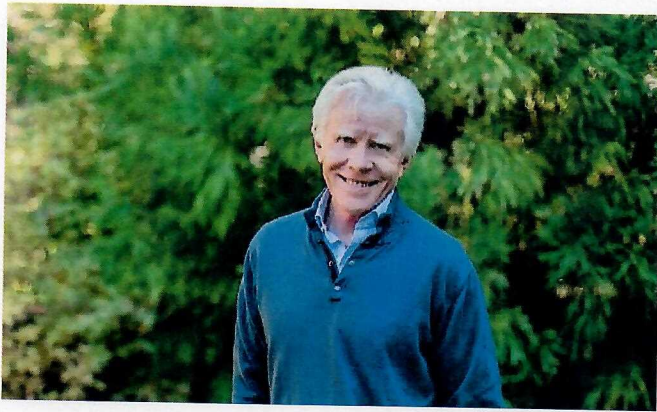


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# serenbe



## Steve Nygren Town Founder and Managing Partner

Steve Nygren is Founder and Managing Partner of Serenbe, the award-winning biophilic community connecting people to nature and each other and the leader of the Agrihood movement. Steve is a Partner in Nygren Placemaking consulting and a serial hospitality entrepreneur. He founded the 34-restaurant hospitality group, Peasant Restaurants in the 1970's. He led the effort to create the Chattahoochee Hill Country Alliance bringing together landowners, developers, and conservationists for a mutually agreed upon solution for balanced growth across 40,000 acres. This effort resulted in a historic Georgia land use plan adopted to preserve 70% of the acreage on the edge of Atlanta while providing 20% more housing than traditional yield of suburban sprawl.

His work has earned him the Global Wellness Institute's Leader in Innovation Award and Southface's Argon Sustainability Award as well as recognition from the Urban Land Institute and the Atlanta Regional Commission. He was also named Georgia Trend's Most Respected Business Leader for 2019. Steve currently serves on multiple local and national boards dealing with children, agriculture and environmental issues including The Ray C. Anderson Foundation, Children & Nature Network, Chattahoochee Now and The Biophilic Institute.

[Serenbe](#) is a 1,200-acre land mass with only 10% of the land currently disturbed for 800 residents and growing each week. 70% of the land will be preserved for farming, forest, and recreation.

## Innovative Ideas at Serenbe

**Arts.** Base recurring funding for the arts is through a 1% transfer fee on all homes sold and resold each year. The [Art Farm at Serenbe's](#) mission is to touch the deepest wells of the human spirit through art and nature.

**Agriculture.** Serenbe's 25-acre certified organic farm is located within the community with houses lining the farm. The farm's agriculture program includes an active CSA, Farmers Market, edible landscaping at crosswalks and common areas, and a composting program that provides 100% of added nutrients for the farm. [The Rodale Institute Southeast Organic Research Center](#) is on a neighboring 300 acres.

**Health.** The commercial center for one of the community hamlets is focused on health vitality with over 30 professional providers in a 26,000 sq ft office building and 10 live work units. An innovative VIP Wellness Program will open in 2023 followed by an Aging in Place Campus. Serenbe is a leader in the emerging Wellness Real Estate market, an industry valued at over \$300B, and received the [Global Wellness Institute's Leader in Innovation Award](#) in 2017.

**Education.** Serenbe has one of the early [Acton Academy](#) programs and is building a campus for 450 students, ages 6 weeks to 18 years old.

**Environmental Stewardship.** All buildings are Earthcraft Certified for energy and water usage. Geothermal is a requirement for all homes eliminating the noise of HVAC compressors and reducing dependency on fossil gases. As a result, energy consumption is reduced 50%. Homes are also solar and EV ready. A model non-chemical natural wastewater treatment system services the community in addition to using treated water for irrigation, there are night sky regulation and much more. Formation of the [Biophilic Institute](#) is headquartered at Serenbe.



**Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Information Required From Nongovernmental Witnesses**

House rules require nongovernmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. Name: Steve Nygren
2. Organization you represent: Serenbe
3. Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee: Steve is Founder and Managing Partner of Serenbe, the award-winning biophilic community connecting people to nature and each other and the leader of the Agrihood movement. He led the effort to create the Chattahoochee Hill Country Alliance bringing together landowners, developers, and conservationists for a mutually agreed upon solution for balanced growth across 40,000 acres. This effort resulted in a historic Georgia land use plan adopted to preserve 70% of the acreage on the edge of Atlanta while providing 20% more housing than traditional yield of suburban sprawl. Serenbe is a 1,200-acre land mass with only 10% of the land currently disturbed for 800 residents and growing each week. 70% of the land will be preserved for farming, forest, and recreation.

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4. Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee: In addition to his experience developing Serenbe, Steve currently serves on multiple local and national boards dealing with agriculture and environmental issues including The Ray C. Anderson Foundation, Children & Nature Network, Chattahoochee Now and The Biophilic Institute.
5. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold: Town Founder and Managing Partner of Serenbe