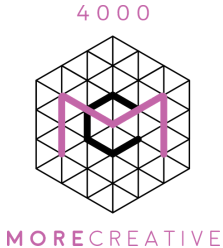
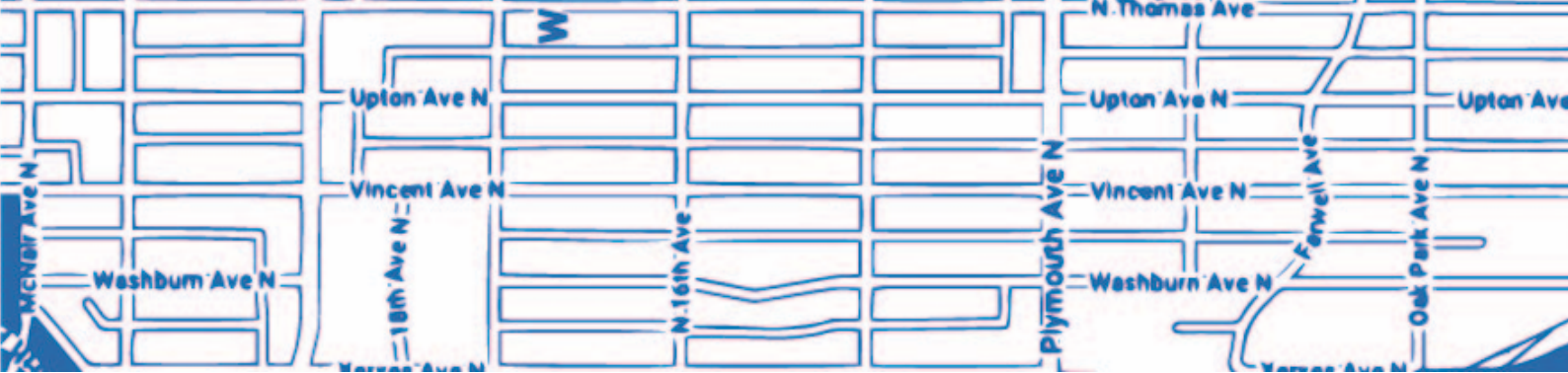


# NORTHSIDE



# ORAL HISTORY





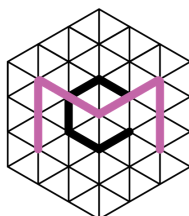
2019

# NORTHSIDE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## PART 2

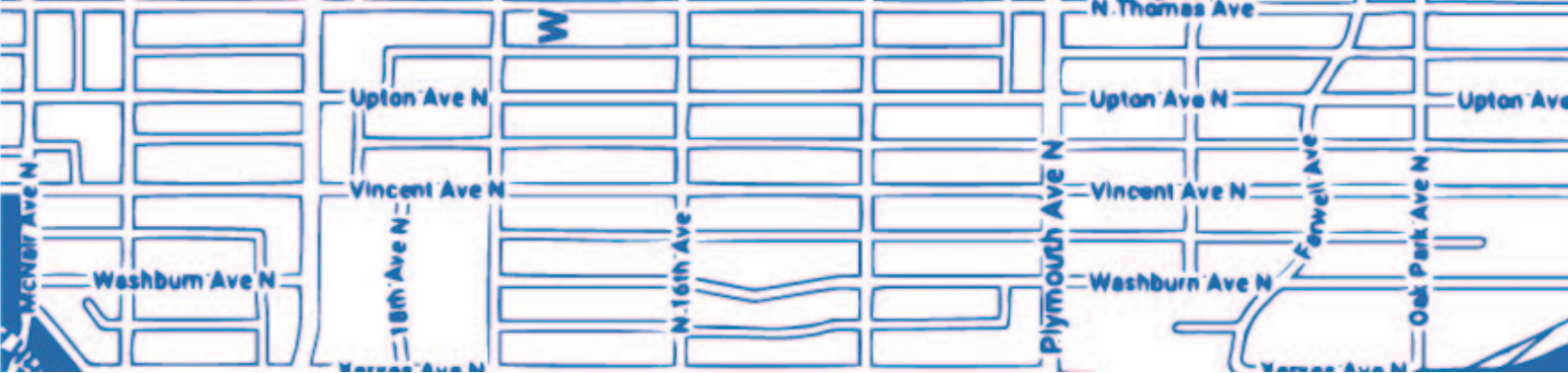
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PREPARED BY:

# 4000 MORE CREATIVE

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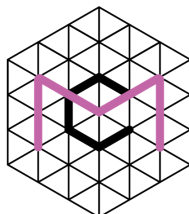
SHUREE RIVERA, PROJECT MANAGER /CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
PIERRE FULFORD, YOUTH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST  
AUSTIN SCHWICHTENBERG, CINEMATOGRAPHER  
ROBERT JENNINGS, COMMUNICATIONS

YOUTH FACILITATORS:  
DAIJA TRIPLETT - MCTC  
BLESSING KASONGOMA -MCTC  
TALINA HILL- NORTH HIGH  
AMIRA AHMED- NORTH HIGH  
TIMYA JONES- NORTH HIGH

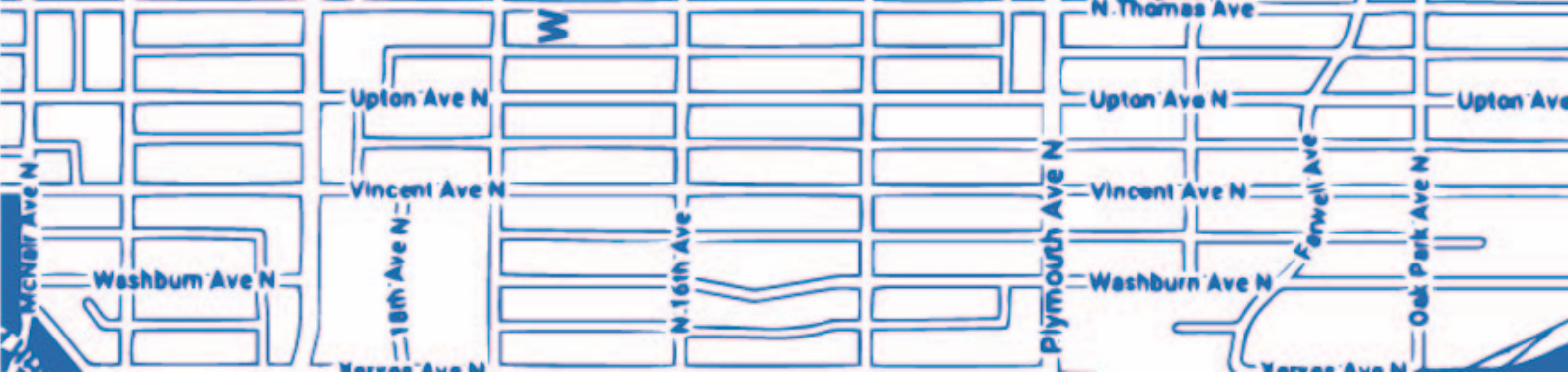
"How would I wrap it up? I just think that there are certain powers at be that do not see the value of black people here in this state. And I think that it is time that they be recognized and be given a fair shot and opportunity to..."live their best life." Unfortunately, there are powers at be that are day in and day out trying to impede our progress, that are trying to snuff out our community, that are trying to displace us, and it's wrong. With all of this Minnesota nice that we talk about, it's really Minnesota ice. I was reading a study from Deloitte, that companies who embrace diversity in thought and in leadership do better. The bottom line (is) they do better. Minnesota will do better when they have equitable opportunity around the table to be able to take a part of the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, and all of the values and virtues that we pride ourselves in as a nation. And if they don't, we're in big trouble."

Kenneth Rance, lifelong Northside resident

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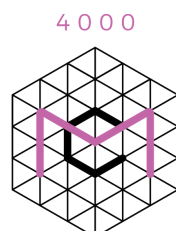


4000 MORE CREATIVE WOULD LIKE TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING  
INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE  
WITH THIS PROJECT:

RECAST MINNEAPOLIS  
NORTH HIGH SCHOOL  
OAK PARK COMMUNITY CENTER  
NRCC  
INDIVIDUALS WITH DREAMS  
MINNESOTA AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE  
MUSEUM  
MASJID AN-NUR  
LIBERTY CHURCH  
UROC  
KENZIE O'KEEFE

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[shureerivera@4000morecreative.com](mailto:shureerivera@4000morecreative.com)  
[4000morecreative.com](http://4000morecreative.com)



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# Inside Front Cover

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## Introduction:

The Resilience in Communities After Stress & Trauma (ReCAST) Minneapolis program recently formed a unique partnership with local artists and other community members to gather oral histories from North Minneapolis residents. The goal of this multi-phase project is to understand how government policy has affected lives in the Plymouth/Penn Corridor by focusing on education, transportation, healthy foods, safe neighborhoods, access to care and housing in the Northside community.

In Phase 1, ReCAST Minneapolis awarded grant funding to 4000 More Creative, a performing and visual arts company, to lead a diverse group of artists, long-time residents, facilitators, Northside youth and community organizers in capturing these oral histories and archiving them for future use.

This phase of the grant calls for capturing approximately 90 unique resident stories. These recordings will be used to identify the most significant community needs and highlight where systemic failures have caused the greatest harm and where current interventions have been successful. The data will inform future initiatives aimed at improving conditions in the North Minneapolis community.

Through this type of storytelling it is hoped that the City of Minneapolis and Northside Minneapolis residents will experience better relationships through greater trust and understanding of one another.

“I don't even see that the opportunities or the organizations around here exist for me. I just move by faith. I really don't feel like there is any true support.”  
- *Patricia Arana, lifelong North Minneapolis resident.*

## Executive Summary

The purpose of the Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST) program is to assist high-risk youth and families and promote resilience and equity in communities that have recently faced civil unrest through implementation of evidenced-based, violence prevention and community youth engagement programs.

The City of Minneapolis is committed to healing and resilience grounded in the evidence of cultural experience and practice. 4000 More Creative received funding through a grant from ReCAST Minneapolis to create an authentic community engagement process, gather stories, create and archive of stories and report on the themes of the gathered stories. These oral histories are to focus on systemic and structural issues such as education, transportation, healthy foods, safe neighborhoods, access to care and housing and the policies that drive them. The goal of this project is to understand the experiences of those living along the Plymouth/Penn corridor using an intergenerational approach to the work and developing a way to educate others on the impact of systemic oppression on this community.

4000 More Creative was charged with leading a diverse group of artists, long-time residents, facilitators, Northside youth and community organizers in capturing these oral histories and archiving them for future use. After capturing the final 45 of 97 stories from Northside residents, 4000 More Creative has documented the following themes:

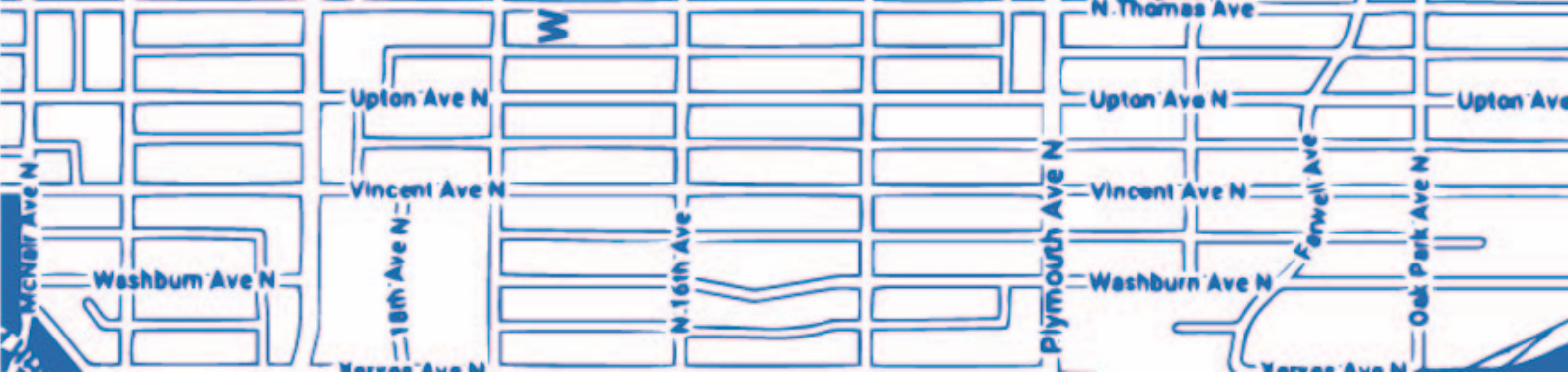
- ❖ The length of time participants lived on the Northside of Minneapolis (in the designated project areas) averaged more than 20 years, and most were lifelong residents.
- ❖ Many transplanted Northside Minnesotans made their way from Chicago and came to Minneapolis for the promise of a better life.
- ❖ Elders and other long-time residents recall 1968 and beyond as a time of great rebuilding and rejuvenation, with new families and businesses flooding in. Many recall a time when they felt safe and flourishing sense of community.
- ❖ Gentrification is a high concern for many residents. A lack of opportunity to speak into the changes being implemented in their community causes increased stress. It is also believed that gentrification is leading to unaffordable housing, displacement of long-time residents, and a loss of community culture.
- ❖ Residents would like to see a greater investment in after-school, summer, and development opportunities for youth.
- ❖ Youth violence, gangs, murder and drugs was a recurring theme among all part participants.
- ❖ Over time, policies such as the war on drugs, redlining, disinvestments, school closings, and decrease in community services and maintenance helped strip the community of its once proud traditions and identity.
- ❖ The community changed racially from a predominately Jewish community with a balanced mix of ethnicities, to predominantly black. There is currently an influx of non-black residents.
- ❖ Poor police and community relations and recent police shootings have caused stress and trauma in the community. Racial profiling and inequitable treatment is a consistent theme.
- ❖ Many participants indicated a need for more affordable housing, especially for current residents, and affordable and accessible grocery options.
- ❖ The relationship between the City and the Northside community is both good and bad.
- ❖ The younger generation and individual religious faith give residents hope for the future.



- ❖ Those interviewed believe they can personally make a difference in their community by investing their time, money and talents, especially regarding investing in the future of local youth.

This project brings young interviewers face-to-face with elders and residents in the community to capture their stories. The oral histories captured to date provide a rich archive of personal accounts of life in Northside Minneapolis as seen through the eyes of those who live there and as told in their own voices.

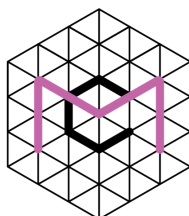
*NOTE: It is important to note that the above themes (and those in the actual oral accounts) are taken from the perspective of those participating in the oral history capture and may or may not be statistically valid.*



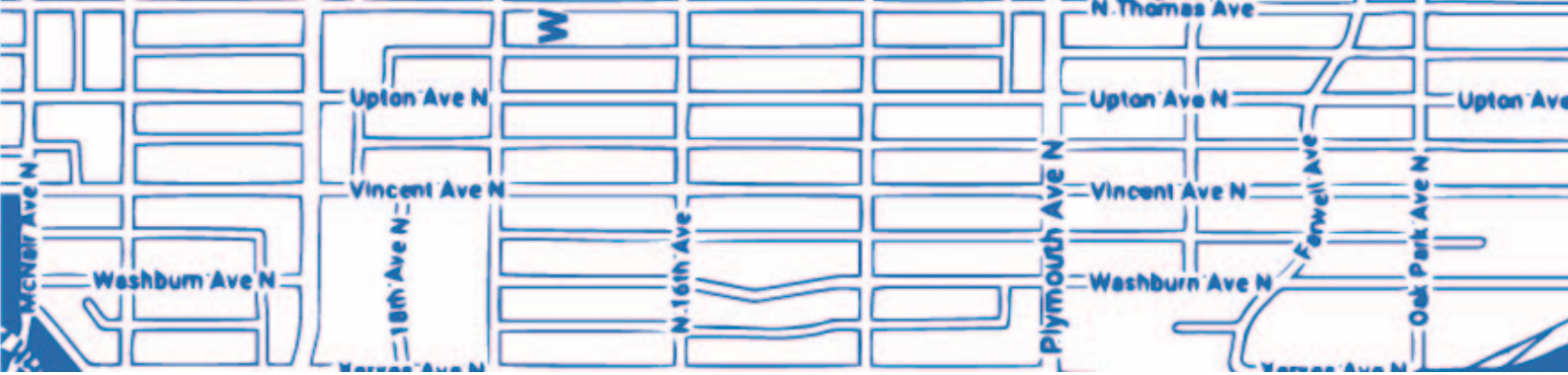
# METHODOLOGY

For Part 2 we adjusted our approach to ensure that we had the buy in of stake holders and allowed them to hold sacred space for their constituents. By having each organization take lead on hosting the story capture events, this allowed ReCAST and 4000 More Creative to focus on making sure we provided a quality experience while respecting the culture of each location we were invited into. By following the lead of our stakeholders we found great success in collecting 46 stories. Each stakeholder recruited all of their storytellers. In addition, project manager Ebony Adedayo, sent out email and had intentional meetings with each participating stakeholder to invite them into this project. Below is the communications.

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# COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Stakeholder-My name is Ebony Adedayo and I am one of the Program Managers for ReCAST Minneapolis. I am reaching out because I wanted to inquire about whether Oak Park could potentially partner with us on our Northside Oral History Project. One of ReCAST's goals is deepening trust and understanding between City and Community. To that end, we have a project in North Minneapolis that is capturing the oral history of elders and youth who have lived around the Penn/Plymouth area over the last several decades. In this work, we have identified the need to partner with strong community based institutions and would like to explore a possible partnership with Oak Park in this regard.

As we move forward with this body of work, we envision project partners showing up in the following ways:

Hosting one session that allows for the Oral history project team to capture stories (Welcoming people to the space and providing 2 - 3 meeting room spaces that are private and can allow for recording of these stories)

Helping recruit constituents to the sessions by directing them to fill out screening questions on Survey Monkey (This ensures that those who show up for the sessions do not waste their time if they are not able to be recorded because they do not fit the qualifications)

Helping manage walk ins to ensure privacy in the recording sessions

Partner organizations will receive a \$500 honorarium for assisting in the aforementioned duties.

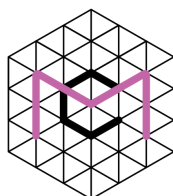
Would you be open to a phone conversation to discuss this further. Please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Thanks

Ebony Adedayo  
Program Manager, ReCAST Minneapolis

City of Minneapolis - City Coordinator's Office  
350 S. Fifth St., Room #302  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

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## Oral History Interview Themes

### Changes in North Minneapolis Over the Past 40 Years

- Riots in 1966/1967 marked the start of the most momentous change within the Northside community
- Transitioned from a community of pride and collaboration to one of divisiveness and violence
- Changed racially from a balanced mix, to predominantly black, to now more non-black residents
- Loss of community identity created disconnectedness.
- *Increased violence, shootings, drugs and gang activity*
- Significant increase in police presence & **decrease in positive police relations**
- The community has gotten worse over the years
- Shuttered businesses throughout the community with fewer black-owned businesses
- **Increased sex trafficking**
- More business development in the community in recent years
- Influx of resources into the community in recent years
- *Youth have become more violent and disrespectful*
- Too many fast food restaurants now

### Lasting Impact of Discriminatory Policies and Practices

- Redlining greatly contributed to generational poverty and lack of economic opportunity
- **Opportunity for home ownership unavailable or unattainable**
- Lack of jobs
- **Lack of access to affordable grocery and housing options**
- Tension between police and community
- *School closings and integration policies helped strip the community of its identity*
- Disenfranchisement of the community
- **Decreased opportunities and activities for youth**
- Lack of affordable housing and reliable transportation
- Homelessness and segregated schools
- Restricted home ownership
- Underperforming schools and poor educational opportunities

### Causes of Stress and Concern

- Crime and violence
- **Gentrification**
- **Pushing out the African American residents and disrupting black-owned business**

### Quotable Quotes

*"All of that is history. All of that is good memories. All of that is beautiful black community that no longer exist, and it's long gone and it's not coming back. That's what I see and it's sad."*

*"You need to come and see what these area's look like, how these areas are being taken care of or not taken care of. And then help as much as possible."*

*"The city of Minneapolis has tons of resource, the development and urban renewal (etc.),, but they do not direct much resources to North Minneapolis."*

*"I feel like the City is trying to push people of color out of the community. I think when you say hope for the future, I hope they just let some of us stay. "*

*"I expect if one place is getting a special treatment, I expect that to be throughout our whole city. I don't feel like it's fair to highlight spots to get all the attention."*

*"stop killing our brothers. Stop ignoring the sex trafficking that's happening with our young women. Stop being racist. Protect us when we need protection"*

- **Lack of opportunity to speak into community changes**
- Increased gang-related deaths
- Random shootings and killings`
- *Poor police relations/Police shootings*
- Youth violence
- Lack of safety and security
- Lack of affordable housing and good jobs
- Home foreclosures

### **City's Role in Relieving Stress and Concern**

- ***Acknowledge past discriminatory practices and give community a true voice in proposed Northside changes.***
- ***Invest in youth development, opportunities, and educational environments.***
- ***Increase pathways to home ownership and access to affordable housing.***
- Recognize the racism that exists and address the root causes
- Increase job opportunities in the community
- **Improve police and community relations**
- Implement strategies to curtail the crime and violence
- Treat Northside residents with dignity and respect
- Come forward with more programs and funding to help the community
- **Increase and commit to consistent community services and maintenance**
- Increased sex trafficking
- Increased homeless population

### **Past and Current Relationship Between the City of Minneapolis and the Northside Community**

- They've been trying
- They're going to continue to try to make things better
- They're just not doing (anything) to help the North side.
- Getting a better connection because of the people who are advocating for us
- There's still police brutality. There's still infiltration of drugs.
- Where's the help? Where's the cleanup?
- Very tense. Especially with the police and the community relations
- Very progressive by electing a black woman as mayor
- Sketchy but Minnesota's a good place.
- It's always been, "well let us come in and tell you how to run the community," as opposed to coming in and partnering with you.

### **The Community's Expectations of the City and its Level of Trust**

- **Visit the community and spend time with the residents and see the needs**
- Create programs for the youth

- **Invest in black-owned businesses**
- Stop the police shootings & racial profiling
- Listen to the community
- Support community programs and empower people
- River development
- **Protect us when we need protected**
- Lower utility rates
- Continue growing
- Remember the history, memorialize it
- Get involved in our neighborhoods
- Create the Light Rail
- Bring back more stores and investments in city projects and public works
- Do what you say you are going to do
- *No trust in the city to keep its commitments to the Northside*
- Come up with solutions and strategies to lift-up the community
- Accountability for landlords and building managers
- **Stop killing us**
- Address the sex trafficking of our girls
- Representation at all levels of the city government

### **Role Northside Residents Can Play in Creating a More Hopeful Future**

- **Continue ReCast**
- Having a forum so people can sit down and voice their opinions
- Black people get together and stick together
- **Empower, mentor, and develop youth**
- Take care our community
- Help one another, invest in each other
- Invest in the youth of the community through education, after school programming, community activities
- **Advocate for more experienced educators and better educational infrastructure**
- Work in the community, live in the community
- Stay active, stay involved
- Speak up, attend community and council meetings
- Keep our community clean

The City of Minneapolis and Northside residents, "I still see us at odds. I don't see them listening to the actual people that live in the community and making changes that are positive for the people that currently live in the community. In fact, I see them doing the opposite and pushing us out of the community. I'd like to see that change. I actually am losing faith. I had a lot of faith, maybe, 10 years ago, but now I see things actually getting worse as far as pushing us out. Things are not being set up to accommodate us, it's the opposite."

- **Ralph Galloway, lifelong Northside resident**



## Meet Susan Breedlove

Susan Breedlove has lived in on the Northside since 1969, most recently living near North Community High School for the last 20 years. She has a Master's Degree in Sociology and has served in the high schools for many years. Since arriving to the Northside, Susan has experienced the deaths of four of her family members due to the crime and violence that concerns many of the current residents. Her first husband was murdered in 1970 and Susan had to bury him in the black section of the cemetery, her grandson was killed at just 19 years old, and two years ago her second grandson and stepson were murdered on Plymouth Avenue. In each case, Susan has never seen justice served, a thorough investigation of any kind, or any indictments. She believes that the criminal justice system is not concerned with her family because they are people of color. In addition to these devastating losses, Susan has seen many changes to the community since arriving 50 years ago.

Susan feels that economic neglect has played a huge role in the downturn of of the Northside. She is disheartened by the lack of investment by city officials and developers. On a positive note, Susan is thankful that transportation is getting better and while housing is becoming more plentiful and well constructed, she has real concerns about the gentrification of her neighborhood. Susan has seen an influx of non-blacks coming into the Northside and feels like they treat her and her people as if they better than them. Her newest neighbors, for example, have moved into the city because of the gentrification happening and haven't taken the time to acknowledge or get to know the her or the others on their block. The city also seems to be catering to this new culture of people, and not offering places for current residents to provide input. For example, there was no discussion with Northside residents before bike lanes were put in for the influx of white residents, and now there is congestion on the main roads current residents use.

Additionally, Susan feels discouraged about the blatant discrimination in the Northside. She has supported students who were lobbying to have the name of Patrick Henry High changed from honoring a slave owner to representing the community. She attended the council

meetings and was subjected to a racialized defense of the current name and moreso, a realization that many who control her community do not have a full understanding of the black experience or a commitment to seeing black students or adults thrive on the Northside. In addition, one of her close friends who is white, would always buy thier homes when her husband (who was black) was away. She knew that if she showed up with a black man, they would be denied homes to consider and a bank loan. Despite these concerns, Susan feels hopeful for the future because of the youth who are making a difference. She believes in their power to create change!

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## Meet Ora Hokes

Ora Hokes has lived in North Minneapolis for over 45 years. He was raised by a single mother who always taught him to respect his neighbors and care for his community. Ora remembers the days of a family-friendly, tight knit community where residents knew one another and cared for one another. He recalls the days of showing up to Dr. Johnson's office, the neighborhood physician, with a sack lunch because he spent so much time with each of his clients; or popping into Young Brothers Barber, The Way Opportunities, or Plymouth Avenue Bank, businesses and organizations for the community and by the community. Ora grieves the loss of of a once vibrant community, where he and his family truly felt at home.

Ora has seen the breakdown of relations between police and the African-American residents and lost his son because of these changes. One evening, Ora's son was traveling to a party with his friends when they were stopped by the police. The police interrogated them regarding a disturbance in the neighborhood, but they were unable to answer the officer's questions. The police took Ora's son and his friends downtown to question them, and then began to tag them and pull them over when they would see them in the streets. Due to this harassment, Ora's son eventually moved to Atlanta and stayed away from his home and his family for over 15 years. Ora shared that this example, along with countless others that embody

the effects of the policies and programs, like the drug task force that did more harm to residents than the drugs themselves, are part of the reason the Northside is struggling today.

These days, Ora sees new businesses opening up that are not relevant to his culture. He is also concerned with the number of kids that seem to wander the streets throughout the day rather than attending school, the teenage girls and boys pushing strollers and smoking cigarettes, the underemployment of African-American residents, and criminalization of black men. Ora knows the criminalization cycle well. He shares that once you have gone to prison, you are not allowed to get subsidized housing or a decent job, you are stigma in society and the punishment never ends. Ora believes that once you have 'done your time', you should be reinstated in society,. However, if you can't work or have a home, many end up back on the streets and they cycle continually repeats itself.

Ora longs for the community that has been lost, the community that greeted one another and looked out for each other. Additionally, Ora is saddened by the neglect of important places like North High School and the upkeep of businesses that bring the neighborhood down like the local liquor store. Ora believes that the elected officials always promise to support the community when they are running for office, however, as soon as they are elected they never come back and visit the community or do what they said they would. Despite tons of resources, the city of Minneapolis continues to neglect the Northside and are now allowing gentrification to push out the long-time residents. Throughout it all, Ora holds hope because He believes in a risen Savior who gives him the strength to carry on.

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## **Meet Thomas Beasley**

Thomas Beasley has lived in North Minneapolis for over 42 years. He grew up hearing stories about black men being killed or beaten by police from his father and uncles. but fully felt the truth of those stories as he got older. He personally felt the oppressive nature of living in a culture of fear in the 90's, when law enforcement came in a very paramilitary way with armored vehicles and automatic weapons as part of the war on drugs. He shares how

statistically there are real negative psychological effects of increased police presence, more tension is created, and things get worse. He is disturbed by the fact the police see his people as their enemy rather than human beings who deserve to be protected.

Thomas has also lived through the realities of social, economic, and political systems that are designed to keep black communities oppressed. It is hard for him to hear people tell folks in his community to simply 'pull themselves up the their bootstraps', when their boots have been stolen. He grieves that the narrative shared about his people, causes others to fear him and think down on his community. Thomas recalls incidents like getting off the bus at night and watching white women clutch their purse and run. Yet, he wants people to see that he is just somebody's son, a fellow human being who has never harmed a single soul.

Despite the tensions, he faces in the community, Thomas desires to focus on what he and his community can do to create change. He is disturbed by the lack of care the government has shown toward the residents of the Northside, raising rent and property values, developing buildings and businesses without community input, and not addressing police brutality. However, he believes if continues to advocate and speak up about issues while staying positive, change can happen. He doesn't want to wait on the city to do everything for the community, he desires for the community members to step up and begin to be the change they desire to see.

His hope for change is found in the youth of the Northside. He fears that they are growing up and losing their values and concern for others. Their schools are not being cared for and there are few opportunities for development. Thomas hopes to continue speaking truth into their lives and instilling core values where he can. He believes if all Northsiders step up and invest in the youth, the community could change for the better.

**QUESTION: Thinking back from when you first came to this area to today, what changes have you seen, good and bad?**

- The most changes that I've seen has been the removal of what you would call ma and pa shops. Okay? Right at the corner of Penn and Plymouth, we had a clinic, Dr. Thomas Johnson's office. That was Francis Barber Shop that was there. And with the removal of the clinic, well, we do now have Northpoint. But Dr. Johnson had a personal relationship, I think, with every resident that went to him.
- And we have on Broadway, a lot of different shops. You know, totally different. But what I've noticed most of all is that we have a lot of young people who seem to be wandering the street during the day, as opposed to in school. They look like school aged children.
- Well when I was younger, we really had the Curfew Center. Like how they'd come, like truancy ride around, pick kids up for curfew, and that's not really no more. Just a lot of more violence up to date than it was when I was younger. And not really a lot of community centers that we had when we were younger, so there's definitely like nothing like Oak Park.
- Well some things that I've seen that I think are positive is there seems to be an effort to garner more input from the community, from the citizens of the community. There seems to be more structure to be able to do that.
- Well, there's a lot of changes. The violence is the biggest change, I think. When I was growing up going to North High School, we didn't have the gangs, and as I saw the gangs progress and come into the neighborhood and the violence increase, it became scarier and scarier just to walk down the street because we did a lot of walking when I was a kid. We walked all up and down seventh avenue, we walked back and forth 12th avenue and felt no fear. I wouldn't do that today because of the fear of the violence and issues with police and safety. I feel that's the biggest difference; the safety issues.
- So I think the main thing is the gentrification on the north side. On the positive note, I am seeing a lot of community come together when it comes to the arts and just really being more open about what's happening on the north side.
- More businesses cropping up on the north side because we really had a challenge for a very long time. But it's getting better. The economy is getting better, which helps everything. So I would say that there's been a downtime for the business community, but it's on the upswing. Safety wise, I think we're more challenged than obviously when I was growing up.
- Well, what is changing is the lack of people of color to me in the community and the gentrification of the community. From bike lanes now, in the middle of the street, down Plymouth Avenue. Plymouth Avenue is not Plymouth Avenue to me anymore. It's like



we used to have the Way, we had the Urban League, we had our own bank...We had Kings Grocery Store. We had a lot of black-owned businesses, small community businesses, community centers all up and down Plymouth Avenue owned and ran by and for people of color that no longer exist.

- Development of Lowry Avenue. Lowry Avenue, I say almost half of it has been done and that's positive.
- It's just the gun violence.
- (The) Northside, just doesn't get the same amenities, the same treatment, just none of that. We've definitely gotten different people have moved here, as well.
- The crime is higher, but I still really love north Minneapolis. Yes, there's been a lot of changes.
- The other changes that have occurred in our neighborhood, was at one time we had mostly African American families, and as of two years ago, we began to see an influx of families from other cultures.
- More violence in the community and young people being disrespectful. Loud, loud, loud music. I don't feel as safe as I used too, maybe 20 years ago.
- The negative changes that I've seen since I came to the area is just the level of respect that has changed between the young and the old, the community, since the 1980s when the drug, crack epidemic hit the community.
- A lot of prostitution.
- I seen a lot of African Americans moving out because they couldn't afford the housing in the area anymore.
- A lot of the redevelopment is not for us. So, it's like you see developments happening, but it's not for the residents.
- Negative it's like, I mean all the blacks have, they're moving a lot of black people out, and it's like gentrification. They're moving a lot of white people in, and it's like they're taking over the community, and some of them are nice, some of them are not. It's different now. I don't understand what's really going on. But when I was coming up as a youngster on the north side, it was basically balanced. You had your whites and you had a lot of blacks, and you had black businesses that were flourishing. We don't have that anymore.
- We don't have a store close to the Northside right here. You have to go all the way to Cub Foods to get groceries, and for the people that live down this way it's extra hard.

But if you had - I think it would help out a lot - if we had a grocery store closer to the community. When we did have a grocery store it was black owned. But I helped get rid of it because the guy was selling drugs to little kids in the store.

- Heritage Park is positive because it use to be the old apartments and KMOJ was over in that area. Allso Memorial, and so the positive change is that they took down the old brick buildings that was really messed up and put up new buildings.
- The positive changes are they are getting rid of a lot of the slumlord houses, and they're building. And I would like to see more people of color.
- We got a lot more abandoned buildings than we had when we first got here. It's a lot more things that happen now. I think the kids were younger then so it wasn't a lot of, it wasn't as much killin' and shootin' as it is now. I think they're doing more shooting now, they killing each other now more than they was when we first got here.
- The violence. It's too much violence, like every morning you get up somebody done killed somebody or somebody done got hitted by a car or kidnapped.
- 've seen more gentrification of whites in my neighborhood. I have seen the property values go up. I see how the north loop is growing and rising exponentially and I believe that some of the carry over is spilling across Plymouth Avenue and down toward the Washington business corridor. What I think is most tragic is that there is a lot of drug activity from the corners of Lyndale and West Broadway from West Broadway to let's say Penn Avenue.
- You have a lot of seniors that are living on fixed incomes that cannot continue to maintain their homes and now they're selling them. And then you have people from other communities coming into the neighborhoods and they're trying to change the culture of that community and I think that that can be very dangerous, I think that can be very rude, that can be very disrespectful, I think that that can cause a lot of conflict.
- (Minneapolis) had over a billion dollars worth of contracts last year. What percentage of them went to black businesses? It was less than a tenth of one percent.
- The unnecessary crimes and the tearing up your own neighborhood.
- It's becoming more densely populated, there's a lot more people here now. The black community has grown. You could basically find us all in one spot
- The quality of people living in the north side. When I say quality, I'm not talking about how much money do they have because that seems to be pushing the wagon for staying today. It's about caring for each other.

- I see positives of moving in as far as...how can I say it nicely?...More buildings or trying to put life in more North side.
- A lot more homes that are being built in our North Minneapolis area, the convenience of having the New Market.
- Having a lot more small on businesses within North Minneapolis, the mosque being in the central area here, as again being like a hub for the North Minneapolis.
- The negative that I see is more of the houses that are being placed in Minneapolis are being overpriced. So it's pushing a lot of us out of our community because of the housing, the pricing, the influx that has taken place within our community.
- The negative things that I see is within our schools. And a lot of times what I see is that our inner-city schools are the ones that get the new teachers, the inexperienced teachers that come into the most impoverished schools and don't really know how to relate to our students. There's no real equity as we hear them talk about a lot.
- We have very few teachers of color. Generally, our people that are of color are in more of the educational assistance behavior type roles. I want to see more teachers of colors, more administrators of color, just more so that our students are able to see themselves in those roles.
- There's quite a bit of crime that takes place, but I think the crime is because of the lack of our needs that are being met. We have to fight so much more harder to get the basic things in life. So we're forced to fend for ourselves; right? Prices are higher. You go to Cubs across the street here versus Cubs in Brussels Center and the sales vary. You spend more money. You're taxed higher, homes are taxed higher, the cost of living is higher, but yet we're the most impoverished neighborhood. What sense does that make?
- A lot of the people in the Northside, I would say almost up to 70% of the people were somewhat dependent upon some type of assistance.
- Changes in terms of accessibility and the boundaries of where people are accepted.
- There's some growth, you know, I mean just as far as like housing. The projects are gone and they turned it into, you know, heritage park or you know things like that. Some of it has aesthetically gotten better, a little bit. Negative... in some ways socially, some things haven't changed at all.
- We didn't have so much of that to worry about when I was younger.
- Positive, I've seen the development of businesses along West Broadway, specifically in terms of restaurants and eating and gathering spaces.

- There's investment from outside developers that don't have the community's interest at heart, so I think that's probably why there's a lot of housing insecurity and gentrification and turnover and stuff like that.

**QUESTION: What do you feel caused the changes you've seen over the years?**

- So, I honestly feel like the City of Minneapolis wants this space. They want north Minneapolis. It's close to downtown, your trains, your buses, and so they want this space, but it's like, can't we all live here? You know? Honestly. Can you make it affordable for everyone? Can you make the amenities be for everyone?
- I think they're due to the system. Elected officials. You know, we elect someone based upon their promise, and then when they get in office, they neglect us.
- Violence and drugs.
- You know, I think part of what caused changes in terms of input are the turbulence, and the resistance that has come out of the community in terms of getting more input and more info as to how the resources would be spent. I think it has to do with people just raising hell, saying that they're not represented. I don't think it was something that came out of the hearts of the politicians. And although, I know there was some good, great hearted people there, but I think it had to do with people pushing and pushing.
- I think it's the gangs and drugs and just the issues with the police. I don't remember as a kid us being at odds so much with the police as we are today. I felt safer; I felt like they were a safety net. I don't feel that safety anymore.
- As far as the gentrification I think is just an opportunity that people are seeing that there is. So capitalizing on, you know we have here in our communities.
- I think there obviously was a change in the racial makeup of the community.
- Crime, natural disasters, like that tornado that wiped out a whole lot of people from this community.
- I think that a major part of the changes, positive, has been gentrification.
- The way children are being raised. Sometime young parents having children and they didn't have the tools because their mother had them young.
- Drugs. Lack of unity. And just lack of support in community-building over the years.
- The violence.

- I say people moved from Chicago or in Indiana to get on this easy welfare up here, not really wanting to work, not really wanting to produce. It brings the community down. I say people moved from Chicago or in Indiana to get on this easy welfare up here, not really wanting to work, not really wanting to produce. It brings the community down.
- I think our people. They started gathering together wanting change because was happening in the neighborhood so I think that's what it was.
- Well, the first change was, I think it was '66 or '67, and the riots. Plymouth Avenue completely changed. All the Jewish people, which I grew up with, moved to St. Louis Park or Golden Valley. They left their stores and storefronts. That's when it first started changing. And then they started building apartment buildings over north. And then, I can't remember exactly. I think it was the 80's where they started tearing down the projects and they built Heritage Park. That was a good thing.
- It's more just the kids gang-bangin. I don't know what it is but they just against each other.
- It's probably the drugs and the housing. The housing, I don't think when, it ain't up to standard for a lot of people and then the ones that is, they're probably going to tear down anyways. There's not enough housing, then they ain't got enough schools, and then there's a lot of drug selling.
- The violence caused most of the change. I feel this way cause it's getting out of hand.
- People got tired of having their peace broken. When we look at Christianity, Judaism, Islamic, the religions of peace people could not come out of their house without having their peace tampered with.
- The millenials making positive changes.
- Increasing policing in terms of the war on drugs or whatever, increasing policing
- When the drugs began to come in. That changed our city. Like a turn around. Like it was day and night.
- Policy being made and advocated for by non-members of the communities, where people who have never walked on a North Minneapolis street telling us what needs to happen in North Minneapolis.
- I'll say people complaining. People are standing up. Black people moving in the more political situations, becoming the council person or becoming a congressperson or becoming something where they can say, "do something for the Northside."



- I think for too long we have been sitting in the background, and we have let others come in and start taking over our rights for being here, opportunity for being here.
- I think it's based on the fact that, if you were to assess that map this area, I think that it is a very valuable, it's a very enterprising, it's a lot of vibrancy here, it's a community here, there's a culture here.
- Some of it is our North Minneapolis proximity to downtown Minneapolis and businesses like the Target Center and the Metroplex, you know the industrial, the business complex of downtown Minneapolis. It's spreading out, it's spreading its legs.
- On the positive side like I said, there are some infrastructure, there are more jobs.
- I would say neglect, a lot of it economic neglect by the powers to be. Not investing the powers to be and corporations in investing in our community.
- I think a lot has to do with people moving out. I, as an educator, I often feel that the busing hurt us a lot.
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**QUESTION: What impact has historic, discriminatory government policies and practices in areas of housing, transportation, economic development, the criminal justice system and more had on you or your family?**

- The loss of my son. Because he was harassed (by the police) just because, you know, "Well, since you didn't give us the information we want, I'm going to make your life miserable."
- There's a lot of, I feel like I've seen more homeless people than I had when I was younger. Like, it was a thing and I would see people in the streets but now I feel like that's a lot more, and they continuously put things under bridges and put things on the street so people can't lay down and sleep when they won't even reach out a hand to help these people that need the help. And a lot of situations, a lot of people have to live together, to reduce the pricing, to reduce the cost of living. And in many situations especially subsidized housing that's illegal or not allowed. And that causes them to be kicked out, again.
- I moved. That's how it's affected me. I would love to still be directly in the community. I love north Minneapolis. I love access, I've always worked in downtown Minneapolis. The access to downtown Minneapolis is wonderful. I like the community. I love the old houses and all of the character they have, and then I moved to Brooklyn Park, which doesn't have that, being a newer suburb. The homes aren't the same, but I needed a safer school system. I had kids. I didn't want to put my kids in the school system.

- I would say that I had not, I'm a white person, I have not experienced discrimination in housing in particular. But interestingly enough, the high school that I went to was actually in South Minneapolis and I had a lot of friends that I keep in touch with from my high school graduating class and they have told me stories about challenges that their families experienced in trying to move in to a different neighborhood in South Minneapolis. There was a red line, around five families didn't go south of the street. And one of my friends...tells about how her family wanted to move three blocks in South Minneapolis but couldn't get a mortgage.
- They've affected me personally. I don't do drugs or anything, but it's affected my family. It's affected the community because I think a lot of drugs have infiltrated North Minneapolis and there's no help. I don't see any real good rehabilitation. I see people getting shot and put in jail for menial crimes regarding drugs. They can have a joint and do 10 years, and there's no rehabilitation for that or if they send you to jail, there's no rehab when you get out. There's no way to get a job. You're a felon. You can't do anything...Then, once you get arrested, your life is over. There's no way to come back from that.
- There might be policies, but half of us don't know what they are. We don't know what our rights are.
- Well I think there's still bias here. I think it's always going to be here. I think the community and the police of Minneapolis should have a better relationship and maybe there should be more diversity and more understanding and sensitivity training for the police officers.
- And then the housing policies as we're losing our--we're losing houses. We're losing the community. Buying opportunities, loan opportunities, employment opportunities.
- Now, you can see the effects. You can see the effects of what that war on drugs did to our community because of how the gentrification is happening. Gentrification only happens when a community goes down, till they hit rock bottom and then they come back, people come back in to revive it up. It's actually a system, but I'm not going to get into that, I'm talking about this.
- So seven years ago I was in the process of purchasing a home and the bank gave me such a hard time in the purchase of my home and it was very difficult.
- We've seen the historical divestment within North Minneapolis.
- It has done so much damage to our young people because they, as I said the drugs. And they figured that, oh I can make this much amount of money, I don't need to finish high school. You know? And that has been a great impact. And of course housing, not affordable housing for our young men, our young ladies. You know when they graduate

college and they have to move back to their parents home because they can't afford apartments.

- Employment discrimination opportunities. They come up with these job fairs, and two out of 100 people might leave smiling. Results, we need results. We need measurable results to that type of discrimination. The policing at times seems to get better-
- It caused me to do some time, couldn't find a job, didn't really have any skills or pathway to get skills as far as I seen, so my only avenue was to sell drugs or to hustle.
- Well, I mean, we can talk about the housing industry. Again, the housing industry right now, cost of rent has went up almost twice as much as what it used to be. So it makes it more harder for families to be able to afford to live here in Minneapolis area.
- And then even just issues like the criminal, the justice system. People in my family that may have felonies or different things on their records, the opportunity to even be able to be placed into housing is basically obsolete.
- And jobs. It's like, okay, well, yes, they committed a crime, but they did their time. How do you expect them to come back and re-establish themselves if you put the stamp on them that always rejects them. You're forcing them back out into the criminal world. Right? Because I have to live. I have to eat. I have to provide for my family. But it's because of our government and those different laws that says if you're a felony you're rejected housing, your chances of getting a job, they'll always keep you at a lower pay. So you can't really afford to take care of your family or you can't afford the housing.
- So lots of different things when it comes to our schooling from funding to the curriculum within our schools. Our students are always way further behind than their peers when you put them all in the same group
- The changes that I'm seeing right now really is basically the gentrification that's taking place right before our eyes.
- Drug wars has made... having been in North Minneapolis it felt like... there was a time like in the 90's especially, it felt like I lived in occupied territory because the law enforcement came in a very paramilitary way, with armored vehicles.
- But the interesting thing is that as veterans in those 40s and 50s, when they came back from World War II, they were not able to secure mortgages for their homes, compared to the white soldiers. As a result of that, the fact that they weren't able to get that house with that refrigerator, with that dishwasher, with that washer and dryer, and then take that mortgage and basically develop equity from that mortgage, so you'll be able to send your kids off to college or get that cabin up North, or be able to go on vacation once or twice a year, and as a result, if you multiply that about hundreds, and

thousands, and millions of people, then basically our culture was behind the eight ball because we didn't have that equity.

- My first husband was murdered in 1970. I found out through the grapevine, that's how you find out who's on the north side, who had killed him and the circumstances. My grandson, Jason, was killed, let me see, 19, 20. He was killed about 24 years ago. He was also murdered right over on Plymouth Avenue. And then I just lost my, well he was my step son and my grandson was just killed two years ago on 44th. And I don't expect they will ever come up with any kind of indictment. It's crazy cuz they're people of color.
- Well transportation has been one that's gotten better, but in order to get a job at one time it was really desirable to get jobs out of the central area where we lived, but to get the transportation after the job was done at night, in many places they didn't used to have buses and stuff so that improved somewhat.
- I think that things are looking up but I also see gentrification happening right now, where I see people coming in. I have neighbors next door to me. It's very strange to me because I can't even tell you their name and they have been there over a year.
- But I felt very oppressed in the 90's, very oppressed and psychology says statistically if you add more law enforcement it actually agitates the situation.
- People say you should just pull yourself up by your bootstraps or you should do this or you should do that but there are institutional things. I mean racism is when the system itself or an institution actually hinders you consciously for its own, for you know, to push itself forward and to push you back or at your expense.
- And I think the laws were made to not rehabilitate us, but to incarcerate us, and I think that you look at the opioid crisis now, where there is a large amount of white people who are getting caught up on drugs. Now their focus is health and their focus is okay, how can we help them medically, versus when the crack epidemic started, the focus was incarceration.
- Yes, well, employment, I think, discrimination, it goes with us you just have to be two or three times better. That's been my experiences growing up is not necessarily outright discrimination, but understanding that if it's between me and another person that doesn't look like me, and we're the same, they're gonna get the job.

**QUESTION: What changes have you seen in this community that raise you level of stress or concern about the future and what role does this city of Minneapolis need to play in revealing that stress?**

- For example, Lincoln, the school right here, that school has been open for like two years, and then closed for one year, and now it's still closed, you know? And yeah, they have to

do something about that. Then they just built a building on Penn, a Target headquarters, like just in the middle of the neighborhood for no reason. So it's like ... it was really pointless. The money could be spent on more different things than just trying to build stuff all around on the Northside.

- They built that building (Big Thor) over there and then nothing else happened since then. don't know. I think they did it just 'cause of the Super Bowl, but I feel like they just making money, 'cause we don't use no parking..They just put it there for like I don't know, but it really don't have no purpose because don't nobody in the community really park in there. That's like for business people and stuff like that and I think they got a fitness room in there too..when you walk past you see people, and it don't look like its for us, you know what I mean. Its real preppy in there. It don't look like you'd be comfortable in there.
- I was walking down the street yesterday, and I was on Penn and I stopped and the stop signs start talking, it was like "Wait." 12th and Penn, and that's the new ones they just put in. But we still got homeless people that freeze and die because it ain't nowhere left for them to go.
- I'd say the gangs is what caused the stress. The violence. If they can do something about that... and the school system, too. They just need to... both of those things are big issues for me.
- Well, I think the violence is a negative for our community. We get stigmatized because of it. People fear coming here.
- Well, more police brutality because Black Lives Matter really mattered to me a lot because even the church we go to was passing out sandwiches when they were holding down the police station on Plymouth Avenue.
- One of the things after the, and I don't remember what year, the tornado came through north Minneapolis, and children came home with no home, no food. Parents came home with no food. One of the things that changed my daughter's decision of what to do in life, was there was no help for the children. Some of them still don't have their houses rebuilt. People bought the land. It's just ... It really hurts my heart that it's just, the thought of, it's almost like Puerto Rico.
- The shootings, shootings. It's all shootings. Whether it's black or white, whoever it is, all these guns and all these angry people with guns.
- Transparency. We need to be transparent with what's taking place.
- Besides, them shipping us out to other areas, a lot of the young people . My understanding was happening and their fighting against themselves. A lot of killing and just fighting.



- Well, the white folks moving up here. They act like they run everything. It's like they don't have to speak to you. They can belittle you. I don't like that.
- Well the negative is they got rid of the black barbers hop on Plymouth. The reason they did that is so they could get a white person to buy the place so they can take it over and make more white businesses. That's negative. Now, far as positive, we got a barber shop on Broadway that's black. Black owned, black everything.
- It seems like they're forcing all African Americans out and all the Europeans are coming in. And the housing, the prices on them, are so high that it's unaffordable. Okay.
- The guns in the neighborhood.
- I mean I don't know if a community can depend on the city to facilitate, you know the changes that we want.
- The violence has raised my stress. I'm not sure what the community can do or what the city could do about the violence, cause I don't think they ever was able to control it. They can't control the people that are supposed to be in position to stop it, cause they doing it to. I don't think anything happened.
- Raising my level of stress is my people not taking advantage of what is out here. And what I think, we've come to a point in our community where some people are just giving up. A lot of our youth have been raised by people who are the affected group from the war on drugs. So we have grandmothers taking care of grandbabies.
- One thing that hurt me I guess bothers me is the cigarette smoking. I mean with the teenagers, they are smoking cigarettes left and right. That bothers me.
- I see too many teenagers 18 and 19-year-old with babies. A few weeks ago, I was coming from downtown, I think I was coming from. I saw this little girl she was maybe about 20 years old and she had three children. That affected me that really bothered me. She was about 20 years old and she had three children. She had one baby in the stroller, carrying a baby, and one baby in the stroller. Walking with two other babies, I said that was kind of troublesome for my soul and spirit. When I see something that is negative it bothers my soul and my spirit.
- The lack of protection for the babies. The lack of concern and, it's not everybody, and the reason why I feel the special lack of concern is so many babies having babies.
- They definitely target the north side. Like I said, so many ways, from high-speed chases around here. Literally, three different times in the last seven years, I've had high-speed chases come by my house. And it was all around warrant time, when they start picking people up for warrants. And when I go to the parks, it's always cops, and they

congregate there and they take over the space, and they ride up on the sidewalks. I've been harassed just by sitting on the bench.

- Our children need our help and guidance.
- I think the biggest stress, and that's probably in every community, is the economic stress. Just, how expensive things are, and how hard it is to be able to have, when we were younger, moms could stay home, dad could go to work. People could raise kids. Now, having a one income household is poverty.
- Yeah, I just wish that development could be again, by us, for us, and even when it is by us.

**QUESTION: When you think about this area today, what impacts do you still see from these historic government policies?**

- Well, I do believe that there is still a lot of discrimination against people that live in North Minneapolis, and that they don't really think that we're worth spending money on. And even when I think now that they're trying to, you know the city council, they're trying to change it where everybody doesn't have their own council person, that they're just like, "Okay, we're just going to have some people represent everybody," and everybody doesn't represent everybody.
- I think that they just, they don't want to spend money on us because they feel like we're not worth it. And I think that that's something that has been historic. And then just the attitude about the area. And people don't even want to have businesses. So I don't even know if people want to give loans or whatever, because it's very seldom that we get businesses, new businesses that really want to invest in our community.
- Okay, well, I think one is the re-gentrification piece. You know to me that looks a lot like a new form of discrimination called something different, packaged in a positive way, but I wonder if it's thought out fully enough to see to it that those who are displaced by that process are fully taken care of. So that I see as maybe still a historic kind of looming residual of white supremacy because those who are re-gentrifying are basically from the European ethnicities.
- We have a challenge with home ownership and so the discriminatory practices that impacted how you finance housing, how people get loans has contributed to a challenge in home ownership for people of color.
- What raises my concern is so many children without anything to do in the evenings. After school they don't have a lot of positive stuff to go to.
- In my area the war on drugs is better. When they were going to Wisconsin buying guns it seemed like they were all in our area because there was gunshots all the time. I think whatever they did with that, that helped out a lot because you don't hear the gunshots anymore. Now we just have to deal with cars, people running people over.

- The landlords.
- We have more liquor stores than restaurants or grocery stores or co-ops or where's Target? Downtown. I have to go all the way downtown and battle parking just to get a pair of stockings.

**QUESTION: How would you describe the relationship between the city of Minneapolis and this community over the years?**

- The city of Minneapolis has always looked at North Minneapolis as a problem area. However, it used to be, as my parents grew up here, there used to be a lot of Jewish people that lived here. And I'm sure that they treated it differently then than they do now, because I think that a lot, there's been a lot of what they call white flight. And so a lot of people that lived in this area have left for various reasons. And so then you have a high concentration of poverty, but then people don't want to invest because they feel like the people don't care. So I think that's been a historic thing, that they just were like, "Okay, that's North Minneapolis," like we're not even part of everything else. We have our own thing going on here and not in a positive way.
- I think it's gotten better. There's not as much hostility in seeing people who are kind of affiliated, representatives of the city with those who are living in the communities. I think that gap has lessened. And I think a lot of that has a lot to do with having people of color in those systems that the city runs. There's nothing like being able to see somebody that looks like you affiliated with the city operations.
- There's still police brutality. There's still infiltration of drugs. If it was to help us and to help this community, where's the help? Where's the cleanup? It's coming but it ain't coming for us. By the time they clean it all up and all the help comes in, and all the come up comes up, we're all going to be out.
- Back then, when I was coming up here in Minneapolis, it was alright, it was good, but now it done went back, went down hill. All killing, police killing people, people killing police. Let's live together, stop this killing.
- They wouldn't invest in North Minneapolis but I believe the government city policy has always wanted to come in because this is such a rich area and neighborhood. You're close to downtown, you're close to major highways so I believe the plan was always to come back in but it's never been a partnership. It's always been well let us come in and tell you how to run the community as opposed to coming in and partnering with you. They'll have meetings already set up with plans of what they're going to do but they'll do us the courtesy of inviting us into show us what they are going to do.
- The crime went down.

- I've gone to countless meetings where they already have plans all the walls and I'm like well why did you invite the community if you already have it planned. It was just a courtesy to say that we invited community input.
- Where are the restaurants? Why are there more liquor stores on every corner than there are restaurants where families can go in and sit down to eat a meal?
- Not good. I don't think it's a good relationship. I tell my daughter all the time, you know, she complains about this that and the other, I say &quot;Go to your city councilmen, and I don't think the people in this area feel like they have a voice. They don't feel that they have a voice, because I know in the wintertime all I heard was complaints. The snow and this and that, and I say well you know, you all pay taxes. Talk to the people that's over your area.&quot; But I don't think that this community feels that if they did that, they're going to get any results. So they just, you know, it's really bad.
- Sketchy but Minnesota's a good place. Minneapolis is... I've traveled enough to know that it could be worse and I really feel like I said I really feel that accountability is in the hands of the citizens like you know community member you know.
- You know, I think the biggest thing is helping with job placement.

**QUESTION: What gives you hope for the future of this community and what part does the City of Minneapolis need to play in creating that more hopeful future?**

- Well, I live on hope. My faith is built on hope. I know who my creator is. I serve a risen savior, and I know that everything that's happened, happens for a reason. The thing is, Ora, what are you going to do to make things better? So, each of us have to take an individual inventory. Each of us were given with certain gifts and talents to make a difference.
- I think there's a lot of kids in this community. And I think there's a lot of people who want to see things moving in the right direction. And I think that that's sort of gaining some traction right now, with a lot of different nonprofits and other organizations that are working over here. So that makes me excited to see what this will be like in 10 or 15 years.
- People can stay, exactly. Make it safer, make it more affordable. Put some money into the school systems. Make us want to stay.
- Well, I think we're a good welcoming community, we are very diverse. If you think about how other parts of the city are just, I would say, racially isolated, we have in North Minneapolis the most diverse community in all of the city.

- Well, I have hope for the future in the same people that I have concern with. My hope is for the youth, for the young people.
- I give all my prayers to God. I just think through love is the only way. Hatred just brings negativity. So we have to learn to love ourselves and love each other and respect each other.
- Lack of hope up to this point because they seem to be taking everything away that gives you hope.
- Just being interviewed by you young people, because I can tell by your demeanor that what I'm talking about are things you know need to be talked about.
- The youth because they're more concerned than the elders because we have been there, done that.
- We need more radio/TV programs that is predicated on North Minneapolis. Communication is a big part of enhancing community. If you are not informed you might do something that is negative, but when you are informed it gives you more stability to think about the situation.
- The millennials, give me hope, because there is so many of you guys, that are showing the young folks under you.
- That me and others just like me are still here. I don't believe in sitting around watching The Price is Right. I stay active. It's not easy...
- Oh, that's like a three-hour conversation there. We got to make some adequate investments, and that's not always money.
- Well what gives me hope is the fact that for the state of Minnesota, there's 3.1% unemployment. But for North Minneapolis among both men and women it's approximately about 23% unemployment. But if you look at African-American men it's about 51% unemployment.
- There are good people in this world. There is good in this world. I mean I could sit here and rattle off all the negative and bad things I see but based on my own life experience I know that there's philanthropy, people who donate money to save peoples lives for medical research and what not, who've never met those people before and they put forth millions of dollars.
- You know, working with kids everyday, I'm a high school basketball coach and like I said, I'm a teacher also. And I just think, you know, I see a lot of people giving coming into the



communities, and I think what gives me hope, is I think that our kids are being given what's necessary to make some changes.

- I mean, as much as it makes me upset, developments like this give me hope because it's just, things can happen if we put stuff together and it's just about the process being a well-rounded, community-engaged process.

**QUESTION: What are your expectations of the City of Minneapolis relative to this community? To what extent do you trust the City to deliver on those expectations?**

- First of all, we should have our representation. We should have people from this community that represent us, and that are part of us. We shouldn't have people, even when it comes to policing.. that even if they don't live here they should at least respect us. And I don't know how you have a litmus test for do you respect these people or not. Maybe they need to have some kind of questionnaire where they're honest.
- Well my trust is great as long as there's input. Real, sincere, just input, communication's open, representation of various levels of the city government from the citizenry at large. I'm very, very hopeful. Very, very, very hopeful.
- I expect us to keep the city's feet to the fire. So whatever we want, we need to impress upon them that that's what we need, and not let up off of it. And teach the kids to do it, and do it.
- Treat us like we're human beings and show us respect. Everybody lives in different environments and one person's experience is not someone else's experience. Whether you're gay or straight, black or white. I just think there should be more community involvement with the government and they need sensitivity training. No matter whether we committed a crime or not, we're all treated as if we did. When my son was 18, started driving, never been arrested, never been in no trouble, the first thing he was asked when he was stopped for, I don't know, a moving violation. "When's the last time you been arrested?"
- My expectations of the city of Minneapolis would be to recognize the fact that the black community is a very vital part of the city of Minneapolis and should be cultivated as such.
- To open the door and help people where they need help. Whether it's the Native American community, the black community, the white community. I am not a racist and I don't wanna practice racism. I say the city should open up avenues for people to get the help they need. To get the jobs, support their families, being able to buy homes and to live their life. The quality of life. To focus on the quality of life for its citizens. I felt that's what they were elected in office for. Did they forget the purpose?

- I don't know. I don't know, but I know Minnesota and the city of Minneapolis facilitates a lot they pay for a lot, they fund a lot. There're opportunities out there lot of times there are funds assists that are never used for progress, for community development.
- Big part. I think this is a start, what you're doing now. As well as getting together and bringing the community together and having a forum so people can sit down and voice their opinions, but at the same time knowing that they're afraid for their kids
- Get more programs, get more activity for the kids, somewhere for them to go or something to do. You gotta have something for them kids to do.
- Just try to keep us safe and not kill us.
- I don't, there's been too many of black men dying in the hands of them. Half the time it's the things that are happening is not okay. These black men, most of them ain't got guns on them, ain't got no weapons on them and you shooting to kill. Like, no. You can shoot em, my thing is you can shoot them in the arm, shoot them in the leg, you can shoot them anywhere. You shooting to kill. You shooting in the head, you shooting in the chest where the heart is. You shooting to kill.
- It's on record, that at Minnesota is not the place for black people. And that's bad.
- I think this is a great step by beginning to help people tell stories
- I would expect for them to focus more on, instead of trying to change a lot of things, that they would focus on the people that live here now and try to see what they could do to assist them, rather than they're so focused on changing a lot of things.
- The funds that get funneled through to actually be of assistance to Northside residents need to make it to the Northside residents, not to the programs to allocate through their services that provide minimal help. And they're wasting a lot of the funds on things that don't even matter, or that just touch the surface of what the true needs are, so the money's just being wasted.
- We got to introduce how important the farming is, but it's got to be fun.

**QUESTION: What part do you feel you can play in creating a more hopeful future?**

- Keep doing what I'm doing at Oak Park(cooking), and keep helping the community.
- If we continue to do our job here in that the church that will help because our call's consistently to work towards freedom of the people from abased work, challenging systemic oppression, we're doing a North Side Healing Space program that we'll hear of

and begin some time in the near future. If we continue to do that, that will contribute to the city becoming a better place to live.

- The way I try to give back to the community is to uplift individuals.
- I can just keep on talking and keep on involving kids and things, and keep reinforcing our positive lives, and helping.
- Come together as a community, quit talking about it and do it. Don't wait for the police department to fix us. Don't wait for other citizens to fix us. We have to fix ourselves. Nobody's going to come to our rescue. Until we can have respect for each other and love for each other, and support each other, nothing's going to change.
- As an artist, I think that a part that I can play in it is just to help beautify the community. I've been creative and some of the presentations and created some public spaces created in the community where people can feel good about something.
- Create more activities for black kids to get into, and help them to get along with one another better and not hate on one another.
- I do my part by riding the bus and talking to people. Caring is coming back.
- Be a better person. I'm trying to make a role model for the kids. Be good. Clean up behind yourself. You drop paper in the yard, pick it up.
- Doing my job, staying at home. Going to work. Teaching my kids right from wrong.
- I think, first of all, I have faith. I'm a person of faith. So, I think that that comes inherently with that, right? But I also believe in people. I believe in people, and I live among people.
- I would say continue to try and get involved. Continue to try and create a conversation. I think that would be a start.
- I guess because I work with the youth, my focus would be on them. Trying to educate them and help them to be more concerned about their community.
- Doing what I do, stay positive you know what I mean always stay positive.
- We gotta continue to vote, and we gotta get out and get the young people to vote, and we can't take that lightly.
- To put their resources into (the youth), putting our money into them, to really give them outlets and not have financial barriers get in the way of that.

*“Well, a lot of death. My cousin that's being interviewed from somebody else is going to a funeral right now. We were supposed to go to one yesterday but she went and I didn't because it was just too overwhelming for going to another funeral. One of my closest girlfriends, about a year ago, her son was killed after... His name was Tyrone and her son was killed after reading a bed story to his kids, kissing them goodnight, and going to his night job, and right outside the door somebody shot him and killed him.” Excerpt from the interview of Beverly Larkin, Northside Minneapolis Resident.*

*“Keep speaking out. Keep sharing with other people, find people that are doing positive things and try to be as supportive. But I think really working at the school and being part of the community. I think the most important thing is I live here, you're going to see me. I shop here, I pray here, and I work here. And even as an employee, just because I work for somebody that is African American, that don't mean I show up half doing my job. I try to bring excellence. If I want excellence I try to bring excellence. And I try to be an example for others, and I say, “Hey, you need to step up. If you're going to working here, you need to step up.” So just being the positive role model, and being present and accounted for, really. Just living here and saying, “Hey, I believe in this community.” I think that means more than anything. That I actually stay here and not, I could go move someplace else, but I stay here because I believe in it.” Excerpt from the interview of Alana Ramadan,, Northside Minneapolis resident*

*“I think if we continue to do our job here in that the church that will help because our call's consistently to work towards freedom of the people from abased work, challenging systemic oppression, we're doing a North Side Healing Space program that we'll hear of and begin some time in the near future. If we continue to do that, that will contribute to the city becoming a better place to live. And as we continue to tell our people to resist, resist, resist, resist, don't feel like you don't have any power. As one community leader told me in the south of Atlanta, female, about the housing projects she said, “Just say it. Whether your verbs line up or not, just say it. Just keep on talking and keep on expressing where your position is.” So if we continue to empowering people to speak out, to continue to reach out, make coalitions, build partnerships for the sake of justice, fairness, inclusion then the city will move in the right direction. But we've got to do our part and that is to work towards that end together. It's not just the city, it's all of us.” Excerpt for the interview of Ralph Galloway, Northside Minneapolis resident.*

*“There's been a lot more art around our community, which I love. Especially on Broadway we have the Freedom Square, which is an art based square. We do farmer's market and art events, artist events, things like that which is totally awesome. For the Superbowl there was a lot of gentrification, fixing up streets and trails, that were kind of just totally disregarded beforehand. And then I feel like they're being discarded again because, all these potholes and things, they didn't clean any of that up. If you go up the street to Robbinsdale, everything, all their potholes*

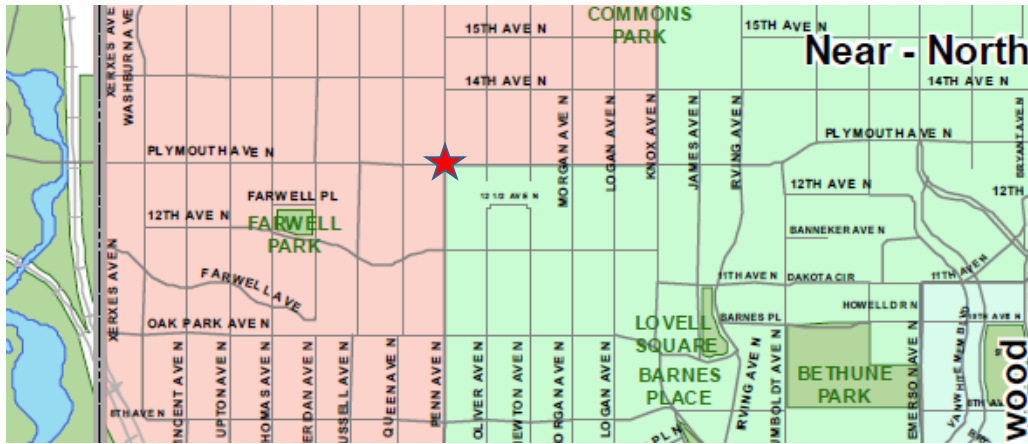
*are fixed, but none over here. Stuff like that.” Excerpt from the interview of Anisah Elamin, Northside Minneapolis resident.*

## Questions for Storytellers

Each interview will consist of three parts: (1) Introduction; (2) Core Storytelling; (3) Top-of-Mind Thoughts and Beliefs.

Part 1: (Introduction) - Establish identity and place.

1. May I have your first and last name with spelling please?
2. Reference the map - Do you currently, or have you ever, lived in or near this part of North Minneapolis? If so, how long?



Part 2: (Storytelling mode) – Allow participant to answer freely and naturally.

3. Thinking back from when you first came to this area to today, what changes have you seen – positive and negative?
4. What do you feel caused the changes you've seen in this area over the years? Why do you feel this way?
5. We are gathering these stories to increase understanding between City of Minneapolis and the community on the impact of historic discriminatory government policies and practices in areas like housing, transportation, economic development and more. Examples include housing and employment discrimination in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the war on drugs in the 1990's, and others. What impact have these policies, or others, had on the community in general? What impact have they had on you or your

**family personally?**

6. **What changes have you seen in this community that raise your level of stress or concern about its future?** What part does the City of Minneapolis need to play in relieving that stress?
7. **What gives you hope for the future of this community?** What part does the City of Minneapolis need to play in creating that more hopeful future?

Part 3: (Top-of-Mind thoughts/beliefs) – Ask storytelling participant to provide quick, short answers.

8. *When you think about this area today, what impacts do you still see from these historic government policies?*
9. *How would you describe the relationship between the City of Minneapolis and this community over the years?*
10. *What are your expectations of the City of Minneapolis relative this community? To what extent do you trust the City of Minneapolis to deliver on those expectations?*
11. *What part do you feel you can play in creating that more hopeful future?*

*“Racism, you know? Me and a white guy walk up to the same red light. Stop. Police pull up. You got ID? Who, me or him? No, you. Why you didn't ask him for no ID? You know what I mean? And that still occurs right today.” Ronald Peterson, Northside Minneapolis resident since 2003.*