

Racism in Housing: Segregated by Design

This week we will be discussing the issue of housing, led by our guest speaker Kathy Tyler. Kathy has worked in the affordable housing development and finance field for more than 40 years. Most recently, she has spent 15 years with Motivation Education and Training, Inc., directing a three-state housing program. Prior to MET, Kathy spent 15 years working at the national level with McAuley Institute where she managed McAuley's community development financial institution (CDFI), lending monies to grassroots and women-led organizations. Currently, Kathy serves as a board member to the National Rural Housing Coalition, Housing Works Austin, Foundation for Expanding Horizons and recently served on the Mercy Partnership Fund's loan committee. Kathy received a Bachelors and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin.

Class Assignment

- Read **“Albuquerque Artists Sustain Connection Despite Social Distancing.”** By Johanna Gilligan, *Shelterforce*, May 19, 2020.
<https://shelterforce.org/2020/05/19/albuquerque-artists-sustain-connection-despite-social-distancing/>
- Read **“Regenerating a Place of Cultural Pride and Healing in Albuquerque Barelas Neighborhood.”** By Johanna Gilligan, *Shelterforce*, May 23, 2019.
<https://shelterforce.org/2019/05/23/regenerating-a-place-of-healing-in-barelas/>
- Watch the short video titled **“Segregated by Design.”** Directed by Mark Lopez. A Silkworm Studio Film. April 2019.
<https://vimeo.com/328684375>
- Read **“EVICTED—Navigating the Eviction Process and Its Lasting Impact.”** By Dana Bartolomei, *Shelterforce*, September 23, 2020.
<https://shelterforce.org/2020/09/23/navigating-the-eviction-process-and-its-lasting-impact/>
- If time allows, read **“Housing is Shamefully Segregated: Who Segregated It?”** Richard Rothstein discusses his bestselling book “The Color of Law.” By Jake Blumgart.
<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/housing-is-shamefully-segregated-who-segregated-it>

Goals for Class

- Understand that the structure we live in or our “house” is more importantly our “HOME” and where our home is located becomes in community our “NEIGHBORHOOD.” As Matthew Desmond writes in his book *EVICTED*,

“HOME” is the “wellspring of personhood” ... the word for HOME encompasses not just shelter but warmth, safety, family—the womb.”

Additionally,

“Civic life begins at home, allowing us to plant roots and take ownership over our community ... It is only after we begin to see a street as our street, a public park as our park, a school as our school, that we can become engaged citizens.”.

- Gain insight in how affordable, safe, low income housing is provided and the importance of not only a home but also the added benefits of “neighborhood.”
- Understand that “EVICTIONS” undermine “HOME”. As Desmond writes,

“America is supposed to be a place where you can better yourself, your family and your community. But this is only possible if you have a stable home.”

The US faces the potential for hundreds of thousands of Americans to be evicted and “homeLESS” due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Additional Resource

- ***EVICTED: Poverty and Profit in the American City.*** By Matthew Desmond. Penguin Random House, 2017.

Additional Item of Interest

- ***Is This America?*** In association with the Center for Contemporary Arts in Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Opera invites you to a Living Room Series presentation of “Is This America?” This digital presentation contains three scenes from a new one-act opera, *This Little Light of Mine*, commissioned by the Santa Fe Opera. The work is about the life of voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, a former sharecropper who rose to national prominence. She spoke truth to power and her tireless efforts culminated in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The national screening will be followed by a panel discussion focusing on the origins of *This Little Light of Mine* and the importance of hearing the collective voices of all U.S. citizens in the November 3, 2020 presidential election. <https://www.ccasantafe.org/living-room-series/2414-the-santa-fe-opera-presents-is-this-america?>