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# Bradley Cooper

## 2015 Haile Fellow

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### About

Brad Cooper believes architecture should be more than just a service. Born and raised in Cincinnati, Cooper has explored this notion through a number of distinct projects like LIVE MAKE, a design competition for an industrial arts center; and Place from Space, a place-making competition that transforms vacant lots into vibrant community spaces. Since his education at the University of Cincinnati, Cooper has been interested in “architecture as a product” and driver of community engagement. Currently, Cooper lives in Anderson Township.

### The Haile Fellowship

In 2015, Cooper will build two, 200 sq.ft. zero-net-waste tiny houses in Over-the-Rhine. The project, called **Start Small**, will engage neighborhood residents from the outset, affording Cooper the chance to gauge basic needs and requirements for tiny living before breaking ground. During his fellowship, Cooper hopes his experiment in self-sustaining tiny home creation can provide a model for future developers and spark a city-wide dialogue around affordable housing production at all socioeconomic levels.

### Why it Matters

While Cincinnati’s median home sale prices have been on the rise<sup>1</sup>, Greater Cincinnati’s household median income has been stagnant for almost five years<sup>2</sup>. Currently, almost a quarter of Greater Cincinnatians earn between \$15,000–\$35,000; local developers can’t construct affordable housing for this demographic without tenant’s rent being subsidized through government assistance (Section 8 vouchers) and/or receiving low-income housing tax credits. Cooper’s project provides a compelling solution to the issue; his model could allow those at every income level the chance to invest in their communities via home ownership.

National research shows that, because of their stake in the neighborhood, homeowners want to contribute to the future of their community. This results in more civic engagement and volunteerism, as well as improved health and school outcomes for children<sup>3</sup> By providing a viable alternative to existing affordable housing models and demonstrating the value of transparent local development, Cooper hopes his work will serve as a model for tiny building in Cincinnati going forward.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.trulia.com/real\\_estate/cincinnati-ohio/market-trends/](http://www.trulia.com/real_estate/cincinnati-ohio/market-trends/)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/economic-intelligence/2013/10/29/protecting-the-future-of-american-homeownership-is-vital>

