

# BRINGING THE PAST AND FUTURE INTO RACIALLY EQUITABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development is often called on to focus on the present and the near future. That has some real benefits but can also have unintended consequences. Equitable community development work requires us – or at least the coalitions and ecosystems we work in – to hold multiple timelines at the same time. Below, we outline promising practices for integrating attention to the past and future into the nitty gritty of community development work.

## CHECK OUT THE RESEARCH.

See how deliberate attention to the past and future, at a variety of scales, can intersect with anti-racist community development policy and practice.

- [The People's Practice, Issue 01](#)
- [Storied Communities, Community Stories](#)
- [A Brief History of Race, Place, and Policy in the Sector](#)
- [High-Level Research Findings](#)

## PROMISING PRACTICE 1: CENTER ATTENTION TO HISTORY IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS.

Uncover and amplify community history in order to address past harms, build from past successes and develop more contextualized approaches to equitable development.

- [Black Bottom Archives](#)
- [Inequity for Sale](#)
- [Marian Cheek Jackson Center](#)
- [St. Mary's University + National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders](#)

## PROMISING PRACTICE 2: VALUE AND RESOURCE CULTURAL PRESERVATION WITHIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Bring a more explicit attention to equity to preservation strategy, implementation, policy and financing.

- [African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund](#)
- [BlackSpace](#)
- [First Nations Development Institute](#)
- [Local Initiatives Support Corporation](#)

## PROMISING PRACTICE 3: REINVEST IN HISTORIC BUSINESS CORRIDORS IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR.

Capture and amplify main street history, reduce barriers to operating businesses along them and implement long-term development strategies that take their histories into account.

- [City of Birmingham](#)
- [National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development](#)
- [The Enterprise Center](#)
- [University of North Carolina](#)

#### PROMISING PRACTICE 4: INTEGRATE CULTURAL FUTURISM INTO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK.

Pull from culturally relevant history, artistic traditions and heritage as a basis for collectively imagining distant community futures.

- [All Our Babies](#)
- [Community Futures Lab](#)
- [Institute for the Future](#)
- [PolicyLink](#)

#### PROMISING PRACTICE 5: BRING A FUTURIST PERSPECTIVE TO ANTI-DISPLACEMENT STRATEGY.

Tie long-term visioning around preventing displacement to tangible, concrete and nearer term interventions.

- [Bay Area Land Justice Convening](#)
- [Building Bridges Across the River](#)
- [Chinatown Art Brigade](#)
- [Watts Rising](#)

#### PROMISING PRACTICE 6: MEASURE AND CREATE ACCOUNTABILITY AROUND FUTURE POLICY EQUITY IMPACTS.

Identify key racial equity indicators and routinely and rigorously assess policies for future racial equity impact.

- [Brookings Institution](#)
- [California Department of Housing and Community Development](#)
- [Chicago United for Equity](#)
- [Urban Institute and PolicyLink](#)

#### DIG EVEN DEEPER.

Want to dig even deeper into the roles of history and futurism in anti-racist community development? Spend time with two resources that can help you map out your course of action.

- [Eye on the Prize: The Past, Future and Anti-Racist Community Development Workbook](#)
- [Storied Communities, Community Stories Conversation Guide](#)

Developed by



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**Feeling inspired to keep going deep on anti-racist community development?**

**Learn more at**  
**[The People's Practice](#)**

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