

GLOBAL TENANT



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Large differences in the USA

The USA is a country, and a continent. About 276 million people live in 50 states that differ a lot from each other. Also, housing differ a lot. In the "old" large cities, like New York, Chicago and Boston people have always lived in the city centres, and traditionally in a relatively large stock of rental flats. In the 60's and 70's higher costs and a deteriorating city environment made a lot of people in the big cities to look for better living conditions. An abundance of space and low land prices in places like Tucson, Arizona, and Dallas, Texas, created huge suburbs with one family houses. The old down-town areas with the train and Greyhound station became less popular. Many down-town areas became deserted and run-down and left to the few who could not afford to move out. But things have changed. The combination of an historical and architecture interest together with a desire to live in a more town-like atmosphere has revitalised many down-town areas, like Georgetown in Washington D.C. and St Louis, Missouri.

I am quite sure that most of my European colleagues have the impression that ownership, co-ops and condominiums, is the overall predominating form of multi family housing in the larger US cities. I must admit that I thought so too. Well, how very wrong we were!

Through Tenants & Neighbors Coalition in New York and other US tenant partners I have been enlightened and up dated on the present housing situation. Interesting information that we want to share with our readers all over the world.

In this issue we will mainly focus on housing in three major US cities with a still large rental stock; New York (70 %), Chicago (60%) and San Francisco (65%).

We of course welcome comments on articles from our readers.

Magnus Hammar
Secretary General, IUT

News from the Secretariat

- The IUT Secretariat in Stockholm has just received more resources. In September Ms Annika Ekström started her job as Assistant Secretary. Ms Ekström has a degree from IHM Business School in Stockholm. She has experience from working with the Swedish Foreign Ministry and as Executive Secretary. Ms Ekström is 34 and the mother of two young children.

We wish her all the best in her new position!

You can contact Ms Ekström at: annika.ekstrom@hyresgasterna.se

- The IUT will chair the European Housing Forum, EHF, from September 25th and one year onwards. Next meeting in Stockholm December 10.

Calendar

October 1-2: Informal Meeting of the EU Housing Ministers. Brussels, Belgium.

October 15-16: IUT East-and Central European meeting in Prague, Czech Republic.

October 24-26: Australian National Housing Conference, Brisbane

November 30-December 1: IUT Board meeting in Berlin, Germany.

April 26-27, 2002: IUT Board meeting in Prague, Czech Republic

