Black Portland: Case Study

Right 2 Root Campaign of the Community RE/Construction 3.0 Initiative: Demonstration Through Living Project
Cat Goughnour
Equality = SAMENESS
Equality is about SAMENESS, it promotes fairness and justice by giving everyone the same thing.

BUT it can only work IF everyone starts from the SAME place, in this example equality only works if everyone is the same height.

Equity = FAIRNESS
EQUITY is about FAIRNESS, it’s about making sure people get access to the same opportunities.

Sometimes our differences and/or history, can create barriers to participation, so we must FIRST ensure EQUITY before we can enjoy equality.
Equality vs. Equity
“Quit whining. It’s the same distance.”
Black or African American Percent of Total Population 1970
North/Northeast Portland by Census Tract

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>African Americans</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>21,571</td>
<td>382,610</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North/Northeast</td>
<td>10,453</td>
<td>87,851</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Created by Portland Housing Bureau; June 2014
Source: 2010 Decennial Census, National Historic Geographic System

Black or African American Percent of Total Population 1980
North/Northeast Portland by Census Tract

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>African Americans</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>27,731</td>
<td>360,383</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North/Northeast</td>
<td>22,387</td>
<td>83,584</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Created by Portland Housing Bureau; June 2014
Source: 2010 Decennial Census, National Historic Geographic System
Black or African American Percent of Total Population 2010
North/Northeast Portland by Census Tract

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>African-American</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>38,095</td>
<td>683,776</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North/Northeast</td>
<td>12,274</td>
<td>83,237</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 Decennial Census, National Historic Geographic System

Created by Portland Housing Bureau, June 2014.
TAKE ACTION IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BLACK PORTLAND!

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
SAT. NOV. 14
1 PM - 5 PM
at Self Enhancement Inc.
3920 N. Kerby Ave, Portland

CHILDCARE AND FOOD PROVIDED

SPONSORED BY
RADIX Consulting Group, llc
healing symptoms - changing systems

FUTURE EVENTS:
DEC 12, DEC 17
SAVE THE DATES

DESIGN WORKSHOP
SAT. DEC. 12th from 1pm to 5:30pm
at the Center for Intercultural Organizing
700 N. Killingsworth St.

CHILDCARE AND FOOD PROVIDED

TAKE ACTION IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BLACK PORTLAND!
The Right 2 Root campaign of the Community RE/Construction 3.0 Initiative

In accordance with the EcoDistrict Protocol, 7 areas of community development were identified and broken out into priority criteria. Participants were asked to rank these top areas of interest and importance based on community needs.

4 areas of development rose as levels of importance and attention, and will form the foundation of the December 12th design charrette. Architects will be asked to push the boundaries of innovation, creativity and industry standards when designing within these categories, and to keep HEALTH, INNOVATION AND MAKER ECCODISTRICTS as the guiding logic.
The corrosive effect of gentrification can be found throughout the nation even in the "liberal" whitest city of America Portland, Oregon. Portland is known internationally as a leader in urban design with many boasting of its bike-friendly streets, accessible 20-minute neighborhoods and quaint local business culture. In fact, this year, Portland was named the best U.S. city by the real estate company, Movato.

Unbeknownst to many, however, Portland is also a case study in gentrification, a glaring reminder that urban economic disparities will persist as long as the structural inequalities of our economy remain.

Other cities riding the cusp of the latest development trends have experienced the same results. In Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York, inner city neighborhoods that were once majority black have been inundated with plans for redevelopment. The upward redistribution of wealth through public-private partnerships, have rewarded real estate speculators, exporting long time black residents and bringing in higher income predominantly white residents

To halt this practice a growing community-led movement calls for an end to displacement by promoting policies that dismantle systemic barriers to economic opportunity and prosperity.

- Huffington Post, January 2014
Last November, the City of Portland's Development Commission (PDC) announced plans to provide a 2.4 million dollar subsidy to develop a long time vacant property with billion-dollar California developer Majestic Realty. The property is in the heart of the city's historically Black community; which happens to be one of the fastest gentrifying zip codes in America. This decision was announced only weeks after the city committed to including a new network of Black leaders, the Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF), in any major development decisions that would impact the Black community, and months after inviting Portland's NAACP Chapter to a key PDC advisory group -- only to later deny their application.

In a recent open letter, PAALF called into question the cronyistic city policies that continuously funded the rich at the expense of the poor, and then demanding that any further development in the area support the stabilization of its historic Black residents. A statement released by the Portland NAACP strongly encouraged a stop to the development.

Nationally there is much to be done that can address the record level of American economic inequality. It is a fight which must occur city by city. Growing economic inequality will only cease with an end to gentrification. There must be restorative policies that address past wrongdoings, and forward thinking policies that will make our urban centers as places of opportunity for all racial and income groups.