

Mellon Fellowship for Humanities and Public Engagement

Ann Arbor Public Library

21 June 2019

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LSA Department of Linguistics

On Peoria, Anishinabewaki, Potawatomi land



Overview

Slides available at <https://bit.ly/2GUcabT>

- ❖ Public Engagement
- ❖ Where is my project now?
- ❖ Where is it going?
- ❖ Potential Outcomes
- ❖ Takeaways



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Public Engagement

❖ **Isn't** Outreach.



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Public Engagement

- ❖ Isn't Outreach.
- ❖ Direct, Community-Based,
Participatory Work.



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Public Engagement

- ❖ Isn't Outreach.
- ❖ Direct, Community-Based, Participatory Work.
- ❖ Responsive and **Reciprocal**



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MPEH Insights

❖ Timeline



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MPEH Insights



Timeline

- 2nd Year PhD Student
- Develop my Dissertation



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MPEH Insights

- ❖ Timeline
 - 2nd Year PhD Student
 - Develop my Dissertation
- ❖ Passion Projects and Self-Care



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MPEH Insights

- ❖ Timeline
 - 2nd Year PhD Student
 - Develop my Dissertation
- ❖ Passion Projects and Self-Care
 - Navigating Higher Education is already **a challenge**

MPEH Insights



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Timeline

- 2nd Year PhD Student
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Passion Projects and Self-Care

- Navigating Higher Education is already a challenge
- Navigating Higher Education in a **marginalized body** is already a challenge

MPEH Insights

- ❖ Timeline
 - 2nd Year PhD Student
 - Develop my Dissertation
- ❖ Passion Projects and Self-Care
 - Navigating Higher Education is already a challenge
 - Navigating Higher Education in a marginalized body is already a challenge
 - Navigating **STEM and** doing **social justice** work is already a challenge

MPEH Insights

- ❖ **Separate** my scientific scholarship from my humanities scholarship
- ❖ Rework the disparate parts to engage with **smaller audiences**.



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Linguistic Discrimination

Discrimination

In every sense.

❖ Natural Phenomenon



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Discrimination

In every sense.

- ❖ Natural Phenomenon
 - Picking out **different types of things**



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Discrimination

In every sense.

- ❖ Natural Phenomenon
 - Picking out different types of things
- ❖ Nasty Consequences



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Discrimination

In every sense.

- ❖ Natural Phenomenon
 - Picking out different types of things
- ❖ Nasty Consequences
 - **Treating someone differently** based on social knowledge you have about them



Linguistic Stereotypes

❖ Pattern with Social Stereotypes



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Linguistic Stereotypes

- ❖ Pattern with Social Stereotypes
 - **Equate** ways of speaking (dialects, languages, **voices**) with certain **social groups**



Linguistic Stereotypes

- ❖ Pattern with Social Stereotypes
 - Equate voices with social groups
- ❖ Black voices sound **aggressive** or **lazy**



Linguistic Stereotypes

- ❖ Pattern with Social Stereotypes
 - Equate voices with social groups
- ❖ Black voices sound aggressive or lazy
- ❖ Female voices sound **shrill, pitchy, creaky**



Linguistic Stereotypes

- ❖ Pattern with Social Stereotypes
 - Equate voices with social groups
- ❖ Black voices sound aggressive or lazy
- ❖ Female voices sound shrill, pitchy, creaky
- ❖ Southern voices sound **uneducated** or **slow-paced**



Linguistic Stereotypes

- ❖ Pattern with Social Stereotypes
 - Equate voices with social groups
- ❖ Black voices sound aggressive or lazy
- ❖ Female voices sound shrill, pitchy, creaky
- ❖ Southern voices sound uneducated or slow-paced
- ❖ New England voices sound **fast-paced, confident to-a-fault**



Legally, Discrimination is an act which **must** occur in physical proximity.

We Know

(Ask me later about these studies later;
sources linked!)

- ❖ We pull social information out of a voice early and reliably
 - [\("Hello"\)](#)
- ❖ We use that information to make social judgments about other people
 - [Age, Race, Gender](#)
- ❖ Sometimes our judgments are so strong that we hear things that aren't even there!
 - [Canadianness](#)



The Research

Understanding and Capturing Dialect
Discrimination through the Housing Market

- ❖ What is happening in the brain
 - Phonetics
 - Neuroscience
- ❖ What is happening on the ground
 - Sociolinguistics
 - Ethnographics



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The Full Picture

The How We Got Here

- ❖ Social History of Covert Segregation



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Covert Segregation

Housing Discrimination Matters!
Ask me about the details later:
[email](#), [Twitter](#)

- ❖ Highway Project
- ❖ Home Loans
- ❖ Suburbs
- ❖ Redlining
- ❖ Blockbusting
- ❖ White Flight
- ❖ Gentrification
- ❖ Redistricting
- ❖ Racialization of Media



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MPEH Insights

- ❖ Ways to separate scholarship from public-facing work

Engaged Experiences

MPEH Insights

- ❖ One way we **break down** social stereotypes



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Engaged Experiences

MPEH Insights

- ❖ One way we break down social stereotypes
 - Create opportunities for various publics to have **low-stakes engagement** with difficult issues



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Engaged Experiences

MPEH Insights

- ❖ How we break down social stereotypes
 - Create opportunities for various publics to have low-stakes engagement with difficult issues
- ❖ Michigan History Center [States of Incarceration](#)



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Identifying Collaborators

MPEH Insights

- ❖ Charles H. Wright [African American History Museum](#)



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Identifying Collaborators

MPEH Insights

- ❖ Charles H. Wright [African American History Museum](#)
 - Corridor of Black Life in Detroit
 - Bus tours of Black Bottom and other historically Black neighborhoods



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DIA Redesigning Central Square

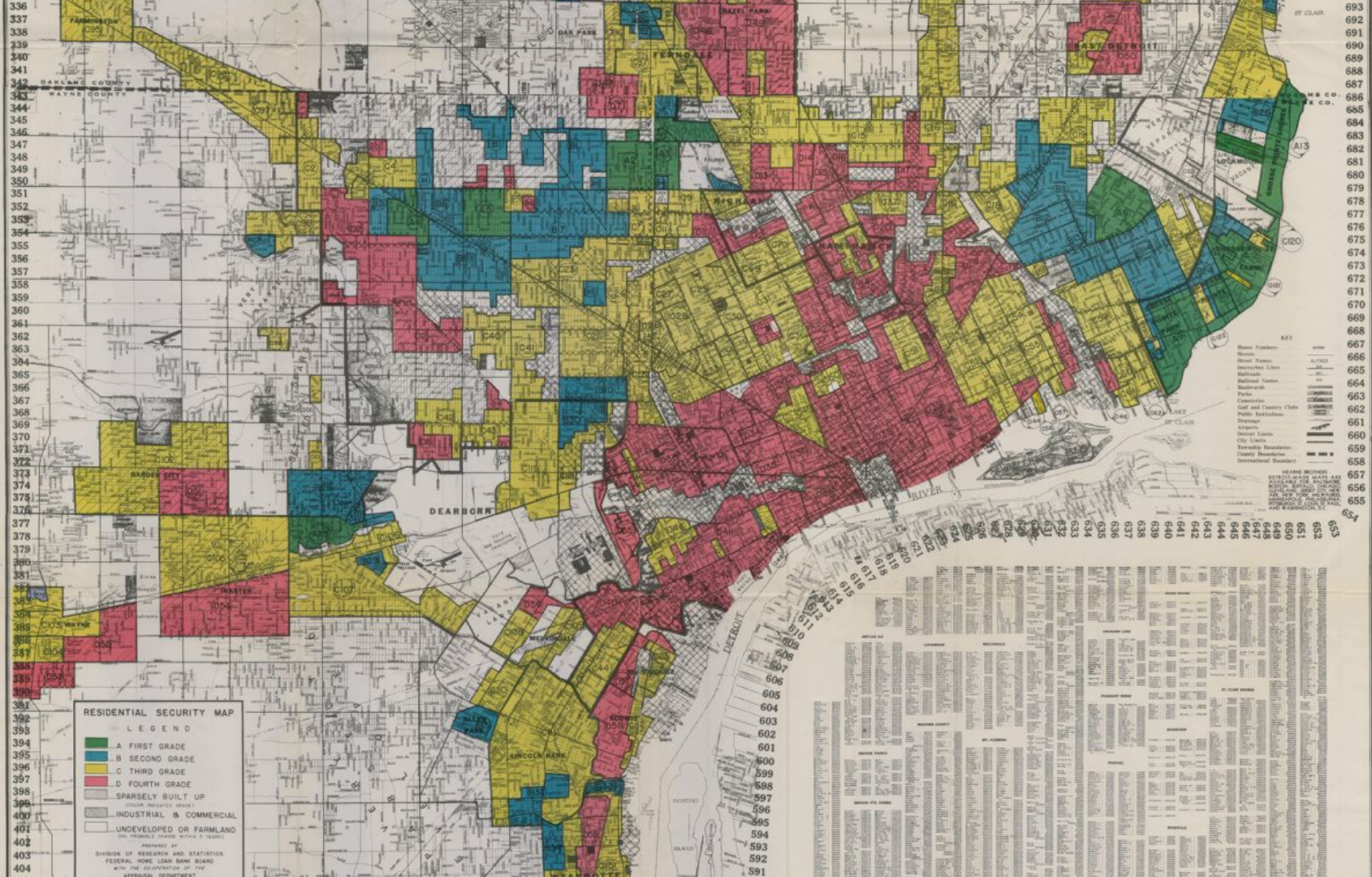
Contest Winners Announced!

- ❖ Ten year, ongoing project to transform downtown Detroit's arts and entertainment center.
- ❖ Facilitated by [the DIA](#).



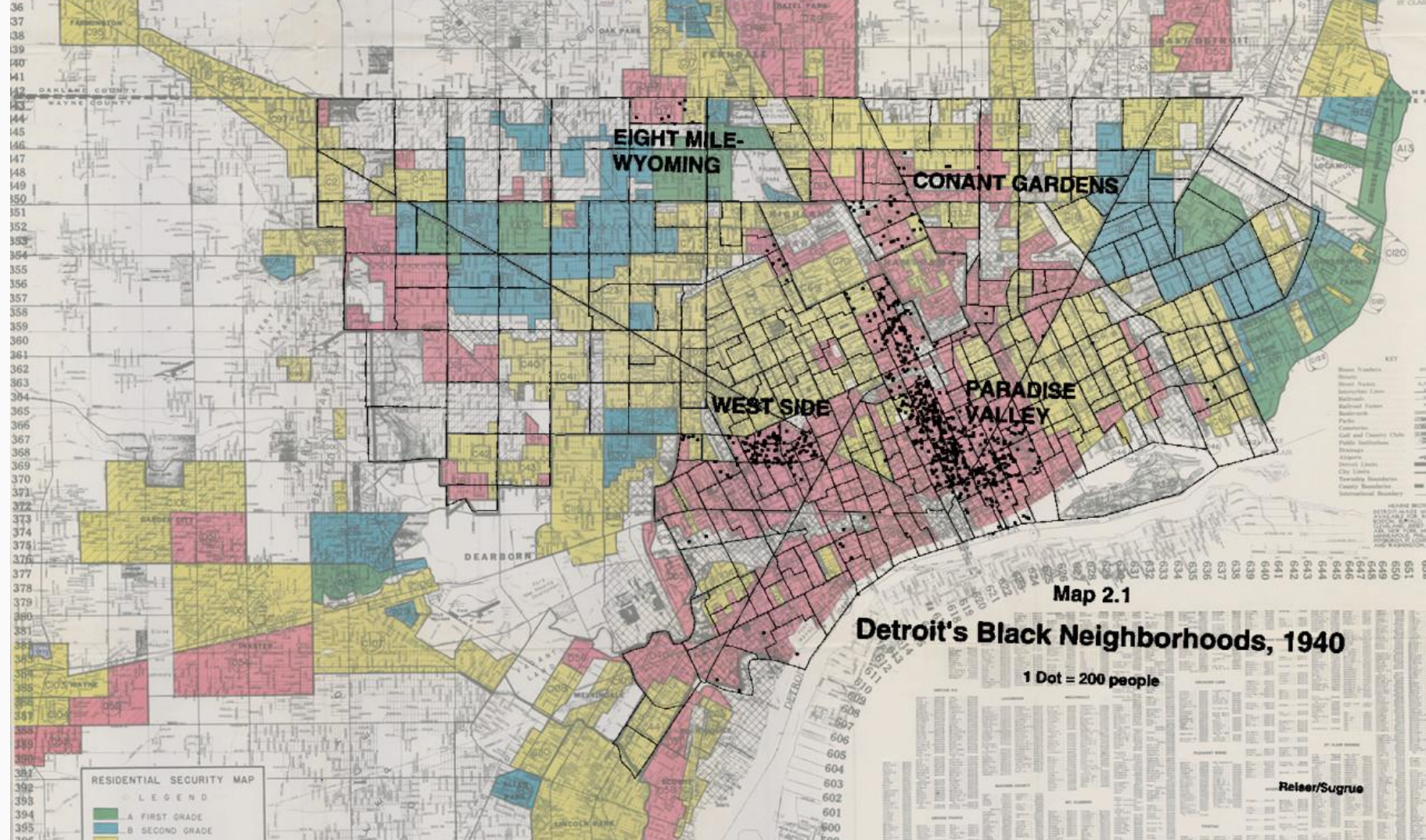
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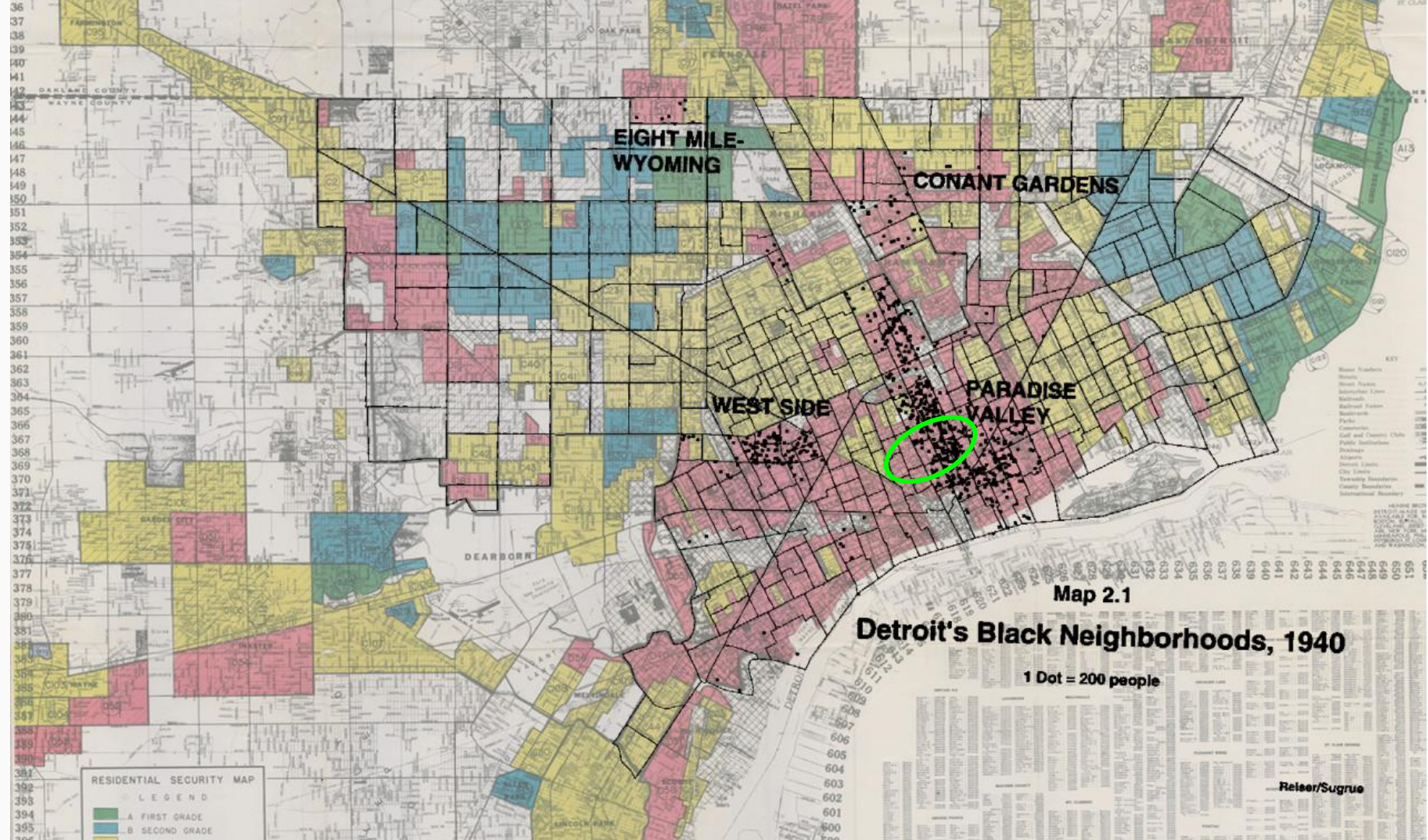




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The Idea

Approach Community Partners

- ❖ Create a digital projection installation and/or an **augmented reality** app experience
- ❖ A digital museum **IN** the now-erased Black neighborhoods in Detroit



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Identifying Collaborators

MPEH Connections



Monument Lab



[Civic Portal Project](#)



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Identifying Collaborators

MPEH Connections

- ❖ Monument Lab
 - [Civic Portal Project](#)
- ❖ [Library Street Collective](#)



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The Idea

- ❖ Curated images of **thriving, Black life in Detroit** splashed across the structures that have supplanted it.
- ❖ Allow the viewer to **observe as the culture erodes** around them over time.



The Idea

(building in reciprocity)

- ❖ Allow the artist to **transform the space**, digitally transporting the area to whatever future they dream.



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Potential Outcomes

What my Humanities training tells me

- ❖ **Saving** the history of Black life in Detroit



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Potential Outcomes

What my Humanities training tells me

- ❖ Saving the history of Black life in Detroit
- ❖ [Improving the wider, public perception](#) of Detroit.



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Potential Outcomes

What my Humanities training tells me

- ❖ Saving the history of Black life in Detroit
- ❖ [Improving the wider, public perception](#) of Detroit
- ❖ **Combating Stereotypes** of Race and Space



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Takeaways

- ❖ Knowledge of **timeline** is important.
- ❖ Allowing your **role** to be **undefined** at the outset.
- ❖ **Reciprocal** relationships are key.
- ❖ I (we) have **more to offer** than CV expertise.



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Thanks!

All Y'all!

Arthur Verhoogt, Joe Cialdella,
Yvonne Garcia

2019 MPEH Fellows

