THINKING
OF HOME

a community zine by:
The Youth Alliance for Housing (YAH)
Thinking of Home is a community zine self-published by the Youth Alliance for Housing (YAH). All contents were created and compiled by young people across amerikkka.

Scattered throughout the zine are doodles people on the street drew when asked about the meaning of home.

Art and culture are essential to building community and overcoming barriers. This zine is an outlet for young people to share experiences, resources, and knowledge related to housing through any and all possible mediums- a space for young people to express themselves freely and connect with others.

We define youth as any person 25 years and younger.

We define tenant as any person who does not have control over their housing, including unhoused people, folks in temporary housing, renters, and mortgage holders.
What does home mean to you? How have your housing experiences shaped your life?

If we lived in a world where nobody had to ever worry about the rent, how would your life be different? What would you be doing with your time?

Imagine a world where housing is not a commodity, but a guaranteed public good. What does that world look like, feel like, sound like, taste like?

These are our visions for the future, and together, we are building that world.
Peace Among

Punks

Squat

The

Planet!!!
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Listen with the intent to understand, not the intent to respond.

May all our oppressors be overcome by the power of our love and solidarity

We are not allies. We are comrades and accomplices in our collective struggle toward liberation

BURN it down

BLM = FTP = I <3 U (Rip Fred)

Center healing

Ask “How are you REALLY doing?” and always respond truthfully
Listen to nature and follow its lead.

Always return to the joy community provides and the love that nobody can take away from us

Become aware of your own bias and change it

Turn the music up

Rest, healing, and unapologetic self love is a radical act of resistance

Radically imagine. Visions for the future are meant to be bold
Introduction to YAH

There is a haunting absense of young people in the movement for housing justice. Housing is the infrastructure for all systems of oppression- rooted in racial capitalism and whyte supremacy. Young people have historically, and intentionally been denied voice, autonomy, and power.

In March of 2020, two days before all NYC public schools shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, founding members of YAH organized a listening session to elevate the voices of young people in housing justice spaces. This single listening session evolved into a series of three training sessions. It quickly became evident this was a powerful and much needed community space, especially as the pandemic exacerbated many existing inequities. Following the training series, founding members continued to organize weekly virtual meetings and officially launched the Youth Alliance for Housing in December of 2020.
The Youth Alliance for Housing (YAH) is a coalition of young people united by the belief that housing is a human right. While youth typically do not pay the rent or handle the legal aspects of housing, we refuse to be left out of conversations surrounding housing justice. YAH highlights the intersectionality of housing issues and amplifies the voices of young people in the tenant movement. We envision a world where housing is decommodified, where houselessness does not exist, and where everyone is guaranteed a safe, quality, and permanently affordable home. We fight to transform the housing system into one in which landlords and the real estate industry do not profit off historically marginalized communities, where tenants have power and decision making over their housing, and where young people have an influential voice in shaping the housing system.

We believe those closest to the issues are closest to the solutions. As young people, we will not allow our voices to continue to be dismissed. We know we are experts in our own experience and are motivated to take leadership in YAH because we know the empowerment of young people is vital to advancing the larger tenant movement. We take action because we understand how, together, we can transform our private pain into collective power.
MUTUAL AID IS THE ANSWER TO COMMUNITY CARE!
Community housing support network!

Help build self sustaining systems of mutual aid!
Take part in a grassroots redistribution of wealth!

Community members will commit to a monthly recurring donation of any amount. 100% of proceeds will provide monthly recurring housing support to Black and Indigenous femmes 25 years or younger in NYC.

🌟 JOIN AND SHARE 🌟

Venmo: @Youth4Housing
Cashapp: $Youth4Housing
GoFundMe: tinyurl.com/yahGoFundMe

(Mock QR Code)

YAH THE YOUTH ALLIANCE FOR HOUSING

@youth4housing
RESOURCES

Mutual Aid 101: Toolkit
Resources/Mutual Aid for Sex Workers SWOP Brooklyn
Mutual Aid for Sex Works of Color https://www.gofundme.com/f/SWCFund

**QTBIPOC (Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Organizations to Support**
22 Indigenous-Led Organizations Working Toward Social Justice
Project Reach
SRLP (Sylvia Rivera Law Project)
FIERCE - Empowering QTBIPOC Youth
Black Trans Travel Fund — Devin Michael Lowe

**Labor Rights**
Labor and Employment Law Pro Bono Web Resources
Workers’ Rights — We Are New York Values - Resources
Worker Justice Center of New York
Resources for Creating Healthy, Sustainable, and Equitable Communities | US EPA

**Immigration Rights**
Recursos Para Personas Detenidas – Freedom for Immigrants
Touching Land - Immigrant Empowerment through Art
New York City Immigration Legal Aid & Pro Bono Services
Resources for Immigrants
New York Immigration Coalition: Immigration Advocacy, Immigration Education - NYC, Long Island, New York State

**Access to Food**
Get Help Finding Food
Get Food NYC Information
[COVID-19] NYC Food Resource
Map of NYC Community Fridges
Community Meals
Housing Rights
Youth Alliance for Housing/YAH
Homes Guarantee - Tenants Bill Of Rights
NYC Tenants Bill of Rights
Are you being harassed by your landlord?
https://hcr.ny.gov/harassment
Technology for Housing Justice
Tenant Legal Service Organizations
https://www.nycourts.gov/COURTS/nyc/SSI/images/coro-
na/TenantLegalServiceOrganizations.pdf

Voter Rights
Your Rights + Voting Info - NYCLU
Voting Rights – We Are New York Values
Local Elections - DemocracyNYC
Disability Voting Resources
About – Let NY Vote

Resources for People Seeking Legal Help (General)
New York NY Free Legal Aid Offices - List of Offices
How to Find Free or Low Cost Legal Services in New York City
List of Pro Bono Legal Services in NY (pdf) https://www.jus-
tice.gov/eoir/file/ProBonoNY/download

Readings
CSA’s roots and origins
Social Workers Reject Calls to Replace Police
An Indiginous Abolitionist Study Guide
Black Urban Growers
Black Owned Brooklyn
Washington Square Park Mutual Aid
In Our Hands - Learn about Youth lead groups
Churched United for Fair Housing Youth
CrownHights Tennats Union

Scan here for full list!
My Morning Commute

My morning commute is only 35 minutes long (if the subways are in my favor) but my home and my high school exist in separate worlds.

From home I walk a half-mile to the train. I pass shelters for the unhoused, methadone clinics, hair braiding parlors, and fast-food restaurants. The flower beds at the base of each street tree are filled with trash, needles, and cigarette butts. At the train station, the stairs wreak like urine, and police officers patrol every entrance. I take the downtown local train. Six stops later, I get off at a clean station with benches and digital advertisement screens. I walk another half-mile to my school. I pass doormxn opening taxi doors, street cleaners, blow-dry only hair salons, and salad bars. The flower beds at the base of each street tree are filled with flowers.

These images capture the social stratification displayed on my commute to school. Through this body of work, I question how our social systems have preserved circumstances of segregation, I study the complexities of gentrification, and I criticize why my commute is accepted as normal.

Emma Rehac
Fall 2019
View full photo essay at XXX
Elegy to the Hood

The cloudy reign of redlining, festering in striking black, has been blistering in the obscure building blocks of the hood.

Constructed by the system, with its left hand on the Bible, solemnly swearing for suffrage in our community. And with their right hands, they slit our throats and are exonerated.

They say that housing discrimination ended in 1968. I object. Why are our homes still being bedeviled, terrorized, tormented by the poltergeist of residential segregation?

They embedded the words too “hazardous”, too “declining”, “too risky of an investment” into the eroding gates of our battered communities. Cremated our flesh, gushing out of our bloodsoaked bawls for equality—our homes now a burial ground.

Have you seen how the liquor stores clutch their leashes to the cracked pavements of broken dreams? Or how the check cashing services cheat our communities—their malevolence, blazing and smoldering within our people’s wealth. How they deceive us with fractured promises of financial freedom at the finish line, while instituting economic barriers halfway through the race.

Have you seen how the eerie dusk of industrial plants and factories plagues our breath? How it smothers our Black children with elusive pillows built of lethal toxins?
Inhale—as their graves are dug at birth,
Exhale—as they are lynched,
now stifled with a higher risk for asthma.

Have you seen how different it is on the other side?

I have. I have seen it on the train, migrating into the vast realm of gentrified neighborhoods, wary as my surroundings shapeshift from Black to white.

I lament at the disparity between my home and that of the intruders.
How they flourish and frolic along the border, dividing our two different worlds.

And occasionally, how they travel from their side to ours. How they break and enter into our homes, looting a residential lineage of people’s bones, ashes, hearts, who were buried there for several generations. Actually, that’s not entirely the truth. They are not just “people.” They are my grandmother, my father, my sister, my aunt.

Do you know how much I mourn as I watch this menacing scene: indie espresso cafes, vegan bagel shops, and hipster millennial bars being built upon the voices of the dead? Beloved treasures of culture, history, and ancestry deteriorating into graveyards?

The foolish ignorance of the gentrifiers, blaring as harshly as a siren. Their acknowledgement of their sins, as hushed as a cemetery. Sometimes, I ponder if they intentionally inflicted this willful blindness upon themselves. And sometimes, I wish for them to wake up.

-Kayla Morgan
@kaylaswordspoetry @kaylandmorgan
Redlining

Racial and socioeconomic inequities have been deeply ingrained in American urban planning practices. One of the most relevant practices is known as “redlining.”

Redlining was a discriminatory practice in which people living in certain neighborhoods deemed “hazardous” were denied access to capital investment.

After The Great Depression, the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation (HOLC) created color-coded ‘Residential Security’ maps of major American cities. These maps used a four-point rating scale to designate grades to neighborhoods that reflected their supposed mortgage lending risk.

Areas populated by historically marginalized communities were labeled as higher risk and more likely to default on their loans. This meant that American banks continuously denied mortgages to people based on their demographics.

HOLC Redlining Polygons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Gray</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Predominant Race (Boundaries)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predominant category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic white Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latinx Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strength of predominance

- > 90
- < 30
Redlining officially occurred in the 1930s-1960s, but we can clearly see its legacy in how our cities are segregated now, in 2022. Across America, 70% of neighborhoods previously classified as the most “hazardous” grade D by the HOLC are predominantly populated by people of color.

In New York City, public schools are more segregated today than they were in the 1960s. Zip codes and location data are often used by companies and organizations to discriminate against potential customers. Bias against historically marginalized neighborhoods, introduced through redlining, has been written into code and automated in our computers. The history of redlining is also reflected in countless social disparities including eviction rates, internet access, linguistic isolation, household size and COVID-19 risk.

Down to the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink, diverse communities still experience the violence caused by racist planning on a daily basis.

Using data from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Living Atlas and NYC Open Data Hub, we can use these maps to see how the legacy of redlining has left lower income communities of color to face compounding inequities.

Learn more at XXX

Emma Rehac
How many NYC public school students are unhoused or in temporary housing?

A. 55,000 (1 out of 20)
B. 114,000 (1 out of 10)
C. Answer choice
D. Answer choice
CALL TO ACTION
MR. AUCTIONEER
By: Lukes Nephew
Mr. Auctioneer, all the people here
We’re asking you to hold all your
sales right now
We’re trying to survive but we
don’t know how
4x

MUSIC FOR HOUSING JUSTICE
“Songs create a common language. A place for collective
identity. A place for collective effervescence. A place for
prophetic imagination. A safe place to land when it gets rough.
A rough place to land when the oppressor thinks it’s safe.
Music confuses the enemy. It has the potential to reach the
heart. A song can creep through cracks and crevices,
and follow you home at night, and wake you out of your sleep.”
- Yara Allen

When you think of home, what do you hear?
Share by adding to our Spotify playlist!
tinyurl.com/YAH-home-playlist

ALL THE RENT IS TOO DAMN HIGH!
By: Unknown
All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent is too damn high!
2x
Because of greediness
Because of greediness
All the rent is too damn high!
2x
All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent is too damn high!
2x

NEIGHBOR NEIGHBOR
CAN’T YOU SEE
By: Military Cadence
(Call and resopnse housing remix)
Neighbor neighbor can’t you see
rent cancellation’s what we need
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh
Housing evictions got to go

All the rent is too damn high!
2x
All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent is too damn high!
2x

MR. AUCTIONEER
By: Lukes Nephew
Housing is a human right
that’s why today we
stand and fight
Ain’t no way we’re backing down
we’re rising up, the time is now

----- Scan to listen

Scan to listen
to Mr. Auctioneer

----- Scan to listen
RICH MAN’S HOUSE  
*By: Mika Wiltz & The Economic Human Rights Choir of The New Freedom Bus*

Went down to the rich man’s house  
And I took back what he stole from me (Took it back)  
Took back my dignity (Took it back)  
Took back my humanity and now it’s under my feet (where?)  
Under my feet (where?) 2x  
Under my feet  
Ain’t gonna let no system walk all over me  

Went down to the landlord’s house  
And I took back what he stole from me (Took it back)  
Took back my dignity (Took it back)  
Took back my humanity and now it’s under my feet (where?)  
Under my feet (where?) 2x  
Under my feet  
Ain’t gonna let no system walk all over me  

Went down to the governor’s house…  
Went down to the jailhouse…  
Went down to the HUD Office…  

Scan to listen to Rich Man’s House  

RISE UP (CALL AND RESPONSE)  
*By: Charon Hribar & José Vasquez*

Rise up we’re gonna rise up 2x  
We ain’t gonna let nobody turn us around  
Because the people united will stand our ground  

Rise up we’re gonna rise up 2x  
The powers that be can’t keep us down  
We’re gonna rise up and turn the world around  

NO NOS MOVERAN/  
WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED  
*By: Unknown*

No, no, no nos moveran! 2x  
Como un arbol firme junto al rio  
No nos moveran  

Unidos en la lucha, no nos moveran  
2x  
Como un arbol firme junto al rio  
No nos moveran  

Housing is a human right, we shall not be moved  
2x  
Just like a tree that’s planted by the water,  
We shall not be moved  

We’re fighting for our rights (and)  
We shall not be moved  
2x  
Just like a tree that’s planted by the water,  
We shall not be moved.  

(Spanish verses/ versos en español)  

Abolish the police  
We shall not be moved….

Black lives matter  
We shall not be moved…  

Scan to listen to No Nos Moveran/ We Shall Not Be Moved  

Rise up come on and rise up 2x  
The people are ready so follow our lead  
We’ll put an end to the violence, the hatred and greed  

Rise up we’re gonna rise up 2x  
Rise up 4x  

Scan to listen to Rise Up