

From the Ground Up

ZINE

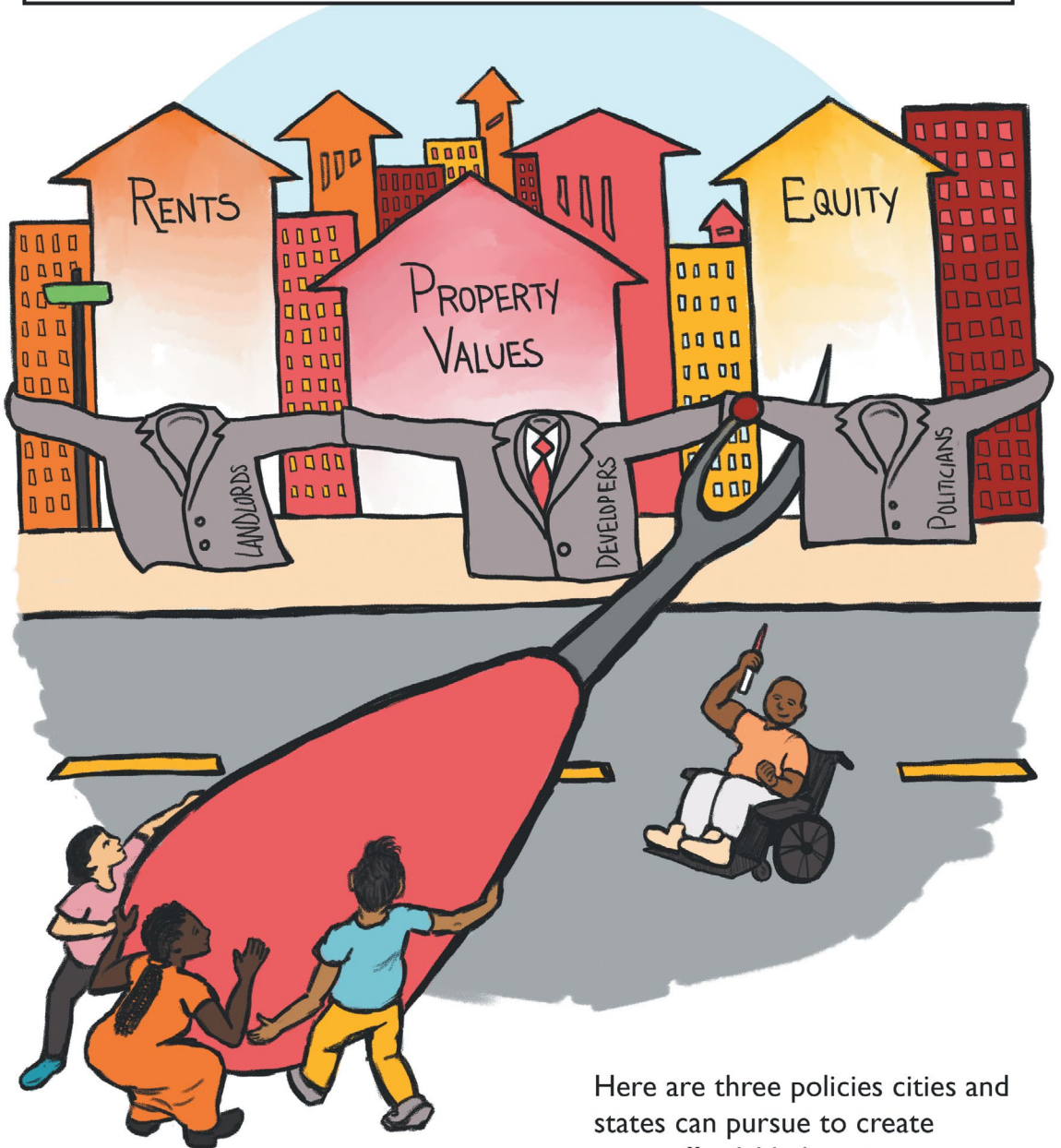




For too long, profits have been the driving force behind development in our cities, and in the process, basic human needs and rights have been ignored. This crisis has been getting worse every year.

Housing is a human right, and residents, not corporations or hedge funds, should be the active participants and beneficiaries of development decisions.

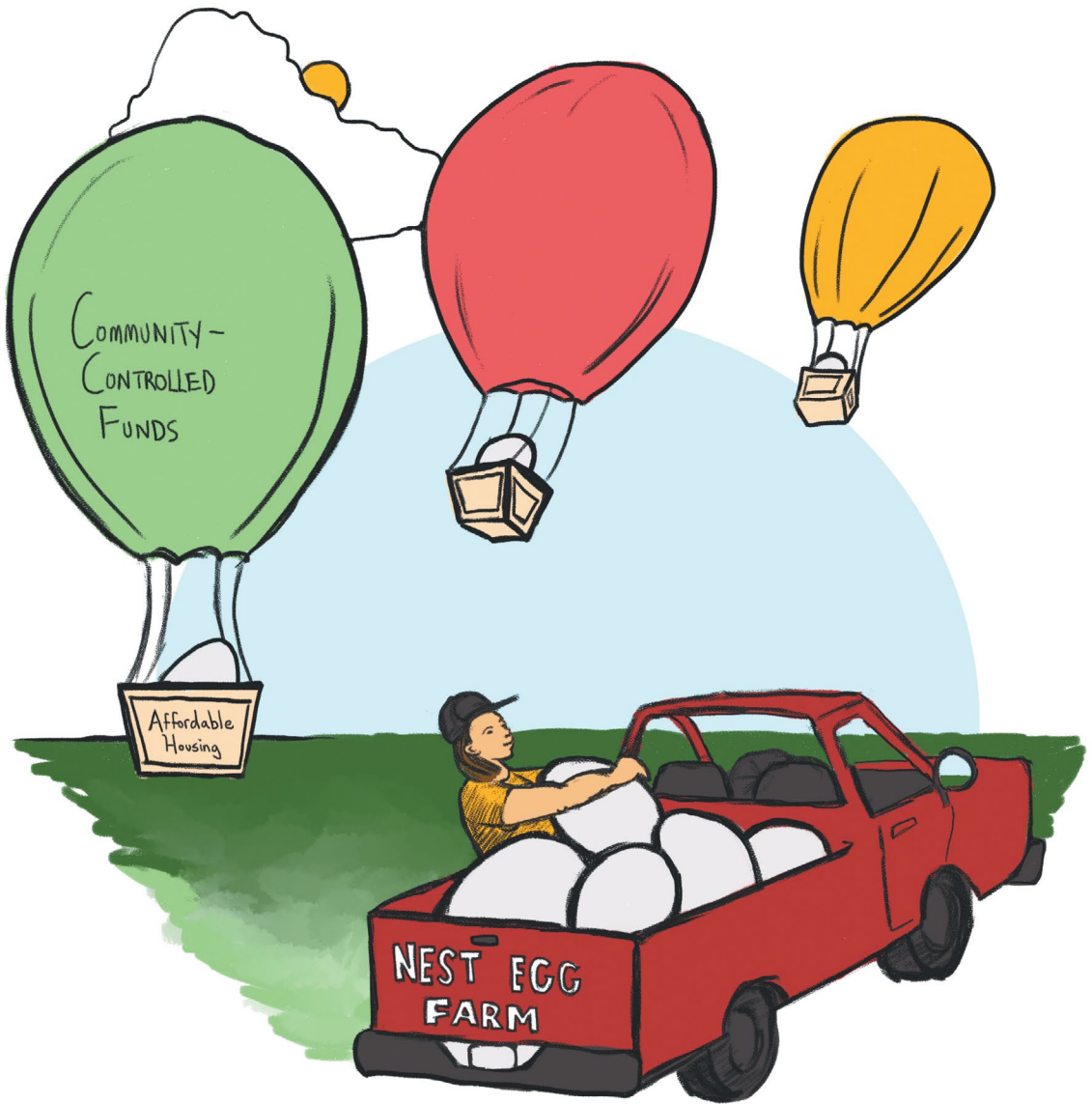
The relentless pursuit of ever higher property values is the seam that draws political and financial forces together. But we can pull at its threads to make it come apart.



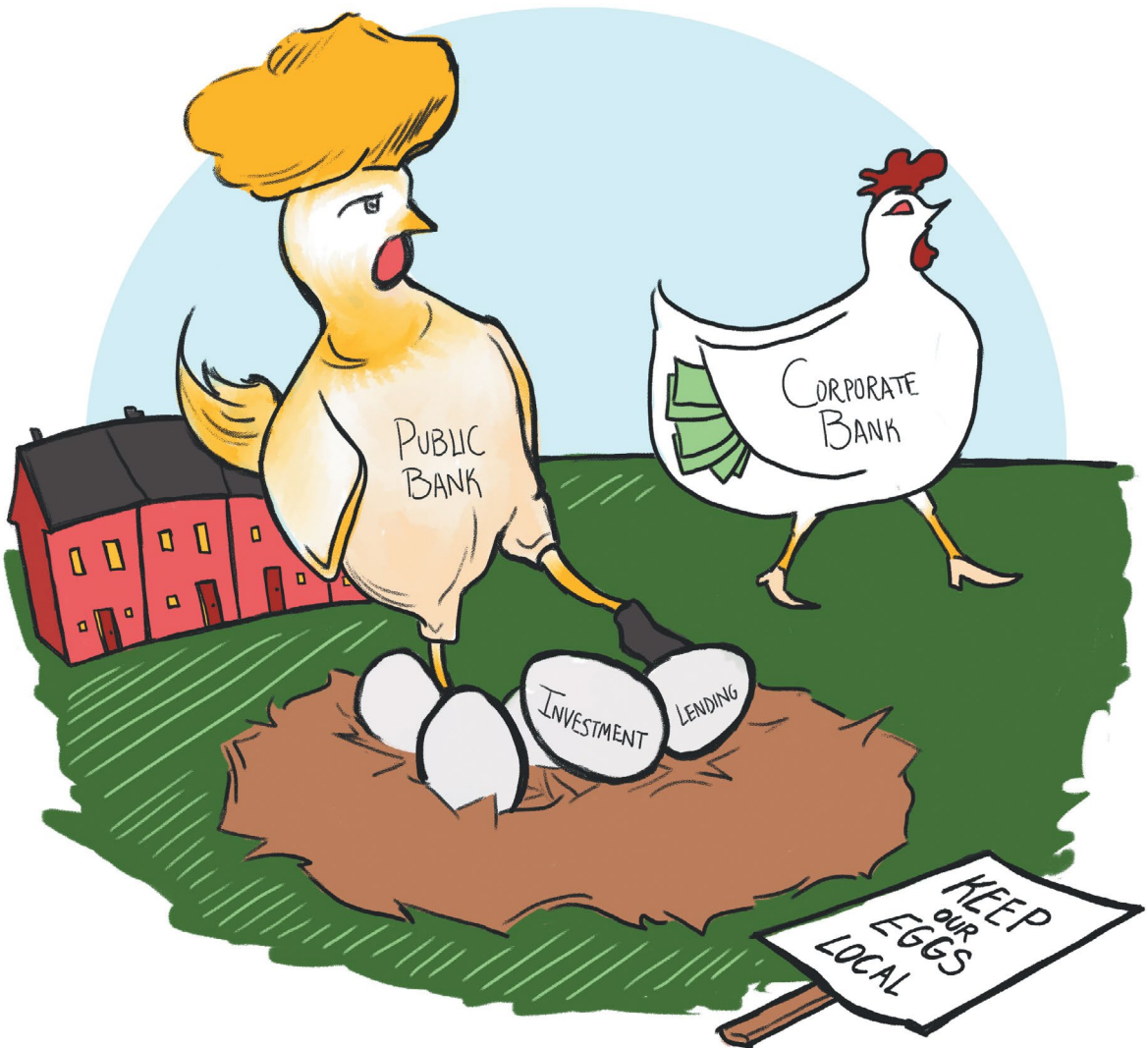
Here are three policies cities and states can pursue to create more affordable housing:



I. The creation of permanently affordable housing through community land trusts can break housing free from profiteers.



2. Speculative capital investments in real estate can be redirected to funding affordable housing through taxes that redirect this money to community controlled funds. Public and private pensions can divest from funds that facilitate real estate speculation.



3. The long and continuing history of racism in private lending can be upended by public banks, which can create a new lending dynamic not based on profit. A state or local Public Bank can increase the amount of capital available and lower its cost for communities of color, both for residential and commercial development.



Using public policy and private action, we can resist the speculative housing market. We can usher in new, just and fair development, transforming who owns and controls land and how we invest in our neighborhoods.

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