

Culver City Historical Context Study

Equity & Human Relations Advisory Committee Presentation

Presented by

Architectural Resources Group, Inc.

City of Culver City

August 22, 2023



Architectural
Resources Group



One

Project Overview



ARG | Team Introduction



KATIE HORAK
Principal-in-Charge



ANDREW GOODRICH
Project Manager



ELYSHA PALUSZEK
Architectural Historian

ARG | Team Introduction

- Experience managing similar projects that examine racial, ethnic, and cultural histories
 - View Park National Register Nomination
 - SurveyLA, Asian Americans in Los Angeles Historic Context Statement
 - City of Los Angeles, Historical Housing and Land Use Study
 - City of West Hollywood, Historical Context Study
 - African Americans in California Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF)

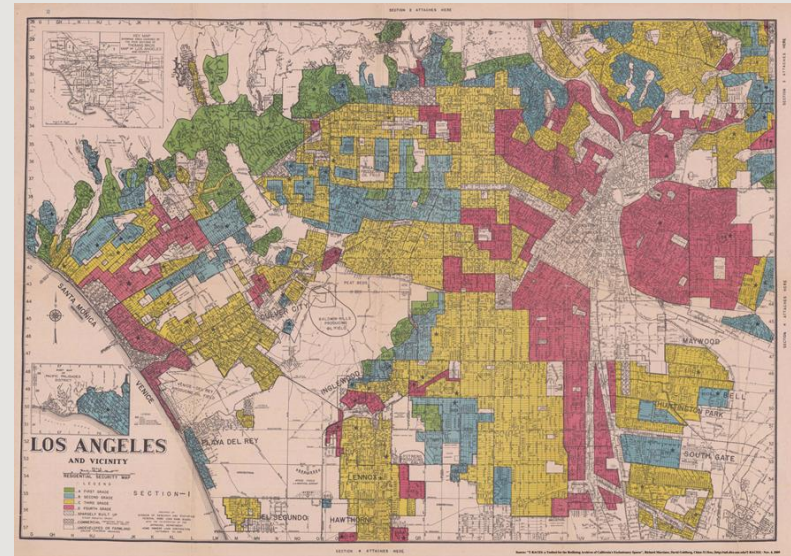
What is the purpose of the historical context study?

- Better understand racial and cultural discrimination in Culver City from the 19th century to the present
- Document racially and culturally discriminatory practices and policies
- Trace demographics through time
- Analyze how these policies have shaped the City's current landscape and the experience of its residents



What topics will it include?

- Demographic patterns and trends
- Public sector discrimination
 - Zoning and land use policies
 - Federal, state, and local laws
- Private sector discrimination
 - Real estate
 - Housing
 - Businesses
- Actions taken to address discrimination in the 20th century



How will the study be used?

- Better understand and document the history of discrimination and inequity in the City
- Promote awareness and understanding of inequities in the City's past
- Inform next steps to address equity in the City through policymaking and local land use practices



Two

Project Update



Project Schedule



Primary and Secondary Source Research

- Existing studies about discrimination
- Newspaper archives
 - *California Eagle, Los Angeles Sentinel*
- Local history collections
- Census and other demographic data
- FHA/HOLC residential security maps and associated reports
- Books and other published materials

Primary and Secondary Source Research

**Get Your Free
Gift Sunday**

Boys and Girls:
Get your father, mother or some grown-up friend to go with you next Sunday and meet me at "Brooklyn". **WAS EVERYTHING IS FREE.**

Special trains from 4th and Hill, beginning at 11 o'clock. Get free tickets now at 901 Story Building. Meet me at "Brooklyn". West and get—

1—A Big Box of Fine Candy
2—A Real Christmas Present
That Will Tickle You

Be sure and get tickets now.
Your old fat friend,
SANTA CLAUS.

50-Foot Lots \$550 and up

10% cash—balance as you like.
10% discount for building.
10% discount for cash.
3 car lines.
3 boulevards.
31 minutes from 4th and Hill. All improvements included in price.
(Lots and presents restricted to Caucasian race.)

GUY M. RUSH CO.
901-5 927 Story Building, Sixth and Broadway
P. S. Office open evenings.

KKK Activity Feared in L.A.-Area Cross Burnings

BY MICHAEL A. LEVETT and WILLIAM C. REMPEL
Times Staff Writers

Recent cross burnings and scattered racial incidents may mark a resurgence of activity in the Los Angeles area by white extremist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, a civil rights coalition warned the county supervisors Tuesday.

The warning followed a cross-burning episode Monday near Culver City, the fourth such incident reported against blacks in three weeks.

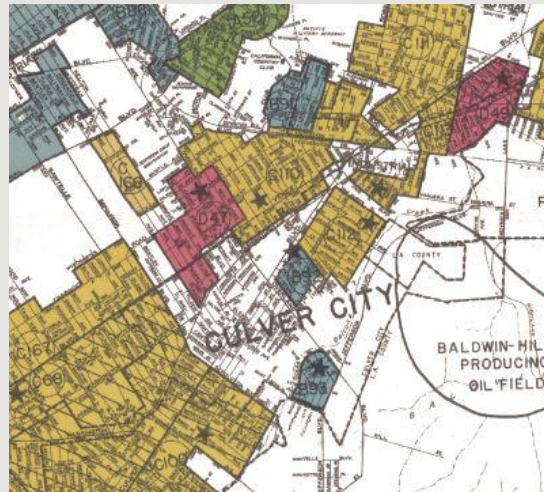
The FBI, which has been called in to investigate, declined comment, but state and local police agencies deny any resurgence of KKK activity in Southern California. Authorities said they have no evidence that the in-

cidents are linked to the Klan.

However, representatives of the United Citizens Emergency Action Committee, the group that appeared before the supervisors Tuesday, said they thought the incidents are connected to the KKK because cross burning is considered a trademark of the organization.

"If it looks like a duck, talks like a duck and walks like a duck, it's a duck," said Robert Boyd, executive director of the county Human Relations Commission, a spokesman for the group.

"Our concern is that it's only a
Please Turn to Page 14, Col. 1



AREA DESCRIPTION
Security Map of Los Angeles County

1. POPULATION: a. Increasing Moderately Decreasing _____
b. Class and Occupation Studio employees, technicians, etc., skilled & unskilled labor. Income \$1200-\$3000
c. Foreign Families Few % Nationalities Mexicans - No concentration d. Negro 0 %
e. Shifting or infiltration of more Mexicans a threat but not serious

2. BUILDINGS: PREDOMINATING 80 % OTHER TYPE 20 %
a. Type and Size 5-6 room bungalow 2 & 4 family dwellings Some 4-room bungalow
b. Construction Frame & stucco
c. Average Age 15 years
d. Repair Fair to good
e. Occupancy 99 %
f. Owner-occupied 65 %
g. 1935 Price Bracket \$2800-3250 % change \$ % change
h. 1937 Price Bracket \$3000-3500 % \$ %
i. 1939 Price Bracket \$3000-3500 % \$ %
j. Sales Demand Fair to good for new - Slow on old
k. Predicted Price Trend (next 6-12 months) Stable
l. 1935 Rent Bracket \$38-45 % change \$ % change
m. 1937 Rent Bracket \$38-45 % \$ %
n. 1939 Rent Bracket \$38-45 % \$ %
o. Rental Demand Good
p. Predicted Rent Trend (next 6-12 months) Stable 5-6 rm. stucco

3. NEW CONSTRUCTION (past yr.) No. 15 Type & Price \$250-\$550 How Selling Owner built

4. OVERHANG OF HOME PROPERTIES: a. HOLC. 1 b. Institutions Many

5. SALE OF HOME PROPERTIES (3 yr.) a. HOLC. 4 b. Institutions Many

6. MORTGAGE FUNDS Ample 7. TOTAL TAX RATE PER \$100 (1932) \$32.14

8. DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF AREA:
Terrain: Low lying level. Drainage problem causes slight construction hazard, land improved 80%. Dead restrictions covering part of area provide for minimum of 1000 sq. ft. dwellings and protect against racial inroads. Zoning is mixed, generally single family. Conveniences are all available but not readily so. This area is between 25 and 30 years old. Never been popular district. Some 4 room FHA Title I improvements. Elimination of an ad valorem bond issue two or three years ago has had slightly stimulating effect. Lot values are low, being from \$10 to \$15 per front foot. Construction is inclined to be substandard. Maintenance is somewhat spotty but generally good. Heterogeneous population and improvements. Location is unattractive and detrimentally affected by proximity to industry and business districts (which contain a number of Mexican families) and oil wells one half mile southeast. Improvements along Madison Ave. are of slightly better grade. The stage is set for a rapid decline in this area, and it is accorded a "low yellow" grade.

Outreach

- Dedicated project web page
- Public comment form
 - Web-based questionnaire
 - Includes 10 broad questions
 - Includes an open field where respondents can provide information not addressed in the form
- Form available in English and Spanish

Culver City Historical Context Study

My progress: 0%

Culver City Historical Context Study: Public Comment Form

The City of Culver City has contracted with Architectural Resources Group (ARG) to complete a historical context study that will examine the history of racial and cultural discrimination faced by its BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities. The project will be undertaken through Fall 2023.

The City is seeking public input and personal experiences related to discrimination in Culver City. Examples of the type of information sought for the Study include (but are not limited to):

- Knowledge of past discrimination perpetuated against groups/individuals living or working in Culver City
- Lived experience living or working in Culver City as a BIPOC individual in the past or the present
- Experiences with discrimination while living or working in the City of Culver City

Please use this comment form to submit any information you would like to share.

Outreach

- 64 responses have been received to date
- Multiple follow-up interviews and calls have been conducted
- Submissions will continue to be accepted through September

Culver City Historical Context Study

My progress: 17%

1. What is your race/ethnicity? (Please check all that apply.)

Check all that apply

- White (non-Hispanic)
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black/African American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Native American/Indigenous Peoples
- Two or more races (Please specify below)
- Other (Please specify below.)
- Decline to answer

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Culver City Historical Context Study

My progress: 58%

6. Have you experienced discrimination while living or working in Culver City?

This may include personal experiences with discrimination, witnessing instances of discrimination, or hearing about discrimination secondhand. Mark only one.

Yes
 No

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Culver City Historical Context Study

My progress: 75%

8. Is there any additional information you'd like to share?

Please skip if not applicable.

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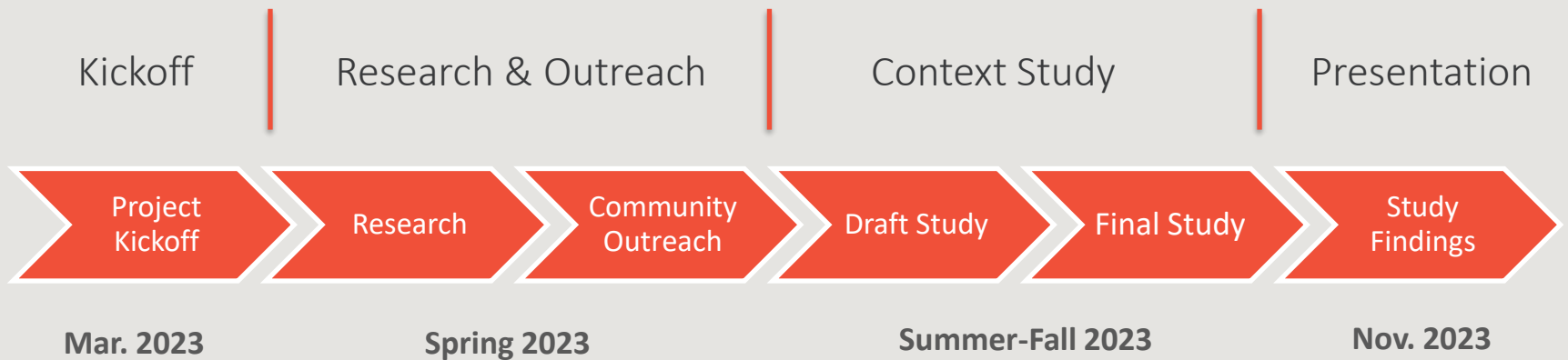
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Draft Historical Context Study

- Initial draft submitted to City staff in August – currently under review
- Sections include:
 - Introduction and Executive Summary
 - Culver City Prior to World War II (pre-1940)
 - Culver City During and After World War II (1940-1980)
 - Confronting the Past: Culver City in the Modern Era (1981-present)
- Documented examples of both public- and private-sector discrimination associated with each period

Next Steps

- Continue to receive and review public input (through September)
- Continue to conduct stakeholder outreach as needed (ongoing)
- Revise the draft to incorporate feedback and information gleaned from ongoing research and outreach



Four

Q & A / Discussion

