

## Bidding Adieu to 2023

### Hello 2024!

As we closed the door on 2023 one thing is for certain we saw some progress, we saw some defeats and there were changes.

As we ring in the new year lets take a moment to honor and spotlight some of our peers who have decided to take 2024 a little slower.

### PROCLAMATION IN APPRECIATION FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE BY MICHAEL GALLEGOS



Michael Gallegos began public service in 1977 and served the residents of Salt Lake County until July 31, 2023, providing County residents with exceptional service in the area of Housing and Community Development leadership and management.

Michael Gallegos served on numerous boards and commissions, most notably the State Commission on Housing Affordability, Rocky Mountain Community Reinvestment Corporation, and the Utah Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials, all related to his work within Salt Lake County where he brought strong leadership to the table on behalf of Salt Lake County citizens.

Michael Gallegos has brought respect, honor, and integrity to Salt Lake County, the Office of Regional Development, and the Division of Housing & Community Development by leading by example, exhibiting the highest level of ethics and maintaining a superior moral character.

Michael has volunteered numerous hours and exhibited outstanding community spirit during his many years of service.

He imparted knowledge and wisdom to those he mentored, compassion and selflessness to those in need, and inspiration and encouragement to those he led.

Michael's unwavering commitment, willingness and ability to understand and respond to the concerns of the people of Salt Lake County has made a substantial contribution to the betterment of the social services offered throughout Salt Lake County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Jenny Wilson does hereby commend Michael Gallegos for his service and recognizes his legacy of dedication and his outstanding public service given to the residents of Salt Lake County for more than forty years.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah, this 12th day of July, 2023. *Mayor Jenny Wilson*



**Steven Nielsen** was the president and CEO of Rocky Mountain CRC. Rocky Mountain CRC is a nonprofit 501C3 institution which provides technical expertise and permanent financing for the development and preservation of safe, clean, and affordable housing.

Steven spread his educational training throughout the state of Utah earning a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Accounting from Brigham Young University, and later a Juris Doctorate in Corporate, Securities, Tax, Trust and Estate Law from the University of Utah. During his career, Steven has worked as the Director of Corporate Finance for the Utah Division of Securities, Deputy Commissioner & Staff Attorney for the Utah Department of Financial Institutions, and as Presidents of both Escrow Bank, USA and Capmark Bank.

Steven elected to cap his already successful working career by accepting the position of President and CEO of Rocky Mountain CRC in December 2014. During his time with Rocky Mountain CRC Steven has been instrumental in establishing an organization that has facilitated the development and preservation of safe clean and affordable housing.

Some of his most notable accomplishments while at Rocky Mountain CRC include:

Expanding the company's operating footprint to include seven states in addition to the great state of Utah. This has helped spread the significant capital originating from the state of Utah to other western states, benefiting tremendously the low- and moderate-income households in those areas.

Steven has been instrumental in recruiting and retaining over 35 banks to invest in Rocky Mountain CRC's mission. Under Steven's management, Rocky Mountain CRC is the steward of over \$565 million, which capital is used to finance affordable housing in Utah, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana.

Most notably, during his tenure with Rocky Mountain CRC, Steven has overseen \$292+ million in financing which has contributed to the capitalization of over 7,600 affordable units.

Steven's accomplishments and contributions to the affordable housing community in Utah and surrounding states has been impactful, not just to the households he has helped finance, but he has also helped build awareness and meaningful change in the affordable housing industry. We would like to wish Steven good luck on his retirement and we look forward to seeing what is next for him.

## Congratulations to the 25th Annual Utah Housing Matters Awards Winners!



### Jack Gallivan Legacy Award Harold Woodruff

Mr. Woodruff 's contribution to the affordable housing scene in Utah is not just notable but transformative. His architectural expertise, coupled with a passion for creating sustainable, inclusive, and affordable living spaces, has left an indelible mark on both urban and rural communities in the state. His life's work in the affordable housing arena has provided equitable housing solutions, employing creative value through modification and suggestive means and methods to ensure the successful completion of each affordable housing project he touched.

Thank you, Harold for your continued love of your community, your passion and the need for great architecture for our most vulnerable.

Click [here](#) for the video.

### Member of the Year Kristy Chambers Columbus Community Center

This award is given to a member organization of the Utah Housing Coalition that has gone above and beyond their call of duty to help advance our mission.



### Agency of the Year Weber Housing Authority

This award is presented to an agency that best exemplifies ways of dealing with the affordable housing community and serves as a model for how to accomplish goals in an efficient,

professional and unique manner.



### Urban Project of the Year Residence at West Haven

This award is given to an urban project that demonstrates great leadership in the financing, targeting, and building design.

### Rural Project of the Year Beaver Meadows

This award is given to a rural project that demonstrates great leadership in financing, targeting and building design.



### Green Project of the Year Cinnamon Springs

The committee felt that recognition of upgrading energy efficiency in Natural Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) warranted recognition.

### Person of the Year Carol Hollowell Switchpoint

This award is presented to an individual in our community who has shown leadership and innovation in their field or who has gone beyond their call of service to advocate for, preserve and grow the affordable housing inventory in our state.



### UHC Housing Leader on the Hill Marsha Judkins

This award is presented to an individual who works as part of the State Legislature to advance housing resources and legislation that benefits housing and homeless programs in Utah. This person demonstrates leadership beyond the norm, advocates for those who have no or very poor housing and shelter and works tirelessly for all of Utah's citizens.

Coming Soon!  
Look for  
UHC New Website



### Utah Housing Coalition

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## Special Thanks To Our Generous Sponsors & Our Key Note Speaker Governor Spencer Cox

Salt Lake City Housing Authority  
Rocky Mountain CRC  
First Step House  
Utah Nonprofit Housing  
Habitat for Humanity Salt Lake  
Restore Utah  
Rocky Mountain Power



### Key Note Speaker Governor Spencer Cox

Gov. Spencer J. Cox is a husband, father, farmer, recovering attorney, and Utah's 18th governor. He's also currently serving as 2023-2024

chairman of the National Governors Association.

Gov. Cox has a long track record of public service, serving as a city councilmember, mayor, county commissioner and state legislator before being appointed as Utah's lieutenant governor in 2013. He was sworn in as governor on Jan. 4, 2021.

During his first term in office, Gov. Cox has cut \$1.1 billion in taxes, implemented landmark changes in water law, water conservation and infrastructure planning, locked in record funding for education and teachers, enacted universal school choice, and secured funds for affordable housing. A long-time advocate for suicide prevention and mental health resources, he's become a national voice on protecting youth from the harms of social media. He also signed early education and workforce program funding, launched the One Utah Health Collaborative, and expanded opportunities for women, diverse

communities and those living in rural parts of the state.

***As our state grows, we must provide more housing opportunities, build more trails and recreational options, and invest more in strategic infrastructure for the future of Utah***

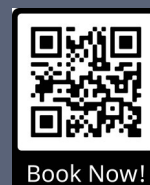
With a focus on solutions, Gov. Cox promotes respect in politics and innovation in government, works across party lines to find common ground, and regularly participates in hands-on service projects. These elements are the foundation of his NGA Chair's Initiative, "Disagree Better: Healthy Conflict for Better Policy."

A sixth-generation Utahn, Gov. Cox was born and raised in Fairview, a town of 1,200 in the center of the state. He met First Lady Abby Palmer Cox at age 16 and they married after he returned from serving a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Mexico. He attended Snow College, Utah State University, and the Washington and Lee University School of Law, then clerked for U.S. District Judge Ted Stewart and worked at a Salt Lake City law firm. Several years later, Gov. Cox and First Lady Cox moved back to Fairview to raise their four children – Gavin, Kaleb, Adam, and Emma Kate – on the family farm. The governor, first lady and Emma Kate currently reside in the Kearns Mansion, also known as the Governor's Mansion, in Salt Lake City.

For a downloadable copy of our Awards Program please click [here](#)



Scan the QR Code below to get your room booked early



Book Now!

# Message from the Executive Director



## January 16<sup>th</sup> starts the 2024 Legislative Session

The 16th may be the official start of the session, but work started to stage the session the day after last year's session closed. The Governor has already set the stage for the state budget with a large amount of funding for housing and homelessness. (Deseret News)

What to expect this session. The session will start focusing on setting the budget through appropriation committees, Housing & Homeless are in the Social Services Appropriation. We need to work on moving housing out of Social Services and back into Business, Economic Development, and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee because housing is economic development. But that is a conversation for another time.

In the beginning we will also see bills that have been vetted during the interim session on the floor. We will see bills introduced on Land Use, Property Tax, Landlord Tenant, Energy, and other items that will affect housing.

What to expect from the Utah Housing Coalition. Each week we will send out a bill tracker with bills we are following. We will reach out to our members and partners if there are questions about bills that may pop up unexpectedly. If you ever want to see how the sausage is made just call me.

801-815-5014

What we expect from you. You are the experts; we hope you will reach out to your representatives when there is an action alert. Legislatures are not experts in everything, they respect their constituents and the value they bring to their district.

### We kick off 2024 with a new Executive Board

The Coalition would not be what it is today without incredible leaders on our Board. We want to give a big thank you to Kristy Chambers who has been the Chair of UHC Board for the past 2 years, she will now move to the position of past Chair. We would also like to give thanks to Jim Schultz for his commitment to the Board as Chair and Past Chair. His guidance and expertise will be missed on the Executive Committee.

I want to say a special thanks to them for the guidance they have given to me personally and to the organization. Kristy who always challenges me to think about stretch goals and the future. Jim keeps me on my toes with our great conversations and his advice when issues arise.

I want to welcome Sherri Wittwer to the Executive Committee as the new Chair, Tony Milner Vice Chair, Nick Fritz as Secretary, and Austin Davis staying on as Treasurer.

The Coalition has an incredible board. Each member brings their specialty to call upon when needed.

I want to thank them all for their commitment to the Coalition's mission.

Through Education, Advocacy, and Community Partnerships, the Utah Housing Coalition is dedicated to promoting equitable and sustainable communities to ensure all Utahns have a safe and affordable place to call home.

We seek to accomplish our Mission through the following activities:

- Advocate at the local, state, and federal level
- Provide outreach and partnership-building among diverse groups
- Organize training and capacity building for housing professionals
- Disseminate data and information
- Engage in community education and outreach
- Conduct research and policy analysis

### Utah Housing Coalition

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