



Peter Burgess &lt;peterbnyc@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fw: [April 4] Community Finance: The Key to City-wide Community Driven Upgrading a talk by Somsook Boonyabancha**

1 message

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**christopher macrae** <chris.macrae@yahoo.co.uk>  
Reply-To: christopher macrae <chris.macrae@yahoo.co.uk>  
To: Peter Burgess <peterbnyc@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 31, 2016 at 12:43 PM

peter looks bit tight to get to this on monday/

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** The Global Urban Futures Project <[globalurbanfutures@newschool.edu](mailto:globalurbanfutures@newschool.edu)>

**To:** macrae chris <[chris.macrae@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chris.macrae@yahoo.co.uk)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 31 March 2016, 11:44

**Subject:** [April 4] Community Finance: The Key to City-wide Community Driven Upgrading a talk by Somsook Boonyabancha

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**THE NEW SCHOOL**  
**GLOBAL URBAN  
FUTURES**

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*Presents*

**Somsook Boonyabancha**

**"Community Finance: The Key to City-wide**

# Community Driven Upgrading for Inclusive and Sustainable City development"



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**April 4th**

**2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Wolff Conference Room (510)**

**6 East 16th St**

**New York, NY 10011**

RSVP [here](#)

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*Introduced by*

**Ana Marie Argilagos**

Senior Advisor at the Ford Foundation

**Robert Buckley**

GUPF Fellow

**Somsook Boonyabancha** is founder and secretary general of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights. She was director of the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) in Thailand from 2003 to 2009 and prior to that director of the Urban Community Development Office. She began working on housing and land issues through supporting land-sharing schemes in Bangkok in the early 1980s.

Somsook developed the methodology for "land-sharing", an urban land use innovation built around a mutually beneficial deal between urban squatters and the owner of the land who wishes to develop for commercial purposes. The slum dwellers get new, better, if more dense housing on a back portion of the plot in dispute, and the owner gets the street-front portion freed for immediate development. Everyone wins.

In 1988 Somsook moved to bring her ideas and values to bear beyond Thailand; she, together with a number of NGOs in Asia, founded the **Asian Coalition for Housing Rights**. Through the Coalition she has brought together the groups, working for better housing conditions all across Asia, and she provided the leadership that has helped them put an informed international spotlight on important or disturbing problems (e.g., evictions in Korea or older workers in Hong Kong reduced to living in long rows of tiny cages stacked three high, to develop new understanding, to provide training, and to support initiatives in the fields members wish to lead. For example, the Coalition is now beginning to investigate rural as well as urban evictions and is helping Vietnam learn quite unfamiliar decentralized approaches to managing its housing.

Housing rights has been one of the most important issues in all of **ACHR's** work, from the coalition's very beginnings in 1988, to the work they are doing around the region today. All of the people and groups that make up the ACHR coalition feel this is the key issue that needs to be dealt with: that people in Asian cities should not be deprived of their rights to live in decent houses, in supportive human settlements, with access to basic services and public amenities, just because they are poor and cannot afford even the most minimum formal housing the private and public sectors provide.

Learn more about the [ACHR](#).

You can learn more about **The Global Urban Futures Project** and connect with us



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