Undoing Racism
Austin
Austin has always been racially segregated

- East Austin was created by legal segregation as a space for non-whites.
- Communities of color flourished in East Austin for many years, both African American and Latino populations.
- East Austin has always been mixed racially and economically, but has been predominantly inhabited by People Of Color until recently.
Communities of color have suffered in the city of Austin, and under the current city government system though the propagation of violence against our people, the economic investment in our displacement and the commoditization of our culture.

We have a right to our land.

Our homes and communities are more than marketplaces for corporate interests.

Our history is meaningful to us.
Changing African-American Landscape in East Austin


Changing African American Landscape--Eastern Core
African American Population Concentrations, 2000 and 2010

Map produced by Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, Department of Planning, City of Austin. February 2011.

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Census 2000 Data
Census Blocks

Census Blocks

Census 2010 Data
Census Blocks

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Percentage of the Total Population that is African American

Less than 20%
20% to 40%
40% to 60%
60% to 80%
80% Plus

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What are the politics of this picture?
Housing Prices Affect the whole community
Foreclosures affect the whole community
Police Shootings affect the whole community
Revitalize: To impart new life or vigor to - to restore to an active fresh condition - Restore strength

Revitalization: Bringing again into activity and prominence
Gentrification

- Gentrify: Renovate so as to make it conform to middle-class aspirations
- Gentrification: The restoration and upgrading of deteriorated urban property by middle-class or affluent people often resulting in displacement of lower-income people
Who benefits from this process?

- There are people who benefit from this process that follows the already established race, ethnicity, gender and socio-economic stratifications of our society.

- Gentrification is a racist process. It maintains inequity along racial lines.

- People make money on the backs of the exploitation of poor communities.

- Sometimes people from the poor communities also benefit – but the community as a whole does not.
What have been the responses from the city to this issue?

What policies have aided the communities being displaced?

What policies have aided the displacement of communities?
City Council Election Results
Percent of Registered Voters Who Voted by Precinct, Mayor's race, City of Austin.

May 12, 2012    Citywide Turnout = 10.6%
Affordability

- Affordable for-sale homes will be available for households with incomes at or below 80% Austin median family income (MFI); these homes will be part of each development phase and integrated into the community.

- Affordable for-rent homes will be available for households with incomes at or below 60% MFI; these will include both units integrated with market-rate housing as well as stand-alone projects for seniors and families; at least 10% of the units in every Mueller multi-family development are planned to be affordable.

- As of March 2007, the 80% MFI in Austin/Round Rock for a family of two is $45,500 and for a family of four is $56,900.
Median Family Income by Ethnicity

- Total: $54,091
- Anglo: $69,989
- African-American: $35,685
- Hispanic: $36,408
- Asian: $60,908
[Image of a map showing median family income in Travis County, Texas, with data from the American Community Survey for the years 2005 to 2009. The map is color-coded to show different income brackets.]

Median Family Income

American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate
Data: 2005–2009
US Census Bureau

Travis County

Median Family Income
- No Households
- Less than $20,000
- $20,000 to $30,000
- $30,000 to $40,000
- $40,000 to $50,000
- $50,000 to $60,000
- $60,000 to $75,000
- $75,000 to $100,000
- $100,000 to $125,000
- $125,000 to $150,000
- $150,000 Plus
Changing African-American Landscape in East Austin

Austin, Texas. 1990 Census and Census 2000 Data.

1990 Population

2000 Population
What did the Mueller developers get from the city:

- $46,436,807 in dedicated public funding for infrastructure costs at Mueller site

- Additional $184,995,000 for infrastructure and other project costs will come from land sales

Total: $231,431,807
There are many programs designed for community input. But the output seems to be for only one demographic.
Where will we go as a city?

- Will we end up in an all white city?
- Will housing prices continue to rise?
- Will the racial disparities continue to rise?
- Will segregation continue?
- If we do not do something now, it will be too late in the future
Undoing Racism Austin

• A coalition of activist throughout this city are committed to undoing racism.

• People have the power to change the systems that oppress them.

• The city government can be a part of the problem or par of the solution.

• We will create a more equitable city for the generation to come.