

Reparations in Berkeley

Ben Bartlett

Vice Mayor, City of Berkeley



*"Reparations Now" mural on Ellis Street in Berkeley
– Photo: Berkeleyside*



January 2023

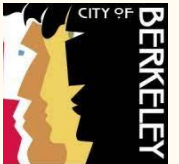
Introduction

Calls for Reparations



“At the very same time that the government refused to give the Negro any land, through an act of Congress our Government was giving away millions of acres of land in the west and the midwest, which meant it was willing to undergird its white peasants from Europe with an economic floor, but not only did they give the land, they built land grant colleges with government money to teach them how to farm; not only that, they provided county agents to further their expertise in farming; not only that, they provided low interest rates in order that they could mechanize their farms; not only that today, many of these people are receiving millions of dollars in federal subsidies not to farm and they are the very people telling the Black man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps. And this is what we are faced with, and this is the reality. Now, when we come to Washington in this campaign, we are coming to get our check.”

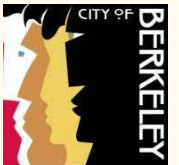
- Martin Luther King Jr. - Poor People's Campaign 1968



January 2023

The Case for Reparations **Black People Built America**

- Rice / Cotton / Tobacco
 - Cleared and developed the land expropriated for farming
 - Produced wealth for both the new world and old
- Made the Food and Raised the Children of White Families
- Fought in Every War on the United States

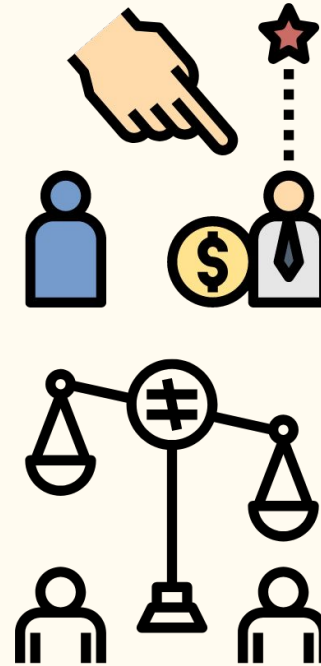


January 2023

The Case for Reparations

Unjust Distribution of Wealth

- Slavery
- Jim Crow - North & South
- New Deal / G.I. Bill
- Housing Discrimination
- Loan/Financing Restrictions & Usury
- Limited Education Access
- Implicit Bias & Structural Racism



Introduction

Calls for Reparations - Nationally to Locally

Descendants of Slavery

- Redlining
- Economic Isolation
- Food Deserts
- Healthcare inequities
- Environmental Racism
- *Mis*-Policing
- Drug War
- Housing
- Education
- Barriers to Wealth Creation



News & Views > Berkeley City Council passes the first phase of Reparations!

Berkeley City Council passes the first phase of Reparations!

March 24, 2022

BAY AREA // EAST BAY

Berkeley took its first step toward reparations. Here's what it can learn from other cities



Justin Phillips

April 3, 2022

ATLANTA BLACK STAR

'Take Us Beyond Reaction': City of Berkeley Approves Reparations Initiative for Black Americans



Finurah Contributor

April 20, 2022 · 2 min read

THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN
Wednesday, March 30, 2022

NEWS

News Sports Arts Opinion Blogs Multimedia Weekender Featured LEGALS ADVE

CAMPUS | CITY | COUNTY | UC | STATE | NATIONAL | ASUC | OBITUARIES | RESEARCH & IDEAS | ELECTIONS 2020 | COVID-19 | NOTES FROM TH

Berkeleyside

Nonprofit news. Free for all, funded by readers.

Home Nosh Arts Business City Community COVID Crime Housing Neighborhoods Schools Obituaries Opinion Ev

STORM: Mudslides • Reservoirs filling • Sewage in the Bay | PEOPLE'S PARK: Court ruling nears | COVID: What to k

CITY

Berkeley may explore making reparations to Black residents

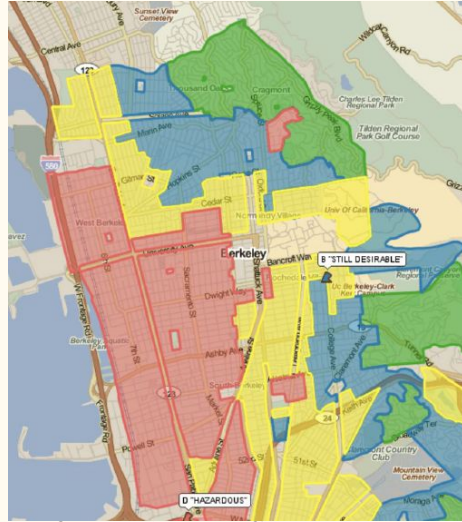
If Berkeley proceeds, it will be one of the few municipalities to directly grapple with the country's legacy of enslavement.

CITY

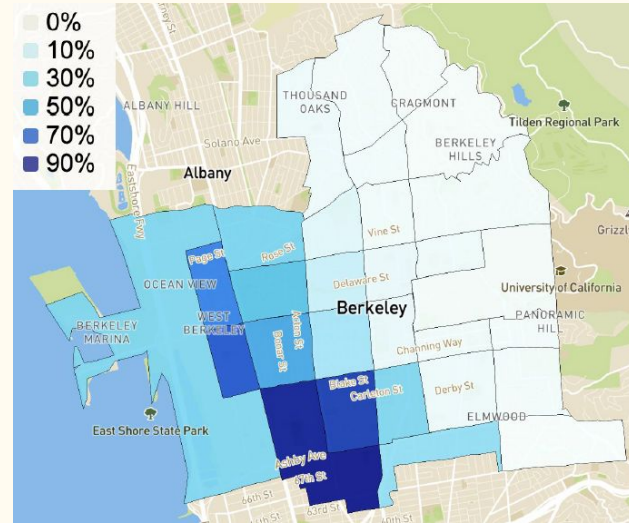
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022

Berkeley City Council launches 1st phase of reparations to descendants of slavery

Impact of Systemic Racism on Berkeley's Black Community **Redlining**



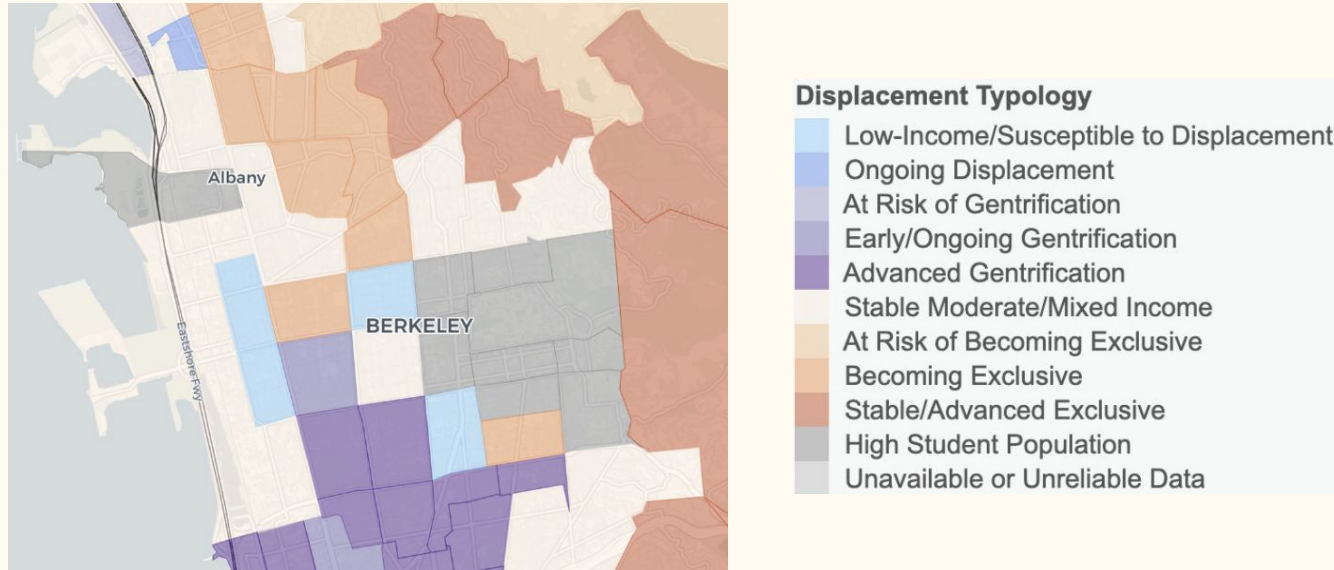
Home Owners' Loan Corporation Ratings



Percentage of Population Identifying as Black (1970)

Redlining reinforced racial segregation and deprived black communities of municipal investment and opportunities for wealth accumulation through homeownership

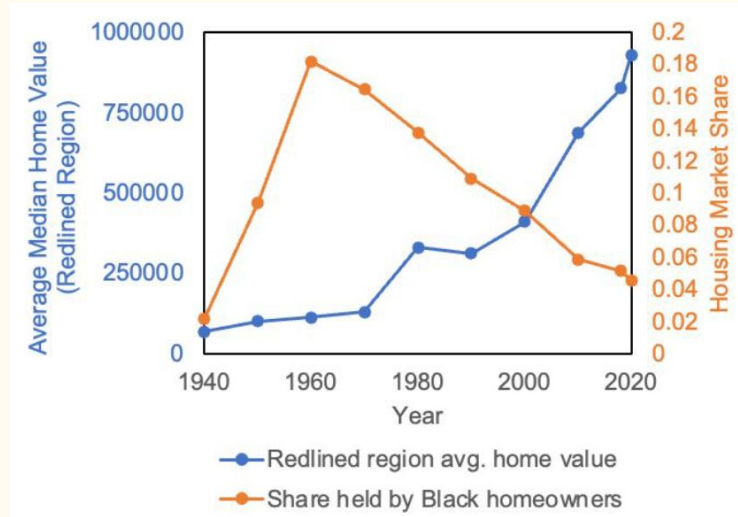
Impact of Systemic Racism on Berkeley's Black Community Gentrification



Redlined Regions Post 1960s reinforced racial segregation and deprived black communities of municipal investment and opportunities for wealth accumulation through homeownership

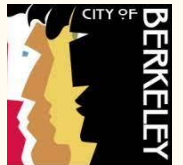
Impact of Systemic Racism on Berkeley's Black Community

Economic Loss to Black Berkeley



The average home value increased dramatically after the Black homeowner housing market share began decreasing. The opportunity cost per Black homeowner who left post-1960 at a minimum \$3.25 Billion and approximately \$762K per person in 2020

*Data Provided by Github & Urban Displacement Project, University of California Berkeley



January 2023

Berkeley Reparations Process

Inform

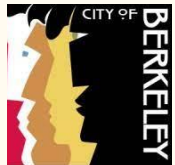
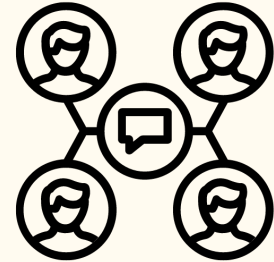
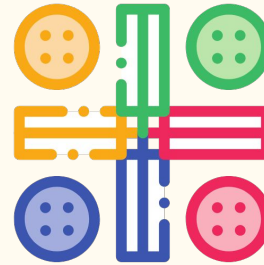
- Inform the community on the effects of segregation
- Educational events, truth-telling symposiums, and community gatherings
- Subject matter experts, historians and economists
- Personal stories to illuminate the generational wealth gap and describe barriers to economic mobility



Berkeley Reparations Process

Interact

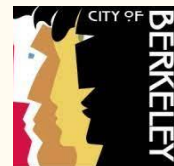
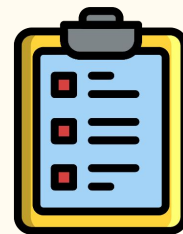
- Community interactive dialogue sessions
- Real Stories
- Persons of diverse vantage points and opinions.
- Emotive conversations to enable learning and deep listening
- Bring people into the heart of the matter



January 2023

Berkeley Reparations Process **Recommend**

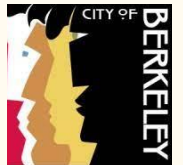
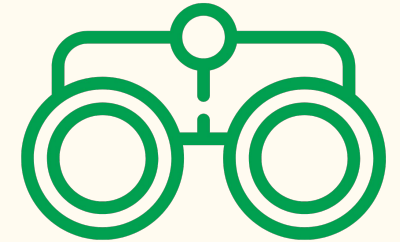
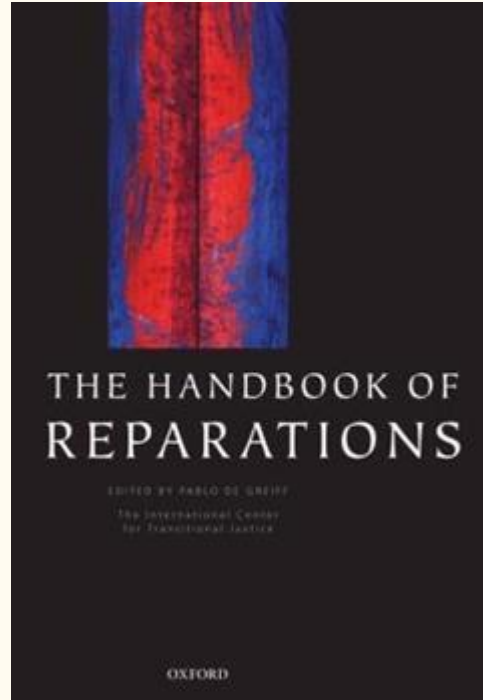
- Short, medium, and long-term recommendations, for reparations policies
- Objective:
 - a. Repair the damage caused by public and private systemic racism
 - b. Mitigate racial disparities in that include a portfolio of policies



Berkeley Reparations Framework

Framework:

- 1) Reckoning
- 2) Acknowledgment
- 3) Accountability
- 4) Redress

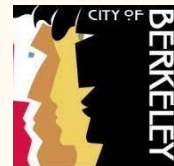
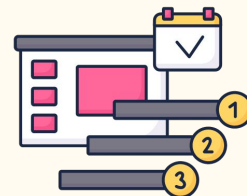


January 2023

Berkeley Reparations Framework

Reckoning

- City will publish a final report of findings
- Presentations for the City Council and Community at large.
- Residents to understand the harm
 - What happened
 - How it happened
 - Why it happened



Berkeley Reparations Framework

Acknowledgement

- Naming the harm
- May include an official declaration, a public apology that includes
 - Acknowledgement of facts

Commemorate this moment with cultural sites, monuments, museums etc.



Berkeley Reparations Framework

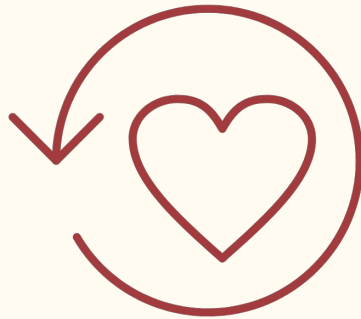
Accountability

- Taking ownership and responsibility for harmful actions.
- Commit to non-repetition of the harmful actions
- Empowers community led accountability efforts



Berkeley Reparations Framework **Redress**

- Acts of compensation and restitution to those who have been harmed
- Objectives: Create better outcomes for African Americans with an emphasis on **Wealth Creation**



Berkeley Reparations Outcomes

- Potential outcomes of implementing reparations policies in Berkeley, including:
 - Promoting the creation of generational wealth
 - Boosting economic mobility and opportunity for the African American community
 - Addressing racial disparities in areas such as education, employment, homeownership, health attainment, criminal justice, and more

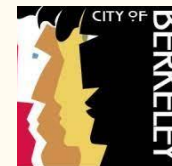


Berkeley Reparations Examples:

- Cash Payments
 - Lump Sum
 - Income Supplement
 - Retirement
 - City
 - Corporate Debtors
- Housing
 - Home Ownership /Land
 - Rental Guarantees
 - Housing Stabilization
 - i. Waiving Fees
 - ii. Payment Supplement
 - Conversion of Public Housing into Condominiums
 - Mortgage financing

- Debt Forgiveness
 - Student Loans
 - Health Loans
 - Business Loans
 - Low-income households

- Tax Credits
- Education & Job Training
 - Free Tuition
 - Financial Education
 - Employment guarantee programs
- Small Business Grants & Contracts



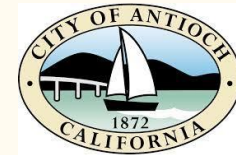
Examples of Reparations Corporate Accountability

- Banks
- Insurance Companies
- Real Estate Companies
- Universities



Examples of Reparations Interjurisdictional Collaborations

- San Francisco
- Los Angeles
- Places of Berkeley Displacement
 - Hayward
 - Tracy
 - Vallejo
 - Antioch
 - Pittsburgh

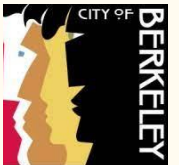
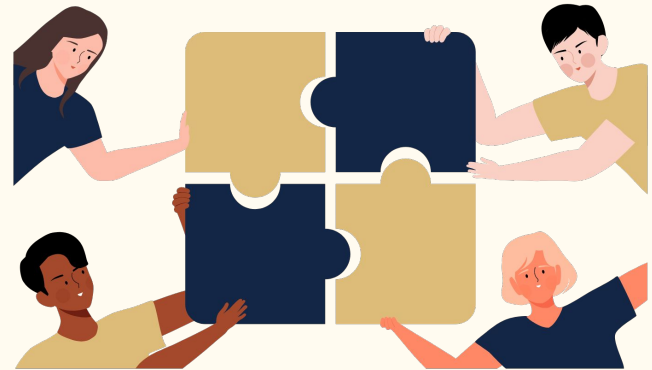


Conclusion

Moving Forward with Reparations in Berkeley

- Working with the State of California and other local jurisdictions in finding solutions, creating policies, implementations, and dialog around reparations
- City of Berkeley in Process of Hiring Consultant
 - Consultant works through the inform, interact, and recommend process to develop reparations framework

Please Apply!



January 2023

Thank you!

- Q&A
- Contact:
 - **Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett**
 - bbartlett@cityofberkeley.info
 - 510-981-7130
 - Additional Contributors
 - Office of Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin
 - Equitable Black Berkeley
 - Amy Guo
 - James Chang



“Reparations Now” mural on Ellis Street in Berkeley– Photo: Berkeleyside

