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Wealth Empowerment Conference hosted by The Melanin Project



MACLT's Executive Director Mason Cavell had the opportunity to participate in this year's Wealth Empowerment Conference, hosted by The Melanin Project, as a breakout session speaker. Mason's session focused on the community land trust (CLT) model and how it helps bridge the gap between renting and traditional homeownership by creating long-term, permanently affordable housing opportunities for households.

and resources centered on wealth-building, financial empowerment, and economic mobility. Homeowners engaged in meaningful learning opportunities and connected with broader community conversations focused on building long-term financial stability and generational wealth.

Click here to learn more about the Melanin Project: [The Melanin Project | Personal Finance](#)

MACLT Homeowner Spotlight



Meet Ilsa, Founder of Sprouts Nature School

My name is Ilsa, and I am the founder of **Sprouts Nature School**, an outdoor education program serving children ages 4 to 12 in Madison. I started Sprouts Nature School in April 2024 with the goal of making the outdoors more accessible to children. Through our programs, kids learn practical skills while also building emotional regulation, confidence, and meaningful friendships. Spending time outdoors as a child helped grow my own love and appreciation for nature, and I want to offer that same experience to others.

Sprouts Nature School offers afterschool programs, no-school day programs, and summer camps held in parks throughout Madison. Our programs focus on hands-on, experiential learning — activities like nature art, outdoor cooking, gardening, team-building games, hiking, boating, swimming, foraging, and seasonal exploration. We work on building independence, resilience, and curiosity while helping children develop a lasting connection to the natural world. When weather conditions require it, programs move indoors to places like the Madison Children’s Museum, local libraries, and the Geology and Physics Museums. **Afterschool enrollment for Fall 2026 is already open**, and bridge care and transportation are available to help make participation accessible for families.

MACLT made homeownership feel approachable and achievable, and I highly recommend this program to others who are considering it.

I'm especially excited for my new home to be the dedicated space for garden-based learning. Every Thursday morning throughout the summer, children will plant and care for a vegetable garden and pollinator garden right in the backyard. We will use the fresh fruit and vegetables for cooking. In the afternoons on Thursdays, we will walk to nearby parks and we'll also take special trips to Olbrich Gardens and the Midwest Clay Project to expand our learning through nature, art, and community connections.

Summer camps run Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm, with extended hours available from 8am to 4:30pm to support working families. Each week-long session takes place in a different Madison park, giving children the opportunity to explore a variety of natural spaces across the city. Summer camp sessions are filling quickly, but there are still some spots available.

Families can learn more and register by visiting sproutsnaureschool.com.

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Supporting Creativity in Our Community

Join us in celebrating MACLT homeowner Sean Welch and his exhibit, *Paper Party*, a vibrant collection of collages and mixed media work on display in the Lakeview Library community rooms through the end of May.

An artist reception will be held at Lakeview Library on May 4 from 5:00–7:45 p.m., where you'll have the opportunity to meet Sean, learn more about his creative process, and enjoy a screening of his film *Night Trees*. If you can't make the reception, the installation will be available to view until May 31st.

Light refreshments will be provided, and no registration is needed. We hope you'll join us in celebrating Sean's creativity and supporting a talented local artist in our MACLT community.

For more information, contact lakeview@madisonpubliclibrary.org or call 608-246-4547.



Pictured: Sean Welch stands alongside pieces from his *Paper Party* collection at Lakeview Library.

Mark Your Calendar for Madison Housing Week

Mark your calendar for **Madison Housing Week May 3-8: Rooted & Rising—Shaping Madison's Future Together**, a week of conversations, tours, panels, and community events exploring housing affordability, land use,

Hosted by the Madison Housing Coalition, this year's lineup includes a Missing Middle Housing Tour, virtual Lunch & Learn's, the Madison Housing Forum, and an ADU ribbon cutting and tour. Whether you're passionate about affordable housing or simply curious about the future of housing in Madison, there's something for everyone.

Madison Housing Week

Rooted & Rising

As our population grows, how do we stay rooted in people and neighborhoods while shaping a stronger housing future?

[View Full Schedule →](#)

📍 Various venues across Madison, WI

View the full schedule and register for events at

<https://madisonhousingweek.com/#events>



Join Us for MACLT Orientation

Join us for our next MACLT Orientation session on **Wednesday, May 13** to learn about Madison Community Land Trust (MACLT) program, how our permanently affordable homes work, and what to expect as a future homeowner.

Date: Wednesday, May 13th
Time: 5:30-6:30 PM

Location: Virtual on Zoom

Register [HERE](#) for MACLT Orientation

Turn Your Property into a Legacy

If you're thinking about a way to make a meaningful impact that lasts beyond your lifetime, consider including Madison Area Community Land Trust in your estate plans.

Learn more about our Pay It Forward program visit:
<https://maclt.org/donate-archive/donate-property/>

**Turn Your Property
Into a Legacy:**
*Support Affordable
Housing with a
Bargain Sale*



Learn how selling your
property below market
value can benefit both you
and our community!



<https://maclt.org/donate-archive/donate-property/>

**Are you interested in
buying a CLT Home?**



Take a closer look to see if you qualify!

**Are you interested in
buying a CLT home?**

For a complete list of qualifications and
step-by-step process of buying a CLT
home visit: [Home Buyer Guide](#)

Complete the Pre-application to see if
you qualify: [Madison Area CLT
Homebuyer Pre-application](#)

MACLT Homes for Sale

Articles Worth Reading

[The Disappearance of the Moderately Priced Single-Family Home | Joint Center for Housing Studies](#)

[How Portland is getting affordable housing built - The Washington Post](#)

Learn more about MACLT Volunteer Opportunities



Do you know someone who might be interested in our work?
Please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to subscribe for future updates.

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