

THE GAME OF RENT



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GAME OF RENT

WHAT IS THE GAME OF RENT?

The Game of Rent is a board game-style teaching tool designed to raise awareness and build empathy for affordable housing.

HOW DOES THE GAME OF RENT WORK?

The Game leverages local data and the luck of the draw to help people better understand housing challenges in their community. Each player assumes a new identity, including occupation, family makeup, and life circumstances. Based on their situation, each player is challenged to find an apartment they can afford. Scoring is based on apartment cost, commute distance, and time spent searching for housing. Local data points include average salaries for each occupation, average student loan debt and childcare costs, and rents for actual apartment buildings representing specific neighborhoods. The Game takes about 40 minutes to play and is most effective when paired with information about affordable housing and a debrief discussion about the experience and action steps.

WHO IS THE GAME OF RENT FOR?

The Game is for anyone who wants to start more productive conversations about affordable housing in their community. The Game has been played by high school and college students, housing advocates, developers, designers, elected officials and decision-makers in cities across the country. This tool is useful for providing a reality check for those who are not familiar with housing issues, while also validating the lived experiences of those who have encountered these challenges first-hand.

WHERE DID THE GAME OF RENT COME FROM?

Kelsey Oesmann began the project as part of Nashville's PARK(ing) Day in 2017 as a simple but fun way to engage the public in a conversation about the affordable housing crisis. Through several iterations, prototypes, and focus groups the Game has evolved into its current form. In 2019, Oesmann ran a successful Kickstarter campaign to scale the project to include customized editions for 25 cities and counting.

WHERE CAN I GET MY OWN GAME OF RENT?

Games can be purchased online at www.thegameofrent.com, where you can also download a Facilitator's Guide and watch a video about the Game.

WILL YOU FACILITATE THE GAME FOR OUR GROUP?

Requests for facilitated workshops with the Game of Rent should be directed to info@thegameofrent.com. Virtual and in-person trainings for community members to facilitate the Game on their own are also available.



For more information visit www.thegameofrent.com
follow us on Instagram @thegameofrent or
contact Kelsey Oesmann at info@thegameofrent.com