



PRESS BRIEF: RIGHT 2 ROOT II: A COMMUNITY-CENTERED SYSTEM FOR EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT IN N/NE PORTLAND

EMBARGOED UNTIL Wednesday, June 19, 2019

What is Right 2 Root II?

Right 2 Root II outlines a process for diagnosing the health of a community, with a focus on mitigating and counteracting poverty caused by generations of gentrification and serial forced displacement. It's also a replicable, scalable model for the creation of a new system that prevents and corrects these effects.

What is root shock, and how does it relate to trauma?

Root shock is the “traumatic stress reaction to the loss of some or all of one’s ecosystem.” On a community level, root shock is the loss of interpersonal ties (health) and the capital (wealth) that is generated by reciprocal connections and a circular economy. The impact of unmitigated loss of connections creates chronic stress and trauma, increasing risk for stress-related diseases across entire populations for generations. Put plainly, inequality is making us sick.

What is recurring displacement?

Recurring displacement, exemplified by the map included in the report of Black migration in the city of Portland, illustrates a cycle of disinvestment, gentrification and investment that causes population removal, forced movement and dispersal from high opportunity to disinvested areas.

Poverty indicators presented in the report

“Health is determined by our zip code more than our genetic code.”

This research examines racial inequities based on four poverty indicators: **income**, **education**, **employment**, and **housing**. Numbers for the most recent year of data show:

- **25% income gap:** 40% of Black residents were below the poverty line, compared to about 15% of the White residents.
- **10% employment gap:** 18% of Black residents were unemployed, compared to about 8% of White residents.
- **30% homeownership gap:** 29% of Black households are owner-occupied, compared to 59% of White households.

- Additionally, **three of the four indicators** show racial disparities **have been increasing** over time.

New Poverty Reduction Lenses

The report uses three lenses to analyze root causes (indicators) of and solutions to poverty: health, maker, and innovation.

- The **health** lens addresses more than the absence of disease or infirmity. Healthy communities must also feature safety, comprehensive transportation networks, and connection to affordable, quality food, housing, education, employment, and services.
- The **maker** (assets and capital) lens focuses on entrepreneurship, jobs, and careers, using cultural and intellectual capital as the engine of a maker culture and supportive infrastructure.
- The **innovation** lens focuses on upstream interventions that foster collaborative ownership and leveraging human capital. It increases capacity, recovery resilience, and appreciates the value of cultural knowledge and traditions.

How we operationalize poverty lenses to combat inequality in gentrified communities

Each lens provides a blueprint for optimizing three key components of a given community: **land use, transportation, and environment**.

Health lens:

Land Use

- Create mixed-use, culturally specific institutions, facilities, businesses, services employment, and education in transit-served space, and underutilized land

Transportation

- Increase access and reduce inefficiencies between areas of opportunity and disinvestment, and optimize connections between facilities, employment and education

Environment

- Cultivate a new open-space system to connect cultural and natural areas that promote and support community activities with community-controlled ecological processes

Maker lens (Assets and Capital):

Land Use

- Prioritize collaborative ownership for adaptive and interim use of underutilized public and private lands to underserved communities

Transportation

- Create connective networks between nodes in Root (historic, stable) and Anchor (disinvested) areas, using express services to facilitate economic opportunity

Environment

- Expand green systems and make multi-modal paths and streets to green space and high-speed transportation systems supporting maker corridors

Innovation lens:

Land Use

- Incubate community and business programs in mixed-use, interim facilities that can be adapted for education and cultural events

Transportation

- Design purposeful connections between facilities, intended for community and business programs, that have a continuity of settings and experience and last-mile circulation.

Environment

- Transform built and natural spaces into connected, culturally supportive ecosystems that support multigenerational health, maker and innovative laboratories

Case Studies and Success Models

Right 2 Root II explores case studies, or precedents, for practices designed to address and mitigate **late-stage gentrification** (mostly gentrified neighborhoods with vulnerable populations still in residence).

Health

- [The Youth-Driven Healthy South Los Angeles Partnership](#), [Mary's Place](#), and [Healthy Chicago 2.0](#)

Assets and Capital

- [Africatown Seattle](#), [ADX | Art Design Portland](#), [Japan for Sustainability](#), and [Mercy Corps REIT](#)

Innovation

- [Lloyd EcoDistrict](#), [Green Benefits District](#), [Noe Valley Association](#), and Tactical Urbanism ([Better Block](#), Dallas, [Depave](#), Portland, [City Repair Project](#), Portland).

More information:

You can find the full report on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at www.ips-dc.org/report-right-to-root-2

For inquiries about the report or to interview the report author, please contact Robert Alvarez at robert@ips-dc.org or 916-690-9896.

Hashtags: #Right2Root #HealingSymptomsChangingSystems #SupportOurSisters