

RACE, SPACE & SEGREGATION



ISSUE STATEMENT

FLAGSTAFF HAS a documented history of redlining and other socioeconomic practices and policies which have created a trend of physical separation (segregation) of communities of color and marginalized representation within the City's structure and development. Racial exclusion and segregation are contributing factors to the erasure and lack of representation of Black community structures within the City.

BACKGROUND

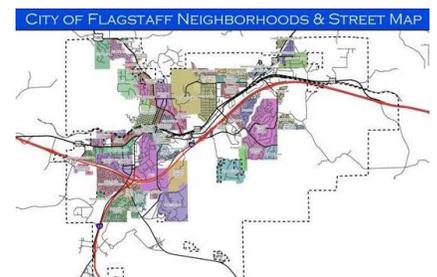
When talking about the exclusion of a particular culture or race in a geographical area, it is important to understand that there are multifaceted aspects to such exclusion. Segregation can be at once physical (redlining, blockbusting, etc.), systemic (based in social practices, policies, and processes), and ideological (the idea that certain people do not belong in certain spaces; i.e. NIMBYism). Spatial racial exclusion consists of historic, institutionalized policies and practices which privilege private interests over the public good; this is the social landscape in which the idea that providing equal and equitable access to the public space of community (housing, parks, education, transportation, etc.) is viewed as threatening to privatized interests. The basic problem facing much of the economic and social development of communities of color throughout the country has been a long-held link between race, place, and power.

REFERENCES

Southside Neighborhood Plan 2020

Historic Southside Mural Project

AZ Daily Sun reports and news articles
2000-2020



CONTEXTUALIZATION

As noted above, Flagstaff has a documented history of redlining and other socioeconomic practices and policies which have created a pattern of segregation and discrimination against Blacks and communities of color within the City. Growth and development have occurred as a result of racial exclusion and segregation during much of the 20th century, and are still contributing factors to the erasure and lack of representation of Blacks within the City proper. The absence of Black cultural and historical structures outside of Southside neighborhoods is a continuing problem, as a lack of visibility leads to planning that fails to assess policy impacts on African Americans, and undermines their contributions overall. Flagstaff demographics indicate growing segments of Native American, LatinX/HispaniX, Asian, and African Americans—who work at the university, the medical center, the private sector and entertainment/hospitality industries—but growth has remained stagnant because of lack of jobs, affordable and adequate housing, and limited cultural opportunities for people of color.

Segregation is a thematic construct and a continuing legacy that has affected the built environment in certain neighborhoods, but it is also an underexplored aspect of a small mountain town that seeks to embrace growth and change. **Areas to discuss include:**

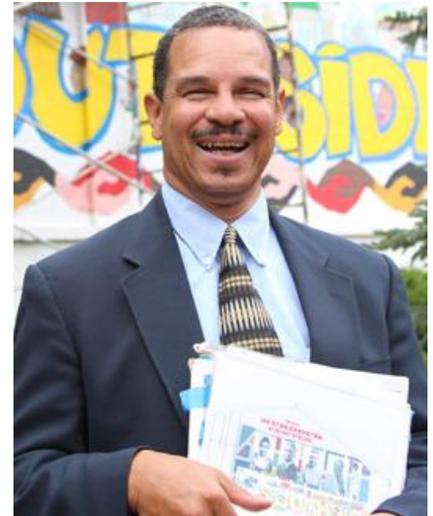
- Legacy of Segregation (pro and cons)
- Growth and Development within Demographic Shifts
- Relocation of the Rio de Flag
- NAU & Neighborhood Empowerment
- The City and Resource Allocation

City of Flagstaff - Low Income Concentrations (c. 1990s-2000)

Neighborhood	Pct. Low-Mod. Income Persons	Median Income	Median Home Value	Pop.	No. of Households
Sunnyside	63%	\$20,554	\$56,733	4,506	1,491
Southside	81%	\$10,981	\$64,050	1,611	671
Southside (Plaza Vieja)	83%	\$13,176	\$63,300	3,006	574
Southside (Pine Knoll/ Brannen Hms.)	87%	\$15,296	\$50,600	895	347
FLAGSTAFF	38%	\$28,382	\$90,300	---	---

RACE/SPACE/SEGREGATION QUICK FACTS:

- **Southside is home to four historically Black churches**
- Southside was the segregated neighborhood for Blacks and LatinX for most of the 20th century
- Home to Segregated Dunbar School and South Beaver School



Ricardo Guthrie, Assoc. Prof. Ethnic Studies, Northern Arizona University

CONTEXTUALIZATION (CONT)

City of Flagstaff: Where Do People of Color Live?

Neighborhood	Sunnyside		Southside		Plaza Vieja (Southside)		Pine Knoll (Southside)		FLAGSTAFF	
Race/Ethnicity	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White	2,067	44%	1,466	72%	873	67%	337	53%	41,477	79%
African American	115	2.4%	147	7.2%	61	5%	136	21%	1,079	2%
Native American	976	21%	101	5%	166	13%	154	24%	4,371	8.3%
LatinX	1,805	38%	499	25%	296	23%	139	22%	8,657	16.4%
Other	1,509	32%	285	14%	173	13%	8	1.2%	4,516	8.5%
TOTAL	4,721		2,030		1,308		642		52,701	

KEY QUESTIONS

- WHAT are some of the reasons why the contributions of African Americans might not be recognized throughout the City?
- HOW are the legacies of Segregation continued through City policies, NAU activities, and the actions of Residents?
- HOW important are “home ownership,” “job development”, and “community control of development” to the City’s future?
- WHAT direct experience(s) have you had with systemic or practical segregation or division of space in Flagstaff, if any?
- WHAT positive changes would you like to see in order to promote “Sustainable Growth” as it affects African Americans?
- WHAT does it mean to maintain the Character and Culture of Black neighborhoods if the Black population decreases?