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2025 MHI NCC FALL LEADERSHIP FORUM

November 5–7, 2025
Westin Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL



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WELCOME TO MHI'S NATIONAL COMMUNITIES COUNCIL FALL LEADERSHIP FORUM

All educational sessions are located in the Great Lakes Grand Ballroom unless otherwise indicated below.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

4:30 PM
Registration Desk Opens
Superior East | Sponsored by Yardi

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Welcome Reception
Great Lakes Ballroom | Sponsored by Equity Lifestyle Properties, Inc.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

8:30 AM
Registration Desk Opens
Superior East | Sponsored by Yardi

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Networking Breakfast
Michigan Ballroom | Sponsored by Yale Realty & Capital Advisors

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM
Welcome
MHI NCC Division Chair Jody Gabel, General Counsel, Flagship Communities

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
Demographic Trends: Who is Moving, Who is Buying, and What It Means for Communities
Eric Finnigan, Vice President of Demographics Research, John Burns Research & Consulting
Eric Finnigan, Vice President of Demographic Research at John Burns Research & Consulting, will share how today's shifting demographics—from aging workers to delayed first-time buyers—are reshaping housing demand and labor dynamics. Attendees will gain strategic insights into migration patterns, remote work, and generational transitions that are opening new opportunities for community growth in emerging and suburban markets. Don't miss this data-driven look at the forces shaping the future of housing.

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM
Networking Break
Great Lakes Foyer | Sponsored by Princeton Capital Group

Getting to the Networking Reception at 360 Chicago

MICHIGAN AVE

WESTIN MICHIGAN AVENUE

EAST DELAWARE PLACE

360 CHICAGO

This networking reception is located across the street from the Westin Michigan Avenue on the 94th floor of the John Hancock Building.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
The Big Picture: Global Trends Shaping the Economic Landscape
Todd Buchholz, Former White House Economic Policy Director
Renowned economist and former White House advisor Todd Buchholz will deliver a wide-angle view of the global forces influencing today's economy. Drawing on his experience in government, finance, and academia, he will help attendees decode the signals of growth and the warning signs of downturns. Expect sharp insights into how technology, trade, and policy are shaping interest rates, debt, and investment decisions across industries—and what it all means for the future of housing and community development.

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Networking Lunch
Michigan Ballroom | Sponsored by UMH Properties, Inc.

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Political Due Diligence: Navigating Local Dynamics Before You Build
George Passantino, Managing Partner, Passantino Andersen Communications
Before breaking ground on an expansion or new development, understanding the political landscape can be just as critical as the financials. George Passantino, founder of a nationally recognized public affairs firm, will walk attendees through the nuts and bolts of conducting political “due diligence”—from identifying key decision-makers and community concerns to anticipating regulatory hurdles and public opposition. Gain practical strategies to make informed, confident decisions before investing time and resources.

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Networking Break
Great Lakes Foyer | Sponsored by Princeton Capital Group

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
AI in Action: Strategic Tools for Smarter Community Operations
Moderator: Dr. Lesli Gooch, CEO, MHI
Panelists: Arthur Attal, Founder & CEO, Damos; Darren Krolewski, Co-President, Chief Business Development Officer, MHVillage / Datacomp; and Taylor Peake, Co-Founder & CEO, Occupi
Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming how communities are managed and residents are served. In this executive-level panel, industry innovators will explore how AI is streamlining operations, enhancing customer experiences, and driving smarter decision-making in property management. Learn what tools are available today, how teams work alongside AI, what's coming next, and how to position your business to lead in an AI-driven future.

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Networking Reception at 360 Chicago
Sponsored by 21st Mortgage Corporation and Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:30 AM
Registration Desk Opens
Superior East | Sponsored by Yardi

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Networking Breakfast
Michigan Ballroom | Sponsored by Conservice

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Protecting the Land-Lease Model: Legislative Threats and the Road Ahead
Moderator: Dr. Lesli Gooch, CEO, MHI
Panelists: Jody Gabel, General Counsel, Flagship Communities; James E. Sherwood, SVP State Government Relations, McGuireWoods Consulting LLC; Julie Ann Smith, Executive Director, Manufactured Housing Association of Maine; and Spenser Templeton, SMGB Law

Across the country, new policy proposals are emerging that could fundamentally reshape the land lease community model. In this panel moderated by Dr. Lesli Gooch, CEO of MHI, industry advocates will share insights into the forces driving these efforts—such as those promoting “Limited Equity Ownership”—and what to expect in upcoming legislative sessions. Learn what strategies have proven effective in recent state-level battles and why continued engagement is essential to protecting the future of manufactured housing.

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Networking Break
Great Lakes Foyer | Sponsored by Triad Financial Services, Inc.

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM
Shaping the Dialogue: Elevating Manufactured Housing in Federal Housing Policy
Dr. Lesli Gooch, CEO, MHI
Dr. Lesli Gooch, CEO of MHI, will share how manufactured housing is being positioned within the national conversation on housing supply through MHI's advocacy efforts. This session will highlight MHI's federal policy priorities, recent advocacy wins, and the opportunities ahead to ensure manufactured housing is recognized as a key solution to the nation's housing challenges. Attendees will gain insight into how federal actions are shaping the future of the industry and why continued engagement is essential.

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