

LibertyCon2021 May Event: Documenting Racially Restrictive C...

Sat, 5/22 2:32PM • 1:57:33

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

covenants, dc, deeds, neighborhood, white, restrictive covenants, mara, bloomingdale, property, african americans, lived, racial, research, black, called, city, housing, records, started, home

SPEAKERS

Mara Cherkasky, Paul Stewart, Maryliz Stewart, Deb Vincent Evans, David Hockfelder

Paul Stewart 30:57

Oh, yeah welcome to Freedom con 2021 The 19th annual public history conference organized by underground railroad Education Center. This year our theme is freedom road the struggle for justice continues and we're glad that you could join us today. The purpose of underground railroad Education Center is to research and preserve the local and national history of the Underground Railroad movement, its international connections its legacy for today's social justice issues, seeking to empower people of all ages to be agents of change toward an equitable society, and just society. Yeah.

Maryliz Stewart 31:40

And as Paul Stewart, so aptly reminds us in our ever increasing polarized society. The Underground Railroad movement of the 19th century, and its abolition activists and freedom seekers challenge us to publicly reflect and act upon the legacy of the institution of enslavement and the legacy of the Underground Railroad in our contemporary times, we always like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our sponsors who stepped up to the plate for us to help make all make this programming possible our sponsors this year includes Stephen and Diane O'Connor, Christina Cummings, Erie Canal a national heritage corridor, Albany steel capital line, Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Roger green Trinity Alliance mag Car Insurance Agency, that'll have neighbors for peace. Solidarity committee of the Capitol district, the Honorable John MacDonald, Greg goes your CFP avoya Financial Crispin's automotive modern press Ivana buena Gianna lives. suni John Brown lives, and then we have two anonymous donors as well. So, if any, you know if you ever have an opportunity to support the efforts of these folks we asked you if you would be so kind to keep them in mind.

Paul Stewart 32:53

So some housekeeping details please keep yourself muted through the presentation. Questions or comments, please type them in the chat box, and closed captioning is available if needed.

Maryliz Stewart 33:07

And just a quick reminder of please move your cursor to the lower part of your screen, a horizontal menu bar should appear. There you will find the chat audio and video functions on the top right corner of your screen is a square of nine smaller squares, click on this set of squares to activate a drop down menu from which you can select gallery view and speaker view. And finally, regarding closed captioning instructions and information about access to today's presentation during the upcoming week will be provided by Deb Evans,

Deb Vincent Evans 33:37

Deb urine. There we go. Anyway, sorry you can't see my face I'm the I'm the Liberty Bell picture. Yes, it, the video tends to stop the stop the sharing so we didn't want that to happen today. Anyway, you should be seeing right now on the bottom of your screen. Closed captioning as we speak. I have to apologize it's not perfect, it's kind of funny sometimes to see what it does wrong but that's what we get. And there will also be a copy of the closed captioned transcript via a transcript service that we use, along with a link to the presentation, you should get that link, by no later than tomorrow evening and then you have one week to view it and then the present, then the, the replay goes away. All right, so with that I'm out of the way now you all back to Paul and Mary this.

Paul Stewart 34:34

Okay, so we'll turn our program over now to Dave hook Felder, professor at the University at Albany, who will introduce today's speaker

David Hockfelder 34:44

Paul Thanks very much, thanks everyone for, for being here and thank you very much to Mara, we really appreciate your willingness to speak with us today. Mara. Just want to give a short biography marcher Caskey is a DC based historian and writer and editor and the founding co founder rather in 2014 of the historical research firm prologue DC, LLC for the Digital Public History Project mapping segregation in Washington DC. Mapping segregation is one of the premier digital public history projects about urban history, and housing discrimination, and it's inspired similar projects and other places like Minneapolis and Seattle. Mara has produced exhibit petals, books and articles for print and online publications and historic sites signage for clients, as varied as the National Park Service Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, and cultural tourism DC. She's a meticulous researcher and as a system isn't Sonian Anacostia community museum to view eta TV, the DC Historic Preservation Office, the Meijer Foundation, and many other organizations. She's also an experienced oral history interviewer and walking tour guide, and speaks frequently on systemic racism to civic and business organizations, as well as classrooms from elementary school on current research projects started current and recent projects include mapping the Circa 1912 destruction of the African American community IDCs Meridian Hill, it's where Malcolm X Park is right now, developing a 100, cite DC African American civil rights tour, and creating a national underground railroad network to freedom, signage for DC use Walter Pierce Park, Mar holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin Madison, and a master's degree in American Studies from George Washington University. She's also a non senior non resident Senior Scholar at the George Washington University's Institute of Public Policy, and it gives me great pleasure to introduce Mara and Mara the, the, say, The floor is yours. Zoom chat is yours.

36:57

Thanks very much, Dave Good afternoon everyone and thanks for tuning in. This presentation will be based on the project I'd co direct mapping segregation in Washington DC. And I'll start by reviewing Washington's history of segregation and housing and then I'll run through our research methodology so let me share. Hope you can see that. Everyone see that.

37:41

Okay, looks good.

37:41

Thank you. Okay. The US Supreme Court established separate but equal is the law of the land in 1896, in a case called Plessy v Ferguson. The case was about separate train cars for blacks and for whites and it stemmed from Louisiana, but the decision was applied to the entire country and all walks of life, life. The rise of segregation coincided with a transformative period in Washington's history when African American families were leaving the South for the North to escape oppression and violence and to find better opportunities, the District of Columbia is not exactly the north, but we had a large black population from the beginning, generally 1/4 to 1/3 of the total in 1830 for example, it was 30%, or about 9100 people, about half were enslaved and half for free in 1900 it was about 31%. We had an elected mayor and city council from the beginning but in 1871 We became a territory with a governor and House of Delegates, which included a few black members in 1874 though Congress stripped the district of its power of self government. And for the next 100 years, Congress ran the city through an appointed board of commissioners, all white. Until 1955 congressional committees that oversaw district affairs were headed up by Southern segregationists through some creative tactics on the part of DC activists like campaigning against those segregationist legislators in their own districts. DC gain regain limited home rule in 1974, but we still have no voting representation in Congress. Howard University was one of these main draws to people migrating from the south. It trained and still trains, doctors, lawyers and teachers among others in the area around the university was an attractive place to live. Howard had helped opened here after the Civil War, along with the M Street School later renamed Dunbar High School, Dunbar is the alma mater of many prominent Americans, many people were able to find jobs here as teachers or as clerks with the federal government or in hotels and restaurants, or as domestics in private homes. Some lived very well such as renowned educator Anna Julia Cooper. In the bucolic loadrite Park neighborhood just south of Howard University. The majority though were poor and stuck in substandard housing in the oldest neighborhoods.

40:33

Here's the original plan for Washington, which is nestled between the Potomac River and the eastern branch now known as the Anacostia River. Much of the Old City is at sea level. Here's the Capitol. And here's the White House. This is a canal that ran were Constitution Avenue is today. Along the National Mall, and that area was particularly flood prone, until the 1930s it was residential with light industry, and it was one of the areas black people lived. The map looks a bit different today because some of this area was later filled in. Here's where the Lincoln Memorial is today, the top edge of the map was Boundary Street. Today it's called Florida Avenue, and just north of it, the land rises steeply. Originally the land north of the Old City was called Washington County. The city was expanding during the late 19th and early 20th centuries as streetcar lines, extended north of Florida Avenue country estates and

farms were subdivided for new housing in so called streetcar suburbs, Howard University and LeDroit Park are marked there in red. This is a promotional brochure for one of those streetcar suburbs Columbia Heights. Just here just above the blue arrow. developers are marketing racial homogeneity as essential to creating safe, stable neighborhoods, and thoughts to retaining property values. Nowhere in the District of Columbia can be found a community freer from the objectionable classes than that on the heights, and there is every assurance that present conditions will continue. all are alive to the importance of cooperating to that end. Many of the new houses in Columbia Heights had racially restrictive covenants and their deeds. And that's why the developers could assure buyers that present conditions would continue. You probably know what a deed is but just to be clear, it's a legal document, actually a contract that transfers ownership of a piece of real estate from one party to another. This was a 1914 deed for a property in a subdivision called Chilam Castle heights in the northern part of the District of Columbia, at the upper left, the Washington land and mortgage company was selling a lot to marry twig. This is further down in the same deed. It contains a few restrictive covenants inserted by the realty company, number one, prohibits the manufacture or sale of alcohol, number two says any house constructed on the lot has to cost \$2,000 to build be 25 feet wide and it has to be a freestanding house, as opposed to a row house \$2,000 would have been a modest house. Number three is the racial covenant, no part whatsoever of the property shall ever be sold or rented to a person or persons of African descent racially restrictive covenants were common all across the country, in the first half of the 20th century. Number four at the bottom prohibit several other uses, including a slaughterhouse theater or circus in other parts of DC the restriction also applied to Jews Southern Europeans, or others. This is a covenant from an area west of Rock Creek Park, which has always been nearly 100% White. This is from a neighborhood called Wesley heights around the American University campus. It says no part of the land hereby conveyed shall ever be used or occupied by or sold, etc to negroes or any person or persons of Negro blood or extraction or to any person of the Semitic race blood or origin defined as Armenians Jews Hebrews Persians and Syrians. There is an exception the homeowner was allowed to have servants from any of those ethnicities. Racial Discrimination grew more entrenched during the term of President Woodrow Wilson who took office in 1913. He immediately segregated government offices, the very workplaces that had drawn many people to Washington in the first place, and fired or demoted African Americans who had risen in the ranks. This had a devastating financial impact on many families. Here's the segregated waiting room for a new US Public Health, Health Service clinic for federal workers in DC.

45:11

The US entered World War One in 1917, and many African Americans who fought abroad, in their segregated units found themselves treated with far greater respect by Europeans, than by their white countrymen. When the war ended in 1918, they returned home with new self confidence but facing increased animosity, on the part of whites. This was only amplified in a tight job market. Things turned violent. The next summer, July 1919 so called race riots broke out amid the heat animated rumors of black men molesting white women with white newspapers stoking fear what was actually happening was that white veterans were randomly attacking black people on the street and on street cars. That's not how the white media told it though, as you can see here, Negro runs amok, wounding many in flight negroes fired on whites from speeding autos. This is from a black newspaper, same event. Note the subhead, to the right, soldiers tried to terrorize colored folk, they meant, white soldiers similar violence along with dozens of lynchings occurred around the country during what became known as red summer

1919 in the 1920s white citizens associations started writing racial covenants to. We call them petition covenants to distinguish them from the ones placed in deeds by developers. This one was for the 1700 block of Street Northwest, a short mile from where a battle took place in July 1919, in which armed, black people resisted white attackers. This most terrified white residents, then in 1920, a prominent black couple civil rights and women's rights activist Mary Church Terrell and Judge Robert Terrell moved on to the 1600 block of Street Northwest, and soon after white residents of the 1700 block started gathering signatures for racial covenants on their homes, prohibiting rental or sale to black people. They filed it with a DC recorder of deeds, and it said, no part of the land now owned by the parties here to shall ever be used or occupied by or sold conveyed, etc, to negroes or any persons of the Negro race or blood for a period of 21 years. Here's another indication of the racial climate, the original Ku Klux Klan had faded away in the 19th century, but it reappeared in the 1920s, this time in northern cities and going after Catholics and also Jews. Here's the Klan parading down Pennsylvania Avenue in 1926 Washington's leading newspaper, described the event in a quite benign light. The Klan also opposed immigration. Not coincidentally, Congress passed legislation in 1924 that drastically cut the numbers of immigrants allowed into the US. It set quotas for each country, and it heavily favored Northwestern Europe, Japan was left out altogether, and immigration from China had been cut off more than 40 years earlier. Also in 1924 the national national association of real estate boards, revised its existing code of ethics to include a prohibition against the introduction into the any neighborhood of the members of any race or nationality, whose presence will be detrimental to the neighborhood and to property values member boards were required to adopt this provision or leave the national organization, and they were required to discipline realtors who floated the code. The Washington Board Of course, added the provision, no property in a white section shall ever be sold rented advertised, or offered to colored people. Here's a 1925 ad for restricted row houses in Petworth neighborhood north of Columbia Heights, the papers were full of ads like this. And here are some of those new Petworth row houses. The newspapers also helped out by indicating which properties were available to African Americans in general, if an ad did not specify for colored, the property was for whites only. The papers continued this practice until 1960.

49:55

Racial covenants had been used for decades. When a new government agency, the Federal Housing Administration began insuring mortgages in 1934 as part of an effort to boost homeownership and housing construction during the Great Depression. FHA bought completely into the prevailing racist practices. This excerpt from its manual says if a neighborhood is to retain stability, it is necessary that properties continue to be occupied by the same social and racial classes. Here's another section recommending racially restrictive covenants, FHA backed loans, only for housing that was segregated in reality it's supported mostly whites only housing. And this policy stayed in place until 1950. The banks had always discriminated against African Americans the white banks which was most of them, and now FHA helped them do this by producing maps showing neighborhoods they considered risky. This was called redlining because African Americans are mixed areas were colored red. There was no redlining map for DC but here's one for New Orleans. And here's the legend for it. Green is best. Blue is still desirable, yellow is definitely declining and red is hazardous. That is red areas for too risky to land in, and those are the areas where black people lived. This map shows our covenant research so far. Areas that only show a few covenants, or areas we haven't researched thoroughly yet, but we're expecting to find those areas blanketed by restrictions. We've mapped almost 23,000 covenants and

it's clear restrictive covenants were used all over the city, even occasionally in the Old City. Here's the same map but with a layer showing 1940 demographics, the darker the color, the greater the percentage of African American residents on a block. And this one I've marked Rock Creek Park with a green line, the area west of the park, originally had some African American neighborhoods, but they were pushed out by the 1940s, and it stayed nearly all white ever since. People frequently tested the racial covenants by defying or ignoring them, or I should say they sometimes tested them. Sometimes it worked because white residents had given up trying to keep a neighborhood segregated, for example, adjacent to Howard University. Starting in the 1920s there were numerous lawsuits over covenants around the country, we've identified about four dozen in DC. This map shows the properties involved. Each black pin is a lawsuit. We're talking neighbors suing neighbors who sold to African Americans or suing the buyers themselves, or both. The blue areas are properties with covenants. You can see a large cluster of lawsuits in one area of the Bloomingdale neighborhood Bloomingdale is very close to Howard University and HBCU, and Lloyd Wright Park which has a large African American population by the early 20th century, to the east of Bloomingdale was a large area that was restricted to whites. So Bloomingdale was squeezed in between, and became a sort of racial dividing line.

53:26

But I'm going to talk about a lawsuit that happened in a different neighborhood, the red circle is around the 1700 block of s Street, and which was involved in a landmark 1926 case, This was a legal challenge to the petition covenant. Covenant I showed you earlier. Um, as I said in the 1700 block of street that's the DuPont Circle neighborhood. Corrigan V Barclay set national precedent, it established that the courts would enforce racially restrictive covenants, how they, how they would be enforced had been unclear, until now. Soon after signing that 1920 covenant, the owner of 1727 s Street, Irene Corrigan, at the top, agreed to sell her house to an African American surgeon, Arthur Curtis and his wife, Helen. Irene Corrigan claimed she didn't know that they were black or white neighbor John J Buckley of 1719 s at the bottom, went to court to stop the sale. Here's where they lived and you can see that these are large fairly elegant row houses in 19 April 1923 The court did cancel the sale, based on the fact that segregation was legal in DC schools, and recreation facilities. Corrigan and the Curtis's appealed, but they lost again. In June 1924 The appellate court said African Americans were equally free to discriminate. Therefore covenants did not violate their civil rights. Think how ridiculous that was segregation was legal because black people were equally free to discriminate against whites. In 1926, the US Supreme Court declined to hear the case. It said it didn't have jurisdiction, because this was about a private contract among property owners, and thus not subject to the 14th amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law. So the Supreme Court, in effect, affirmed the constitutionality of racially restrictive covenants in 1926. After that, the use of petition covenants spread this map of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood just east of the National Zoo and west of Columbia Heights, shows how residents covered or they would have said protected, almost the entire neighborhood with covenants within three years of the Corrigan ruling, the darkest purple is signifies owners who signed in 1927, and the lightest is those who signed in 1929. This newspaper ad was published right after the court decision, it mentions Bloomingdale or half of the DC lawsuits occurred, and three white neighborhoods just to the east of it.

56:27

Covenants caused all kinds of problems. This cartoon is from a column in the Washington Afro American newspaper by Robert Weaver, who years later became the first Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, the Weaver cartoon mentioned blight, well, whites wouldn't buy in a changing neighborhood, and African Americans weren't allowed to buy, if there was a covenant. So a covenant could mean a property set vacant for years, like this house in Bloomingdale see the for rent sign in the window. Regardless of what was logical in almost all the cases that came up between 1925 and 1948. The DC courts upheld restrictive covenants. What did that mean in practical terms, it meant you could be kicked out of your own home and lose money you'd invested in it, it meant you'd then be stuck trying to find another place to live in an extremely tight housing market. It meant a lot of hardship and trauma. Charles Hamilton Houston was a top civil rights attorney associated with Howard University School of Law, and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He handled many of the cases we've mapped. And although he lost many of them he used those cases to hone his arguments. But then in 1947, the US Supreme Court agreed to hear too restrictive covenant cases, one from St. Louis and one from Detroit, the NAACP asked the court to also hear two DC cases together known as *Harvey G. Grier v. Hodge*, they involved four houses on Bryant Street in Bloomingdale in civil rights cases, it's important that a DC case be heard too because the 14th Amendment actually requires states to provide their citizens equal protection under the law, since some people claim that DC is not subject to the 14th amendment because it is not a state it's a district. *Harvey G. Grier v. Hodge* needed to be argued based on some other law, in this case it was the Civil Rights Act of 1866. These are two of the houses involved in the lawsuit to others down the block were smaller and the plaintiffs live next door to one of those houses.

59:04

On May, 3 1948, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that racial racially restrictive covenants could no longer be enforced by the courts in *Kramer v. Shelley*, *Shelley v. Kraemer* sorry, in other words it reversed its 1926 affirmation of covenants. By the way, only six of nine justices participated. The other three recused themselves, presumably because they lived in houses with covenants, they weren't required to say why they recuse themselves. In fact one lived near American university so his house was subject to that covenant, I showed you earlier that also contained an anti semitic clause. This map shows demographics for 1941 covenants were in effect, and the courts were upholding them. As I mentioned earlier disease population had been consistently about a quarter to a third African Americans throughout the city's history. The Federal area by 1950 covenants had been ruled unenforceable, and there'd been some shift of African Americans into previously restricted areas east of Rock Creek Park. The city's population was now a little more than 1/3 Black bowling V sharp was the DC companion case to *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 1954 Supreme Court case that ruled segregated schools unconstitutional. These are Barbara and Adrian Jennings two of the plaintiffs, with our mother. The headline says High Court voids school segregation upset separate but equal doctrine. When housing and school restrictions fell. Many whites left the city for the suburbs. This was referred to as white flight. In fact, white families were being enticed to the suburbs, with huge new affordable and segregated FHA insured subdivisions and new federally funded highways to get people to and from jobs in the city. Real estate agents who of course make money by selling houses, and could make even more off black people because of supply, supply shortages raced to move black families onto white blocks. This was called blockbusting because once a black family moved to a block, most of the white families would move away. Unscrupulous realtors use scare tactics to get whites to move in the

northern part of the city people put signs like this in their windows in a somewhat futile effort to maintain a diverse neighborhood. Some DC neighborhoods changed from all white to virtually all black, almost overnight in 1957 DC became the first major US city with a majority black population. This 1959 letter from a large real estate company went to the residence of a white rental building, they were being evicted because, quote, in view of the nature of the neighborhood in which your name, your building is located. The owners decided to convert the building to colored occupancy and quote, you can be sure the new residents would pay higher rents. Here's what DC looked like in 1960. The city was now about 54% Black, as in many other cities. The 1960s were a decade of disinvestment in the urban core, and investment in the suburbs instead. The Suburbs didn't open up to black people until the 1970s after the passage of the 1968 Fair Housing Act, which outlawed discrimination in housing rentals and sales. Actually the Fair Housing Act was signed just after the civil disturbances broke out in parts of DC in response to the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4 1968 And in response to years of neglect, both by government and by private investors. This is 1970. This is black population was at its height in 1970 about 71%, but it's been falling ever since. This trend has speeded up since the early 2000s, which brought intense gentrification pricing out many longtime black residents these black population dropped below 50% in 2012. You can see that the area west of Rock Creek Park where most white people lived, didn't see the kind of change, most of the rest of the city did. This photo was taken in 1972, a 14th in Irving streets in Columbia Heights. I showed you a brochure for that neighborhood near the beginning of this presentation, presentation, this was one of the so called riot corridors. And here's the same intersection. Now, there's a metro station metro subway station apartments and condos, big box stores a supermarket, and all sorts of other businesses.

1:04:09

And actually caters to all types of people that housing as is may have driven people out but the stores are for everybody. So, that is the historical background now I'll go into our research. Just by way of a little background, I first encountered racially restrictive covenants when I was writing about racial turnover on a Street Northwest in the mid 1990s for my master's thesis I had conducted oral history interviews with dozens of longtime black and white residents of the DuPont Circle neighborhood. And as it happened I'd interviewed someone on almost every block of s street for a stretch of several blocks. I was trying to turn those interviews into something cohesive and I found out about the lawsuit in the 1700 block, which became the centerpiece of my article about 10 years later, I got a job writing neighborhood histories and encountered racial covenants and in many of them, maybe 10 years ago, a historian, colleague friend Ryan craft was learning GIS, and he told me and another colleague Sarah Schoenfeld that if we did the research, he would map the covenants, not having any idea what we were getting into. We agreed. In January, 2014 we started the work. We knew the Old real estate records had been transferred from the DC recorder of deeds to the DC archives. So we turned up there the first Tuesday of January. In 2014, it was freezing out, I can remember, because they wouldn't let us in until exactly nine o'clock. The DC archives is housed in a one time stable in an alley. It's the building that doesn't does not look nice and fixed up it's the one at the rear. Here's the state of some of the real estate records, this really tells you where the city's priorities are not. We really weren't sure how we were going to go about this. But the many rules of the DC archives helped us figure it out. It's open for property record research only on Tuesday and Thursday between 9am and noon. Upon arrival, you sign in, then you're assigned a locker where you leave all your stuff. This is normal, except that back then, you also had to leave all electronic devices, No phones or laptops in the archives. Then they lead

you into the room where the these index books are kept, along with card files, and you can fill out an order form. You can order only for libraries for visit the libraries are the huge books that hold the hardcopy real estate records, arranged in chronological order. The rules did ease up a bit. A few years ago they started allowing electronic devices inside, and they also began allowing you to go to the bathroom without waiting for a staff person to happen by, so you could ask permission and be escorted there. Anyway, here are two of our interns who helped us in the summer of 2014 They're skimming through libraries. One of them was willing to sneak in a phone to take this photo. When we showed up as a group of three, they revised the rules, we should have been able to order for libraries in person but no, a new rule, apparently decided on the spot, allowed us only eight person, eight libraries for the group. We already knew it was impossible to target any neighborhood, any specific neighborhood at the DC archives because we'd have to order too many libraries to do that. So we changed our methodology to fit the rules. Once we had our libraries we page through each one taking out the deeds, as opposed to mortgages or other types of documents. And then we scanned each deed for racial language. When we found a deed with a covenant we collected certain information from it. On the spreadsheet. Since we couldn't take laptops or this worksheet sorry, since we couldn't take laptops or phones inside, we devise the worksheet, which we filled in with pencils later at home I'd enter all the data from the worksheets into an Excel spreadsheet.

1:08:31

DC is divided up into squares are what we come, they're commonly known as city blocks. Each one is numbered and usually consists of one regular block but sometimes a set of two or three smaller blocks. When new subdivisions were first laid out though, the city didn't assign square numbers right away. The developer assigned block numbers, the deed would name the subdivision and a block number within it, so we had to look at real estate maps from different years, and convert the original block numbers to modern square numbers. So they would map. Along the way I created this conversion chart. See the subdivision, the original block number and then the new square number so I just fill this in as I go along. I set up yet another spreadsheet to keep track of the libraries, we'd reviewed from the data we kept in the spreadsheet. So the library number here. The start date of the labor, the end date. Sometimes I tell this in the period of covered some other stuff that date we it was reviewed from the data we kept in the spreadsheet. We figured out that there were about, 85 Libraries per year in that period, and each library is 500 pages long, so that's a lot of reading. We also kept track of how many carbons sweet covenants we found in each library to look at the trend. We skipped around a bit, because we weren't finding so many at the beginning, but you can see that for these early years of the 20th century we're finding zero to five covenants in a library for deeds written a few years later in 1909 to 1910 we found many more as you can see here, because this was such slow going, we were revised our methodology, again, Brian craft our GIS guy had created a historic building permit database for the DC Historic Preservation Office, and we started checking squaring lot numbers against that database, a building permit might cover multiple houses, it could be one, two, it could be up to 30 or so row houses, and we decided if we found one covenant pretend houses in a permit. All 10 Most likely had covenants, so if there were a permit had 20 houses in it, then we'd have to find two covenants. In order to map all 20, so we'd map all the lots in a permit, instead of just the one deed that we actually found a covenant and this speeded up the process quite a bit by mid 2015 We'd map 10,000 miles with covenants, DC has digitized its property records only started. Starting in August, 1921, and lots of houses were built before that. But at some point we realized it would be much more efficient to use the recorder of deeds database, which

had become much easier to use and more accessible so now we can sit at home and do the research. That way, we could target one neighborhood at a time instead of just this random chronological research. This is a screenshot of a deed in that database. Most of the pertinent information that we need to collect is listed to the left, but you do have to read the deed to see whether it has a racial covenant, or not, which this one does the catch here is that often the original deed for a property was written before 1921 and subsequent deeds, often contain the phrase subject to covenants of record or something like that, without spelling them out. This is a 1922 deed. To find out if one of those covenants of record was a racial restriction, we'd have to go to the DC archives and look up earlier deeds, obviously, that's very time consuming, not to mention that the DC Archives has been closed during the pandemic. So that's why we say in the about section of our website. Note that the absence of a covenant on the maps does not necessarily mean there wasn't one in some if some Latino square had covenants, chances are that most or all lots had them, but the deeds containing them have yet to be found in additional square that shows no covenants at all, may just be one of the many that remained to be surveyed

1:13:07

entering data into Excel spreadsheets had its limits, and it was easy to make typos and mistakes. A few years ago a volunteer, a retired federal employees spent many hours researching data collection systems, and he eventually settled on Kobo toolbox as the best bet for us, it's free, which is great because we don't have a steady funding source, just the occasional grant. This is the top portion of our form that he developed, it's quick and easy to enter the data, and then every several months we simply download the spreadsheet from the Kobo site that holds all the data, and we send it to our GIS consultant. The form has built in quality control features like re entering the square twice and a lot twice and other things if you skip something it won't let you submit. So it's really fairly easy for a volunteer to use. When someone volunteers to do research for us, we give them a square and that's that's we work by the square too. And here's how we keep track of which squares have been researched the reddish color means not researched at all. When you click on a square you get a pop up pop up like, like this one. When we've researched a square for petition covenants, we go into the pop up and change the bottom field. Check to one. And then we type yes, in the agreements field, and that makes this square turn blue when we have also checked for deed covenants we type yes in the deeds field here. And then the square turns green. So, this is these are the squares we've checked for everything and you can see we have lots left to do. In 2017 we won a \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund, and we use the money to create a dedicated website for the project and to hire Kevin Ehrman Solberg from mapping prejudice at the University of Minnesota to do our mapping that grant ran out in early 2020 But a year ago we got another grant and we use \$5,000 of it, to buy 20,000 randomly selected deeds from the city. That's a whole long frustrating story, but eventually they sent us the deeds in PDF format and we sent them to Kevin mapping prejudice has already mapped all of the covenants in Minneapolis and St. Paul, their project started after hours, but they had all the resources of the University of Minnesota, and the governments of Hennepin and Ramsey Counties have digitized all their property records, plus those governments turned over the records at no charge, then to the Twin Cities had many fewer racial covenants than DC did. In any case, Kevin processed star 20,000 deeds through OCR software to make them character readable. He then used an algorithm, adapted from the one he designed for the Minneapolis deeds to sort out the ones with probable racial covenants. And he ended up with about 2200 of those are about 11.1% of the 20,000 deeds sample

using the crowds. The crowd sourced Zooniverse platform, a large group of volunteers, was able to review these 2200 Some deeds in just five weeks. This is one page from the Zooniverse survey form. The first page. First question is, does the image contains a racial covenant. The answer is yes, because there is a covenant you see it on the left. So you click left, I mean you click yes and then done to move to the next page, where, where you're asked to transcribe the covenant into the field. And then there are a number of other questions square and Lot number of Grand Tour name and etc. Mapping prejudice methodology dictates that each deed be reviewed by five different people for quality control. So we actually reviewed about 11,000 documents that is five times 2200 in five weeks, but mapping prejudice has 3000 active volunteers, not that they all worked on this project, but many people outside DC did work on it. This map shows all the covenants from that sample of 20,000 deeds. It may not look dramatic, but we were amazed because we had predicted that the project would reveal covenants and neighborhoods, not previously thought to have had covenants and that turned out to be the case. The results were clear the blue dots, each one is a covenant, are pretty evenly scattered across the city. Here's part of that map enlarged.

1:18:13

Each map lot has a pop up. As you can see here, this one is in an especially surprising location, very close to the US Capitol. Since the city was racially mixed early on, we expected to find covenants only in areas that were developed later. As you may have guessed we think working with mapping prejudice is the way to go on these covenant projects, if you can come up with the money, Kevin estimated that their fees would be about \$100,000 to deal with our approximately 400,000 deeds, if and when we can get access to them. We're continuing to work on that. But here's another methodology that could work especially on an interim basis. This semester we worked with a graduate public history class at American University. It involved, researching and commemorating an African American cemetery that closed in 1964 the online exhibition, I wanted to show how new development around the cemetery, starting in the 1920s was racially restricted. I didn't have the time to research all the lots in every square around the cemetery. So instead, I went into the recorder of deeds database and reviewed deeds in each square until I found one covenant downloaded this map from the Library of Congress website, nice and clean, clear and clean printed it out and colored in the squares with at least one covenant, using colored pen, or red colored pencil, Very low tech but still effective. As I said before, we assume that if there was one covenant in a square, there were many. So I'll stop here, so we can have questions and discussion. And I'll stop sharing.

David Hockfelder 1:20:04

Thanks Mara, this is this is fantastic research thank you for sharing it. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to post them in the chat, and either I can bring them to your attention Mara, or if you have your chat open you could you could answer them directly. I'm going to ask a question verbally and break my own rules. You showed some of the properties that have restrictive covenants, and I'm wondering whether the property owners or residents are aware of the legacy of their properties and or sort of related question with any historical markers or identity plaques on the house, anything identifying that these homes have restrictive covenants. Or is this simply so common that you know like, you know, a large chunk of DC was covered by these covenants.

1:21:14

So you're asking if I said a restrictive covenant if it was somehow. On the physically on the house or on the property.

David Hockfelder 1:21:24

So it like here in in Albany. A lot of people who live in historic houses will buy a plaque from the local preservation organization saying when it was built and all this. So I'm wondering whether there's there's any kind of similar plaque or historic marker or any other way that residents of these properties and owners of these properties have become aware of history. Oh,

1:21:48

yes. Well first of all that, when I said that I, and also the other two people I mentioned who were the founders of the project Sarah Schoenfeld and Brian craft we all were working on neighborhood histories, and those histories were for walking tours for site with site for signage, we call them, they're called heritage trails. So, when we kept running into restrictive covenants. In our research we did write about them on the signage so my first one was Mount Pleasant. I think that was the one that was sort of that was that purple. I call a teapot shaped neighborhood. And that, that has that one of the signs talks about defying the covenants, um, the Bloomingdale is has, has a Heritage Trail that's got. That's where the Supreme Court case said so that heard V Hodge case has a restrictive covenant. I mean, but the other thing is that we have that, I think you mentioned in my bio, I think I sent that the Civil Rights trail. Some of those signs are about court cases and while usually court cases not just restrictive covenants, they were very, they were so common that, you know, it was normal, but we also give talks, often, and when we, when our project started up, people didn't really know about them. So when we first, actually we didn't think people would be interested. We thought we were doing this kind of nutty project, and we had we were applying for a grant to pay for those for stipends for those interns and, and we had to fill out a question on the grant application, how many people are you, or are you going to, you know effect or whatever and we're like well, or, you know, how are you going to get the word out,

1:23:55

like, well, we'll have a

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you know a presentation, like, well my family will come, and I guess your family will come, but we can't put 12 So we'll put 100. So instead we got capacity audiences we got 280 people out at the Downtown DC Public Library, which was their largest audience ever for a public presentation. Now at a branch library we got 180 It was like way too many for the room is too hot. That was actually our first presentation we were going to try and show the website, the live website, turned out to be a bad mistake because the Wi Fi was really slow and it was really crowded and it's really hot and we got all kinds of comments on our evaluation forms like, use a PowerPoint, which from then on we did. But we've pretty well spread the word in DC so people are aware of them and people talk about this a lot because we were asked to give presentations, I'd give one probably once a month. Talk to second graders and fourth graders and law school classes and new staff at Children's Hospital. All kinds of people, realtors. Great,

David Hockfelder 1:25:23

thank you Mr. Allen, read so pardon me if I'm mispronouncing your name has a comment, Elon go ahead and unmute and offer your comment please. Yes,

1:25:36

hello Ma, I did, I lived in DC for a year, back in the 80s probably 8785 to 86, and I lived in three different places I was very poor. And one of the places was Mount Pleasant and on Lamont Street. And so I would go through that neighborhood where there all the ethnic restaurants, and I had, I had no idea. At one point, I needed to move from Mount Pleasant across 14th street, there was a church called St Stephen's, and I did some volunteer work in there with a clinic, public health clinic. Okay. And there was a line, it reminded me of some lines that you see in New York City, because you just crossed that one street, and it's of a different neighborhood, more I felt more dangerous people. I all I had to do was walk around the corner from the health clinic to where I lived in a downstairs apartment, and people said, you know, do we want, do you want somebody to walk with

Maryliz Stewart 1:26:48

you. So it was

1:26:51

a crap, crack epidemic then so, it was, it was pretty. Yes, bad

1:26:57

so late at night one night it was 10 o'clock and I walked from that place over to Mount Pleasant. At 10 o'clock in the dark in the snow, and luckily I was not bothered but that those were some unusual times. Yeah,

1:27:12

yeah it was people, so many people have moved in. Now so many young white people have moved into DC in the, you know, to 1000s, and they cannot they scoff at that stuff, you know, they just think people are being ridiculous and racist or whatever when they talk about how things used to be. They can't imagine.

1:27:30

And, and I didn't have any idea of the history, when I was living there and today, my eyes are opened it's, it's incredible.

1:27:38

Yeah. Well, when I wrote the history of Mount Pleasant. It was in 2003 to 2006. I knew about one lawsuit but that was in 1950 So you know I got the court records but you know it's thrown out because that was after the Supreme Court case so I didn't know I didn't know it was all about all those covenants either.

1:27:59

Thank you.

David Hockfelder 1:28:04

Next in the chat. Mary Lynn store has a question and a comment, Mary Let's go actually, actually.

Paul Stewart 1:28:13

So, it seems to me and I can't exactly, you know test closely from experience, but it seems to me that that the, the steering continues. And even though the covenants are not there. And I know from, you know, our reading of the color of law, by Richard Ross team which came out a couple years ago, that you know after those segregationists that got into the, into the federal government from the Wilson administration kept on into the Roosevelt administration and continue to manipulate Housing Law and then in I guess in the 1960s or 70s. When court rulings have ruled that the federal government was acting improperly by manipulating housing in that way, those rules moved into the canons of ethics of the real estate boards, and then they continue to behave that way even though it was supposedly illegal. And in this day and age, I think we're down the road a piece but it seems like the kind of steering, that still goes on. Well

1:29:31

you see, sorry. I mean I remember a campaign, not that long ago and it was on bus stop bus shelters, And it would usually show a woman and scarf, saying Do you feel that you've been steered or didn't say steered by like discriminated against or not shown neighborhoods you want to, you're interested in, in housing, so it goes on pretty clear, Another something else that's come up recently, there was an article in January I think in the Washington Post real estate section, the cover of that photograph on this is sort of inset section showed a couple, he's African American she's white, so they were going to renovate their house and they wanted a loan and, you know, home equity loan. So he was home when the appraiser came, they had this, they had figured they had, you know, done the research so they expected it to be a certain amount to say \$350,000 or something, the value of the home. So he was on when the appraiser came and the appraisal came back at whatever 400,000 or something like that. And so they decided to call another appraisal appraisal and, and the second time he left with the kids, and she was home alone, she's white, and it came in like 537 or, in our way over. And then then just, I think it's just this week on NPR, some, there's, you probably all heard it but, oh, a woman who had a similar experience, where she got a friend, a white friend to be there with for the second appraisal, and it came in like double, you know, so this, these home values that you know appraisals and home value things, it's just, it goes on, I mean there's like these insidious things that you kind of don't catch up with right away but it's not it doesn't go away.

David Hockfelder 1:31:42

Thanks Mara, on January Cena has a question and a comment, please go ahead and unmute. Hi,

1:31:49

thank you I'm just amazed by the, the amount of research that you guys did it's it's incredibly thanks, and, and really I think it's going to be very illuminating. In terms of the past, what my question was, you know, there's been discussions that I've been hearing about how right now the, the anti voter laws that are permeating around in different states about restricting access to the ballot, seem to have come from one state, and they are spreading from there, and people are using the format that one state might have to pass their own and obviously they're all going to end up going to some kind of court test. And I

wondered, is in terms of these covenants. Was there a similar phenomenon where it started. I mean it. I'm sure it always existed in terms of, of, where people were allowed to buy. But, you know, in terms of the Jim Crow era you're talking about, you know 1819 Or something when you are 1919 or something when you start when your presentation started. So, I just wondered if, if, where the contagion began if you have any idea about it in terms of codifying it in these papers in these papers.

1:33:25

Well, I don't know exactly. I do know that we had a covenant for in 1854 already. That was really rare, as far as I know, I mean, that was so early because then we didn't find any others and then maybe like a few in the 1890s, presumably right out, you know, triggered by Plessy v Ferguson, but usually it was, you know, late after 1903 or 2005 or whatever. And, but, like whether people got together, I don't know I mean now there's, I can't remember the names of these groups but these as far as like those, the voting suppression laws. There are groups that get together, that's like those gun laws and those, all those kinds of things they you know they, they passed around the templates and fill in their state names if they remember because I mean there's been a case. Anyway, so, Um, that's something I'm interested in knowing but I mean those restrictions went way back, there's a book called sundown towns, that's really interesting, that talks about, they practicing, practicing kind of on the Chinese out west. Before, like, and kicking them all out of Idaho and places and hurting them all into, you know China towns and cities, sort of practicing on them before turning to African Americans. So, I mean that's sort of something. I wish someone would do a you know a dissertation on that because I'd be interested that I mean the, the real estate boards are coming in, kind of. Later, you know, not till 1924 to wa to ban or you know, put that provision in their code of ethics that, that if you want it to be a realtor in good standing. You wouldn't show property in a white neighborhood to to a black buyer. But that's long after restrictive covenants were had been in use.

1:35:42

So,

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I don't know I mean it's a really, I know, la had a lot of them, but they're they're everywhere. There's projects in Seattle and Massachusetts, Baltimore, Massachusetts north of Boston, Essex County Massachusetts there, they're just, I think we know MENAUL all over, but I don't know if the exact also because our records are records not being digitized it makes it really hard to, you know,

Paul Stewart 1:36:22

I just want to offer a comment and that is that in Richard Rothstein his book The color of law. I don't remember the specifics but in general. He seems to suggest that cities in, in the north and west became segregated. After the 1920s and 30s because of federal manipulation of housing laws. Prior to that cities in the north and west, did not exhibit the same kinds of segregation as cities in the south that

David Hockfelder 1:36:51

can also offer a couple observations on this page Glosser just published a book called How to suburbs were segregated and she looks at Baltimore, and she looks at property developers from the 1890s Onward, who wrote these, these restrictions into, you know, sort of like, you know, Mara some of the

dads you showed earlier in your presentation. So she really looks at the origins of this practice on real estate developers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the National Association of real estate boards which is now the National Association of Realtors, I went through their records in their archives in Chicago, and in the mid 1920s They have a, a researcher, a female researcher, who is a librarian, I think she was I have to look at my notes, who is writing to haul the real estate to local real estate boards with model restrictive covenants in these letters, you know, and basically saying, Here's what Nehra your national association real estate boards came up with as model language. So, yeah, the real estate industry you know, has been complicit in this along with property developers. One of the ironic things that Paige Glosser found is that in Baltimore, one of the early property suburban property developers, and when she says suburbs she means outlying areas of the city of Baltimore, not the county that the one of the major property developers, was financed by British investors who initially made their money in the slave and concentrates, so it's just another, you know manner like a financial connection between enslavement and exploitation of enslaved people. And that money being then being used to exclude people of color from from new housing developments.

1:38:44

Thank you so before the existence of the national board. Real Estate Board or whatever it was, so I mean so somebody thought him, I mean I don't know who thought them up, you know, it's just but that 1854 One is not that different, the language is not that different. Yeah. So, you know the original origin, I don't know.

David Hockfelder 1:39:05

Yeah, that'd be interesting to find out. Moving on Ellen. Ellen, do you have a comic, feel free to unmute and off your comment please.

1:39:16

Yo, on Long Island, where I work. There were covenants, but they were not very widespread, the bigger problem was redlining, because under the New Deal. While African Americans in Canada was later carried over into the post world war two benefits. While African Americans were entitled to mortgage guarantees the local banks decided who would get the mortgages, so that an African American veteran would not be able to get a mortgage to move into different communities. So what was the most powerful force, at least on my own was redlining by banks issuing mortgages and by real estate brokers. So I guess my question is how do you evaluate the cause of the impact of the red lining is it really the same as covenant is it more powerful is something different altogether.

1:40:19

Well it's just everybody kind of working, you know, doing what they had there in their power to do to discriminate. So the covenants were put in by by developers and real estate people, and neighbors neighborhoods. I don't control banks and the bankers discriminated. And then the government, you know, so, you know, they all had, I it's hard, I don't know how you could figure out who had.

1:40:51

I mean, were they just part of the same

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racist that is the same, it's systemic that's what systemic racism is I mean it's in the system, and it's in all the tools and different spy and different aspects of the system and is systemic. All right, because you know it's government, it was the banking industry it was the real estate industry, and there's a local people, you know, neighborhood, these neighborhood

1:41:15

groups, the old Island, the school districts, then formed around the red line to towns. So what Long Island now has 124 racially, ethnically, economically segregated school districts, because of the redlining of the towns, as this suburb developed after World War Two, and to create consolidated districts is politically almost impossible, because people move into the particular towns and pay taxes for the districts. And as long as taxes are based on local property values, the districts are going to remain overwhelmingly segregated, Because of those post world war two decisions.

1:42:02

Now I mean I don't know what, how to what to do about it. That's it. I mean, obviously it's nobody, nobody does.

1:42:13

Well, the only hope are court decisions because no politician is ever going to vote to change this, because to immediately get out of office once there's any hint that that's what they believe. Really it's white, brown was so important and why the Supreme Court ruling on the communists was so important, because through legislation, it never was going to change either local or national.

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Yeah but look at the Supreme Court now, I mean,

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I know I

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mean I doubt they'll get rid of Brown v Board that's one I sort of don't think that'll happen but I don't have much faith.

David Hockfelder 1:42:55

Yeah, these are these are interesting times. Um, another interesting take on, on red line, interesting, maybe isn't the right word maddening or infuriating. Even after redlining, in terms of mortgages and home improvement loans. Every even after the public is made aware of these practices and that is legislation to correct them. Insurance companies still redline. So, one point in the 70s, he most of the boroughs of Brooklyn and the Bronx, if you were a homeowner you could not get, you know, resident. If you were an owner occupant renter. It was very difficult to get affordable home insurance fire insurance and then comprehensive policies, and there was a bunch of state legislation that attempted to deal with this and it's kind of fixed now, but for a long time, even if you were a homeowner, you couldn't get

affordable property insurance, and that affected your ability to get a mortgage or a home improvement loan because no bank would write a mortgage or a loan, if the house was

1:43:57
on insure.

David Hockfelder 1:43:59

So, there are any other questions or comments from Morrow. People have been posting, as Susan Gabriel's posted a link to the chat. I will attempt to use my SUNY Albany library privileges to download the article and post the PDF into the chat for everyone may take a few minutes, so bear with me on that. In the meantime, again 30 Questions, comments observations for for Mara, or the work that she and her colleagues are doing.

Deb Vincent Evans 1:44:36

Yeah. DAVID I have one This is Deb. So Mara, you had the original deed which presumably had the original price of the house, and one can figure out the price of those properties now. Has anyone actually compiled that level of financial loss to the African American community, It seems important when we're talking about reparations right to be able to really look at what what was the cost and I mean certainly that's not the whole class but that's one, that's one. Conceivably, if you can get the, you know you can get the original cost. That's one measurable value,

1:45:18

we can't get the original cost. I mean sometimes it can those. We've been trying to get house price data to cause, not for that but we were trying to figure out a couple. I mean, I'm involved in a couple of projects where we're trying to figure out what happened to prices during white flight. Uh huh. And so in one case, I'm with the, you know, student interns have compiled have gone into the recorder of deeds database and found all the transactions, this is for one enumerate census enumeration district and Washington, hot. You know the dates that houses were sold and and and you can tell that someone was a realtor was buying up a lot of houses on one block in a short period of time so which tells you that they were using blockbusting tactics probably fear tactics and getting hold of all these houses and then reselling them. Unfortunately, we are cannot they, As it turns out because we talked to recorder of deeds, a former recorder of deeds, and a current archivist at the DC archives, they don't have to keep those records, those are DC tax and revenue office records they don't keep them after a certain amount of time. So, so far we've come up blank, there's like one there couple possibilities for a while they you had to buy tax stamps for the based on the price of the house no stamps are on the deeds, you know those Xerox scan deeds and if so, and we can figure it out but it's only a certain period of time, certain in for certain years, and may and this could work for what you're asking about, they publish that information in the newspaper. Okay, that is tedious, you know I mean you have to go searching that and today they publish the into the price in the newspaper too but I don't think they did for a long period of time because I've tried I've tried those white flight addresses and nothing came up so it could be done. Of course you can estimate the, you know, and and the assessment records that do exist, right. Those exist, but those of course aren't the one that doesn't work for the house sale for the white flight house sale. So, but anyway, what I mean, I think for reparations, that's just something that, that could be done, they wouldn't do it on a case by case, you know, I mean, right, right, right, and I don't I don't

actually believe in that. Anyway, I believe in making doing it differently by making through housing trusts and all kinds of other ways that would benefit you know more people because like tracking down to cent you know that's it's case by case basis wouldn't. I don't see that,

Deb Vincent Evans 1:48:26

I don't think I'm thinking so much, I wasn't thinking so much case by case but more data centric way of like we continue to say look, all this was a huge financial disadvantage it really harmed the African American community, financially, but we don't really know what that is right we kind of we know we know what it

1:48:47

is because there are many statistics on the you know the average wealth, you know of a black family and a white family in similar circumstances so I mean we could. They could figure it out if they want to, you know, they could.

Deb Vincent Evans 1:49:03

I guess that if they want to is the operative.

1:49:06

Yeah, if they want to, or if they're willing to do, I mean they want to, but if they're willing to do something about it, but there's so much disagreement about, I mean there are different scenarios being discussed. The minute you discuss them then white people charge discriminate, you know, discrimination against discrimination is fine as long as it doesn't affect me, you know,

Deb Vincent Evans 1:49:27

funny how that works. Yeah, that's, yeah. And oh, if you think I have to pay for something we white people have to pay or make something better. Oh you're discriminating against me. Oh, you're hurting me,

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it was okay for hundreds of years but suddenly, it's not.

Deb Vincent Evans 1:49:45

Yeah, we're Yeah. Interesting. Well thank you, disappointing and frustrating I'm sure but not, not unsurprising. No,

1:49:57

well we're in the perverse situation of liking to find covenants and because I mean other Western researches. Oh yeah 23 covenants in one fiber

Deb Vincent Evans 1:50:11

anyway. All right. Back to you Daniel did anybody else have questions, or Dave,

1:50:20

I could say that the University of Minnesota has an NIH grant to map other jurisdictions, so that's why we sort of got in on that and Essex County Massachusetts as part of that. So they've done, Hennepin County met Ramsey County of St. Paul, and they're negotiating with Milwaukee, maybe Madison, I think Reno Nevada and maybe, maybe someplace in Arizona to Sony. That's so it is. There's also the senator from Minnesota has introduced legislation. I think may have origins originated from the University of Minnesota people but it's like, that's probably never will pass on by the time it does, we'll have moved in, I've done everything, but I'm to create a database within HUD and of all, all this information but I think it's kind of happening, is going to happen in the University of Minnesota, because they've, they've got the know how, and they've already done a lot of it and they, they have a system set up. That's great work.

David Hockfelder 1:51:38

Any other questions or comments from our. And by the way I did post the PDF of the article that Susan Gabriel said alerted us to download that without download worked good, thank you soon. Any final questions or comments from our

1:51:59

just want to say that the television show them, is about the covenants right now. Very tough show to watch but it's about Compton, California and, and how there was a white community and then some African Americans move in and much mayhem. So,

1:52:24

yeah, and then you can intersperse that with the Underground Railroad. Right. Yes. So,

Maryliz Stewart 1:52:36

we all said, David,

David Hockfelder 1:52:38

I think so, um, I Morrow, I posted your email into the chat and if anyone has any further questions or comments or like to get involved, you know, and the crowdsourcing work you guys are doing. I assume you would welcome an email.

1:52:56

And also on our website, check out our website we just uploaded some new maps, it's mapping segregation dc.org And that's, there's a lot of maps, they're not just covenants, but certain kinds of things. Yeah. Thank you so much for having me. Great to be with you and really good conversation.

Maryliz Stewart 1:53:24

Thank you very much. Thank you, thank you. Alright, so we'll move on into our closing then for today.

Paul Stewart 1:53:30

Yes, is our tradition, we'd like to close our program today with a brief litany of remembrance, which provides us the opportunity to acknowledge the courage and fortitude of our forebears. In whose path we walk today.

Maryliz Stewart 1:53:47

Well, and I will read the paragraphs, we would ask each of you to unmute and to respond to each paragraph with the phrase people have courage, people of hope. seekers of justice. John and Martha Williams escaped enslavement and came as far north as the city of Hudson. When they found employment at the home of Charles Marriott. After an unfavorable Supreme Court decision in 1842. They traveled further north into Vermont where they made a new life for themselves. John and Martha, we remember you as people of courage.

1:54:30

Justice.

Paul Stewart 1:54:32

Joseph Rainey, the first black elected to Congress during Reconstruction was one of the longest serving black members of Congress, serving 10 years, from 1869 to 1879, he distinguished himself as a fighter for civil rights, Joseph Rainey, we remember you as one of the people of courage. Right.

1:54:59

Justice.

Maryliz Stewart 1:55:01

Reverend George Lee Lamar Smith, Emmett Lewis till Michael Schwerner, John, Earl Reese and 35 other blacks and whites struggled in the 1950s and 60s, along with others, of whom we have not heard. They gave their lives to bring about justice, excuse me, and equality to end segregation, and to secure voting rights, We remember each of you as people

1:55:33

just justice.

Paul Stewart 1:55:37

These people of the past, speak to us in the present. May we be mindful and responsive to their call to us to continue to work together for the liberty and justice as named in our nation's founding document. May we take on the mantle of civic responsibility and meaningfully participate in our communities. As we engage the past with the present, and look to the future with justice as our standard.

Maryliz Stewart 1:56:06

We'd like to break our session to a conclusion today but first, we'd like to thank our liberty, freedom con planning team. Our promotion partners, our presenters, Mara today and and all of you who are in attendance, we do hope that you will join us again and invite others to do so as well on Saturday, June 26 at 3pm Eastern Time for Laura Hooton his presentation on African Americans fighting white supremacy in the wake of the Tulsa Tulsa massacre. And I would just remind you please stay tuned for a follow up email to today's session that will have in it, the link to return to our presentation today, that link will be available though just for a week.

Paul Stewart 1:56:57

We are proud that we can work with you as we work together to build a better tomorrow as we learn the past be the present and create the future. Thank you for attending and we'll see you in June.

Maryliz Stewart 1:57:10

Thanks everybody. See you in June.

1:57:13

Thank you.

1:57:16

Bye bye. You

1:57:24

okay, yeah.

1:57:26

I don't want to do.

1:57:29

Stay tuned. I want to stay in the loop.