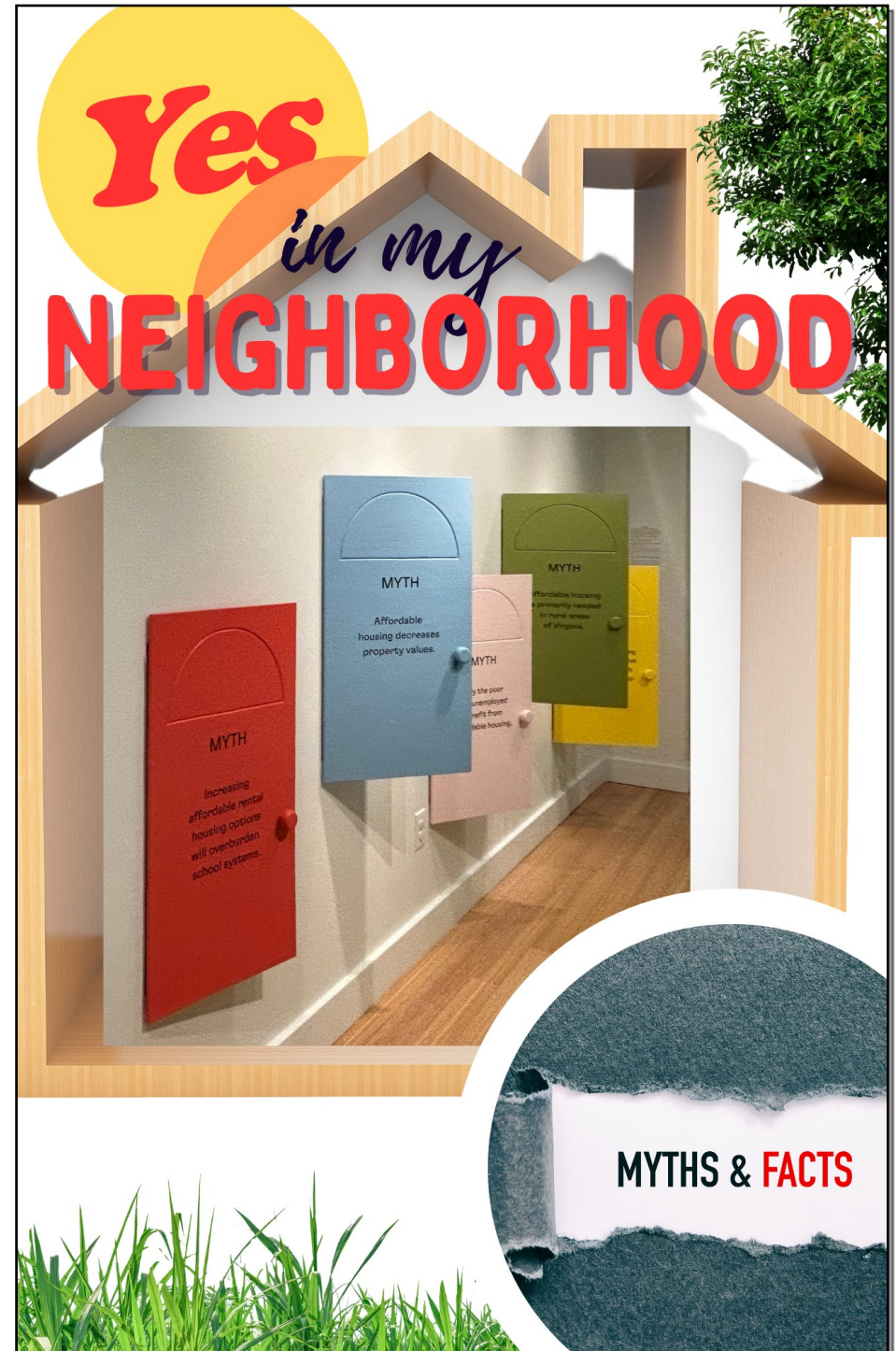


Building or transforming existing homes or rental units into affordable housing stimulates the local economy by creating jobs, increasing workforce availability and retention, and increasing disposable income of residents.⁹



ONE ISSUE addressed by many of the artists in *More Than Shelter* is housing insecurity. For almost a century, the United States has been trying to find affordable housing solutions. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, affordable housing or cost-burdened households are defined as the “occupants paying no more than 30 percent of gross income, including utilities.”

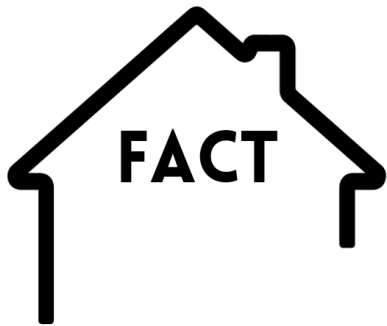
EARLY ON, public opinion surrounding affordable housing efforts was negative, with people holding a NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard) attitude, objecting to affordable housing in their neighborhoods while not opposing it elsewhere.

Recently, researchers at Old Dominion University found that perceptions are changing as an increasing number of community members recognize the need for and benefits of affordable housing.

Reveal the truth behind five myths about affordable housing.

Special thanks to professors Veronica Thomas and Kiren Karande at Old Dominion University for their research and commitment to finding affordable housing solutions for Hampton Roads.

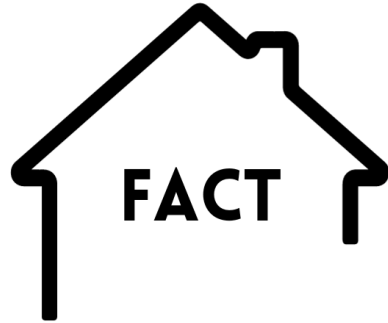




67% of cost-burdened households in Virginia live in highly populated regions of the state.

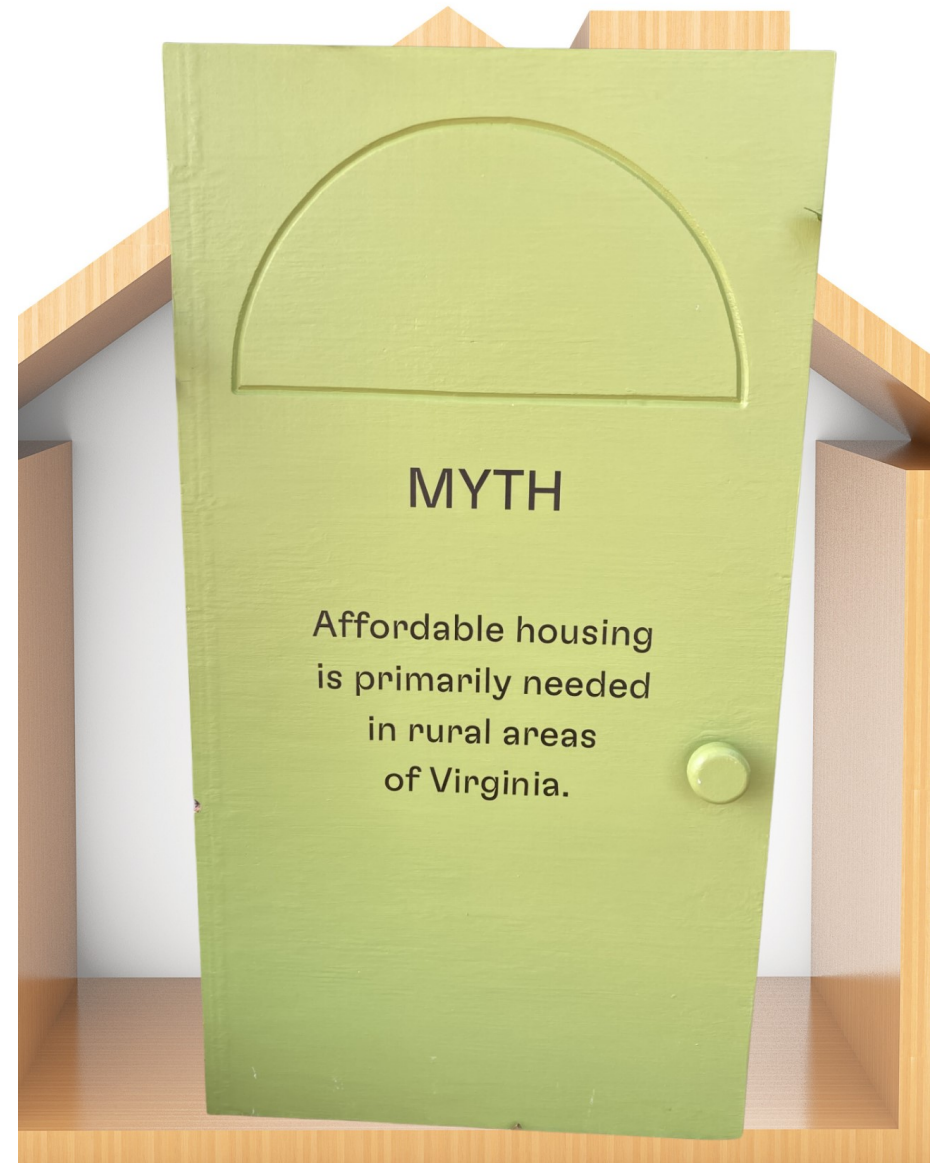
And 35% of households in Hampton Roads are cost-burdened, the highest of any other region in Virginia.⁸

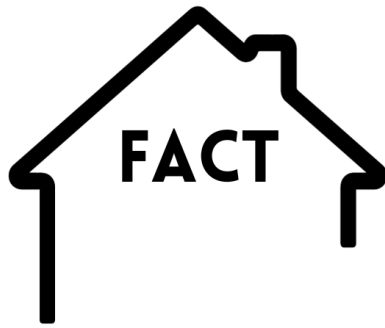




Affordable rental housing has no significant effect on school performance data.¹

And children who grow up in stable housing experience better physical, emotional, and cognitive well-being.²

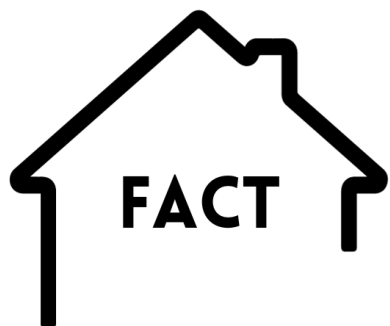




Affordable housing does not just benefit the poor. As of 2019, 29% of mortgage owners⁵ and over 50% of renters⁶ do not have affordable housing.

Many people struggle to find affordable housing, including some with occupations such as home health aides, teaching assistants, bus drivers, and social workers with salaries ranging from \$22,00-\$51,000.⁷





Affordable housing frequently results in a null or positive effect on surrounding property values.³

And 85% of public housing meets or exceeds federal quality standards.⁴

