

2019 South Africa Professional Exchange

Background

The National Association of Social Housing Organizations in South Africa and the Maryland Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies in the USA are entered into a 5-year MOU to engage in professional exchange for the purpose of studying best practices in social/affordable housing and community development. The MOU was signed in the Spring of 2016 and will expire in May 2021. In 2017, the first Professional Exchange was held in the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Six delegates from South Africa participated in a 10-day study tour consisting of site visits, roundtable discussions, participation in the Mid Atlantic Regional Council of NAHRO's Annual Conference, meetings with State Officials and Academics, and cultural activities. The delegates toured affordable properties managed by several housing authorities in Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George, and Talbot Counties. They had roundtable discussions with the University of Maryland's Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development and with staff at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. They toured economic development sites in Baltimore City and attended a presentation by Baltimore County on Mobility Counseling.

In 2019, the National Association of Social Housing Organizations in South Africa will host a Professional Exchange of delegates from the United States. The purpose of the exchange is to engage with social housing organizations and academic institutions to learn about social housing practices and economic development opportunities, have roundtable discussions with university partners and government officials, and engage in cultural activities. University partners will include the University of Maryland's Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, and possibly the Technical University of Durban. The exchange will be conducted in three to four cities: Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, and possibly the city of Durban. Delegates will be selected through an application process that consists of a letter of interest, resume or CV, and a questionnaire. There will be a limited number of delegates selected. Delegates may elect to participate in the entire exchange or a portion of the exchange. Delegates will be responsible for all of their expenses including travel and accommodations unless otherwise specified. The exchange will begin in the City of Johannesburg and conclude in the City of Cape Town. The Professional Exchange will last approximately 10-14 days not including travel. The Professional Exchange is tentatively scheduled for late July – early August 2019.

Letter of Interest

All applicants must submit an application and a letter of interest. The letter of interest must describe why the applicant wants to participate in the exchange; how the exchange furthers the applicant's career goals; how the applicant's skills, education, and experience will contribute to the learning and teaching environment; and what the applicant's expected outcomes might be. Be mindful of the professional contributions that will be made by your participation as well as what you hope to learn and gain from the experience. Describe how this Professional Exchange will enrich your personal portfolio and how your particular talents, interests, expertise, and knowledge will advantage the experience in South Africa and contribute to the overall policy aims of the Professional Exchange. Be mindful of the professional contributions that will be made by your participation as well as what you hope to learn and gain from the experience. Describe any resources that might be leveraged through your participation in the areas of technical assistance, policy development, professional development, scholarly articles, photography, planning and feasibility skills, etc. The letter of interest is a significant part of the acceptance process and must make a compelling statement as to why the applicant should be chosen. The letter of interest must also state explicitly that the applicant is aware that they must provide funding for all of their expenses.

Resume/CV

All applicants must submit a resume or CV as part of their applications. The resume or CV must include a skills summary and summary of professional qualifications and should not exceed 4 pages. The applicant may attach articles, research, or papers that support their application submission.

Questionnaire

All applicants must submit a completed questionnaire along with the letter of interest and resume/CV. Please save your completed questionnaire as a PDF file. Incomplete application submissions will be rejected.