Undoing The Racist Legacy of Planning

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Objectives

- Understand the ways that planning has been used as a central tool of government at federal/state/local levels to perpetuate segregation and racial inequities
- Understand the ways that planning can be used to reduce barriers and create equity, including specific case studies
Structural Racism in Planning

Housing Segregation and Redlining in America: A Short History
Redlining

“The Federal Housing Administration underwriters warned that the presence of even one or two non-white families could undermine real estate values in the new suburbs. These government guidelines were widely adopted by private industry. Race had long played a role in local real estate practices. Starting in the 1930’s, government officials institutionalized a national appraisal system, where race was as much a factor in real estate assessment as the condition of the property. Using this scheme, federal investigators evaluated 239 cities across the country for financial risk.”

“The House We Live In” episode of Race the Power of An Illusion
Protective Covenants in Vermont

No person of any race other than the white race shall use or occupy any buildings or any lot, except that this covenant shall not prevent occupancy by domestic servants.

https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/what-are-covenants/
Greenlining

The Rye Meadows neighborhood in South Burlington's southeast quadrant on Monday, October 25, 2021. Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Debate over conservation vs housing development comes to a head in South Burlington

Segregation in Vermont continues through restrictive housing policies
Development/ Urban Renewal Projects

Before Burlington's Proposed Mall Makeover, They Called It 'Urban Renewal'

What It Looks Like to Reconnect Black Communities Torn Apart by Highways
Black Land Loss & Property Law

Black Land Loss Statistics from the USDA: https://inequality.org/research/owns-land/

How Property Law Is Used to Appropriate Black Land, Vice News: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls3P_FicO7I
Black Homeownership in Chittenden County

**HOMEOWNERSHIP**

Homeownership among Black and African American households is significantly lower than White households.

- Of Black and African American households in Chittenden County: 83% Rent, 17% Own
- Of White households in Chittenden County: 36% Rent, 64% Own

Source: American Community Survey 2019 5-Year Estimates
The Possibilities for Racially Equitable Planning
Counter-Mapping to Undo Racism

- A digital map for reparations for Black and indigenous farmers
- L.A. Equity index

Participants in Soul Fire Farm’s Black Latinx Farmers Immersion program prepare a bed for planting.


LA Equity Index: https://lacontroller.org/data-stories-and/maps/equityindex/
Community Land Trusts

Photo from Vermont Land Trust

King County Equity Now: https://www.kingcountyequitynow.com/solutions/black-land-ownership/
Land, Community and Local Control: http://mechanismsforcommunitycontrol.qwriting.qc.cuny.edu/community-land-trusts/
Champlain Housing Trust: https://www.getahome.org/
New Communities Inc.: https://www.newcommunitiesinc.com/
Fannie Lou Hammer Community Land Trust, Cooperation Jackson: https://cooperationjackson.org/sustainable-communities-initiative
Pine Island Community Farm: https://vlt.org/pineisland
Placemaking

Fifty Years Ago, Fed Up With the City’s Neglect, a San Diego Community Rose Up to Create Chicano Park, Smithsonian Mag

Chicano Park in San Diego
Making Planning Public

Photos from the Design Studio for Social Intervention

Uphams Corner Street Lab: https://www.ds4si.org/civic-engagement/2015/12/29/street-lab-uphams

M/B/T/A Lab: https://www.ds4si.org/creativity-labs/mbta-lab

People’s Redevelopment Authority: https://www.ds4si.org/civic-engagement/pra
So...how can planning play a role in racial equity?

- Provide opportunities for community participation (not top down) and community driven solutions
- Provide opportunities to bring planning into the public space
- Provide opportunities for innovation outside of traditional planning tools that challenge power relationships and investigate issues of racial and economic inequity
Asante.

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Thank you!