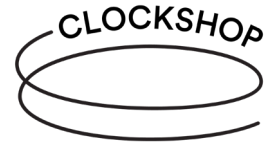


# The Community Pact: Neighbors Resisting Gentrification



Clockshop adapted language from “The Community Pact: How to Open a Restaurant While Centering the Community and Resisting Gentrification,” originally published on February 15, 2022 by Sissy Trinh on the Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA) website.

“Am I a gentrifier?” is not the essential question. Instead, we encourage neighbors in gentrifying neighborhoods to ask yourselves, “What are you going to do about it, and how will you leverage your position to center vulnerable residents and businesses?” The gentrification of Los Angeles continues to be driven forward by investors and speculators whose common goal is to generate profit through redeveloping and flipping property. The “revitalization” of neighborhoods through green infrastructure, such as parks, as seen along the Los Angeles River, often causes rents and land value to rise and heightens speculation, a process called “green gentrification.”

This **Community Pact** can serve as a starting point for neighbors and business owners in gentrifying neighborhoods to move and become active community members fighting for positive change in our communities.

We invite you to consider your relationship to your neighborhood’s economic, cultural, and historical dynamics and how you might best support the local community:

- 1. What are the connections between the history of your neighborhood and its current realities?*
  - Learn about the history, culture, and issues affecting the community. What are the strengths, challenges, needs, and priorities of vulnerable residents? Have an open dialogue with community members vulnerable to local issues such as gentrification, displacement, tenant harassment, language access, etc.
  - Situate your own actions in the context of community concerns and dynamics. Think critically about any potential or unintended harms you might be reinforcing.
- 2. What power and resources at your disposal can you use to protect the existing community?*
  - Center the voices of marginalized community members. Amplify and participate in local campaigns and organizations fighting for equitable community development.
- 3. How can you support the local economy?*
  - Support legacy and community-serving small businesses, local street vendors, and workers/entrepreneurs who face barriers to participating in the mainstream economy.
  - If you have a business: hire locally and target workers coming from historically excluded communities, pay living wages, provide employer-sponsored health benefits, and collaborate with and host local organizations.
- 4. How can you materially contribute to local organizing efforts?*
  - Volunteer with or donate supplies to community leaders and nonprofit organizations.
  - Support a community benefits fund, or give money directly to eviction defense/right to counsel, anti-wage theft prevention, and affordable housing protection campaigns.
- 5. How can we increase neighborhood access to affordable housing and public space while protecting communities of color from over-policing and criminalization?*
  - Poverty or houselessness is not a crime. Do not harass, threaten, or remove members of the community. Use de-escalation tactics and contact a social service agency (call 211 or a local service provider) for community members in need of assistance.