

PHFA Kathy A Possinger Housing Policy Fellowship

2023 Fellows

Julie Wilson



Biography: Julie Wilson is the Director of Housing and Community Development at Common Roots, a community organization committed to developing permanently affordable housing that builds wealth and security for low-income residents in Meadville, PA. She is a leader in Meadville’s community wealth building movement and co-author of “Community Wealth Building In Meadville: A Strategic Assessment by The Democracy Collaborative.” Julie is a former associate professor of Communication Arts and Community and Justice Studies at Allegheny College. She is the author of *Neoliberalism*, a textbook that explores contemporary politics, economics, and culture, and the director/producer of *Bending Hell*, a documentary about a local city council campaign. Before getting her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, Julie was a neighborhood organizer where she helped support a housing cooperative and served on the board of the Rondo Community Land Trust.

Project Summary: Julie’s fellowship project will explore how new approaches to cooperative housing might intervene in the escalating housing affordability crisis through the medium of documentary film. Specifically, the film will chronicle Common Roots’ work to establish a renting cooperative where renters are able to build equity by collectively governing and managing their homes. The film will situate Common Roots’ effort in the history of housing cooperatives in the U.S. and within the context of global cooperative movement. The film will be targeted to affordable housing professionals, grassroots actors and organizations, and general audiences interested in housing issues and/or cooperative enterprises.