



■ Launching the Conversation: Exploring What We Call Home

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

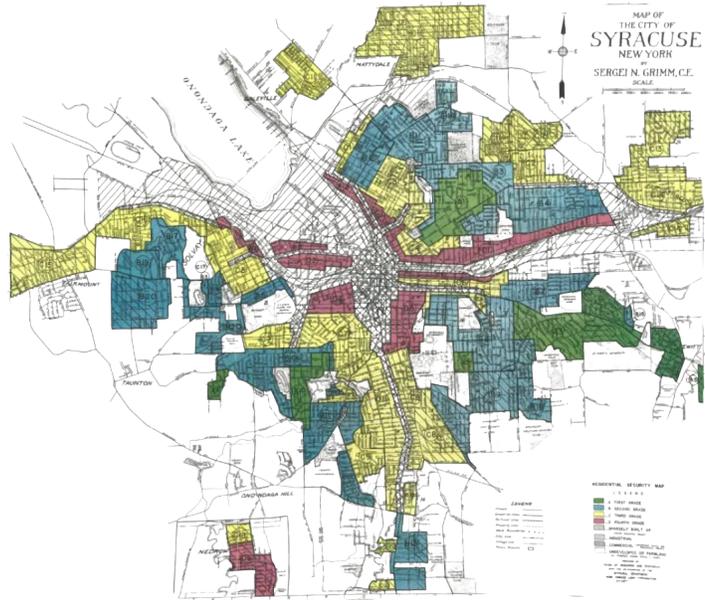
The 2024-26 Lender Center for Social Justice Student Fellows are **Tommy DaSilva** (Public Health), **Darla Hobbs** (Pan African Studies), **Jamea Johnson** (Public Health), **Shreya Potluri** (School of Architecture), and **Sabrina Lussier** (Citizenship & Civic Engagement, Geography, and Environmental Sustainability & Policy), working under the guidance of **Professor Miriam Mutambudzi**, 2024-26 Lender Center for Social Justice Faculty Fellow. Dr. Mutambudzi is an Associate Professor in the Maxwell School's Public Health Department, where her teaching and research focus on the social determinants of health affecting vulnerable populations. She also serves as a Faculty Affiliate of the Center for Aging and Policy Studies (CAPS), the Aging Studies Institute, and the Maxwell School Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion.

INTRODUCTION TO THURSDAY MORNING ROUNDTABLE (TMR)

Syracuse University's Lender Center for Social Justice and the Office of Community Engagement are co-sponsoring the relaunch of the **Thursday Morning Roundtable (TMR)**, celebrating its 60th anniversary as a trusted public space for local learning, dialogue, and civic engagement on issues that matter to the community. This fall, TMR returns to in-person gatherings with a new **2025-2026 series: "Just Syracuse: Conversations for a Thriving City,"** featuring rotating community venues, diverse local voices, and on-demand professional recordings. We begin our community conversations with a focus on the complex issue of housing in Syracuse, addressing themes like affordability, health, safety and access, while sharing success stories and new developments.

BACKGROUND

The current neighborhood context for Syracuse is greatly influenced by historical discriminatory housing practices. Below we will provide an overview of these practices, the manifestation of these policies in contemporary data, future outlooks, and projects in Syracuse.



Note: The map on the right illustrates the HOLC Redlined Map of Syracuse, NY from 1937.

REDLINING AND URBAN RENEWAL

Redlining refers to a racial segregation practice of the **Home Owners' Loan Coalition (HOLC)** which denied mortgages to neighborhoods deemed to be a financial risk. In practice this meant the denial of mortgages to neighborhoods with high black populations.

Urban Renewal refers to a set of policies and funding avenues that allowed development in cities across the US. This development came at the detriment of black communities as communities were razed in development projects and families were displaced.

PAST AND PRESENT IMPACTS OF THESE POLICIES ON SYRACUSE, NY

Syracuse's 15th ward was a thriving black community which as a result of redlining received minimal investments in home ownership. This served as a flawed justification for the razing of the neighborhood for the construction of **Interstate 81 (I-81)** through the center of Syracuse. The impacts of these practices are still felt today as the census tracts making up what is now referred to as the East Adams Neighborhood, experience significant **negative health, housing, and economic outcomes.**

Note: In the 2023 ACS Survey, 31.6% of people in Syracuse lived in poverty in comparison to the 14.2% of people in New York State as a whole.

THE FUTURE OF EAST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD

In response to the disparities manifesting as a result of these practices, there have been ongoing efforts by East Adams residents, community organizations, local government officials, state government officials, and federal government actors to invest in and support the East Adams neighborhood. **Please scan the QR code** for more information on these endeavors and this topic as a whole.

