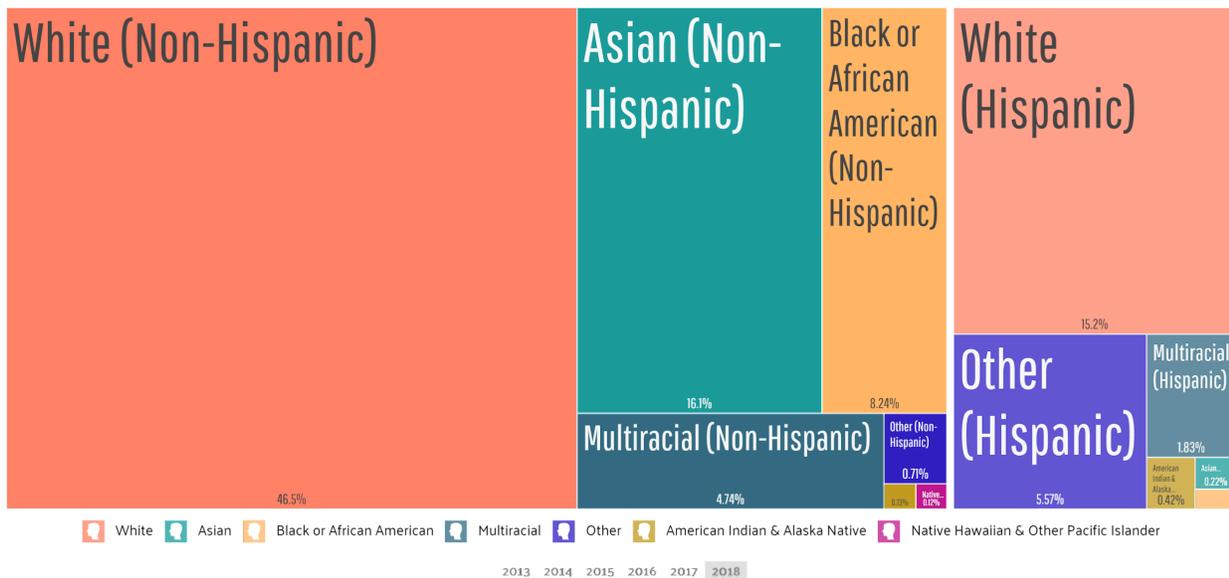
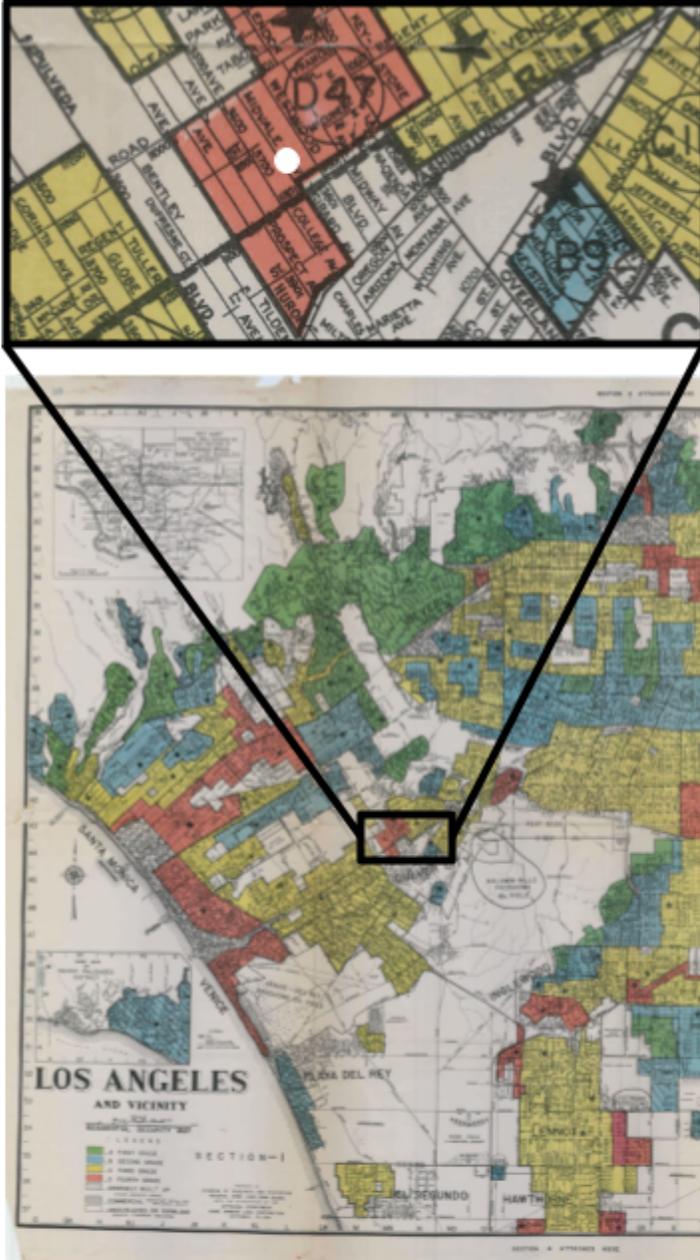


Culver City, California was founded on land stolen from the Tongva Indigenous Peoples and obtained through years of war, genocide, imprisonment, and enslavement imposed by European-American, Mexican, and Spanish colonizers. The horrifying treatment of Indigenous Tongva Peoples infiltrated the city’s founding principles and has continued poisoning its policies ever since. When Harry Culver formally established Culver City in 1917, it was well-known as a whites-only “sundown town” where Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and Latino people were not allowed to live or buy property. Today, non-Hispanic whites constitute 46.5% of the city’s population at 18,300, Asian residents make up 16.1% at 6,330 and Hispanic whites comprise 15.2% of the city’s population at 5,990. Only 8.24% of the city’s residents are Black, about 3,240 people in a city of 39,300.



When the National Housing Act of 1934 prompted the Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) to survey and rank neighborhoods by security and desirability, maps with their findings published in 1939 designated Culver City as yellow, a “C” rating of desirability, demonstrating a higher loan risk than areas with an A or B rating, which were coded green and blue, respectively. Areas marked red were deemed unsuitable for loans backed by the Federal Housing Administration, which promoted continued segregation and supported restrictive land covenants that prohibited racial minorities from purchasing or living on land in areas designated green.



HOLC redlining map of LA with Culver/Palms inset. Writer's home is indicated by the white dot on inset map.

A [HOLC document](#) reporting findings from the survey of Culver City stated “deed restrictions covering part of area provide for a minimum of 1000 sq. ft. dwellings and protect against racial hazards.” The same document also describes the city’s location as “unattractive and detrimentally affected by proximity to industry and business districts (which contain a number of Mexican families.)” and notes the “infiltration of more Mexicans a threat but not serious.” Finally, the document concludes by predicting a “rapid decline” in the area, designating it as a “low-yellow grade.” The number of Black families was also indicated: 0.

The aforementioned HOLC document, as seen below, indicates that the majority of Culver City were studio employees, technicians, and skilled and unskilled laborers with modest income; approximately the median income earned by urban dwellers at the time. By designating Culver City as a yellow zone,

the HOLC made two things clear: first, Culver City, though populated by only white people, showed little desirability overall due to the nature of the work that took place there; and second, they expected the area to be soon “infiltrated” by Mexican and Black families, thus decreasing property values. This information is useful when noted alongside the numerous fear-mongering tactics used to incite hostility and violence by

AREA DESCRIPTION

Security Map of Los Angeles County

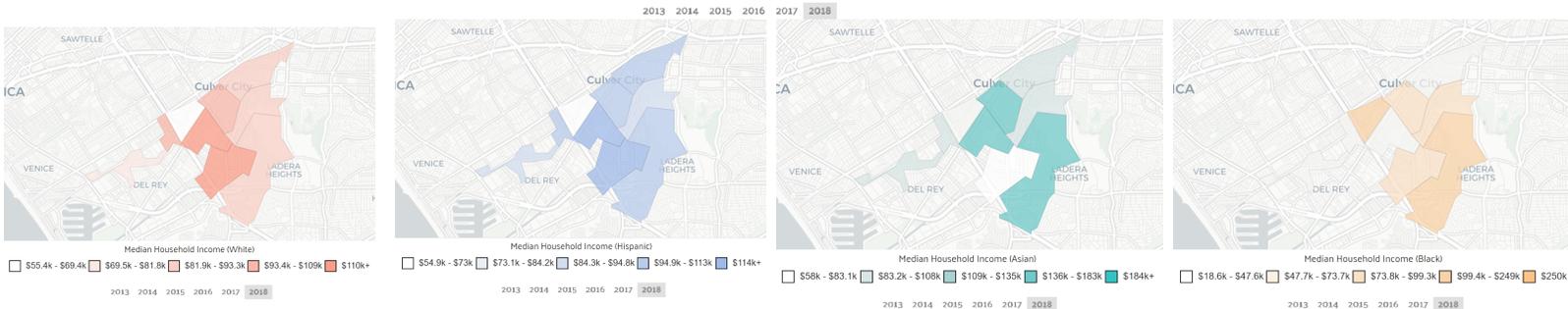
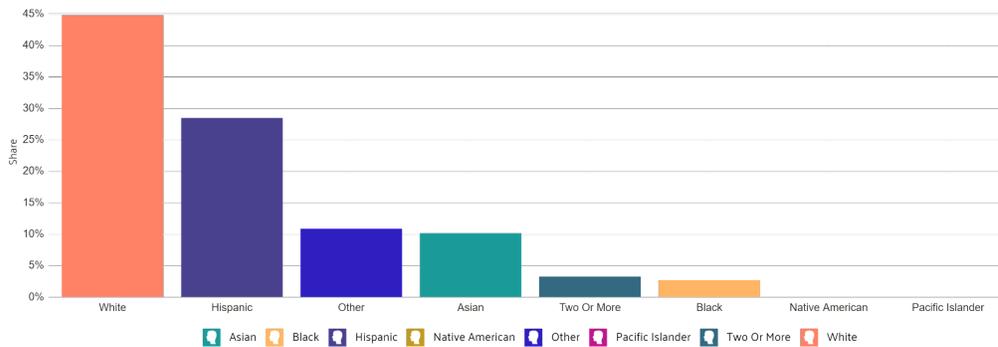
1. POPULATION: a. Increasing Moderately Decreasing Static
Studio employees, technicians, etc., skilled & unskilled labor.
- b. Class and Occupation Income \$1200-\$2000
- c. Foreign Families Few % Nationalities Mexicans - No concentration d. Negro 0 %
- e. Shifting or Infiltration of more Mexicans a threat but not serious

white residents against Black families that could and should have been able to move to Culver in the mid-1900s, and thus enforced the concept that the city welcomed only white families. These tactics included real estate scams, protections for racial restrictive covenants, “sundown” laws, blatantly unchecked KKK demonstrations (where police officers and city officials were often active), and even one instance of a city attorney instructing air raid wardens whose purpose was to remind residents to turn their lights off in the evening to concurrently “circulate documents in which homeowners promised not to sell or rent to African-Americans. [...] focus especially on owners who were not already parties to long-term covenants.” In 1967, almost 35 years after the HOLC’s survey, there was still “not one Black family in residence in Culver City” according to Culver City’s first Black Police Officer James Forte in a profile written about him for the *Los Angeles Sentinel*.

When we recall that only 23.4% of [Culver City’s current population](#) is Hispanic (which includes both people who identify as white and non-white) compared to the population of Los Angeles as a whole where the same group makes up 48% of the total, it becomes clear that the effects of the HOLC’s yellow designation and the notes that justified it in the 1930s have persisted into the 2020s. A further look shows that there were 2.89 times more non-Hispanic white people living in Culver City than any other ethnic group. Without intentional segregation, it is likely that the percentage of different ethnic groups in Culver City would more accurately reflect those of Los Angeles as a whole. Through redlining, discriminatory land covenants, and implementation of oppressive policies, Culver City effectively managed to suppress the success of Latinx,

Indigenous, and Black people by denying them land, jobs, and generational wealth and health that are noticeable today in the racial disparities of income, access, and policing.

Poverty and wage distribution further demonstrate racial disparities in Culver City. A disproportionate percentage of Hispanic residents are living below the poverty level if you consider that the data was likely collected to group Hispanic whites with non-Hispanic whites. The graph below shows the population of Culver City living below the poverty level grouped by race or ethnicity and presented as a percentage, and the maps illustrate wage distribution across the city by race (notice that the numbers indicating low, mid, and high income vary across groups.)



In October 2020, Solidarity Consulting presented a [preliminary report reviewing public safety services and offering recommendations](#) to advance racial equity and social justice to the City of Culver City Manager, Mayer, and four councilmembers for their consideration in an effort to mitigate and remedy the harmful effects of racism, oppression, and discrimination that has plagued Culver City for over 100 years.