

Reparations Shared Learning Session

Boston Reparations Task Force

September 20, 2025

Facilitated by:

Community Institute for Research and Development, Inc.

TODAY'S FACILITATION TEAM



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Dr. Matthew Robinson



Mr. Spark Bookhart

Not Pictured Chanda Causer w/ Causer Consulting

PURPOSE AND AGREEMENTS

Today we aim for everyone to participate in a shared learning process. Shared Learning assumes that no one has all of the answers and that our collective understanding is increased because we are learning new things in community with others.

Learning Happens In Public!

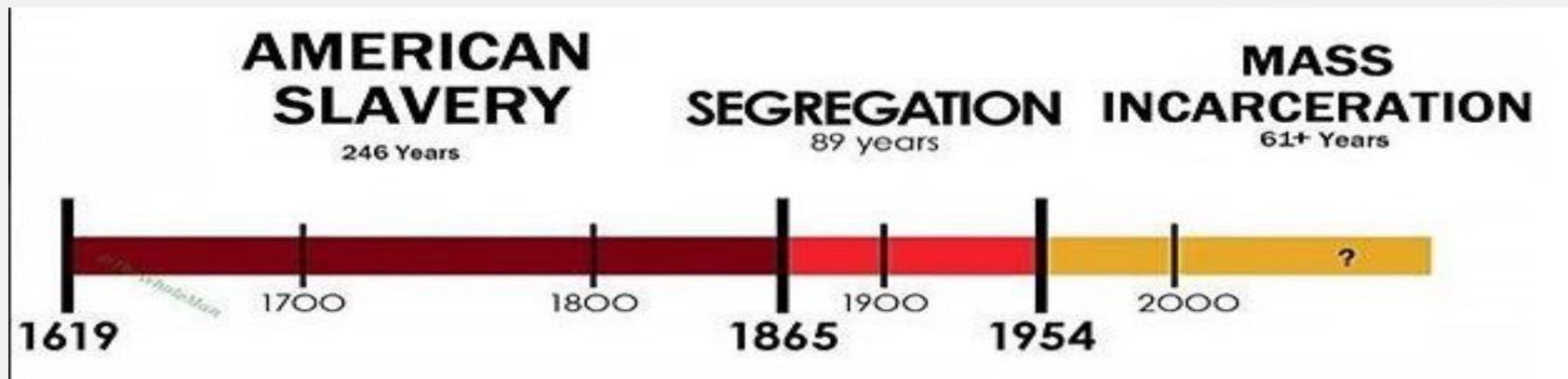
- **Be OPEN**
- **There Are NO SIMPLE SOLUTIONS**
- **There Are More AND's Than OR's**
- **Open the Door to Your Silo and Peek Out**
- **Two Step: Step Up & Step Back**
- **Be a Family: We Don't Always Agree**
- **Any Others?**
- **Be present**

GROUNDING

- **Reparations: Where We Are Now?**
- **Three Reparative Processes**
- **Five Harm Areas**

REPARATIONS: WHERE WE ARE NOW?

- Boston, MA
- Kansas City, MO
- Evanston, IL*
- State of California
- San Francisco, CA
- Amherst, MA
- St. Paul, MN
- Tulsa, OK
- US - HR 40
- Asheville, NC*
- Detroit, MI
- Chicago, IL



THREE REPARATIVE PROCESSES

- **Tort Process**
- **Atonement Process**
- **Restoration Process**

TORT PROCESS

- “A tort is an act or omission that gives rise to injury or harm to another and amounts to a civil wrong for which courts impose liability. In the context of torts, "injury" describes the invasion of any legal right, whereas "harm" describes a loss or detriment that an individual suffers.” – Cornell Law School Legal Dictionary
- High bar of connecting historical acts to present-day harms
- Backwards looking

ATONEMENT PROCESS

- **Atonement** approaches reparations not as a legal (Tort) obligation, but as a **moral and ethical responsibility** grounded in acknowledgment, apology, and redress. It draws on ideas of restorative justice, truth-telling, and reconciliation.
- A process of **healing relationships**, not just transferring money.
- The emphasis is on **symbolic acts** (formal apologies, memorials, educational programs) plus **material measures** (investment in communities, policy reforms).
- Forward looking

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Taking inventory of our obligation to each other.
- Taking inventory of the resources we already have as a community.
- Creating a vision of what we as a community want for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren...
- Creating a shared strategic plan of how we as a community:
 “use what we’ve got to get what we want”
- Implementing that plan.
- Forward moving

FIVE HARM AREAS



Economics



Education



Health



Housing



Social Justice

TABLE DISCUSSION PURPOSE

- **To listen deeply**
- **Seek to learn from your table**
- **Capture notes**
- **Assign a speaker to share back**

TABLE DISCUSSION #1

- **What resonated the most?**
- **What did you know?**
- **What didn't you know?**
- **What was left out?**

30:00

SHARE BACK #1

- **What did we hear?**
- **Where did we get stuck?**
- **What would you want more of an understanding of?**

15:00

Break

30:00

Local Impact

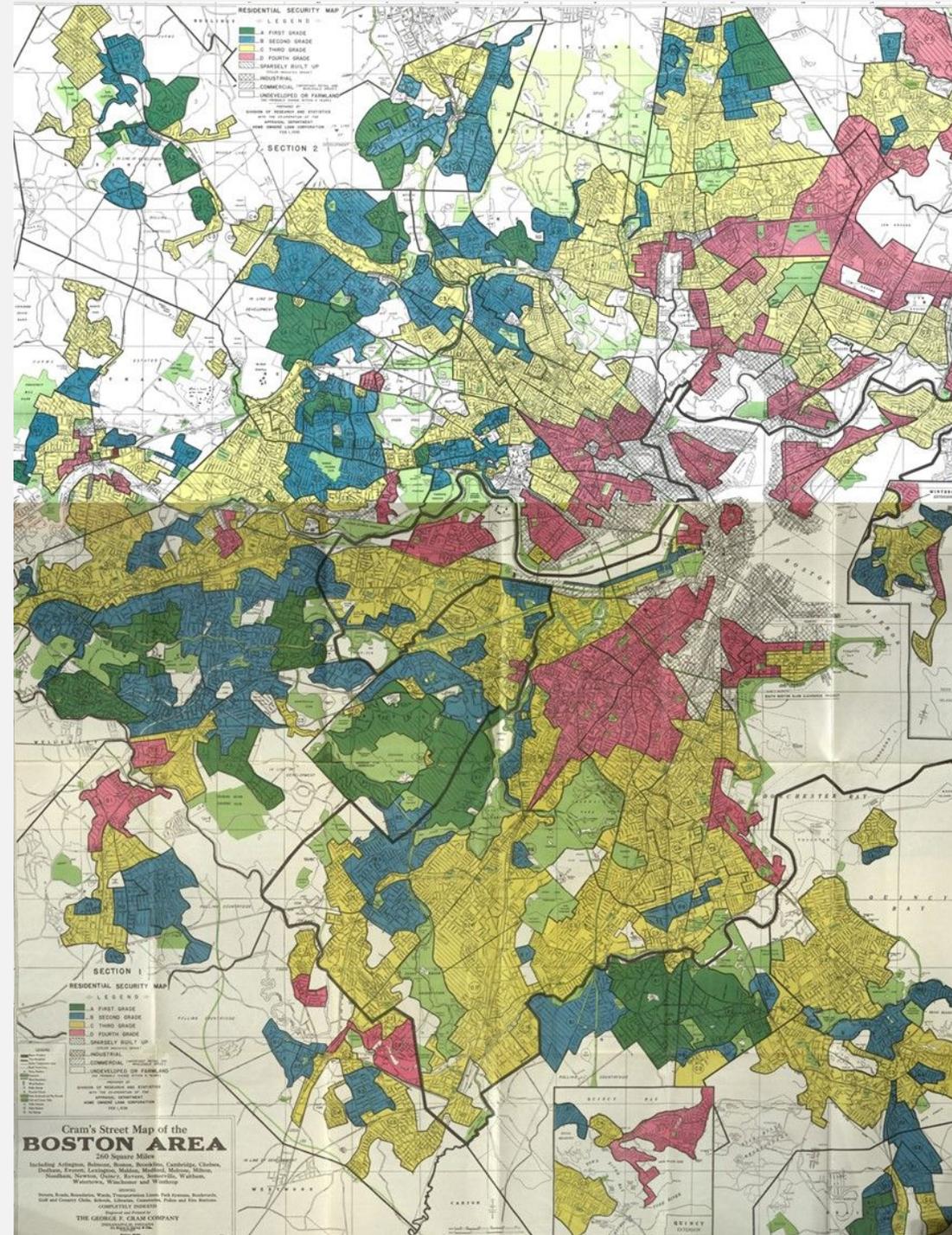
GROWING UP IN PHILLY



INTERCONNECTION OF COMMUNITY HARM



Boston Area
“Residential Security”
(Redlining) Map



Legend ×

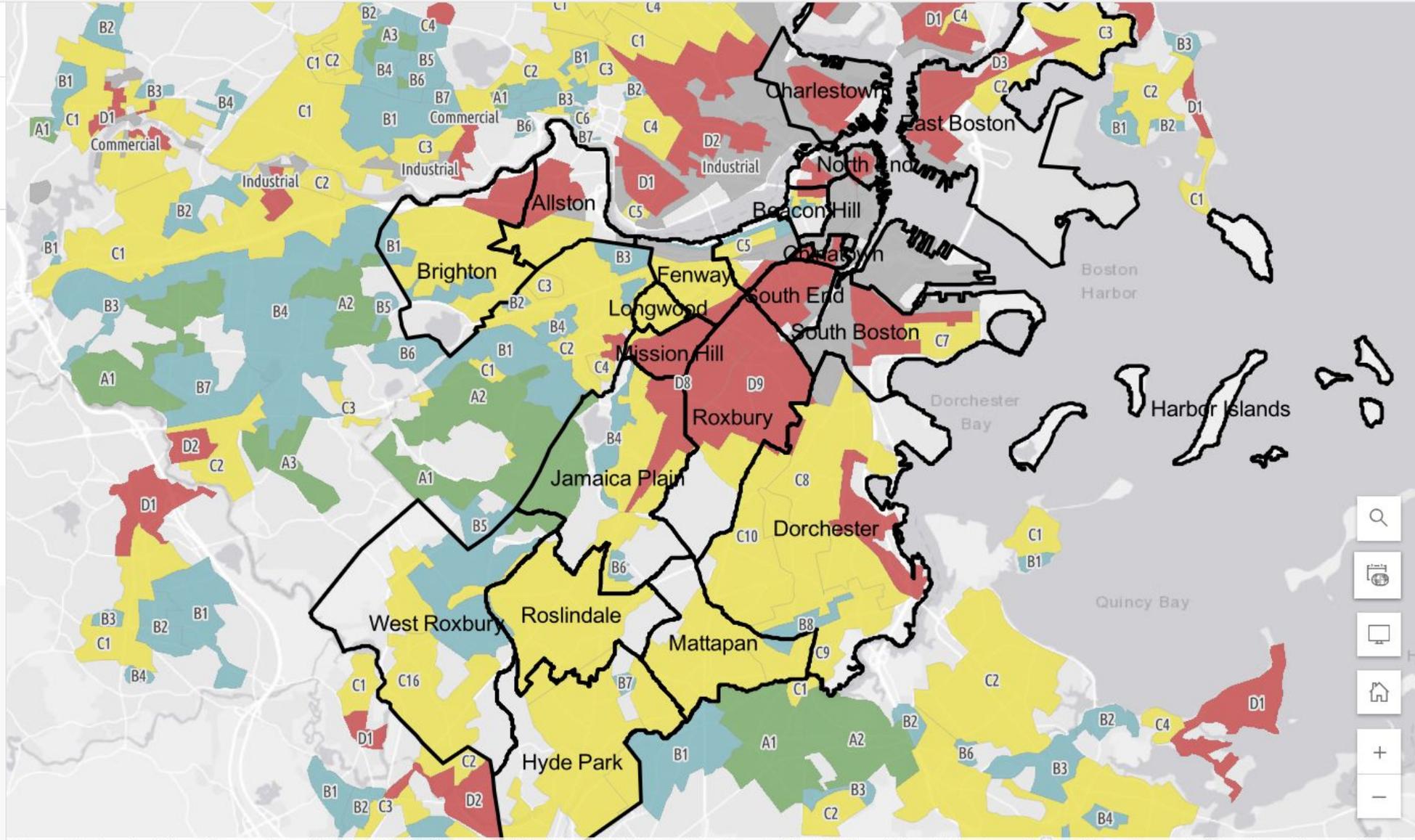
Boston Neighborhood Boundaries



Mapping Inequality Redlining Areas

HOLC Grades

-  A
-  B
-  C
-  D
-  Other



Map navigation controls:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



TABLE TALK DISCUSSION #2

- **Share your individual harm story?**
- **How does individual harm show up your broader community?**

30:00

SHARE BACK #2

Designated speaker for the group share individual and community harms raised in the table discussion.

15:00

CLOSING GROUP EXERCISES

Based on today's shared learning on harms...

Collectively at your table, attempt to craft a concise harm that your table has come to a consensus on, in each harm area: Economics, Education, Health, Housing, Social Justice.

30:00

NEXT STEP RECOMMENDATIONS

- **A formal Harms workshop**
- **Introduce Community**
Organizing into the process
- **Expand the base**
- **Commit to continued Shared Learning**

FEEDBACK IS A GIFT

