

2023 ARIZONA HOUSING FORUM

BRIAN MICKELSEN HOUSING HERO AWARD

Outstanding Affordable Housing Initiative

CHUCK CENTER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TUCSON

Total Project Cost \$3.6 Million

The Connie Hillman Urban Construction Knowledge Center (CHUCK) serves as Habitat Tucson's newly inaugurated construction hub, warehouse, and training center. It provides job training and intern opportunities with real-world experience building affordable housing using modular wall panel innovation. The facility, located on property owned by Habitat Tucson in the Flowing Wells neighborhood features over 15,000 square feet of storage, classroom, residential, construction, and office space. Volunteers, staff, AmeriCorps members, and students experience hands-on learning opportunities. The CHUCK creates a pathway into the trades and brings deeper construction knowledge to Southern Arizona.

The impact of the CHUCK positions Habitat Tucson to reduce costs through bulk material purchases and storing materials. By expediting production, building indoors, and exposing students to trades, the CHUCK facilitates building more homes and partnering with more families. Leveraging modular wall panel innovation can reduce exterior build time from 6 months down to 2-4 weeks.



Public Opening March 2023

The CHUCK Center's Modular Construction Program produces 13 Unique Wall Sections that can be arranged in limitless combinations to produce exterior load bearing walls for our homes. Homes are designed using modular panels and are comprehensively reviewed for constructability with special attention to safety, efficiency and production.

Standard panels include ZIP System® Wall Sheathing that delivers Structural 1 Shear Rating, has a built-in water resistive barrier, and a continuous air barrier. The use of this system eliminates the need for house-wrap and other roofing and exterior skin system underlayments. At an average of 25 panels per home, and a conservative production rate of 10 panels per day, CHUCK helps produce panels for 8 homes per month or panels for 96 homes per year (an 800% annual acceleration of production). With the addition of the CHUCK, wall building and construction site work run concurrently, expediting dry-in time and completion.



Housing Construction Job Training

A major outcome of the development of the CHUCK is that Habitat for Humanity Tucson helps create better professionally trained individuals working in their community. Habitat Tucson's goal is to steward 100 students/individuals through the new workforce development program a year.

Trade fields like construction, have seen a steady decline in skilled employees. As a generation of skilled tradesmen approaches retirement, not enough younger workers are trained to replace them. The CHUCK Center is designed to include workshop, classroom, assembly, warehouse, and housing space for long-term volunteers. Our vision is to empower aspiring tradespeople to build their careers locally.

