

# Medium



## More Than One Winner

### The Housing Innovation Competition

The Mayor's Housing Innovation Lab's recent [Housing Innovation Competition \(Compact Living—Garrison Trotter\)](#) is an example that innovation in housing is more than possible. The competition resulted in six distinct proposals from six unique teams. Each of the proposals offered a well researched and developed approach to creating affordable, compact units for families and elderly in Garrison Trotter.

1. [UHOMES BY URBANICA](#)
2. [DREAM DEVELOPMENT](#)
3. [MAPLE HURST BUILDERS](#)
4. [DOMA HOMES](#)
5. [HEARTH HOUSE](#)
6. [LIVELIGHT](#)

The proposals also served as a reminder there are typologies missing from Boston's housing stock. These proposals explore new housing opportunities for Boston and offered actionable approaches to take them on. Upon reflecting on these possible options, several insights became evident for how the City of Boston can add to its affordable housing approaches.

#### *Unconventional financial schemes: Identifying mechanisms for housing to actually serve as means for rent/mortgage subsidization*

Multiple proposals, including [DOMA Homes](#), Urbanica, and Dream Development, offered alternative mechanisms for financing rental or mortgage payments. All three point to increasing capacity for owners to rent portions of their home in order to subsidize mortgages. [DOMA Homes](#) proposes a flexible, modular style home that adjusts to the shifting needs of a family, so they can rent various portions of the unit—ranging from a studio to a 3-bedroom unit. Dream Development and Urbanica points to the advantages an Additional Dwelling Unit could play—not only to subsidize mortgages for owners, but also to create space for multi-generational living, *i.e.*, a grandparent, uncle, niece, or child. These proposals acknowledge innovative housing does not just offer a new product or physical component, but also could offer alternative mechanisms for financing one's living arrangement.