

FORMING IDENTITY THROUGH, MEMORY, HISTORY, & PLACE

REVEALING THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE OF
SEATTLE'S CENTRAL DISTRICT



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PROJECT STATEMENT & RESEARCH QUESTION

This project centers around the fact that cities are living, dynamic spaces of change and explores the question:

Q. How is identity shaped by our built environment?



CONTEXT



Restrictive Covenant: Squire Park

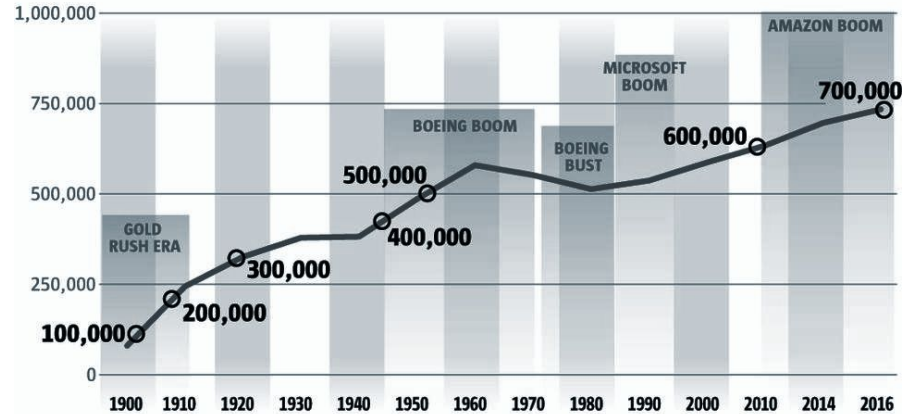
*The parties hereto signing and executing this instrument and the several like instruments relating to their several properties in said district, hereby mutually covenant, promise and agree each with the others, and for their respective heirs and assigns, that no part of said lands owned by them as described following their signatures to this instrument, shall never be used, occupied by or sold, conveyed, leased, rented or given to **Negroes, or any person or persons of the Negro blood.***

IMPORTANCE

- Rapid Growth
- Gentrification
- Displacement
- Social Cohesion
- Resilience

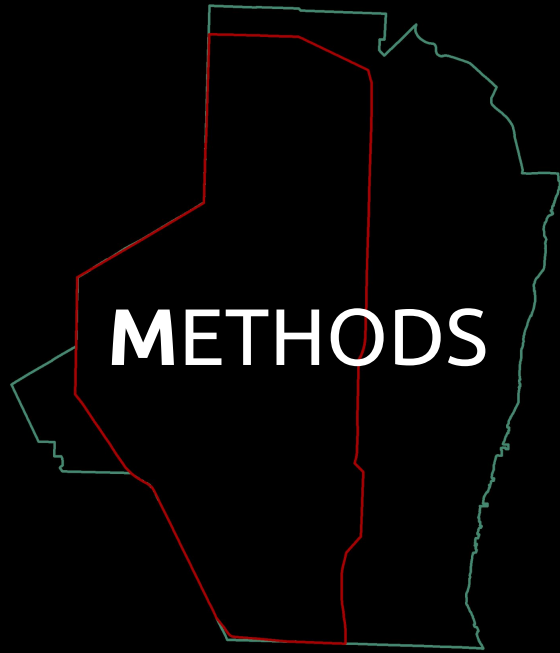
Seattle population milestones

Last year, Seattle passed the 700,000 mark for the first time. New census data estimate the city's 2016 population at 704,352.



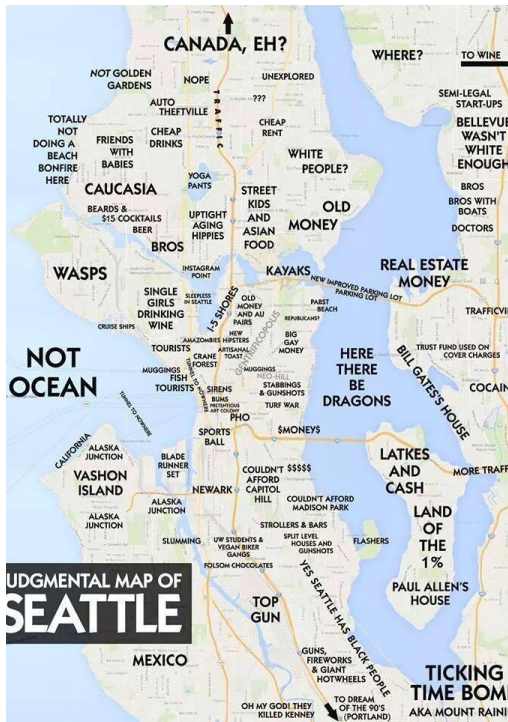
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

THE SEATTLE TIMES



- Literature Review
 - Online Survey
 - Interviews
 - Archival Research
 - Map Making
-

READINGS

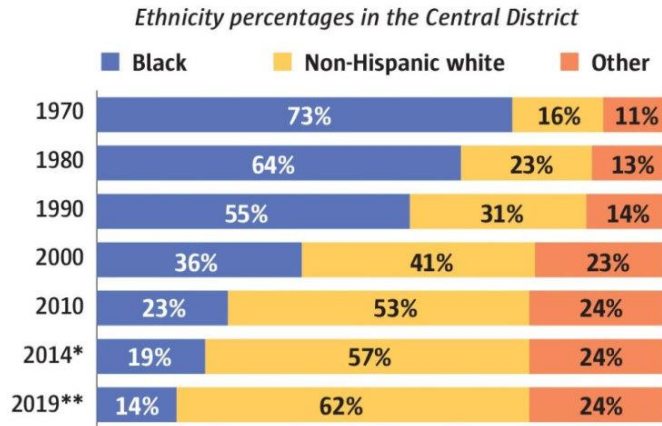


- Case Studies
 - Walking Tours in Seattle

“Seattle is now at a crossroads. Over the past decade, the metropolitan region has experienced unprecedented growth pressures that threaten the quality of life Seattleites have long enjoyed and used to take for granted.”

~ Peter Steinbrueck, 1994

READINGS



*Estimated, **Projected

- History
 - Evolution of the Central District

“The city’s African Americans never comprised more than 1% of the total population before 1940, and the entire African American community grew by fewer than 1,500 persons between 1910 and 1940.”

~ Dr. Quintard Taylor



- Theory
 - Place and Identity
 - Phenomenology
 - Storytelling

“An individual’s sense of place is both a biological response to the surrounding physical environment and a cultural creation.”

~ Dolores Hayden

ONLINE SURVEY

- Central District Residents
- 62 Respondents
- 10 Questions
- 75% Women, 24% Men
- 50% Age 35 - 55
- 29% Black, 64% White, 4% Asian, 1% Native

- 77% Own, 22% Rent
- 50% Residence 20+
- 64% College Grad

Gentrifying, Diverse, Vibrant, Historic, Disjointed, Threatening, Construction, Home, Changing, Expanding, Cramped, Friends, Tense, Location, Transportation, Amenities, Developer honey pot, Central, Black, Transitioning. Over the hill. Urban, Crucial, Community, Suburbs of Cap Hill

INTERVIEWS

- 8 Central District Residents
- Sample Questions
 - What is your earliest memory of the CD?
 - Describe a unique or transformative experience in the Central District.
 - What do you think is the greatest challenge of the CD today?



RESIDENT PROFILES

Polly Membrino

- 6 years in residence
- 3 words: Gentrifying, Community,

Home

Favorite Places

Broadcast Coffee

Pratt Fine Arts

Frink Park

Douglass-Truth



Chris "CBlack" Bailey

- 25 years in residence
- 3 words: Green, Family, Memories

Favorite Places

Boys & Girls Club

Garfield CCenter

Medgar Evers

Jordan's Drugstore

RESIDENT MAPS

JULIO SANCHEZ



HOPE & DAVID



BILL BRADBURD



ARCHIVAL RESEARCH



- UW Libraries
- Seattle Public Library
- Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI)



- Results
- Lessons
- Next Steps

RESULTS

- Did I answer the question?
- What did I produce?
 - Composite Tour #1
 - Composite Tour #2



Property of Museum of History & Industry, Seattle

COMPOSITE WALKING TOUR



LESSONS

- The significance of place in our daily lives and identity
- A deeper understanding of community
- The importance of stories in planning practice
- Growing pains of a reforging community
- The significance of relationships to place

NEXT STEPS

- Present at Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Launch the tour with The Urbanist on 23 June 2018
- Survey tour participants and evaluate results
- Print and distribute walking tour booklet

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Polly Membrino

Tony Pai



QUESTIONS

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