) represent a growing housing model, offering an alternative approach to conventional living arrangements by focusing on shared values and collective living. As defined by Geoph Kozeny, Intentional Communities are "groups of people who choose to live together with a common purpose, working cooperatively to create a lifestyle that reflects their shared values." (Kozeny, 1995) This communal living concept encompasses a variety of models, including Cooperatives, Ecovillages, Community Land Trusts, and Cohousing. Each of these models operate in a slightly different way, but all share the goal of fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility among its members, emphasizing collaboration over individualism.

One of the most well-known IC models is Cohousing. Residents within a Cohousing community actively engage in shaping their living environment through participatory governance, where they collaborate in decisions about how the community is built, run, and maintained. This structure fosters a sense of ownership and collective responsibility among residents, making it a unique form of housing.

Cohousing is commonly defined by six key characteristics:

1. Participatory/Collective Process: Residents are actively involved in the design and decision-making processes for their community.

2. Neighborhood Design: The physical layout of the community is designed to foster interaction among residents.

3. Common Facilities: Shared spaces, such as community kitchens or gardens, are central features that encourage social interaction.

4. Resident Management: The community is self-managed with residents taking responsibility for the upkeep and governance of the common facilities.

5. Non-Hierarchical Structure & Decision Making: Decision-making is typically consensus-based without a formal hierarchy.

6. No Shared Community Economy: While residents may share resources, there is no single, communal economy within cohousing arrangements.

The relevance of intentional communities in the broader discussion on loneliness and homelessness stems from a body of research suggesting that ICs, particularly cohousing models, foster higher levels of perceived social capital compared to more traditional housing environments (Markle, 2015 & Reyes, 2022). Social capital refers to the networks of relationships, trust, and mutual support that individuals have access

to within their communities. Studies indicate that cohousing residents give and receive more social support than similar individuals living outside these intentional community structures. The collaborative living and shared resources typical of ICs create frequent opportunities for social interaction, strengthening the bonds between residents and building a supportive, interconnected network (Kingfisher, 2021).

This heightened social capital has proven particularly beneficial across various stages of life. Research shows that across different life phases individuals who live in arrangements with multiple people and engage with neighbors regularly report lower levels of loneliness compared to those living in more isolated housing (Franssenet, 2020). By fostering close-knit, supportive networks, intentional communities provide a model for not only affordable living but also for creating environments that combat social isolation. This combination of shared responsibility, communal resources, and active participation in community life creates a structure where individuals are more connected, supported, and, ultimately, less lonely. This report explores the potential that intentional community models, especially in the form of Cohousing, have to offer meaningful and holistic solutions to the intertwined Housing and Loneliness crises.

Table 1 Participants demographic, social and health-related characteristics and loneliness prevalence for each age group

	19–34 years		35–49 years		50–65 years	
	n (%)	Lonely, n (%)	n (%)	Lonely, n (%)	n (%)	Lonely, n (%)
Social factors						
Living arrangement						
Living alone	776 (15.4)	352 (57.0)	895 (12.9)	507 (63.4)	1683 (16.9)	1042 (68.1)
2 or more persons	5324 (84.6)	1668 (36.5)	7431 (87.1)	2556 (39.9)	9820 (83.1)	3982 (43.7)
Friends contact						
More than twice a month	5139 (94.4)	1784 (37.2)	6800 (88.0)	2394 (38.4)	9382 (85.1)	3845 (42.5)
Less than twice a month	304 (5.6)	245 (82.7)	895 (12.0)	701 (78.6)	1630 (14.9)	1272 (80.0)
Neighbours contact						
More than twice a month	3816 (67.4)	1183 (33.1)	104 (78.5)	2127 (37.6)	8785 (79.0)	3640 (42.6)
Less than twice a month	1626 (32.6)	846 (53.4)	1583 (21.5)	958 (63.8)	2204 (21.0)	1461 (68.6)

Study Results depicting residents who live with others and/or contact neighbors report less loneliness, Franssen et al. 2020.

Tiny House Villages for the Unhoused

Over the last 20 years, tiny house villages have gained traction in Oregon as a viable solution to the growing homelessness crisis, offering not just shelter but a sense of community. These villages provide small, detached housing units to individuals who are unhoused, often emphasizing the importance of autonomy, safety, and social support. Two of the most well-known examples of such villages are Dignity Village in Portland, OR and Opportunity Village in Eugene, OR.

Dignity Village, founded in 2000, is one of the earliest examples of a self-governed tiny house village for the unhoused in the United States. It started as an encampment formed by a group of unhoused individuals in Portland who were seeking alternatives to traditional shelters. Over time, with support from the city and community, Dignity Village evolved into a legally recognized community with small, insulated structures that residents help build and maintain. In his book Tent City Urbanism, Andrew Heben highlights Dignity Village as a pioneering model in the movement toward tiny house villages. Heben argues that the village's self-managed, participatory nature allows for a more humane and effective response to homelessness than traditional shelters, which often lack community-building and personal agency (Heben, 2014).

Following in the footsteps of Dignity Village, Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) was founded

Dignity Village. Portland, Oregon. Alchetron, 2024.

in 2013 by a coalition of local advocates, including Andrew Heben, as an effort to address the housing needs of unhoused individuals in Eugene. Like Dignity Village, OVE is composed of tiny houses, each offering basic shelter and privacy, while also including communal facilities such as restrooms, kitchens, and gathering spaces. Opportunity Village operates with a similar community-driven governance model, where residents take part in maintaining the village, ensuring security, and making decisions about village rules and policies (Heben, 2014). Heben writes that villages like Opportunity Village offer a "middle ground" between shelters and permanent housing (Heben, 2014). They provide a sense of community and stability, which traditional shelters often fail to deliver. Moreover, they allow for more personal agency, as residents are encouraged to contribute toward village upkeep and decision-

making, helping to restore the dignity and independence that is often lost during the experience of homelessness.

Opportunity Village. Eugene, Oregon. SquareOne Villages.

Both Dignity Village and Opportunity Village demonstrate that tiny house villages can offer more than just temporary shelter. They can provide a pathway to stability and community reintegration. Tiny house villages like Dignity Village and Opportunity Village continue to illustrate an innovative approach to addressing the immediate needs of the unhoused while also building long-term, supportive communities.

The organization behind Opportunity Village, SquareOne Villages, is a nonprofit founded in 2012 that focuses on developing innovative housing solutions for the unhoused and housing-insecure populations. The organization has since worked to create several successful villages in the Eugene-Springfield area, including Emerald Village and the more-recent Peace Village.

These villages offer affordable tiny homes with long-term residency and even ownership options. These projects are also based on community-led housing models like ICs, where residents participate in the governance and maintenance of the village, and have taken the form of housing cooperatives and community land trusts, allowing residents to have a stake in the property and the community.

Everyone Village, the transitional tiny house village that is the primary subject of this paper, is building upon this history.

Everyone Village. Eugene, Oregon.

What is Everyone Village (E1V)?

Everyone Village (E1V) is a transitional housing community in Eugene, Oregon, founded in 2021 by Executive Director Gabe Piechowicz. The Village is designed to provide shelter and support for individuals transitioning out of homelessness in response to the increasing housing crisis in Eugene and the surrounding Lane County. E1V offers an innovative approach to addressing the needs of unhoused individuals by combining physical housing solutions with a strong focus on social support systems. The village itself is composed of 70 units of various types of living arrangements, including cottages, RVs, and Palette shelters. The E1V community offers shared resources such as kitchens, bathrooms, laundry facilities, and communal areas that foster social interaction among residents. These structures, although technically impermanent, are designed to provide a stable, safe, and dignified environment for the Villagers while they work towards long-term housing solutions. More on the specific built environment at E1V can be found in the Case Study section.

E1V's goal is not only to provide temporary housing but to create a community where residents can rebuild their lives through mutual support, access to essential services, and participate in community activities. This holistic approach recognizes that the transition out of homelessness is more than just a physical shift. It requires emotional, social, and psychological support, each of which are woven into the fabric of daily life at E1V. As Piechowicz put it, E1V is "Human first and housing focused."

The community garden at the west end of Everyone Village.

PART B

intentional community & village case studies

Conestoga Hut.

Outdoor Dining Space.

Cottages in Everyone Village.

Everyone Village

Opened: 2022

Classification: Transitional Housing

Resident Demographic: Formerly unhoused individuals

Site Acreage: 4.0

Number of units: 70

Closest proximity of units: 3 ft

Unit types: Single Resident Occupancy: 8×16' Cottage, 8×12' Cottage, Conestoga Hut, Pallet Shelter, RV

Common house size: 2000 SF

Shared Amenities: Common House, Social Services, Kitchen, Indoor & Outdoor Dining Space, Smoke Shack, Bathrooms, Showers, Laundry, Workshop, Bottle Return, Garden

Staff on site: 9

Frequency of community meetings: Weekly

Frequency of Community meals: Weekly

Internal Governance: Village Council, 9 members

Aerial Photo of Everyone Village. Google Earth, April 2024.

10   50

0   25   100 ft

| | HOUSING UNIT | | RV | | WORKSHOPS |
| | PALETTE SHELTER | | COMMUNITY SPACE | | SOCIAL SERVICES |

SANITARY   GARDEN

KITCHEN   ON SITE PARKING

E1V Cottages with porches and entrances on short side.

E1V Cottages with porches and entrances on long side.

The interior of the community room featuring the gratitude wall.
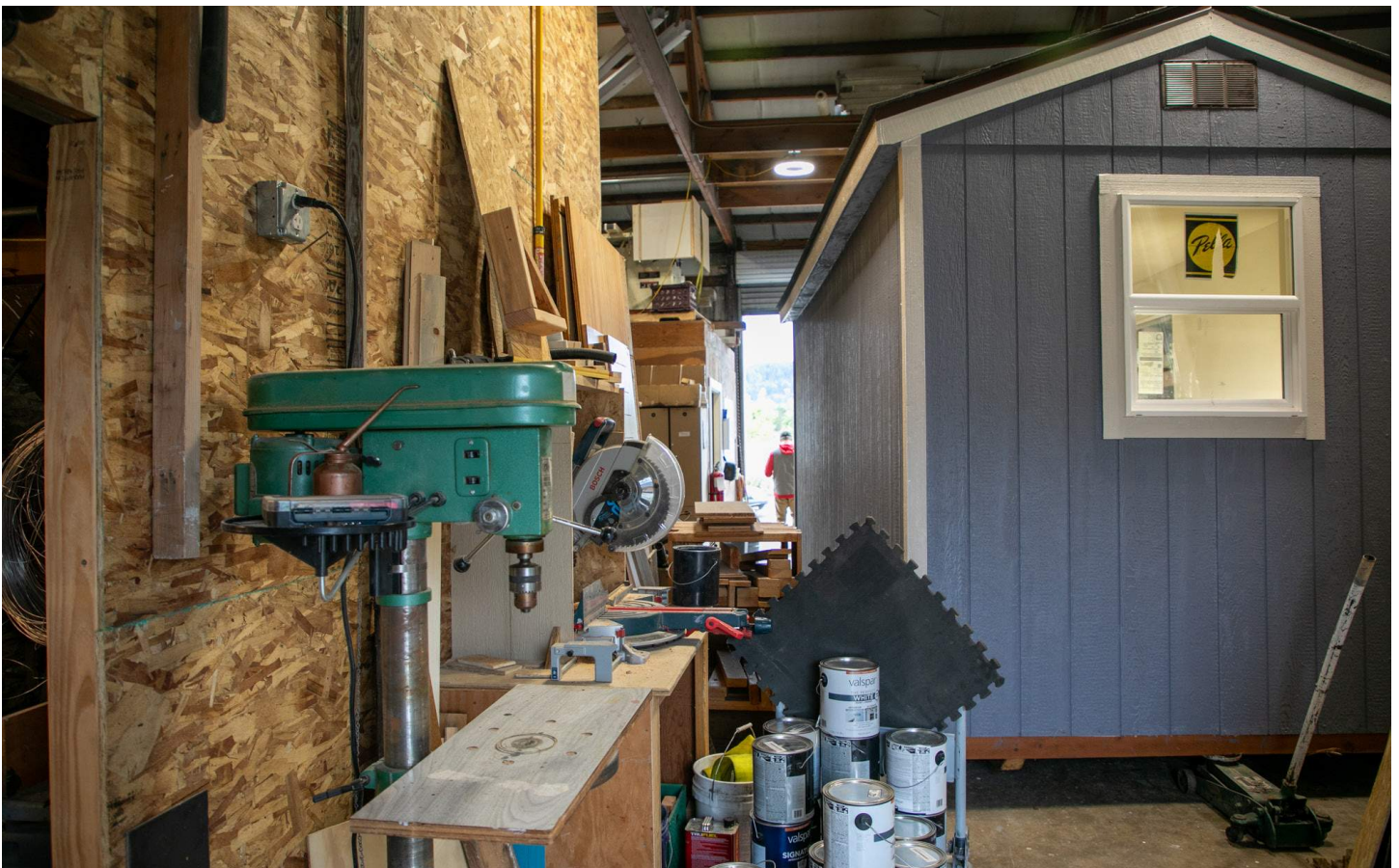
The Village workshop is utilized by village staff, especially Shop Lead Amiel, and Villagers.

The village garden provides fresh produce and workforce development opportunites for Villagers.

The Everyone Village Bottle Drop, a limitless reverse vending machine, and Villager employment program.

8×8 house, Opportunity Village. Photo via SquareOne Villages.

8×8 House Cluster on North edge of site. Photo via SquareOne Villages.

Cottages in Opportunity Village. Photo via SquareOne Villages.

Opportunity Village

Open: 2013

Classification: Transitional Housing

Resident Demographic: Formerly unhoused individuals

Site Acreage: 1.0

Number of units: 30

Closest proximity of units: 10 ft

Unit types: Single Resident Occupancy: 8×8 House, Conestoga Hut

Common house size: 450 SF

Shared Amenities: Common House, Kitchen, Dining Space, Bathrooms, Showers, Garden

Staff on site: 2

Frequency of community meetings: Weekly

Frequency of Community meals: Unknown

Internal Governance: Village Council, 5-7 members

Aerial Photo of Opportunity Village. Google Earth, April 2024.

0   10   25   50   100 ft

| | HOUSING UNIT | | RV | | WORKSHOPS |
| | PALETTE SHELTER | | COMMUNITY SPACE | | SOCIAL SERVICES |

SANITARY   GARDEN

KITCHEN   ON SITE PARKING

Valley View's "Lombard Street". Durrett, 2022.

Valley View Community Club House. SAHA, 2022.

Houses in Valley View Senior Housing. Durrret, 2022.

Valley View Senior Housing

Open: 2018

Classification: Permanent Senior Housing

Resident Demographic: Formerly unhoused Seniors & Veterans

Site Acreage: 3.5

Number of units: 70

Closest proximity of units: Shared Wall

Unit types: One Bedroom

Common house size: 3310 SF

Shared Amenities: Common House, Social Services, Kitchen, Indoor & Outdoor Dining Space, Laundry, Workshop, Garden

Staff on site: Unknown, at least 2

Frequency of community meetings: Unknown

Frequency of Community meals: Unknown

Internal Governance: Unknown

Aerial Photo of Valley View Senior Housing. Google Earth, April 2024.
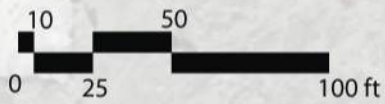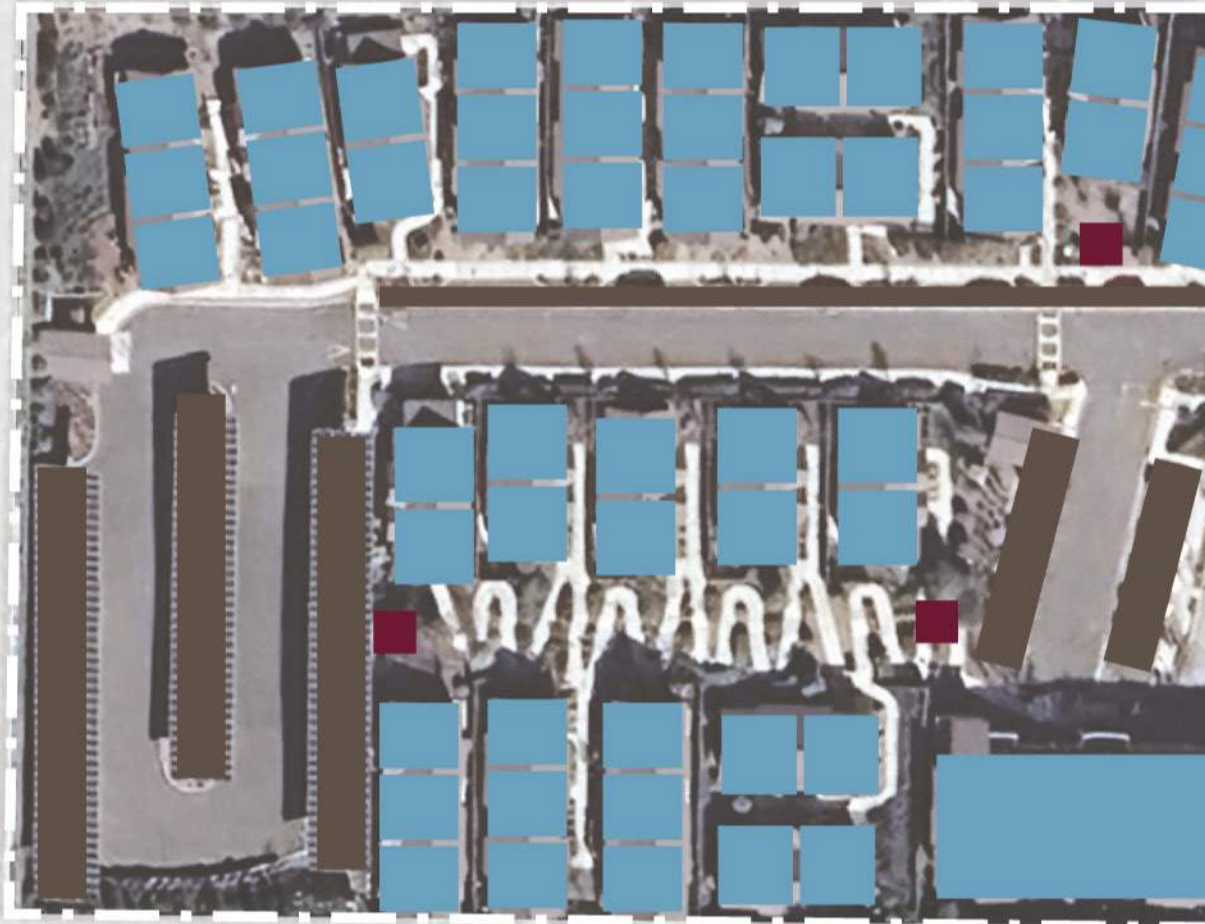
10   50

0   25   100 ft

HOUSING UNIT   RV   WORKSHOPS

PALETTE SHELTER   COMMUNITY SPACE SOCIAL SERVICES

SANITARY

GARDEN

KITCHEN

ON SITE PARKING

Pedestrian Street.

Rendering of Common House. Dixon, 2022.

Aerial view looking west. Riversong Cohousing, 2022. Dixon, 2022.

River Song Cohousing

Opened: 2022

Classification: Permanent Housing

Resident Demographic: Market Rate buyers

Site Acreage: 2.2

Number of units: 28

Closest proximity of units: Shared wall

Unit types: Two-bedroom, Three-bedroom, Four-bedroom

Common house size: 3400 SF

Shared Amenities: Common House, Kitchen, Indoor & Outdoor Dining Space, Lounge, Laundry, Music Room, Art Room, Teen Room, Kids Room, Guest Room, Workshop, Garden

Staff on site: N/A

Frequency of community meetings: Weekly

Frequency of Community meals: Weekly

Internal Governance: All-Resident Governance & Various Committees

Aerial Photo of River Song Cohousing. Google Earth, April 2024.

HOUSING UNIT

RV

WORKSHOPS

PALETTE SHELTER

COMMUNITY SPACE

SOCIAL SERVICES

10   50

0   25   100 ft

SANITARY   GARDEN

KITCHEN   ON SITE PARKING

Case Study Synthesis

The four case studies—River Song Cohousing, Valley View Senior Housing, Opportunity Village, and Everyone Village—illustrate a range of community-based housing models from permanent cohousing to transitional housing for the unhoused. Despite their differences in mission and structure, these communities share common goals of fostering social cohesion, shared resources, and governance that enhances resident participation.

Internal Governance

Governance structures in the communities range from volunteer-led models to formal councils. River Song Cohousing stands out for its collective governance model, where all residents may be involved in decision-making through various volunteer committees. Community meetings and meals are held weekly, further strengthening social ties. Opportunity Village and Everyone Village also have weekly meetings but are led by elected village councils (5-7 members for Opportunity Village and 9 members for Everyone Village), which represent the residents in managing the community. This governance structure provides a level of autonomy and empowerment for residents, essential for those transitioning out of homelessness.

Although Valley View's governance model has not been clarified in these studies, the presence of at least two on-site staff members may suggest a more top-down management approach. This contrasts with the self-governance model of River Song and the village councils in the transitional communities.

Social Integration and Participation

Social participation levels
differ across these communities.
In River Song Cohousing, social
activities and communal meals are
integrated into the community's
weekly routine, encouraging active
participation from all residents.
E1V hosts a similar weekly
community meeting and meal/ The
voluntary nature of engagement at
Opportunity Village and Everyone
Village means that not all
residents participate in these
communal activities. In Valley
View Senior Housing, participation
rates and the frequency of
community meals and meetings is
unclear, but it is known that a
variety of social events are held
on site.

Housing Classification and Physical Layout

The classification of the housing communities significantly impacts their design and operational goals. River Song Cohousing and Valley View Senior Housing are classified as permanent housing, while Opportunity Village and Everyone Village are transitional housing communities aimed at addressing homelessness. River Song is the only of the four communities that is not providing housing for formerly unhoused individuals, instead catering to the market rate buyer. This distinction influences the types of units available and the way space is utilized.

River Song and Valley View sit on 2.2 and 3.5 acres respectively, whereas the transitional Opportunity Village operates on a more compact 1.0 acre, and Everyone Village spans 4.0 acres. Everyone Village's larger site allows for more units and more diverse unit types, such as cottages and RVs. The larger site at E1V also enables Villagers to seek solitude if desired, a feature the 1.0 Acre site at Opportunity village lacks. As the internal proximity of residents to each other and to common spaces varies from site to site, these differences play a crucial role in determining how residents interact with each other and the shared amenities.

The unit types available on the sites also varies greatly. River Song Cohousing and Valley View Senior Housing both provide larger, permanent housing units. River Song offers a variety of two-, three-, and four-bedroom homes, while Valley View focuses on one-bedroom units tailored to the needs of senior residents. In contrast, Opportunity Village and Everyone Village provide much smaller housing options, and offer temporary, transitional housing. Everyone Villge provides the most diverse range of housing types—cottages, pallet shelters, Conestoga huts, and RVs—on its 4-acre site.

This flexibility in unit types allows E1V to accommodate residents with varying levels of personal resource (some residents were already living in RV's but parking illegally overnight), which sets it apart from the more standardized unit options found at the other sites. It should be noted, however, that E1V is actively working to replace RV and Palette shelters with cottage units. The overall close proximity of units—shared walls in River Song and Valley View, and under 10 feet apart in the transitional villages—encourages interaction among residents but reflects different levels of permanence and privacy.

Shared Amenities and Community Resources

Shared amenities form the backbone of social infrastructure in each of these communities, promoting interaction and reducing isolation. River Song Cohousing offers the largest array of amenities, including a spacious 3,400 square-foot common house, specialized activity rooms, and a garden. Valley View Senior Housing, though less amenity-rich, provides essential services such as social services, a kitchen, and a garden. Opportunity Village and Everyone Village, despite their smaller sizes, emphasize shared amenities to foster community and provide necessary services for residents transitioning out of homelessness. Both have a smaller common house compared to the permanent housing communities, but include essential facilities such as kitchens, bathrooms, showers, and laundry.

Everyone Village places a heavy emphasis on providing communal spaces that cater to the unique needs of formerly unhoused residents. Its 2,000 square-foot common house, kitchen, dining area, showers, and workshops offer practical resources that are essential for residents transitioning from homelessness. While Opportunity Village offers similar facilities, its smaller scale (1.0 acre site with fewer units and a smaller common house) limits its capacity to deliver the wide range of services and amenity spaces available at E1V.

E1V also hosts common facilities that are tailored specifically to the daily realities of its residents, such as a smoke shack and a bottle return station, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of unhoused individuals.

human infrastructure at everyone village

Outdoor dining space near smoke shack and community kitchen at Everyone Village, Eugene, Oregon

Built Infrastructure

The community kitchen and pantry. Villagers store food in milk crates and there is a Villager-suppliedfree food section.

The community kitchen is along the main path and hosts a dart board and small whiteboard.

Human-Centric Site Design

In cohousing communities, the architectural design often emphasizes proximity and shared spaces to encourage social interaction among residents. Typically, homes in cohousing developments are arranged closely around shared courtyards or communal areas, with paths and walkways intentionally designed to foster frequent, informal interactions (Durrett, 2022b).

By externalizing certain residential facilities or creating centralized common areas—such as dining halls, gardens, or playgrounds—cohousing ensures that residents regularly come into contact with one another, creating opportunities for both spontaneous and planned social engagements.

The architectural design of Everyone Village (E1V) is thoughtfully structured to prioritize human interaction and foster a strong sense of community. One key aspect of this design is the scale of the village itself, which incorporates compact dwellings placed in close proximity to one another. The Dwelling units are essentially a sleeping and living space which are supported through common kitchen and bathrooms. The small space results in a nearly circular awareness among residents, where individuals in their units are constantly aware of the presence of others in the Village via sight or sound.

Unlike typical residential neighborhoods where homes are more spread out, the compact arrangement at E1V encourages residents to monitor their surroundings and encounter each other more frequently, leading to spontaneous interactions that are essential for building social cohesion.

In addition to the compact dwelling spaces, the externalization of key facilities, such as toilets, showers, and kitchens, plays a crucial role in the human-centric design of E1V. These facilities are located in communal areas outside of individual cottages; therefore, residents must leave their personal spaces to access them.

This design choice is also an economic one, as common facilities decrease the cost of the individual units. The externalization of facilities, uncommon in conventional housing forms where most amenities are contained within private units, breaks down physical barriers and naturally creates opportunities for informal encounters. This, in turn, increases the chances of daily social interaction and encourages a more engaged, cooperative way of living.

The proximity of the dwellings and the externalized communal facilities promote a sense of shared responsibility and belonging, making it easier for residents to form meaningful relationships and create a supportive community within the village. By designing the site to prioritize human interaction

at an architectural scale, E1V
successfully uses its built
environment to foster a deeper
sense of connection and social
engagement among its residents.

The village smoke shack was the first constructed space on the property.

Shared Common Spaces

The design of physical spaces in intentional communities is carefully considered to promote social interactions while respecting individual privacy. One of the most important aspects of intentional community design is the creation of shared common spaces. These spaces are designed to be hubs of activity where residents can come together for both planned events and spontaneous gatherings. Common spaces foster organic interactions and serve as places where relationships and social cohesion can form naturally. (Kim, 2006) Unlike conventional housing models, where communal spaces may be seen as a luxury amenity to private residences, in intentional communities they are central to the architectural and social fabric of the community.

The development of the shared common areas at E1V was of principal importance since residents did not have access to any of the facilities in their own units. However, it is important to note that instead of building these spaces in an order based on basic human needs, they were constructed in order of apparent community need. This led spaces like the smoke shack and community room to be built long before the toilet,shower and laundry facilities (there were portable restrooms on site at the time). This is in contrast to the usual procession of construction in cohousing, where the common house is often last (Kim, 2006) The E1V staff recognized the spaces that accommodate gathering would be more

essential to the long-term social cohesion in the community. E1V listened to the needs of residents in community meetings, and acted accordingly. As Piechowicz put it, "that's human infrastructure."

A Villager near the smoke shack has a layered gradient of spatial divisons within their yard and porch.

This Villager prefers their Conestoga Hut (instead of a cottage) because of the porch they built.

Public/Private Transitions

In addition to shared spaces, intentional communities are designed to carefully navigate the transitions between public and private areas. Thoughtful transitions from communal areas to personal living quarters create a balance between social engagement and personal retreat, as these zones enable individuals to self-determine their amount of interaction.

In cohousing communities, the careful balance between public and private spaces plays a crucial role in fostering both social interaction and personal privacy. (Kim, 2015, ad Durrett 2022b) A well-designed transition is essential for creating a living environment that accommodates both community engagement and individual autonomy.

This balance is especially important for residents transitioning out of homelessness, as they often need space for personal reflection and recovery, while also benefiting from the social support that cohousing can provide. Not to mention, every resident is at a different stage of their transition out of homelessness, and thus need different interactions to support their journey. Having a clear delineation between public and private spaces as well as the ability to negotiate with that delineation as needed, provides E1V Villagers with the autonomy to engage with the community at their own pace while ensuring they have a personal, secure space to return to when needed.

Around the village, units are physically spaced and oriented to enable a degree of privacy, which is then supplemented by residents through a variety of semi-private porches, defined lawn areas, curtains, plantings, and even sculptural forms. In an interview, a resident noted that prior to having a porch they would "hang out at the smoke shack every day, but then I got a cottage with a front porch, and I don't smoke, I don't have to go the extra hundred fifty feet" to interact with other Villagers (personal interview with anonymous Villager, 09-05-2024). This Vilager can host social interactions in a non-smoking space as they prefer due to the semi-public spacial capabilites of the porch.

Allowing modifications like these provide Villagers with the ability to maintain their personal space and adjust the amount of opportunity for casual interaction outside of common areas. These transitions help establish a healthy rhythm between community involvement and individual autonomy, which is essential for both the social and psychological well-being of Villagers at E1V.

Villager Kevin is proud to have cottage number O.

An RV with a porch-like covered outdoor space.

Several of the original palette shelters in E1V. As with the RV above, Porch-like spaces have been created but not to the extent seen in the cottages.

Perceived Permanence

At Everyone Village, the design of the housing units and communal spaces plays a significant role in shaping residents' sense of stability and belonging. The cottages and shared facilities are visually indicative of a home and constructed in a manner that conveys formal permanence, distinguishing them from the more transient-looking structures such as RVs and Palette shelters that also exist on the site. While these cottages are technically impermanent—lacking traditional foundations—their architectural design suggests a more stable, long-term housing form.

This recognizable imagery of permanence has a profound psychological impact on the Villagers. The cottages' solid and finished appearance stands in contrast to the more temporary or mobile shelters, symbolizing a step towards greater stability for residents transitioning out of homelessness.

Around the site the exterior of the cottages (and in one case, a Conestoga Hut) are decorated to a far greater degree than the other unit types. The sense that these structures could be permanent homes, even though they are not, provides residents with a visual anchor to create a mental framework of permanence and encourages Villagers to work towards stabilizing their own lives.

Moreover, the communal spaces, built with similar formal imagery, contribute to this sense of permanence and community. By living in structures that appear enduring, residents are more likely to invest emotionally and physically in their environment, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. This symbolic permanence plays a key role in helping residents feel secure and motivated, reinforcing their transition toward more permanent housing and a stable future.

Villager Jeanette with her Cottage, dog, and front garden.

This Villager has installed a fence and grass lawn (on just 1" of dirt) over the gravel lot.

Opportunities for Personalization

Another essential design component is the opportunity for personalization of spaces. In many intentional communities, residents are encouraged to take an active role in customizing and personalizing their homes. This could range from painting exterior walls to designing interior layouts that reflect personal tastes and needs. Personalization serves as an important psychological tool, allowing individuals to feel a sense of ownership and control over their environment.

For formerly unhoused individuals living at E1V, the ability to personalize their homes represents a significant step toward reclaiming their autonomy and identity after experiencing displacement and instability. After receiving a cottage (or other form or living unit) Villagers paint the exterior, hang decorations, add plants, and in some cases build enclosed outdoor lawn areas.

In this way each cottage becomes different and unique to the Villager that resides within. A particular Villager at E1V is known for turning used bike wheels into decorative fences — these can be seen around the property. Some Villagers are so proud of their units they invite people to see what they have done.

These modifications to the cottage unit at E1V are a huge step towards a Villager's sense of purpose and social capital within the community, as they empower residents to "think of (themselves) as a person again" after experiencing homelessness (personal interview with anonymous Villager, 09-05-2024).

Handmade sign on communtiy room door, Everyone Village, Eugene, Oregon.

Social Infrastructure

Villagers involved in early design discussions at the village. Everyone Village, 2022.

Villager Sam and Shop Lead Amiel frequently work toegther on projects like this cottage porch. Everyone Village, 2024.

Collective Design Processes

Intentional communities rely heavily on robust social infrastructures, which are integral to fostering a sense of belonging and participation among members. At the heart of this approach is the idea of collective design, where future residents are actively involved in the decision-making processes that shape their living environments. This collaborative effort promotes investment in the community's success and encourages a sense of ownership over the space (Kingfisher, 2021).

Everyone Village has a similar history of community planning. Gabe Piechowicz, the Founder & Executive Director of Everyone village, stated that the village was created through "community collective impact from day one." The concept for E1V was developed between a few stakeholders and a group of unhoused individuals living near the warehouse he was operating out of at the time, shaping the intentional transitional community model "using lived experience voices before we even set foot on the (current) property" (Piechowicz, 2024). As the village has grown this approach to design has remained. As this report was written, Villagers were working with UO students on the design and construction of a new welcome space at the front of the E1V warehouse building.

This approach to design has empowered Villagers to step up and utilize their professional skills to aid in construction efforts around the village. A particular instance, where a Villager and former trades plumber corrected the pipe layout during the construction of the bathroom and laundry facility, has been cited by Piechowicz as a crucial moment of collective village design because it prevented a huge re-plumbing effort down the line.

Involvement in design and construction around the village is an empowering experience for those in the community. It creates the feeling of ownership in the shared spaces, enabling the building of social capital as an individual and social cohesion as a group.

A Community meeting in the early community space. Everyone Village, 2023.

A Community meeting in the current community room. Everyone Village, 2024.

Community Meetings

Regular community meetings serve as both a functional and symbolic space for residents of ICs to voice concerns, propose changes, and build a shared vision. Typically, this process is started by envisioning community values as a group, and often results in a community values statement (Durrett, 2015). Initially, these meetings may focus more heavily for logistics on the design and construction processes, but later shift to the management of the community, its values, and its spatial resources.

This democratic internal community engagement creates an empowered community in which individuals feel responsible for their collective well-being (Kingfisher, 2021). In addition to larger meetings, IC residents are often part of a smaller committee that handles a particular aspect of IC life. Examples include committees such as a finance committee for handling community fees and purchases or a gardening committee that manages the communal garden and landscaping. Moreover, participation in operating processes, such as shared responsibilities for maintenance work, new projects, and community management, further strengthen social cohsion ensuring that all members contribute to and benefit from the community (Kingfisher, 2021).

As discussed in the collective design section, Villagers were involved in early planning efforts of their future housing. This approach ensured those who had actually experienced homelessness were able to give input on how the village community would interact, how staff can accommodate villages, what community safety would look like, and what resources are needed most by the unhoused. This resulted in the adoption of a Mission and Values statement by the village (Piechowicz, 2024). Their most important value, gratitude, is showcased through a gratitude wall in the E1V community room.

This collective approach to decision-making had to change forms as the village grew in size, and would later become the Villager Council comprised of 9 Villager-elected members. Members of the committee help to process incoming new Villagers, introduce them to other Villagers, orient new Villagers to life in the village, and in some cases help handle difficult circumstances that arise.

Having a Villager committee also helps keep staff members in touch with the atmosphere within the village that may be less apparent, such as the effect a new policy has within the community or if any Villager is particularly struggling that week. The committee members may also be ambassadors for necessary changes in policy that are meeting resistance (Piechowicz, 2024). In this way, the Villager Council functions as a two-way advocacy group, both on behalf of other residents and on behalf of Staff.

On a larger scale, Everyone Village also holds a weekly Village-wide community meeting and lunch where residents and staff share the current happenings and changes to the village. These meetings enable Villagers to give feedback about new policies and voice concerns about current policies. Both the community wide meetings and the Villager committee contribute to the social cohesion of E1V by facilitating interactions between residents that are relevant to the day-to-day living experience.

The Gratitude wall in the Community room.

Shared Experiences

In an intentional community, shared experiences also help create a culture of empathy and support. By living and working together, residents develop a deeper understanding of one another's needs, struggles, and strengths.

Particularly in cohousing, shared experiences are often formed through the long process of planning and developing the future community (Durrett, 2022b). By the time residents move in the community their shared experiences serve as the foundation for the quick development of social cohesion, and therefore social capital, within the group.

For unhoused individuals transitioning into a stable environment like Everyone Village, the process of creating shared narratives through communal activities and meetings helps Villagers build their own relational social support network. For one Villager, being among others who share the unhoused experience "is very good therapy for a lot of people… It's a great opportunity for me and a lot of other people… to take a breath off the street… and start feeling like a person again" (personal interview with anonymous Villager, 09-05-2024).

Coming from conditions of isolation and instability, having access to a network of peers who share the lived experiences of homelessness provides a safety net of understanding for personal growth. Another Villager shared with me that they don't want to leave the community because they haven't ever experienced community support like they have at E1V, and even credited the village with making their birthday celebration the best day it's been in a long time.

These experiences demonstrate that the community component of E1V is built upon common experiences, new and old. Over time, these human infrastructures have enabled the E1V community to become more self-sustaining, with Villagers offering emotional and material support to new residents as they transition from unhoused to permanent housing (Piechowicz, 2024).
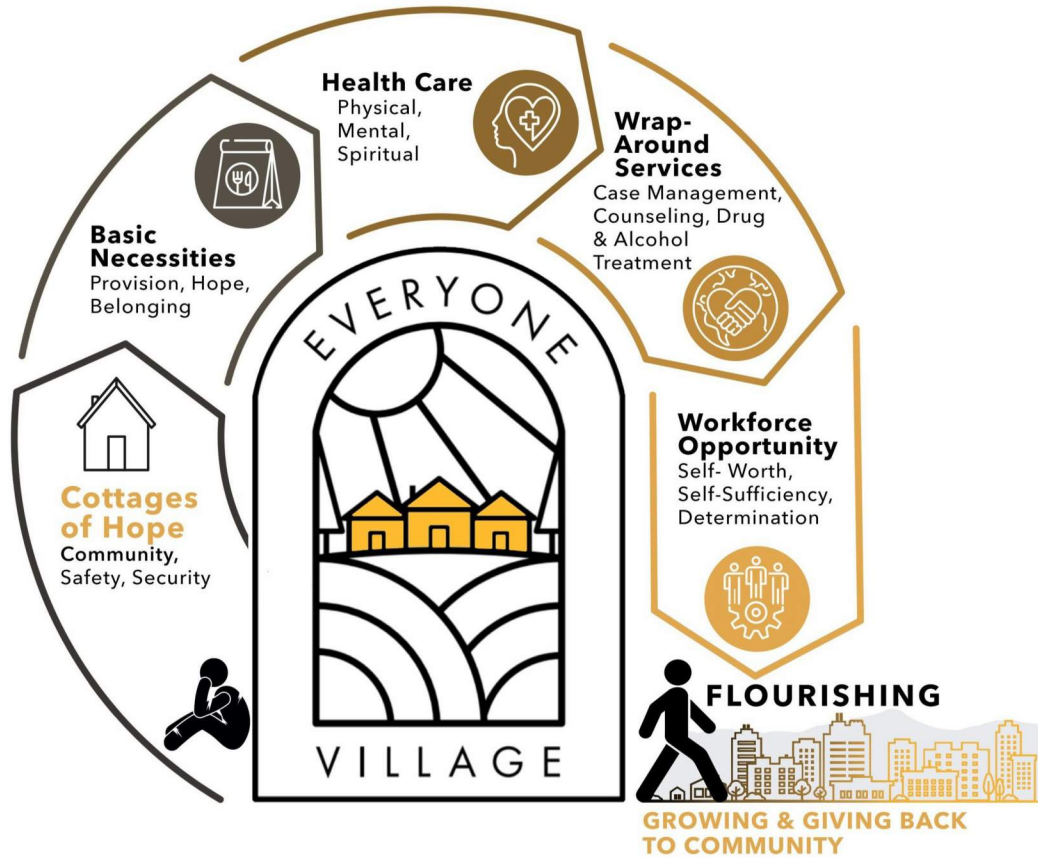
The Everyone Village "Flourishing' Approach. Everyone Village, 2024.

The on-site counseling and wellness center. Services are provided in both office and 'roaming' formats.

Relational Social Services

At Everyone Village, a crucial component of its success lies in the implementation of relational social services, which prioritize building trust and fostering a supportive environment for residents. Participation in communal activities is intentionally optional, recognizing that not all residents may be ready or willing to engage at the same level. This voluntary participation allows individuals to take part in community life at their own pace, which is essential for fostering genuine relationships and social capital. While some residents may choose not to engage in communal activities, E1V's emphasis on relational social services helps to bridge the gap, ensuring that all Villagers have access to support even if they prefer not to participate in larger communal events.

Residents at E1V are often at different stages in their transition out of homelessness, which affects how and when they engage with the community. This variation is recognized and respected by both staff and fellow Villagers. Villagers have reported that staff show significant understanding and patience, with one Villager explaining, "I know there are some people here that are more of a negative influence, but that's neither here nor there as far as the staff goes, because they show infinite patience… and it's reciprocated because I respect them and I do things to actively not be disrespectful or be rude" (personal interview with anonymous Villager, 09-05-2024). This individualized approach ensures that even those in earlier stages of transition, who may not yet feel ready for full communal engagement, are still respected and supported.

Institutional distrust is another challenge many formerly unhoused individuals face, stemming from past negative experiences with service providers and marginalization from society. E1V addresses this issue by creating a decentralized and flexible model of social services that works at the "speed of trust" (Piechowicz, 2024). Villagers are given a position in a staff members cohort, which both breaks down the larger community into smaller units and provides a direct contact early on in the Village experience.

Rather than following traditional, rigid structures of social service appointments, Staff conduct informal check-ins in their Villager cohorts, and short counseling sessions are conducted on an as-seen basis rather than through hourly appointments. This method has been cited as a more beneficial approach to services, as Villagers are "motivated by helping, and providing the avenues of help, for someone to stand on their own feet. There are no handouts here" (personal interview with anonymous Villager, 09-05-2024).

This approach allows residents to engage with staff without feeling the pressure or formality of

clinical social services, thus
helping to rebuild trust in an
empathetic manner.

By recognizing the specific
challenges its residents face,
E1V's relational social services
focus on meeting individuals where
they are and making accommodations
based on their unique experiences.
Through this system, E1V integrates
social infrastructures that support
the practical needs of residents
while considering their emotional
and psychological well-being.
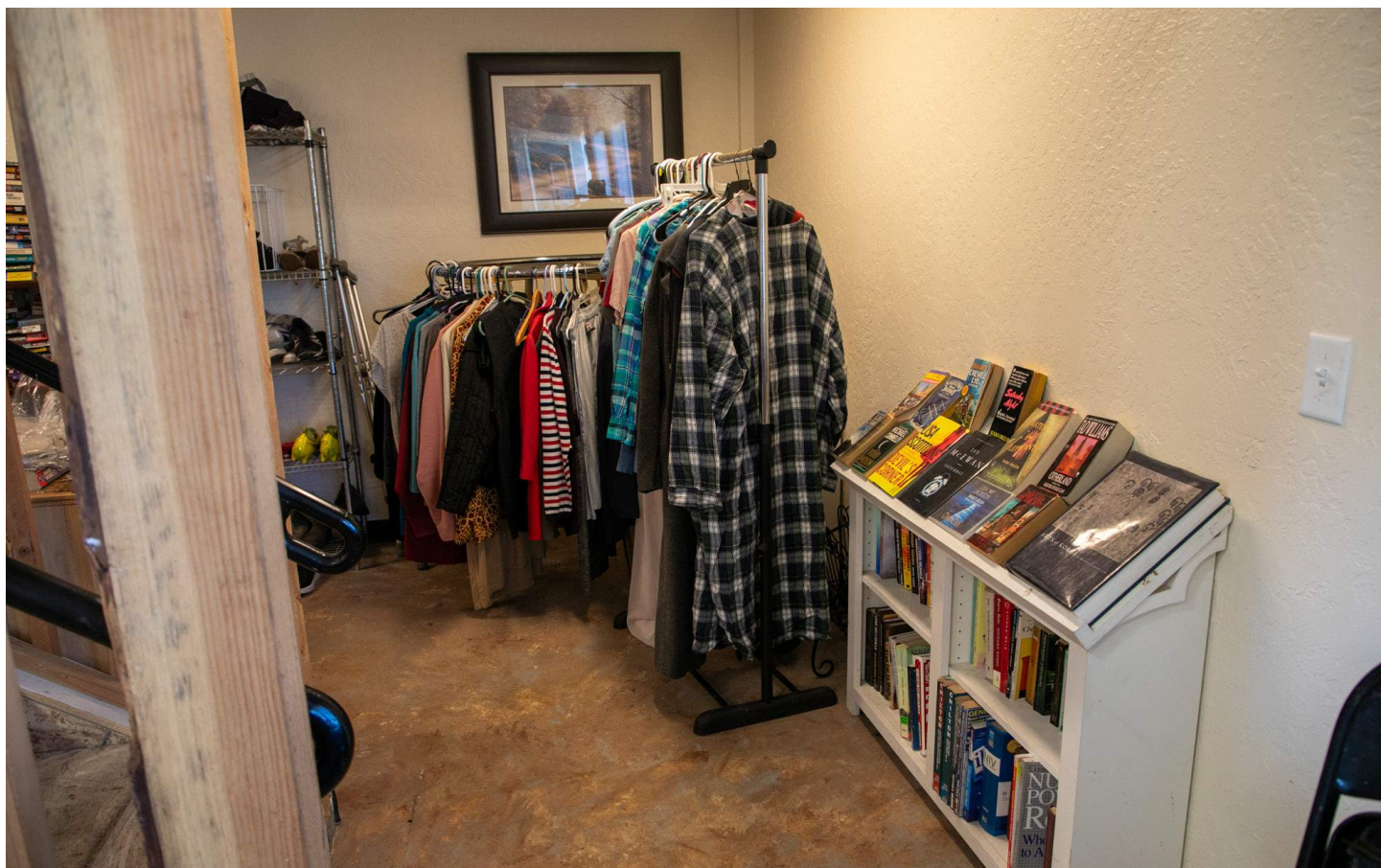
The community store and library, stocked by both Villagers and staff.

Interdependence & Independence

One of the defining features of cohousing communities is the shared use of resources, which offers both economic and social benefits to residents. Shared resources—such as communal kitchens, laundry facilities, gardens, and transportation—help reduce individual costs while encouraging frequent interaction between neighbors.

At the heart of this resourcesharing model is the balance between independence and interdependence (Kingfisher, 2021). Cohousing models are built around the principles of self-reliance and community support, offering residents the opportunity to contribute to the well-being of the community while simultaneously benefiting from the collective efforts of their neighbors.

The act of sharing resources in cohousing also facilitates the development of social connections. Frequent, informal interactions around shared spaces lead to the creation of strong relational ties between residents. These ties are especially important for formerly unhoused individuals, as they help counteract the isolation and loneliness that often accompanies homelessness.

For instance, a particular Villager at E1V shared the community has a term, 'village-ing,' which is essentially a verb for enacting the community support network at E1V. They explained the verb in the following context:

"Let's say your car won't start. You don't have jumper cables. You don't have a spare battery…You need someone to jump start your car… You go tell your neighbor, your neighbor tells somebody else, they tell somebody else… Eventually comes to me. I provide battery or cables or both and go out there and jump start your car. It's done. Just like that. It's village-ing: Where more than one person helps take care of one other person's individual issue or need at the time. That is a great thing that brings everyone together" (personal interview with anonymous Villager, 09-05-2024).

In this way, shared resources not only play a critical role in fostering a supportive and connected community, but also provide practical benefits for village members.

This blend of independence and interdependence is crucial for fostering a sense of agency among residents, and is particularly impactful for those transitioning out of homelessness. The opportunity to engage in self-sufficiency as part of a greater group — whether through community upkeep tasks or the E1V garden — helps rebuild confidence and self-worth. As one Villager stated, "A lot of people here go to the garden, and it's wonderful because they have pride and happiness when they put the tomatoes and the flowers and whatnot that they grow. There's a sense of pride and accomplishment in that" (personal interview with anonymous Villager,

09-05-2024).

This notion of supporting someone
in providing for oneself goes
directly against the typical
shelter experience of full
dependence. By working together to
maintain their shared resources,
individuals at E1V are able to
build relationships based on trust
and benefit from the physical
and emotional outcome of those
relationships.

PART D

conclusion & next steps

The "Healing Lounge" painted by Villages.

Conclusion

The exploration of Everyone Village and how the community addresses the housing crisis, homelessness, and loneliness in Eugene, Oregon, reveals the transformative potential transitional housing can have for a formerly unhoused individual when the design considers both social and built infrastructures. Through these practices, formerly unhoused individuals can transition out of homelessness not just through shelter but through a supportive community environment that nurtures their emotional, psychological, and social well-being.

At the core of the solution is the understanding that housing alone cannot resolve the deeply entrenched issues stemming from loneliness, isolation and marginalization. Intentional communities offer an alternative to traditional transitional housing approaches by emphasizing the importance of social infrastructure—the relationships, shared responsibilities, and collective rituals that help individuals connect to one another. Without addressing these social aspects, individuals are at risk of backsliding into homelessness, even after securing housing.

A strong social network is key in preventing such outcomes, providing the relationships and support necessary to sustain individuals during difficult times, reducing the likelihood of recurrent or chronic homelessness. By having a community to rely on, residents are better equipped to handle life's challenges, minimizing the number of individuals who experience cycles of instability. By providing opportunities for residents to engage in community life and build social capital, E1V as an "Intentional Transitional Housing Community" (E1V, 2024) mitigates the immediate and long-term adverse physical and mental effects of experiencing homelessness for its residents.

The design and built infrastructure characteristic of intentional communities supports these social dynamics by encouraging frequent interaction and the building of individual social support and collective social cohesion. The architectural layout at E1V facilitates informal interactions that benefit the social infrastructures organized by staff and Villagers. The social infrastructures ensure Villagers benefit from the built environment and that community spaces are utilized to their full potential. The collaboration between these components - the overall human infrastructure - is instrumental in nurturing the building of social capital at Everyone Village.

As such, the architecture profession holds a crucial role in fostering these environments, not just as designers of physical space, but as facilitators of community, conversation, and empowerment. Moving forward, the lessons learned from intentional transitional housing communities like E1V can inform future housing models, offering a more holistic

and human-centric approach to
addressing the crises of housing
and loneliness. Building communtiy
on this smaller scale supports the
future re-building of community
within Eugene as a whole. By
bridging the gap between built
and social infrastructures, we
can create housing that not only
shelters individuals but supports
them in their long-term journey
towards stability and well-being.

Next Steps

While the exploration of Everyone Village has provided valuable insights into the role of built and social infrastructures in transitional housing, several questions and areas for future investigation have emerged. One key question centered around how the E1V model could be scaled or adapted for other cities and populations, especially those with different cultural, economic, or geographic conditions. Is E1V repeatable? Would the same emphasis on community and social capital yield similar outcomes if the built form was altered to suit more urban areas with higher population density, or in regions with less mild climates?

Another critical question raised by E1V's success is the size and type of housing necessary for creating stability and well-being in an individual. Many residents' express satisfaction with their compact, modest dwellings, challenging conventional ideas that larger or more permanent structures are inherently better. This brings into question the broader societal assumption that housing must meet certain size standards to be effective in providing comfort, stability, and acceptable living conditions. Investigating whether smaller, simpler units could be a viable solution in other contexts might reshape how we think about what constitutes "adequate" housing, particularly in the face of our growing housing crisis.

Additionally, the long-term impact of social networks within E1V deserves further study. While initial observations suggest that strong social networks help prevent backsliding into homelessness, more longitudinal studies are needed to confirm the sustainability of these outcomes. Understanding how the unique characteristics of E1V's social infrastructure—such as voluntary participation and the "speed of trust" approach—could be refined or expanded to address varying levels of resident engagement could provide valuable insights for future developments.

Finally, the community that has been built at E1V is of interest outside of the context of transitional housing, as the Villagers were strangers when they became residents but are now supportive neighbors within a cohesive social network. When considering the breadth of our loneliness crisis, can lessons from E1V be applied to (re) building community and mitigating loneliness across all levels of the housing continuum?

The E1V bees. Bees are managed by Villagers and Garden Lead Wyatt. Boxes were painted by Villagers.

Limitations of Study

This research project consisted primarily of a literature review, case studies, and personal engagement and interviews with Villagers & staff at E1V. Care was taken to build relationships of trust with Villagers before discussing their experience at E1V.

For this reason, interviews were only conducted with Villagers who voluntarily shared their experiences living within the E1V transitional housing community with me. The degree of information shared depended on Villager interest, and the concept of loneliness was seldom explicitly discussed. In the future, a further investigation of community dynamics and infrastructure at E1V over time could yield insights into loneliness mitigation practices in transitional housing design, and into how typical intentional community design characteristics build social capital.

One of several pet cats and dogs at E1V. I believe this one is Gizmo.

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