

Discovering Freedom and Connection
with Renee Seevers

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We help the tiny house community
use their lower housing costs to
build financial independence.

With Laura Lynch



Full Episode Transcript

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Discovering Freedom and Connection with Renee Seevers

It takes a brave and independent mindset to go tiny. If you are trying to figure out your tiny pivot, this podcast is here to inspire and connect you with the other unconventional, gritty, inspirational people within this community.

I'm Laura Lynch, your tiny house friend and host. On this show, we are always going to come back to money because, as a financial planner, this is the question I hear the most: How do I make this work for me financially?

Well, that's my jam. So jump in, let's go. New episodes drop every Thursday.

Laura Lynch: Well, Renee Seevers, thank you so much for joining me on Less House More Moola Podcast. It was Alaska, the tiny house concierge who connected us. So thanks, Alaska. I'm so thrilled that you are going to talk with me today because you are such an influencer of folks going tiny and you sort of crafted this beautiful industry out there in the Western part of the United States, where you're helping people see the opportunity and sort of grasp the opportunity and take steps towards tiny.

So I'm sure that what you have to say today is going to be so important for everybody listening. So if you would, Renee, just introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about your tiny journey.

Renee Seevers: Sure. Thank you. It's good to be here. I am Renee Seevers. I am the CEO of TinyFest and my business hosts Tiny Home and Nomad Living Festivals. So it's a really exciting job that I've created for myself, a career I've created. I get to do wonderful things with my friends and family. And it's something that I started back in 2017, as I started living tiny also in 2016, and I got this little teeny, tiny house. It's 87 square feet, and I called it my starter tiny. It was inexpensive, so that was a good thing, and that kind of a nice way to step in and really see how I use space because I hadn't even really been in hardly any tiny homes at that time, and seeing them, it was on TV, which is really hard to grasp on television how it's going to work for you or seeing photographs on social media. It's like, well, what's it really like? So I got this little starter tiny and I hauled it off to a couple of events, which I thought was really fun. And I loved the events because people can see the

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homes. They can step inside, they can feel it, and experience it. And you can hear people when they're in there making comments like most often the comment is, "Oh, it's bigger than I thought," not my house, but the houses on display at the events, and then you can hear them say, "Oh, I like this. I think I would need more of that," or sometimes the opposite, "Wow, that's a lot of kitchen counter. I don't cook that much. I could use that space for something else."

So it's a trade-off like what do you want your space to do for you? So anyway, I loved seeing the people at the events and seeing their eyes light up and start seeing the possibilities that were out there and getting a little more excited about their goal, this little dream that they'd had.

And so after going to a couple of them, I said, we need more of these. We need to have these in the Midwest. I live in Iowa, lived in Iowa and people in Iowa just didn't quite understand tiny living yet. I'm still a little newer, people on the coast were experiencing a little more. So yeah, I decided, well, I could have one of these events. I don't know, I don't even host dinner parties you know what I mean? I've never hosted an event before, much less an event for thousands and thousands, right? But I did it. We pulled it off. I had a lot of great help and had the first TinyFest Midwest. Jay Shaferr was our guestnote speaker.

He came out from California. He's actually from Iowa and the godfather of tiny living so that was pretty exciting. And our first event, we had around 4,500 people in Iowa and it was fabulous. I loved seeing people experience the tiny homes and their expressions. So I felt like I was a fish out of water, you know, in Iowa I didn't know other people.

And I think any part of the country, you can feel that way. I don't know other people that want this, everybody's wanting their big McMansions and I'm wanting the opposite. It just felt like maybe I was off and not understood, and then I kept hearing that at the event, other people saying that, "Oh, I'm so glad to meet everybody. There's more people like me. This is great." And they didn't feel so odd. They felt supported and understood. And then also they're learning more and seeing more. I just had to keep it going. It was very

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fulfilling and very exciting to see it come together and to see everyone's positive reaction.

Laura Lynch: That's amazing because you're so right. People have to see and experience things themselves before they're willing to make such a big change in their life and to depart from sort of the conventional norm that we're all used to. It kind of takes a building-up process and you get the idea and then you've got to reconfirm, reconfirm, reconfirm several times before you're kind of ready to imagine yourself in that new lifestyle. So what you've done is so important for people and probably super fulfilling for you. So did you stay in that starter tiny home or where did your tiny home take you from a logistical standpoint?

Renee Seevers: I did stay in that home for four years. Again, it was 87 square feet. It might've been four and a half, something like that. It took me all over because one of the reasons that I got that tiny home was because it was small, I felt comfortable pulling it. So when I first saw my first tiny house in person, I was like, oh my goodness. I am not comfortable thinking about pulling that giant, you know, seeing a giant thing, giant tiny house down the road.

And I wanted to be able to be mobile. So I had it in Iowa for a while and I took it on a few trips, but then after TinyFest Midwest, I thought, "I think I can take the show on the road. I'm set up for it." So I went out to California and I stayed in the area there for a little while in the Bay Area and I hosted TinyFest California, and then I took it up to Oregon and I hosted TinyFest Northwest.

So it was great. It was like this traveling show. I got to stay in the area, really learn what people were needing in that part of the country because each area has really its definite own needs and desires for living tiny. Very different in Iowa, California, and Oregon, those needs and those drivers. There's, of course, very similar drivers that we all know, the big ones, but it was great to be able to live in those areas and then host an event, and then move along. I also had two daughters, and so one was in Oregon at the time, so I stayed for a while, then the other one was in Iowa, and I went to Iowa for a while, so we'd go back and forth and do a big scoop the loop between Iowa and Oregon, and so I've spent a lot of time all over the West in my little teeny tiny.

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Laura Lynch: Awesome. So Renee, when you and I talked a few weeks ago, you shared with me how tiny living has guided you over the years and sort of molded you over time. So would you share with us a little bit about that, how you feel like that this one particular has shaped you?

Renee Seevers: Absolutely. It was really interesting. It was unexpected, but when I moved into my tiny house, I noticed a couple of trends. One was I was stopping at the store and wandering around. I had a bad habit of buying things that were inexpensive, like, oh, it's only two bucks or that's five bucks, I'll get that. Well, I then had a new question to ask, it wasn't like it doesn't cost too much and then that was overcome by \$2, whatever. But then it was like, oh, but where would I put it? So I wasn't buying things and after a while, I'd go into the store and I'd wander around and I'd walk out with nothing.

Why do I keep doing this? Why do I keep going into the store and wandering around? And it was a habit that I didn't even know I had. And so I had more free time 'cause I wasn't running these little superficial errands that I didn't need to run. I had more money 'cause I wasn't spending. And then I just started noticing things, right? When you don't have all of this stuff around you and all this busy, crazy, got to go here, go there. You can really open your eyes to what's around you, notice it slow down. So first thing I noticed was why do I have all this garbage?

I'm like this little teeny tiny house, why am I accumulating all this garbage? I need to do a better job of recycling. So I put that front and foremost, recycling right there, handy, hid the garbage can. That helped. I was recycling more, then I thought, why do I have all this recycling? Like, why am I using so much stuff and why am I not more careful about what I'm choosing?

So it really led me to a more eco-friendly life. It wasn't that I was searching for that, I feel like I was conscious. I was doing a little recycling before, but it took me to a new level. And it was just because I had the bandwidth to notice more of what I was doing and the choices that I was making.

Laura Lynch: That's such an interesting journey that tiny living took you on. I've noticed a really consistent thread with almost all the guests that I've had on this podcast, and that is tiny living inspires us to be our best selves. And

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it does take us on a journey where we are constantly iterating and getting a little bit better. What do you think is at the heart of tiny living that inspires people to be their best selves?

Renee Seevers: I think at the heart of it is less distraction, less stress. Those two things, oh my goodness, the things stress will do to you. Stress will have you acting in ways you are not proud of. It'll hurt your health.

When that is gone, when the other stuff just melts away, in 87 square feet, there's not a lot of time for distraction. There's not a lot of distraction, and yeah, it almost comes naturally. So I think at the heart of it, I guess, would be absence, absence of the unneeded. And so then what's more important really starts floating to the surface. And a lot of people I feel like go tiny because they know what's so important to them, and they just feel like they can't get that, and so they're striving to get to what is important.

And then I think sometimes, other things pop up, you go, oh, I didn't also know this was going to be this benefit. And I didn't know that my stress level would go down and my decision-making would improve. The two big things, I kind of mentioned it earlier, that I hear the most are want more time or want more money, financial freedom and freedom of my time. And behind those two things, there's always more. What do you want time for? Time doesn't really do much for you unless you replace it with something wonderful. It's not the more time that you want, it's the more time in order to. It's the benefit that you get from it.

And if people want more time to find a career that fulfills their heart instead of just their pocketbook, maybe they want more time to spend with family, more time to travel, and more time for themselves to let that stress go and maybe take a little better care of themselves, so there's always more to the more time and the more money that really fuels your fire. And the same with money, to what benefit is it to you is one thing I think each person really needs to ask themselves, especially if they're saying they want to go tiny because they want more time, more money.

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To what end, to what benefit? Because once you can really nail that down, get your why, why do I want to do this, then you can really start moving forward with your goals.

Laura Lynch: Yeah, I think that why really goes back to core values. And once again, for listeners shameless plug for my values worksheet on my website. I really think that once we understand at our deepest core what are the couple of things that really drive our decision-making, it can help us decide sort of whether tiny living is in alignment with those things. And I've shared before minor independence and exploration, and I just really love the idea of not being so dependent upon maybe a corporation for my income and others, grocery stores, I want to be able to grow some of my own food, all of those types of things really help drive my decision making.

And so I think that that's a great exercise for folks is to think about what their actual deepest values are, and that way they can know whether or not those things that are underlying the more time, more money are really in alignment with their true selves.

Renee Seevers: Yes. You mentioned independence and had a couple of things came to mind. I had been living in a 3,300-square-foot house. I think that my master bathroom was way bigger than my entire new tiny, and whenever anything would go wrong, a little plumbing issue, a little electric, anything, it was like, okay, who am I going to call? I don't know how to fix this.

When I got my tiny house, there it was. If I had an issue, I just, okay, the water goes from here to here. It doesn't go very far. I can pretty much see all the pipe. I can figure this out. I can do this. And I did call and get help sometimes, but when I called to get help, it was, can you show me how to understand this? Can you show me how I can take care of this myself? It was a great thing for confidence and independence. And it was just me. My kids had gone off to college. My boyfriend had walked away, just gone one day. So it was just me and it was very helpful to be able to take care of those things myself and feel confident in that.

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Laura Lynch: And it's manageable, right? If you can, with a tiny house, it's so much more manageable to understand all of the things that are going on in your tiny house than to understand everything that's going on in a 3000-square-foot house.

Renee Seevers: Yeah. It just didn't seem so overwhelming, just a big house you're like, I don't know, the pipe goes through the floor and it's gone. Oh, how do I know, but it just seemed like the right time to take control of my life and my abilities.

Laura Lynch: So you've mentioned time quite a few times. And I know that as you are gearing up for your 2024 events, you're really thinking about how now is the time for folks to really make this first step or take this leap forward. What do you think it is about this moment in time that is really sort of crystallizing this idea for folks and really helping push people forward and push the movement forward?

Renee Seevers: I think seeing it more and more. It's not often the fringes, the strange, weird idea, this novelty, it really is becoming a more viable solution, and the housing options are getting broader.

So we're seeing things in between now. It was like, oh, you could have a 2,400 square foot house, or here's this cute little tiny house at 240 square feet. Well, now we're getting all kinds of options in between, lots of options and you can really find the right size house for you. So a, the options are out there, b, people are more accepting of it and they're realizing with this, what you might call the time and money crunch that they feel. I think COVID taught a lot of people that having more time on their hands could be a good thing. Sometimes too much time on your hands is not, right, but we learned, hey, this is okay to have a little time to ourselves, and this money crunch that we're in right now where a lot of people are feeling the cost of groceries go up and up and everything out there go up and up, those needs are getting stronger.

The opportunities are getting more prevalent. We're getting more places where you can legally place them. Though goodness knows we have a long way to go with that. The ball is now rolling and when a ball is rolling downhill,

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it picks up steam. So we have a lot of great people to thank for that. And everything's just converging together to make this a great time to get the right size house for you.

Laura Lynch: Yeah. I was just listening to the market news this morning and just hearing about 3D-printed concrete homes that are happening in Denver and just so much the industry, the housing industry is so ripe for disruption because of the inefficiencies of bringing a crew and all the materials on-site to build a customer, you know, or even a patterned home in a huge development. Still, there's a lot of waste there and it's just a very inefficient process. So it's good to see all kinds of new ideas coming to the housing market because truly the affordability is demanding new solutions as there's a huge shortage of housing.

So I am super excited anytime I'm hearing movement and it may not be ultimately the movement, you know, concrete coming out of a 3D printer may not be the ultimate solution that sticks for the long term, maybe it is, but ultimately it helps us generate new ideas and think of things that are different than what we've been thinking of for the past 50 years or so. So what kind of roadblocks, when you are talking to folks at your events, what kind of roadblocks are people facing and what are some of the best tools for overcoming these roadblocks?

Renee Seevers: There are a couple of big roadblocks that I hear over and over. First one, where do I put it? Where can I put it? It is unfortunate that the decision-making for allowing, for zoning building codes, minimum square footage size, those things are made at the lowest level, the municipality that you live in. So if you live in the city, it's in city limits. If you're outside the city limits, it's county. And so everywhere you go, they're different, right? It's like, I think San Diego area has 17 different municipalities, and then there are regulations at state level. So it's really hard right now to figure out where you can put what, depending on how it's built and how big it is, all these different variables. Well, that is improving as more and more places are going to state-level regulations or working toward it.

So far, we haven't seen a lot of it, but they're really working for it. If you talk around in the background, you can hear what things people are pushing

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forward so that's nice. Another roadblock is financing. Tiny house was a square peg in a round hole, they're great. The square pegs' great, the round holes there, you got to figure out how to make them work together. So knowing how to finance a tiny home is really a challenge for a lot of people, and so that one, again, we're getting more and more options. I know out in the state of California, they have some grant programs that they're working with and they are actually passing or just passed, I think, ooh, I'll double-check on that one, regulations that allow the tiny homes or the ADUs, accessory dwelling units, backyard units, to be sold like a condominium. So that's an interesting, that's going to open up some new financing options there.

So things are improving. Insurance used to be a big issue. "How do I insure it?" It's not as big of an issue anymore unless you're looking at a self-built home or a home that is not certified, not built by a builder that goes through the process to have it certified to building codes. So those are some of the big things. The other ones are the other mental struggles that they have on how to get rid of all my stuff, and they're not feeling supported enough to make that big decision. It's a big change to go against the grain, to do something against the norm of society, which is to downsize instead of upsize. So it takes some extra support for that a lot of times. And I love that people can find all these things at TinyFest, they can find the people that support them.

They can feel like they're making this great choice and they're not the only one in the world making it, and they can find the financial help and find the help of where to put it. It's a great way to overcome whatever obstacles you're coming against. You can usually find someone at TinyFest that can help you out.

Laura Lynch: Yes. And that's the great thing that in the community itself that I hear all the time, it's just the way that everyone within the tiny community is so supportive of everyone else. And so it kind of brings back an old tradition of being neighborly and helping out your friends and not being so isolated in your single-family housing complex where you don't know your neighbors, which I think we're all yearning for that connection and that friendship. And so what a great way to sort of get your questions answered is through people

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that are willing and able to help and that could become lifelong friends by meeting those folks at a festival. That's so amazing. I am currently actively just this morning going through my kitchen cabinets for round number whatever as we are in our downsizing process at the moment. Just had spent five weeks in my tiny house and said probably five or six times, "Everything that I need is in here." I don't even know what any of that other stuff I'm doing is in the other house. Like, do I really have to go back and like figure out what to do with all that?

That's the hardest part is figuring out what to do with it. You may know that you don't need it, but figuring out what to do with it is really challenging. And then also the imagining of your future. What if I ever might need this in the future? And these are all mental roadblocks because if you talk to anybody who's gotten rid of their stuff, they're probably not going to have anything to tell you that they miss because it being gone is just streamlined their life so much and they don't even think about what might have been there.

Renee Seevers: And the things that you get rid of, like, especially kitchen stuff, there may be something down there where you're like, "Ah, I wish I would have kept that one thing. I really could use that." Well, you know what? You could just go buy one. The money that you've saved living tiny, and maybe if you had a garage sale or some kind of a sale on marketplace where you sold all your kitchen stuff, box it up and sell it all for 20 bucks, take that 20 bucks and buy the one thing that you found out two years later that you really wish you had kept or two months later whatever, because sometimes it does happen. But I can get rid of a hundred things and wish I'd kept one of them, maybe, so no worries. Don't stress about getting rid of those hundred things. There's stores everywhere you can go get that one if you want. You can go to the thrift store and buy it used. That'd be great.

Laura Lynch: It gives you a reason to go wander around the store.

Renee Seevers: Right? Because you're out of those reasons now. You gotta have something to do with all your free time.

Laura Lynch: Awesome. So share with us a little bit some of the success stories that you've heard from folks who have come to an event maybe and

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have taken the leap. What do you hear from them on the other side about what their life looks like after?

Renee Seevers: It's really exciting to hear from people that we hear a lot when people come to the festival that it really got them going, "We were talking about this, we were doing this, then we knuckled down, and really got it done." And that's exciting to know that it's a catalyst for people.

And when they get there, they are happy. I really haven't had anyone that I know of that has said, "This was the worst decision I ever made." And some people might go into it and try it and realize, "This isn't quite right for me," that changes can be made, and I doubt that they would bounce clear back to where they were.

They might just get something a little bigger. A lot of times people end up getting smaller. The first time you have something to go, the next one is smaller. It's rather interesting, but it just really for people has added a lot to their life, and that it's freed up. Like we talk about a lot of time and money.

And they're able to not work as much, you know, maybe is their option. Everybody has choices and different goals, but that financial freedom, they can retire early. I've seen that, people saying, "I was able to retire early." "I was able to work part-time." "I was able to work on my business that I wanted to do."

And there are a lot of different reasons for going tiny but I think like you said, when you know your values and you know why you're doing it, and you can really feel confident about that decision, then it's going to serve you well.

Laura Lynch: Yes. Well, I think that this is a great time for us to highlight your events that are coming up for 2024. So share with us what all you have lined up and kind of what the themes you're seeing for your events this year.

Renee Seevers: Yes. So on that theme of I don't want to work 60 hours a week, I don't have a lot lined up because my team and I enjoy having some free time. We have fallen into a pattern of we'd like to do two events per year.

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So this year we have TinyFest California in San Diego. It's on March 16th and 17th. And we are working on securing another location for a fall event, and we haven't announced that yet. We're looking at a, hopefully a September, mid-September event as well. Right now it's really nice just to really focus on the spring event in San Diego. It's our fifth year at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, and it's been really fun to add some new things this year. So we are adding ways for people to connect because as you said, connection is really important, and helps you feel supported and move forward and help you get to the resources.

So we're adding ways for people to connect. And we also have a little theme going on, "The Time Is Now". You mentioned that earlier, the time is now. And so one thing that we're going to be doing, kind of fun, we're excited to lay this out. We have a list of top 12 reasons for going tiny, and each one has a number.

So you pick your top reason, what is your biggest value there? And that number is the hour hand on a clock. And then your second top reason is the minute hand, and that gives you a time of day. So if your top reasons were number three and number six, you would have 03:30. And so we'll have a little clock there.

You can set your time and take a picture, little stickers that you can put on your shirt or whatever that has your time. And what we are encouraging people to do is set. Set an alarm on their clock or their phone that goes off at that time each day, just to remind them, "Hey, you have this goal and these are the reasons you picked that time for a reason."

So it should remind you of those reasons. And I find that when you have something on top of mind, when it's right there, where you're thinking about it frequently, it doesn't fall off onto the bazillion things you have going on, things happen a lot faster and a lot more smoothly. You start noticing opportunities, noticing things that could help you use, take little actions that keep you moving forward. So to set that alarm each day to remind you, now is the time, the time is now to keep moving toward this goal, and don't give up.

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Laura Lynch: That's so awesome. It gives me chills. It's a little like way of tricking yourself into staying focused. I think there's that statistic around you're 40 percent more likely to achieve a goal if you just write it down.

Like that's a one-time thing. And I know from our bill process and our move to tiny process, I've got calendars up and days counting down for everything all the time because I do know the power of how that keeps you focused and on task. And right now I'm on a 30-day deadline to get my house on the market.

That's all the cleaning out and whatever. It's a long list of things and it can feel overwhelming, but at the same time, if you just chunk away at it, every moment that you have an opportunity to just do a little thing and it helps keep you moving forward, and then those small little actions as micro-actions snowball over time and turn into the ultimate thing that you are trying to accomplish. So super great idea. I'm sure that'll be really impactful for folks to have that trick to keep them thinking

Renee Seevers: And it'll be fun. We tried to have a lot of fun at TinyFest, as well of this very serious thing, which is very life-impactful and really can help you grow and improve your life in so many ways.

But also let's have fun, so hopefully, that alarm going off will remind you also of the positivity of the events and all the great things that you experienced there and that'll keep your kind of spirits lifted as you're rolling forward. Just sometimes it's hard, you run up against some obstacles and kind of feel beat down and it's good to have those positive memories and in the bank coming forward in the memory bank and keep you rolling.

Laura Lynch: So good. So Renee, if I could, would you share with us what your sort of five-year vision is on the horizon? What do you think is going to happen in the latter half of this decade when it comes to the tiny world and tiny living and the industry at large? Where do you see things going over the next five years?

Renee Seevers: I really see things growing more and more. It's been proven now. This is not a novelty. This is a serious solution for a lot of problems.

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Those problems can be micro-level and macro. And so I'm seeing more and more homes that are—builders that are coming along that are being manufactured homes, which in the past has had a negative connotation, but the manufactured home does not have anything to do with the quality of material that, that term “manufactured in the status”. So you could get a manufactured home that's not-so-great quality or one that's really good, but having the certification of manufactured or modular or even the RVIA certification, which is the RV standard, it gives you those opportunities to fit in, to find that round hole that you can now fit in because you have that certification.

I really just see things growing and more and more people finding this to be a great solution. I do see the homes getting a little bigger. I think that for a lot of people a 120, 180, 240-square foot home just isn't quite right. It's not right for everyone. And it can be a very challenging for families.

The people that do it, they're like, “Yeah, this was great. This was what my family needed.” But I think, a little bit bigger and a little bit bigger, which is great because I've always said, I feel like that tiny homes like mine was an extreme 87 square feet. It just kind of set the other extreme end, right? If you have a line, a range, and you've got 10,000-square-foot McMansion on one side, you need to have the 87-square foot on the other side. So you can start working your way toward a reasonable middle and a range of reasonable options. So I really think that that size, I think that, somewhere in the 300 to 600 square feet is going to be really very, very popular.

When you have a well-designed space, you can do so much with it and it will feel so comfortable. And I think that that size is going to get pretty popular for people, especially with the accessory dwelling units, backyard homes. Yeah, it's just all of these things that you talked about on the building end and the things from buyer's end are coming together very well right now.

Laura Lynch: So good. Yeah, I shared and I don't think it's the episodes going to be out yet. Maybe when this one airs, but I think people get in kind of a fixed mindset sometimes, right? And we know what a traditional home looks like and then we see tiny home and we think very small.

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And I think you're right that there needs to be maybe more of a middle ground for most people, but at the same time, I think it is giving us an opportunity to rethink what our spaces are doing for us because if you look, I recently published a LinkedIn article that showed the size of home over time and the size of family over time, and they have gone in the opposite direction. Homes have gotten bigger. Families have gotten smaller. So we haven't built homes to fit the families. We've been building homes to fit our need for status. And so I think finding some very good practical space and designing space around how families are using their space.

And so in our case, we are not just contained to our 308 square foot tiny home all of the time because we are building a large shop for my husband to work out of because he has heavy equipment and a lot of tools and so we will have more than that square footage for the practical use of work. And so for folks that are working from home, maybe they need a studio building, which is what we're working on for me.

And so what is contained in our tiny houses, our bed for sleeping and my kitchen for cooking and, the little bit of lounging that we do after dinner before we go to bed and really we're creating other spaces for other uses, but it's all aligned with how we spend our time instead of just having four empty bedrooms that I feel compelled to fill with antique furniture.

Renee Seevers: Yes. And clean and wonder. When I was in my giant house at one point I was in it just by myself, I guess the kids had moved out and yeah, there I was 3,300 square feet. "Oh, I haven't been upstairs in a while." There's four bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs, I'm thinking, I hope a family of squirrel says, "I moved in," because I haven't gone to check on anything, so it's like, why have all of that space and feel the need—and then my next thought was I probably had to go up there and clean up even though no one had been there, you've still got dust bunnies and stuff like that. Goodness. No, thank you. No, thank you. So I have moved now from my teeny tiny up to a short bus. So yes, I moved up to about a hundred square feet.

I haven't broke that mark, but I'm the same way as you right now. I am now married and we both live in the bus. My husband builds tiny off-grid cabins

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and does a lot of logging and excavation-type work. So he has those big things that we now have a property with a shop. And so it's nice.

Things are really evolving the way that life is taking me, and it's nice to have that flexibility and the flexible options that a tiny home will give you. So we actually have a larger single-wide trailer that was on the property when we bought it, in excellent condition for it for his age, but we were like, no, thanks. We'll just take the bus. So we rent that out and we live in the bus and then we bought a tiny house on wheels. We rent that out on Airbnb and we live in the bus. And so we're building a cabin, 200 square feet. It'll be a wonderful space. And I think we'll probably stay in it for a little while over the winter 'cause it has a wonderful wood stove and a little more—now we have two dogs, but we're already talking about, yeah, but in the summer, we'll go back to the bus, we'll rent that out too. And we'll be back in the bus. It's just comfortable and it fits our needs. Yeah, it's home..

Laura Lynch: Awesome. Well, Renee, thank you so much for all of your great wisdom from your time within the tiny living space and also from all of these folks that you're seeing at your events. I'm sure that everybody's super excited about TinyFest California in March. So make sure that you all check that out and get your tickets so you can go and see what all is going on within that community in California and all the people that are coming from all over to that event. And Renee, are there any links you'd like to share your website or social or anything?

Renee Seevers: Yes. Everything's pretty easy. It's tinyfest.events. So the website isn't a dot com, it's dot event. And so there you go. It's same with Instagram and Facebook. I think Facebook doesn't have the dot in there, but you'll find it. TinyFest Events and you'll find information about TinyFest California, the upcoming event, and you can see past events.

It's really fun to check things out. We get about 10,000 people come to—eight to ten thousand. So you are not alone out there, and like you said we have people from all over the country and sometimes other countries as well that pop in for the events And so it's really exciting to see people come together.

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Laura Lynch: So good. Well, thank you so much for sharing all that with us, Renee.

Renee Seevers: Thank you. So nice to be here and talk with you again today. We've had a few similarities in our journey and it's always nice to find another kindred soul.

Laura Lynch: Awesome.

Hey, I'm honored that you listened to this episode of *Less House More Moolah*. I hope something in it will help you continue to move toward a life aligned with your values.

Every algorithm out there is trying to tell us what to prioritize, but we get to choose. If you haven't ever identified your key values, I have a free resource on my website to help you.

You just have to go to thetinyhouseadviser.com. It's the tiny house A-D-V-I-S-E-R dot com.

At the bottom of the page, you can grab the tiny life values worksheet. When we design a life around "what is our core truth?", we shortcut to deep fulfillment.

See you next Thursday.

Please see the show notes for an important disclosure regarding The Tiny House Adviser, LLC and this episode.

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