

# Affordable Housing for LGBT Older Adults



One of the biggest issues facing many LGBT older adults is finding safe, affordable housing in cities across the country. Due to higher levels of financial insecurity and a general lack of affordable housing, many LGBT elders find that they cannot afford homes in the communities they may have lived in for years. Others face harassment and intimidation in their homes and in long-term care settings from aging professionals, other residents, and even their own family members.

In recent years, LGBT aging advocates have begun addressing these housing insecurities through a variety of approaches, including developing LGBT-specific housing. Several new developments are underway across the country. Here's a look at the newest LGBT affordable housing initiatives.

## 55 LAGUNA, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Project leads: Openhouse, Mercy Housing California

Number of units: 110

Timeline: Construction expected to begin in late 2014

Contact: [openhouse-sf.org](http://openhouse-sf.org), 415-296-8995

In August 2012, the San Francisco Planning Commission unanimously approved the Openhouse plan to build LGBT-welcoming senior housing at 55 Laguna St. This development will provide welcoming and affordable housing in the heart of San Francisco, along with services and resources to help LGBT older adults remain safe and comfortable in the community they spent a lifetime to build. Most of the units will be one bedrooms ranging in rent from \$589 to \$1,000.



Above: The Argyle. Below: GLEH building

However, Openhouse's goal is to secure rent subsidies so that residents will pay only 30% of their income for rent. Individuals and couples who are 55 years and older whose household income does not exceed 50% of Area Median Income (AMI) will be eligible to live at 55 Laguna. Applicants will be selected by lottery until all the housing units are filled. Applications will be accepted once construction is completed. Visit [openhouse-sf.org](http://openhouse-sf.org) to join the Affordable Housing mailing list and to find a chart of AMI by household size.

### THE ARGYLE, LOS ANGELES, CA

Project leads: Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing, AMCAL Multi Housing Inc.

Number of units: 40

Timeline: Opening in spring 2014

Contact: [gleh.org](http://gleh.org), 323-957-7200

In 2007, Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing (GLEH) opened Triangle Square, the nation's first LGBT-friendly affordable elder housing development. Now, GLEH is building The Argyle, a new residential project in Los Angeles on Western Avenue between Sunset and Hollywood Boulevards. The new four-story building, within easy walking distance to public transportation and shops, will offer one- to three-bedroom apartments that will rent from \$200-800 a month. The Argyle will also offer programs and services for LGBT older adults, such as writing and art classes, bingo, yoga and more. Applications are being accepted now.





*Rendering of John C. Anderson Apartments*

#### **JOHN C. ANDERSON APARTMENTS, PHILADELPHIA, PA**

**Project leads:** Pennrose Properties, dmhFund,

**Gay News** publisher Mark Segal

**Number of units:** 56

**Timeline:** Opening in 2013

**Contact:** [dmhfund.org](http://dmhfund.org), [info@dmhfund.org](mailto:info@dmhfund.org)

Located in the heart of the Philadelphia Gayborhood, this LGBT-friendly low-income elder housing residence will feature 56 one-bedroom units, with a 6,000 square-foot enclosed courtyard, along with multi-purpose public spaces to be shared by residents and the larger community. The location will allow residents to be an integral part of the community and take advantage of services offered by other LGBT resources in the neighborhood such as the William Way Community Center and the Mazzoni Center for health services; William Way will also provide services and programs specifically for LGBT elders in the residence. Visit [dmhfund.org](http://dmhfund.org) for information on applying for a unit.

#### **MARY'S HOUSE, WASHINGTON, DC**

**Project lead:** Dr. Imani Woody Macko

**Number of units:** 9

**Timeline:** Construction not yet scheduled.

**Contact:** [info@maryshousedc.org](mailto:info@maryshousedc.org)

Mary's House will be the first facility of its kind in Washington, DC, focusing on the housing and relational needs of LGBT older adults. Located in the Fort Dupont Park section of historic Washington, DC, it will be aimed at supporting African American LGBT elders age 60 and older. The developers intend to create a family-like



environment with a shared kitchen, common dining area, shared community room, laundry facilities and a therapeutic hot tub. Mary's House will also offer a number of programs and services aimed at LGBT older adults. Visit [maryshousedc.org](http://maryshousedc.org) for more information.



*Spirit on Lake illustration (left) and building in progress (above).*

Beginning in June 2013, construction will transform the former town hall and police station at the corner of North Halsted and West Addison Streets into an affordable apartment complex for people age 55+ in Chicago, IL. The complex will combine the historic police station with a new six-story apartment building to offer retail space as well as studio and one-bedroom units in the heart of the city. In addition to being located close to Center on Halsted, Chicago's LGBT community center, all aspects of the apartment complex will be catered to LGBT older adults. Contact Center on Halsted for more information.

*\*Name of housing development as of May 2013.*

### **SPIRIT ON LAKE, TWIN CITIES, MN**

**Project leads:** GLBT Generations;  
Living Table United Church  
of Christ; Everwood Development; PRG, Inc.

**Number of units:** 46

**Timeline:** First units open in September 2013

**Contact:** [prginc.org](http://prginc.org), [facebook.com/spiritonlake](https://www.facebook.com/spiritonlake)

Located at the corner of Lake Street and 13th Avenue South in Minneapolis, MN, Spirit on Lake will provide safe, welcoming homes to LGBT older adults. The units will be available to those with incomes under 50% of the area median (currently \$29,400 for an individual and \$33,600 for a couple), on a first come, first served basis. Visit Spirit on Lake's Facebook page ([facebook.com/spiritonlake](https://www.facebook.com/spiritonlake)) for more information on how to apply for a unit. To sign up for the mailing list, visit [prginc.org](http://prginc.org).

### **TOWN HALL ON HALSTED\*, CHICAGO, IL**

**Project leads:** Center on Halsted, Heartland Housing

**Number of units:** 79

**Timeline:** Construction completed in spring 2014

**Contact:** [centeronhalsted.org](http://centeronhalsted.org), 773-472-6469



*Town Hall on Halsted rendering.*