

Testimony, Kate Cooney, New Haven

The US will become "minority White" in 2045, according to the 2018 census. Eight year olds are in the vanguard of this change, in a cohort of Americans that are majority non-White. Yet, many White children still grow up in predominantly White neighborhoods and schools. In 2019, I founded the Inclusive Economic Development Lab at Yale School of Management. Our vision statement is that the work of inclusive economic development requires bold action, mobilizing narratives, community engagement, and alliances across unlikely partners. The Inclusive Economic Development Lab brings together academics, practitioners, students and local stakeholders to explore a different topic related to Inclusive Economic Development each Spring.

Each Spring the IEDL produces a set of deliverables:

- PODCAST featuring interviews with academics at Yale and around the country with expertise on the topic area, featuring scripts written by Yale students who weave together a set of insights based on the interviews and investigations of the topic into an 8 episode season that provides a tour through academic thinking and practitioner/policy perspectives on the chosen theme.
- COMMUNITY FORUM a presentation back to a local audience of community stakeholders on broad lessons learned from the lab, covering the ideas explored and models for action.
- LOCAL STAKEHOLDER FACING PROJECT a student produced deliverable that is (when possible) co-designed with community stakeholders working on the issue aimed to help move their work forward in the form of a project or an OP ED or white paper featuring new empirical work.

In our Spring 2020 IEDL, we spoke with an array of practitioners working on public engagement projects to move regions toward more equitable outcomes. Our interviews included the team from Mapping Prejudice, the first group in the USA to count all racial housing covenants in an American metropolitan area, Eric Gordon from Engagement Lab at Emerson College/MIT on how to build civic action networks, and Sarah Camiscoli from Integrate NYC.

In this work we learned about NYC effort to desegregate the schools and Minneapolis's effort to increase housing and reduce harm from history of racial housing policies by eliminating single family zoning in the city. In the white papers below, we did some back of the envelope modeling of what it would take to move the Southern CT 15 town region to produce 25,000 more units of affordable housing (the target identified by Affordable Housing Task Force) using some of the zoning innovations occurring in Minneapolis and elsewhere. We also did some modeling of what it would take to make New Haven's high schools more diverse, using Louisville, KY's regional education model as a guide. The upshot for both of these analyses is that 1) it will take a regional effort to move toward a more integrated, equitable future, cities cannot do this work on their own, 2) on housing: we can get to 25,000 new units in greater Southern CT while still retaining majority SF housing in towns, and 3) on education: small changes to district lines would give our students a much more integrated experience .

1. IEDL Report Spring 2020-Regional Housing Calculations-Getting to 25,000 Units (click [here](#))
2. IEDL Report Spring 2020-Modeling Regional Approaches to Education (click [here](#))

Listen to us discuss the findings in these whitepapers on the podcast and check out the specifics in our reports above: <https://iedl.yale.edu/reflections-new-haven>