

### **Portland, Maine and the Affordable Housing Crisis**

Using a holistic research approach, Lola delved into all aspects of Portland, Maine's current housing crisis. While Covid-19 has exacerbated housing struggles to unprecedented levels, the city has a long and troubled history with affordable housing. Through archival research, Lola was able to develop a historic account of Portland's affordable and public housing, which brought greater understanding to the present crisis. By researching a national trend of banning single-family zoning to preserve affordability, Lola reviewed the effect zoning has had on Portland's housing crisis. Lola was able to better understand the benefits of multi-family zoning following interviews with nine local housing, preservation, and planning organizations.

#### **Personal Statement:**

I am so grateful for this research experience, as it allowed me to bring my interest in urban studies to a local level and make valuable connections. I learned more about housing and Portland than I ever could have expected. I appreciated the flexibility offered by this fellowship, as the complexities of the housing crisis often led my research in unexpected directions. I hope to continue investigating some of the questions that have been brought up by this fellowship.