

**\*this is a DRAFT with a mock title and cover\***



# THINKING OF HOME

a community zine by:  
**The Youth Alliance for Housing (YAH)**

**~~ THINKING OF HOME ~~**  
**YAH ZINE ISSUE #1 | SUMMER 2022**

***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.

<The cover shown is a mock cover for the sake of this draft>

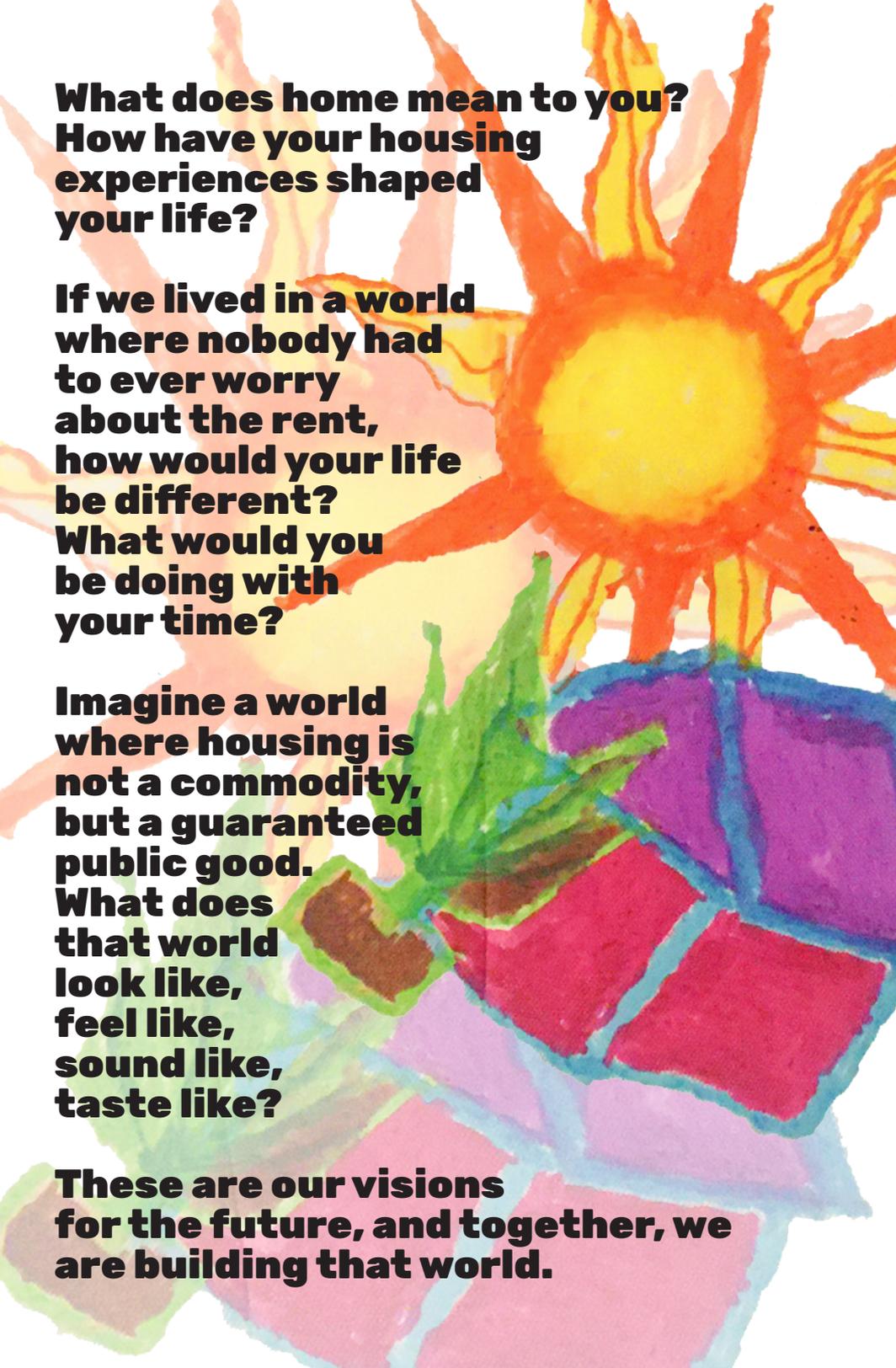
Scattered throughout the zine are doodles people on the street drew when asked about the meaning of home.

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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# **YAH Manifesto**

\* each line will be handwritten by YAH members in final version\*

**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**

# **YAH Manifesto**

\* each line will be handwritten by YAH members in final version\*

**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**

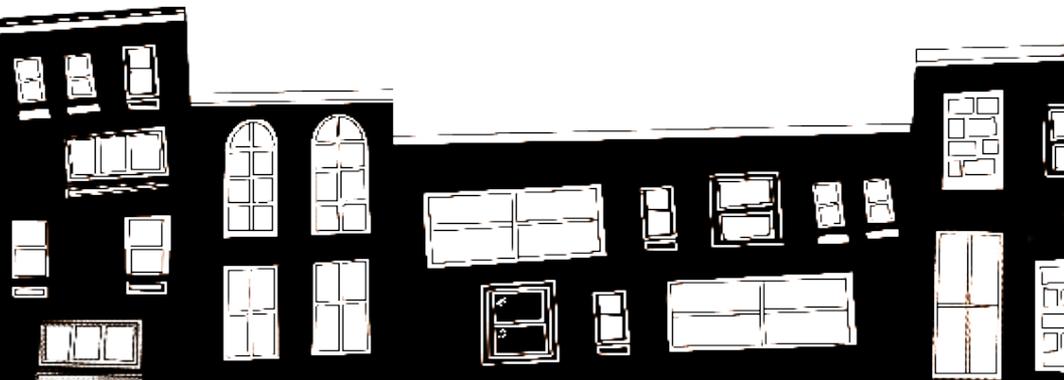
**Rest, healing, and unapologetic self love is a radical act of resistance**

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

# Introduction to YAH

There is a haunting absence of young people in the movement for housing justice. Housing is the infrastructure for all systems of oppression- rooted in racial capitalism and white 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](https://www.gofundme.com/yahGoFundMe)



**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

<https://www.justfix.nyc/en/our-mission>

Tenant Legal Service Organizations

<https://www.nycourts.gov/COURTS/nyc/SSI/images/corona/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.justice.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

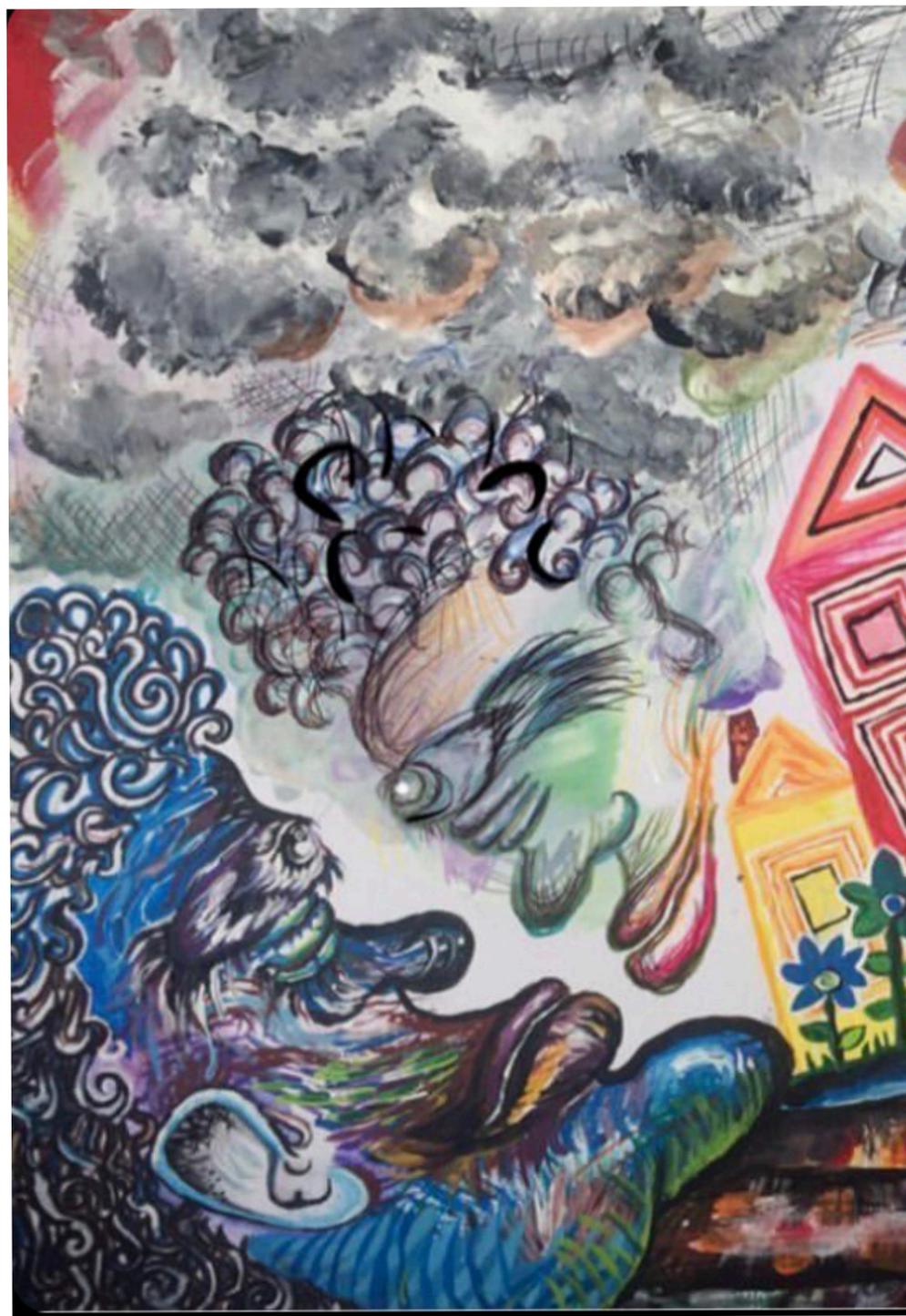
Washington Square Park Mutual Aid

In Our Hands - Learn about Youth lead groups

Churched United for Fair Housing Youth

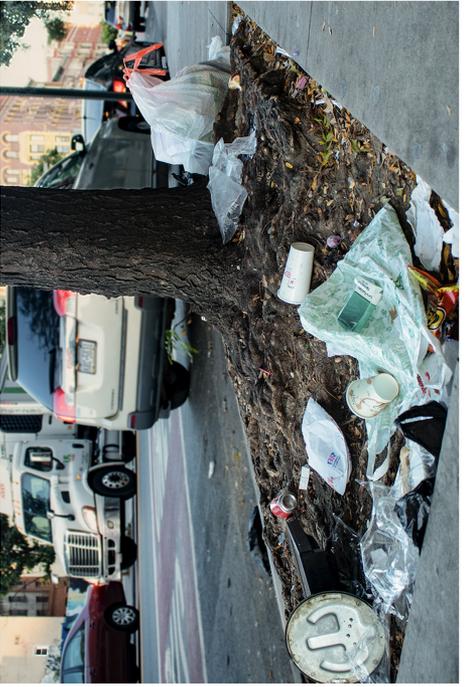
CrownHights Tennants Union

**Scan here for full list!**





Joi Cole @joicoleart



# 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.

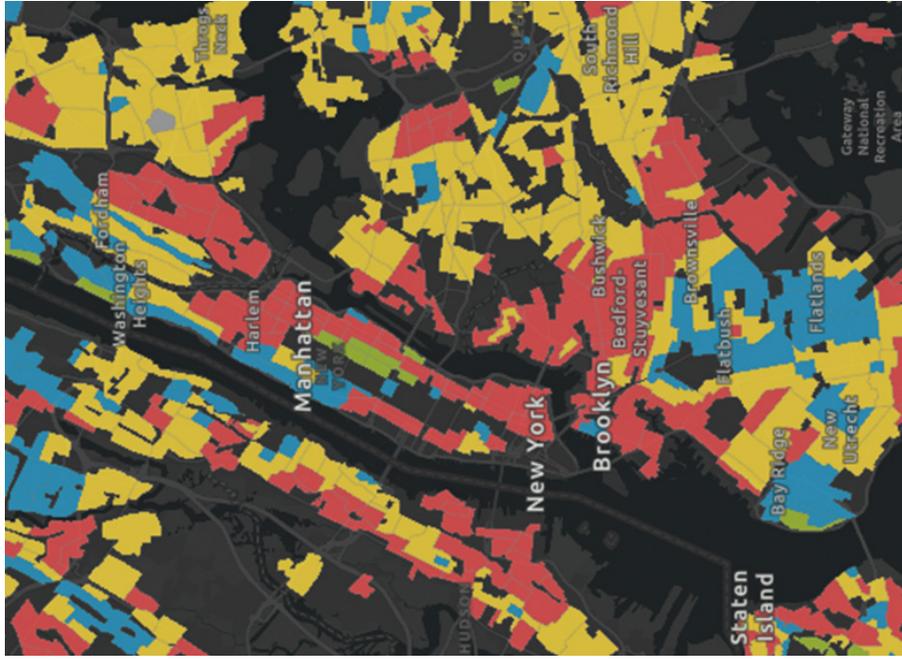
Do you know how much I mourn as I watch this menac-  
ing

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?

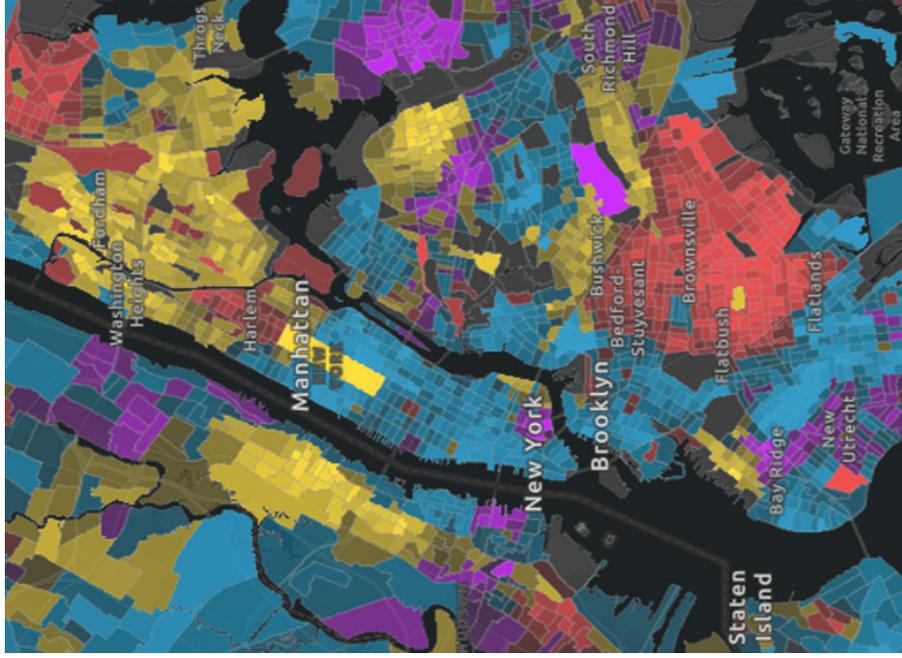
The foolish ignorance of the gentrifiers, blaring as  
harshly as a siren. Their acknowledgement of their sins,  
as hushed as a cemetery. Sometimes, I ponder  
if they intentionally inflicted this willful blindness  
upon themselves. And sometimes, I wish  
for them to wake up.

*-Kayla Morgan*  
*@kaylaswordspoetry @kaylandmorgan*

**Historic HOLC Redlining Map**



**Current Predominant Race**



# 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

Grade



A



B



C



D



Other

## Predominant Race (Boundaries)

Predominant category



Non-Hispanic white Population



Hispanic or Latinx Population



Black Population



Asian Population



Indigenous Population



Two or More Races Population



Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population



Some Other Race Population



Other

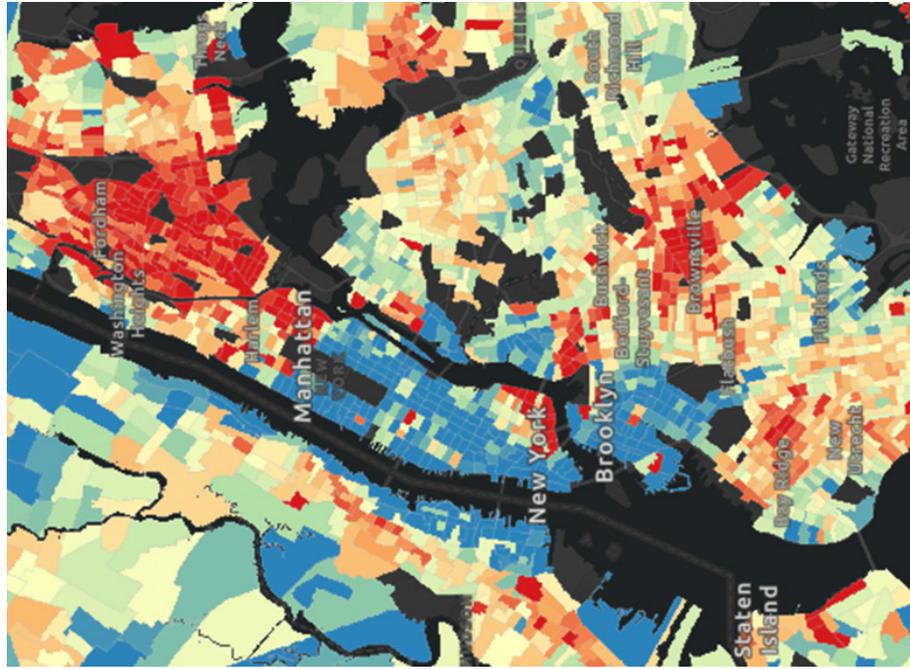
Strength of predominance



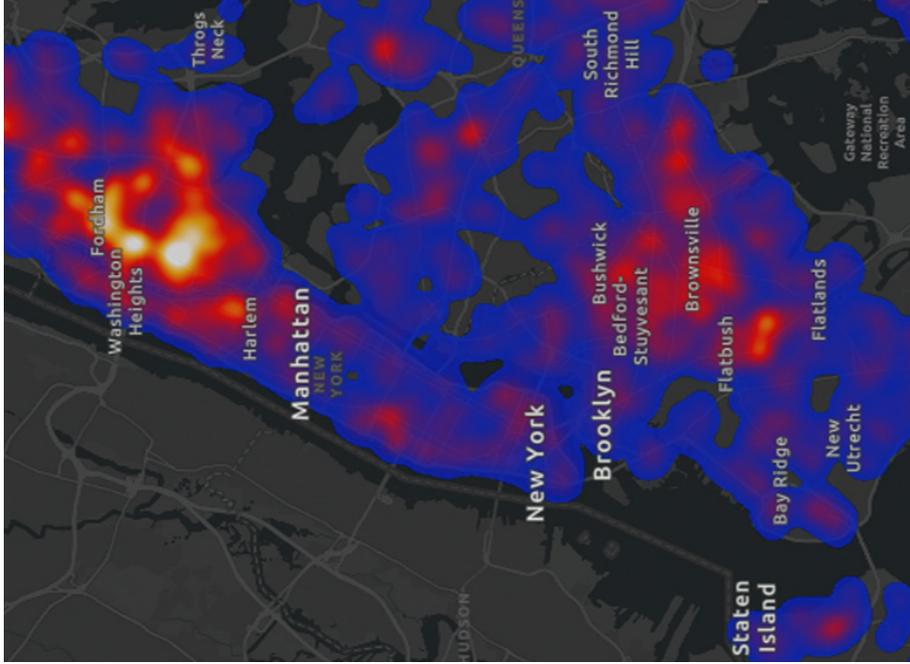
> 90

< 30

**Median Household Income**



**Evictions by Zipcode**



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, householdsize and COVID-19 risk.

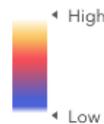
Down to the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink, diverse communities still experience the violence caused by racist planning on a daily

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

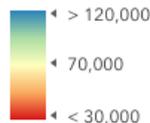
Evictions by zipcode



Median Household Income (Boundaries)



Median Household Income in past 12 months (inflation-adjusted dollars to last year of 5-year range)



# STATISTICS TRIVIA

How many NYC public school students are un-housed 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



# 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](https://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

----- Scan to listen

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



Scan to listen  
to Mr. Auctioneer

NEIGHBOR NEIGHBOR

CAN'T YOU SEE

By: *Military Cadence*

(*Call and response housing remix*)

Neighbor neighbor can't you see  
rent cancellation's what we need  
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh  
Housing evictions got to go

Neighbor neighbor can't you see  
why community housing's  
what we need  
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh  
All the slumlords got to go

Neighbor neighbor can't you see  
permanent housing's what  
we need

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh  
the profiteers have got to go

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

## 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



Broadway Junction

STRUCTURE DIVISION  
← ENTRANCE  
40 Conway Street