

CULVER CITY SPEAKER SERIES 2.4.20

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

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As part of its [General Plan Update](#), the City of Culver City is hosting a [Speaker Series](#) to inform, educate, and discuss issues that are important to everyone who lives, works, plays, and learns in Culver City. With the community's help, the project team will create a GPU plan that maintains Culver City's uniqueness while creating opportunities for improving our economic growth, transportation, housing, climate change resilience, and more. We've established the Speaker Series to inspire you to help shape the future of Culver City. [Access written summaries and videos for past events on the Speaker Series page.](#)

The Speaker Series event on Tuesday, February 4, was focused on 'Addressing Homelessness.' Two speakers provided information on local and regional efforts to end homelessness. [Christine Mirasy-Glasco](#) is the Executive Director of [Upward Bound House](#), a local organization engaged in eliminating homelessness among families with children in Los Angeles. She talked about the need to challenge stereotypes of people experiencing homelessness, noting that most of the families served by her organization are working families unable to keep up with rising rents. [Phil Ansell](#), the Director of the [Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative](#), reinforced this point. His organization serves all populations experiencing homelessness in the region. He detailed what Los Angeles County is doing to combat and prevent homelessness, what has been achieved, and why the number of homeless individuals across the county continues to grow. He links the net rise in homelessness that we have experienced in Los Angeles County in recent years with the crisis in housing affordability, which has resulted in a high percentage of severely rent-burdened households "living on the precipice of homelessness." He spoke of the partnerships his organization is forming with cities, organizations, service providers, businesses, and community members and pointed to the [Westside Cities Council of Governments](#) Grant awarded to Culver City as an opportunity for our community to encourage other cities to think broadly and creatively to meet this challenge.

Everyone in attendance benefited significantly from the perspectives brought to the discussion by two community members who formerly experienced homelessness. Mark Lipman successfully exited homelessness and serves on the [City of Culver City Committee on Homelessness](#). He has spent the past 15 years researching the issue and best practices employed by cities across the nation. He spoke of the need to provide permanent supportive housing and proposed solutions that could be employed here in Culver City. Robin Ricard experienced homelessness for eight years, including in Culver City, and mentors others in their efforts to find homeless services. He is a college graduate and lost his home due to financial issues that followed an illness in his family. He spoke of what it took to cope with being homeless and how he was welcomed by the Culver City Committee on Homelessness. With the help of [St. Joseph Center](#) and Culver City's Housing Division staff, he was able to obtain a [Section 8 Voucher](#) and has been successfully housed for three years.

We would like to extend our appreciation to [Culver Palms United Methodist Church](#) for graciously hosting us and to [Sprouts](#) for feeding everyone. Save the date for our next event, 'Regional Economics - How Culver City Functions as Part of a Larger Regional Economy,' with [Kevin Klowden](#), scheduled for Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 PM. [Find RSVP, event and contact info here.](#)

Stay informed at
culvercity.org/speakerseries



additional resources

Culver City Housing Division

- [Addressing Homelessness in Culver City](#)
- [Culver City Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness](#)
- [Homeless Incentive Program \(HIP\)](#)
- [Landlord Engagement Program](#)
- [Interim Rent Control Measures](#)
- [Interim Rent Control Brochure](#)

TOOLKIT
FOR ADDRESSING
HOMELESSNESS
FOR CULVER CITY

