

“Activism is my rent for
living on the planet.”
— Alice Walker

Activism, Engagement, and Baltimore

Voices on Equity: Erin O’Keefe

July 14, 2020



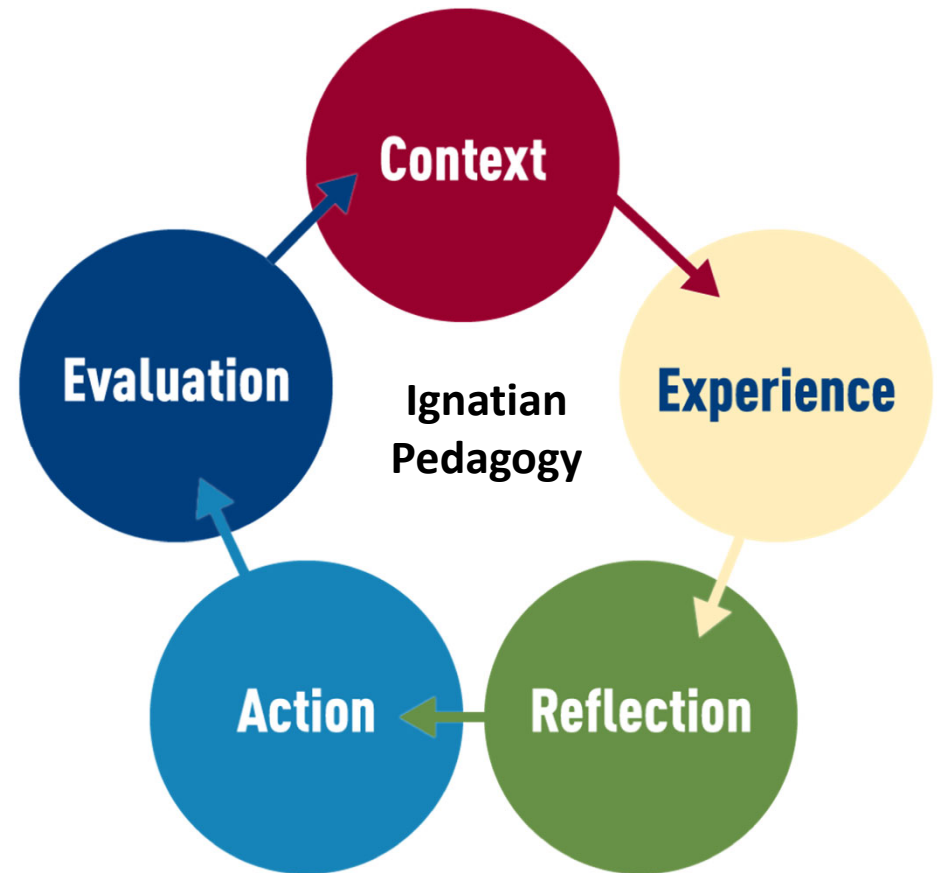
Steps to being anti-racist

- It is the **active process** of identifying and eliminating racism by changing systems, organizational structures, policies and practices and attitudes, so that power is redistributed and shared equitably.
- It **examines** the power imbalances between racialized people and non-racialized/white people.
- It is the **practice** of identifying, challenging, and changing the values, structures and behaviors that perpetuate systemic racism.
- It is an **active** way of seeing and being in the world, in order to transform it.

*See: [Walking Through the Moment: Lessons Learned and Ways to Recognize and Practice Antiracist Behavior](#) with Karsonya Whitehead, Ph.D., associate professor of communication and African and African American studies at Loyola, and Helina Haile, M.A., Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

Activism @Loyola?

- **“Ignatian citizens**
 - think of themselves as part of something larger,
 - as responsible for the betterment of our shared world;
 - **as [people] who think and act for the rights of others, especially the disadvantaged and the oppressed.”**
- Ignatian pedagogy provides a models for commitment to lifelong learning, openness to new experiences, reflection, action, and personal as well as societal change.
- **Critical Components:**
 - **Anti-racist, intersectional lens**
 - **Shifts power to marginalized communities**
 - **Impacted communities lead**



Context



Begin with ourselves.



What are the histories, identities, and experiences I bring?



How does my experience intersect with the communities I am entering?

Context

64% of Loyola undergraduate students report engagement in service, community engagement, advocacy



34% of
first-year
students

52% of Loyola graduate students report engagement

72% of Loyola Faculty, 63% of Loyola Administrators & 55% of Loyola Staff Members report engagement

*** Self-reported data from Loyola's October 2018 participation in the National Assessment of Service and Community Engagement (NASCE), which includes any activity with or assisting members of community(ies) to address unmet human needs in areas like housing, health, nutrition, education and economic opportunity through the university or entirely on one's own.**

Context

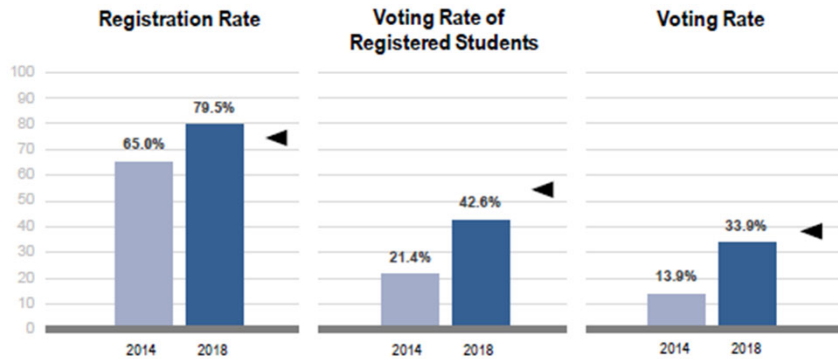
YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Voting and Registration Rates

2018 Voting Rate
33.9%

CHANGE
FROM 2014
+20.0

2018 VOTING RATE
FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS
39.1%



***Loyola undergraduate and graduate students' voter registration and voting rates in the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections from National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE)**

By Field of Study*

* Your students' data broken down by field of study. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students. The green and red highlighted values below represent your campus's top three and bottom three voting rates by field of study.

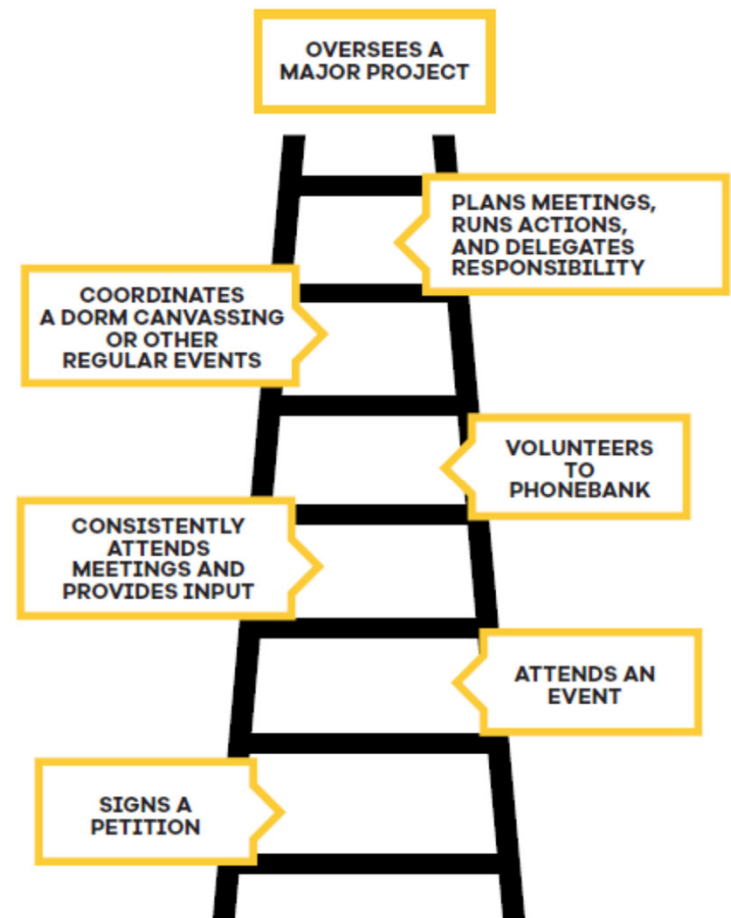
	2014			2018			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	0	0	n/a	289	65	22.5%	n/a
Business, Management, and Marketing	0	0	n/a	1,258	346	27.5%	n/a
Communication and Journalism	0	0	n/a	316	82	26.0%	n/a
Computer and Information Sciences	0	0	n/a	101	40	39.6%	n/a
Education	0	0	n/a	596	330	55.4%	n/a
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	0	0	n/a	159	44	27.7%	n/a
English Language and Literature	0	0	n/a	97	31	32.0%	n/a
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	0	0	n/a	13	*	n/a	n/a
Health Professions	0	0	n/a	222	64	28.8%	n/a
History	0	0	n/a	46	24	52.2%	n/a
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	0	0	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	0	0	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a
Mathematics and Statistics	0	0	n/a	45	17	37.8%	n/a
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	0	0	n/a	588	154	27.1%	n/a
Philosophy and Religious Studies	0	0	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a
Physical Sciences	0	0	n/a	34	10	29.4%	n/a
Psychology	0	0	n/a	312	111	35.6%	n/a
Social Sciences	0	0	n/a	258	104	40.3%	n/a
Theology and Religious Vocations	0	0	n/a	55	34	61.8%	n/a
Unknown	4,663	642	13.8%	37	16	43.2%	29.5

↑ Education
History
Theology

↓ Biology
Communication
Multi/Interdisciplinary

Experience

- On Campus
 - Join a club working for equity, change
 - Register to vote; Vote
 - Take a service-learning course
 - Apply to attend the Ignatian Solidarity Network Teach-In
 - Build trusted relationships, listen, learn
- Off Campus
 - Join CCSJ long-time justice partnerships
 - Attend a neighborhood association meeting
 - Participate in a resident-led community event
 - Build trusted relationships, listen, learn



Reflection

LEAVES

What impacts or problems do you see facing your community?

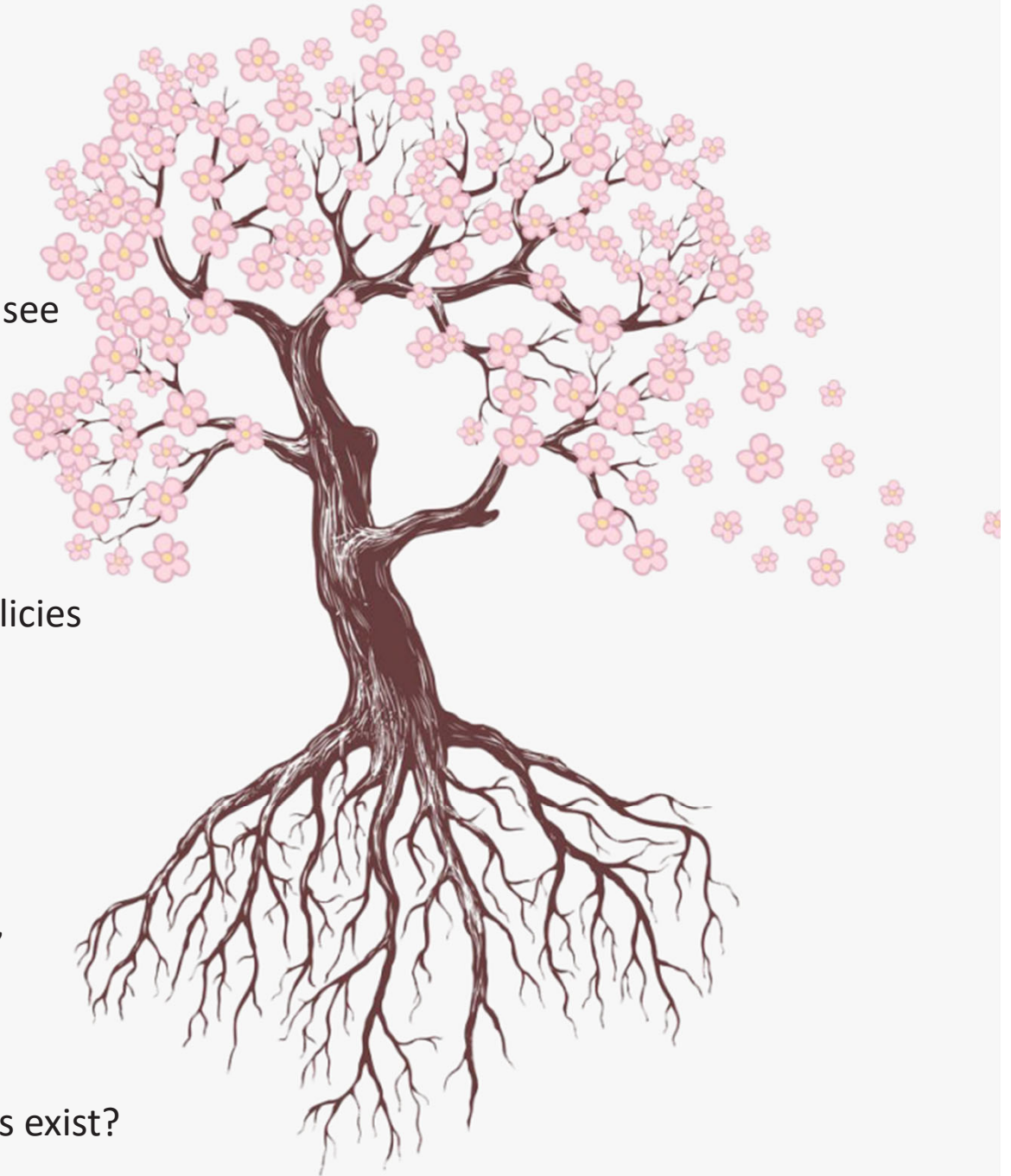
TRUNK

What structures, practices, and policies institutionalize the problems?

ROOTS

What are the underlying historical, social or economic root causes of these problems?

Why do these structures or policies exist?



Reflection



What identities connect me with the issue or perpetuate this issue?



What powers and privileges do I have that hold me responsible to act?



How might I engage and stand in solidarity with impacted communities?

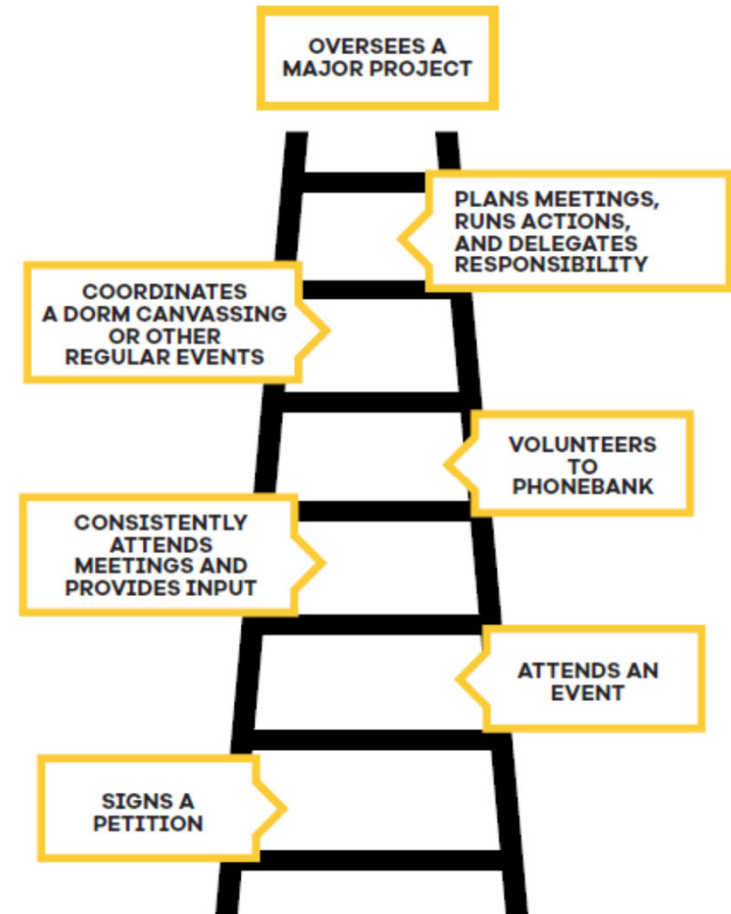
Action

- On Campus

- Step up to coordinate or lead a club, campaign, or effort for change
- Engage your peers in efforts
- Use your gifts, power and privileges to lift up the causes and actions of people impacted
- Make recommendations for policy or practice changes to existing organizations
- Build new organizations that reflect the changes needed

- Off Campus

- Join CCSJ partners & impacted communities' coalitions and actions for change
 - Direct Action
 - Letter Writing (yes, even by US Mail!)
 - Lobby Days
 - Phone Banking
 - Art, Music, Expression
- Use your gifts, power and privileges to lift up the causes and actions of impacted communities'



Evaluation



How might I more fully align with being actively anti-racist?



Where might I learn more?



Where might I grow to stand more fully in solidarity with impacted communities?

“Look closely at the present
you are constructing:
it should look like the future
you are dreaming.”
— Alice Walker

**Join our work for a more just and equitable world.
visit loyola.edu/ccsj
follow @loyolaccsj
follow @loyolavotes**

Loyola Center for Community Service and Justice (CCSJ)

Anti-Racism Commitment

Inspired by our mission to connect campus and community for a more just and equitable world, Loyola's Center for Community Service and Justice (CCSJ) strives to be an anti-racist organization, as true equity cannot be achieved until the history and impacts of racism are acknowledged and resolved.

Charged to connect Loyola University, a predominantly white institution, and communities in Baltimore, a majority-Black city, and beyond, we recognize that service without justice can do harm, and that it is our responsibility to educate ourselves and others on racial justice to create positive change toward equity.

As staff, interns, volunteers, and individuals connected with CCSJ...

We believe:

- Racism is based in white supremacy.
- Racism affects all other structures of inequity.
- Racism is a particularly heinous root cause of poverty in Baltimore City.
- Racism hurts everyone, both white people and people of color.
- Racism is played out both interpersonally and structurally.
- Racism is perpetuated by the silence of white people and white communities.

We strive to:

- Educate: We will continue to pursue knowledge and resources focused on racial justice to educate ourselves and others.
- Create Inner Change: We will evolve both as individuals and an organization in order to become more anti-racist.
- Act as Change Agents: While CCSJ strives to evolve to become an anti-racist establishment, we also strive to motivate our colleagues, affiliates, allies and other institutions do the same.

We resolve to:

- Discern: We will work as individuals and as a CCSJ community to better understand our own stories and racialized experience through reflection, research, and dialogue in order to bring our whole selves to this challenging conversation.
- Engage: We will work to create a culture of invitation in CCSJ, on Loyola's campus, and with our community partners to discuss and combat racism in CCSJ and to be held accountable.
- Act: We will work to create equity in service, our workplace, on campus and in our community in our roles as Loyola employees and students, and as individuals.
- Evaluate: We will work to create equity within CCSJ by examining our culture, practices, policies and procedures, partnerships, structure, and outcomes through an anti-racist and asset-based lens.
- Share: We will provide racial justice tools for students, staff, faculty, administrators, and community members to educate themselves and others in order to become more aware and engaged citizens. We will work to ensure our Center's resources of time and people power are equitably available to our neighbors and community partners.
- Empower: We will dedicate ourselves to empowering marginalized communities so that they are self-sufficient, self-determining, and able to claim and defend their rights as citizens.

Baltimore: City of Neighborhoods & Racial Segregation

1911-1917: Racial Segregation of Blocks

A Southern City, Mayor J. Barry Mahool and the Baltimore City Council passed the country's first racially restrictive zoning law in 1911.

The law prohibited members of one racial group from buying a house in a block dominated by another race.

(New York Times, Dec. 25, 1910)



Place & History Matters

Baltimore: City of Neighborhoods & Racial Segregation

1917-1948: Restrictive Covenants

The Supreme Court struck down racial segregation of blocks in 1917 and Baltimore neighborhoods Roland Park, Guilford and Homeland required homeowners to sign covenants barring African-Americans.

Restrictive covenants were struck down by the Supreme Court in 1948 but Baltimore realtors and homeowners maintained a culture of restriction informally through the mid-1980s.



Place & History Matters

Baltimore: City of Neighborhoods & Racial Segregation

1930s-1943: Segregated Public Housing

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City ran two housing programs, one for white families and one for Black families. 53 housing developments were used to reinforce residential segregation, including the McCulloh Homes, which were built as the first black housing development to prohibit the “encroachment of colored into the adjacent good white residential neighborhood (Bolton Hill).”



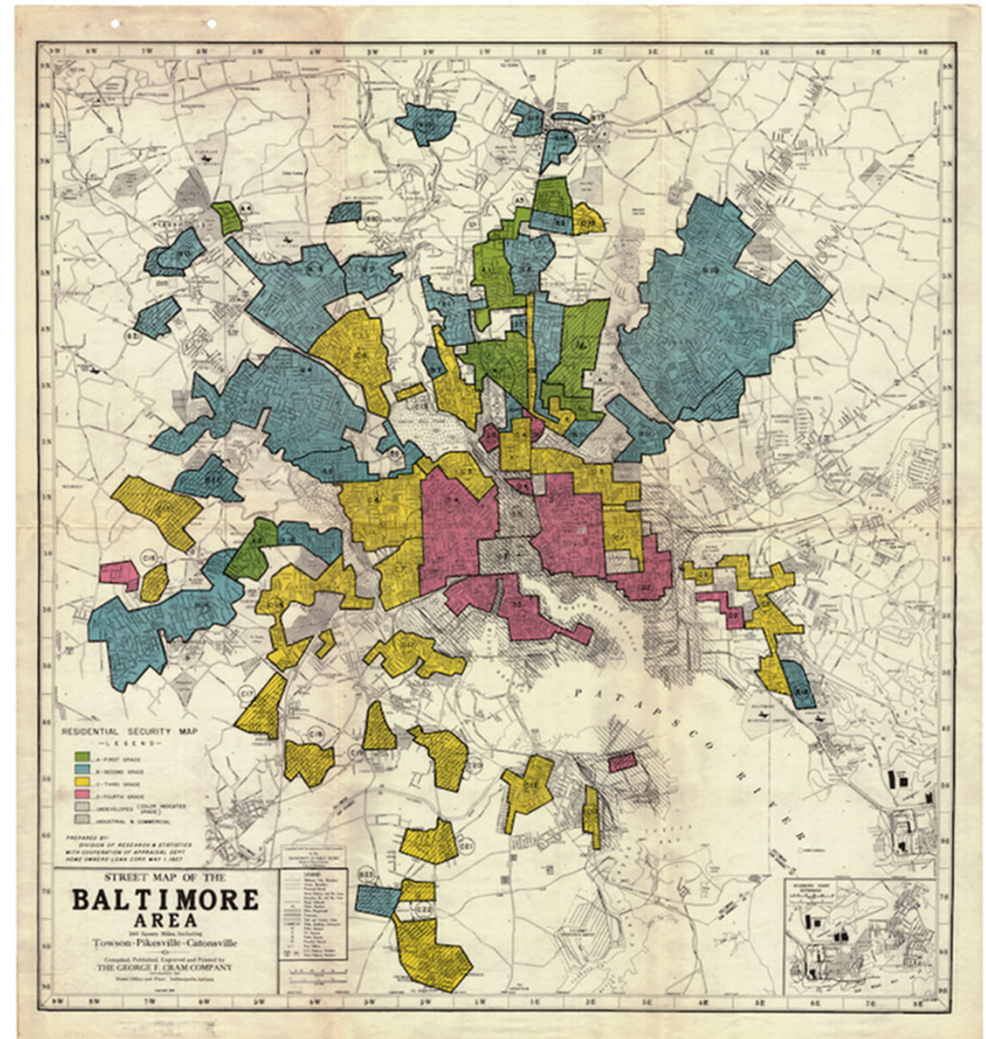
Place & History Matters

Baltimore: City of Neighborhoods & Racial Segregation

1934-1968: Federal Redlining and Financial Apartheid

“The distressed condition of African-American working- and lower-middle-class families” in Maryland’s largest city and elsewhere “is almost entirely attributable to federal policy that prohibited black families from accumulating housing equity during the suburban boom that moved white families into single-family homes from the mid-1930s to the mid-1960s — and thus from bequeathing that wealth to their children and grandchildren, as white suburbanites have done” (Economic Policy Institute, 2015).

*1937 Homeowners Loan Corp.
Redlining Map*

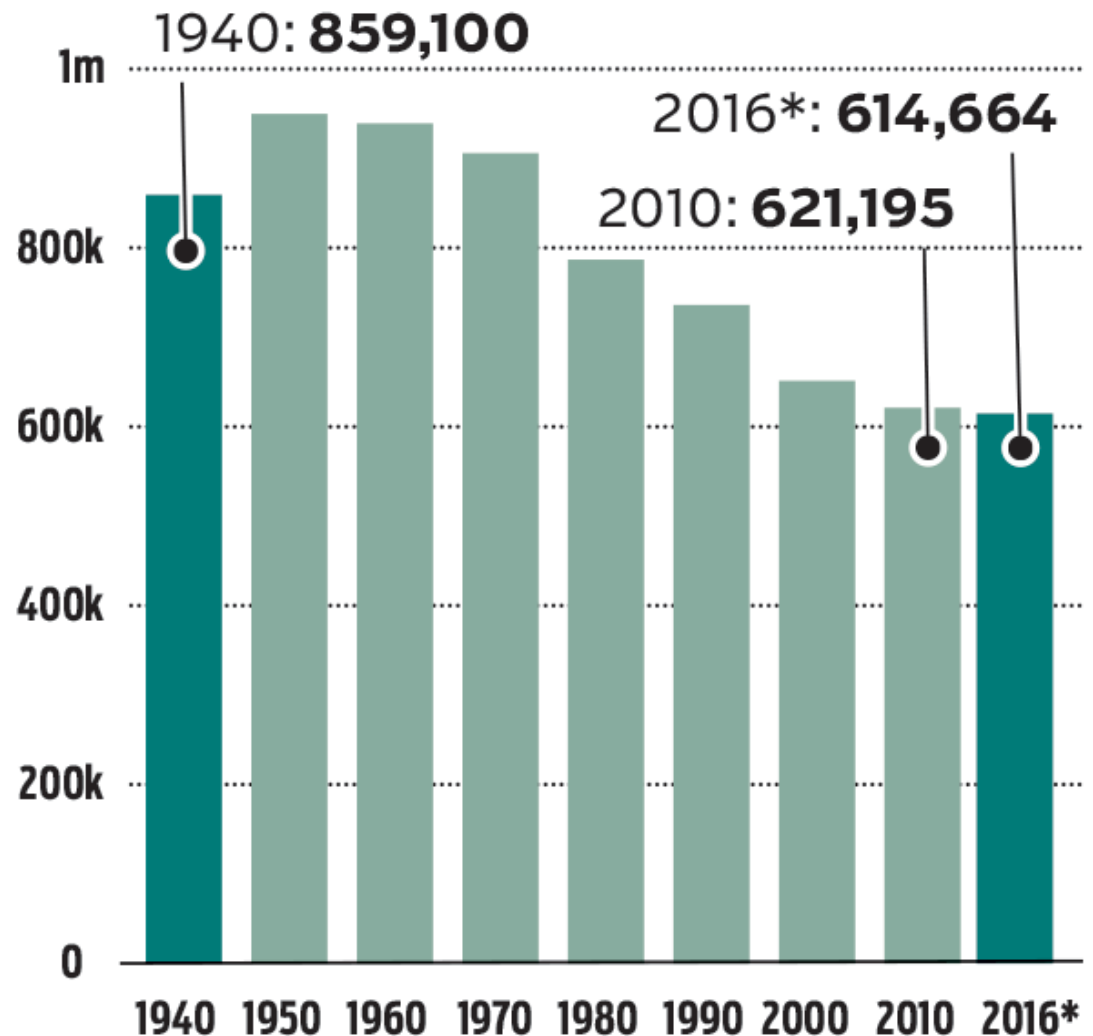


Place & History Matters

Baltimore: City of Neighborhoods & Racial Segregation

1960s-2018: Population Decline and Increased Concentration of Poverty

- Baltimore, three-quarters white in 1950, is now two-thirds Black.
- A result of federal and local policies and personal choices, the surrounding suburbs became increasingly white.
- Industry and employment relocated to the surrounding areas, followed by middle class Black families for schools and jobs.
- Most industrial jobs left Baltimore in the 1980s, and mass incarceration, the 'war on drugs', and a persistent lack of opportunity for many families perpetuates concentrated poverty.



Place & History Matters

Baltimore: City of Neighborhoods & Racial Segregation

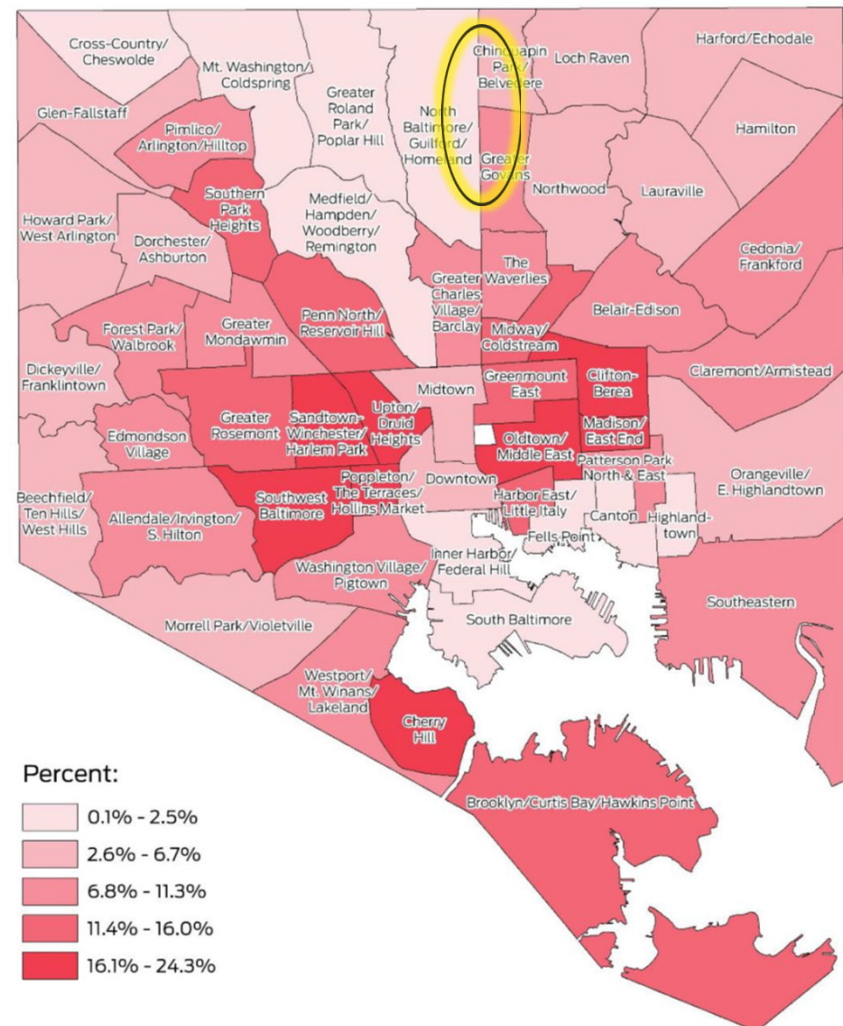
2005: Violation of Federal Law

In *Thompson v. HUD*, U.S. District Court found HUD violated the Fair Housing Act of 1968 by unfairly concentrating African Americans in the most impoverished and segregated areas of Baltimore City.

2012: Mandated Housing Desegregation

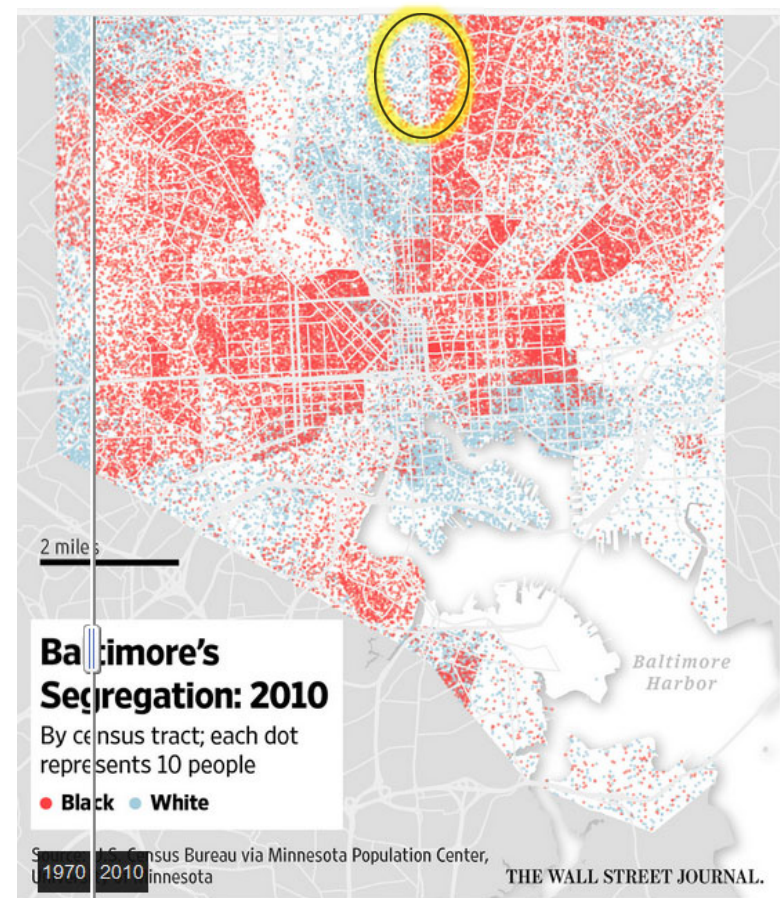
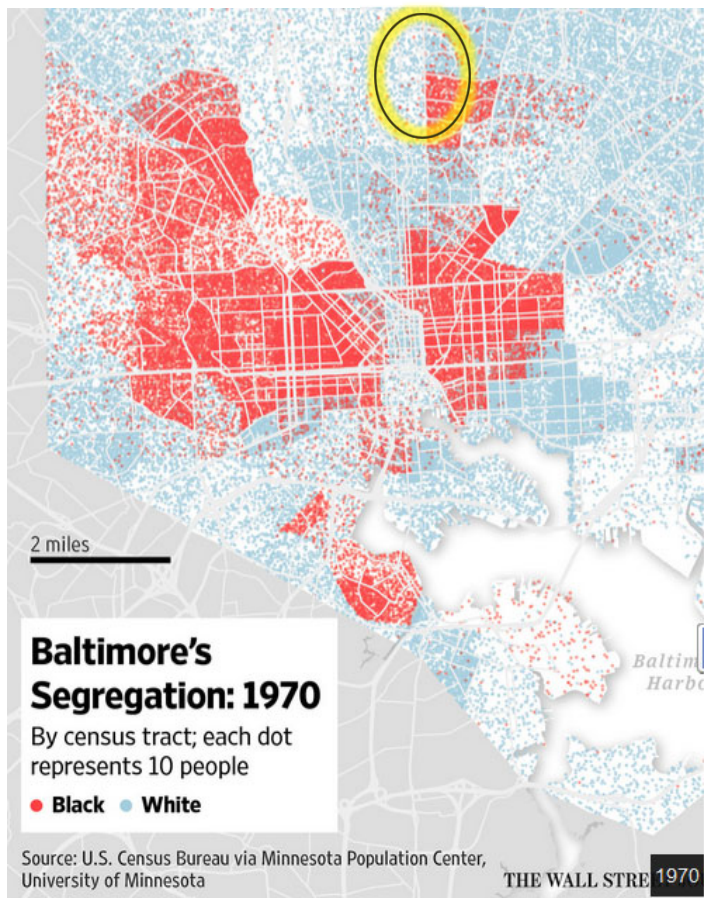
U.S. District Court approved a settlement to eradicate 100 years of government-sponsored segregation in the Baltimore region by expanding housing mobility programs to support Black residents to move to low-poverty neighborhoods.

Percent of Households Receiving TANF, 2015



Place & History Matters

Baltimore: City of Neighborhoods & Racial Segregation



Baltimore is the lowest ranked large city in the U.S. when measured by a child's chances of escaping poverty (Chetty & Hendren, 2015).