

# CORE PROJECT

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# CENTRAL DISTRICT

Maya Patel, Natalia Naranjo, Samuel Chau, Sophie Li

Located east of Downtown Seattle, the Central District (CD) is a diverse, mostly residential neighborhood with a rich background and history.

Settlers first arrived in the Seattle area in the early 1850s. The Central District quickly became home to Black, Asian, and other minority populations.

**“The Central District was a place that locals who didn’t fit into the white Christian mold could call home” (Knauf).**

## 1852

Manuel Lopes, one of Seattle's first Black residents, bought about 12 acres of land and settled near Madison Valley.



## 1920

Nearly 3,000 black people lived in Seattle, with a majority living in the Central District.

At this time, much of Seattle's Chinese and Japanese population lived in the Chinatown area.



## 1960

Between 1950 and 1960, some parts of CD grew from 45% black to 84% black.



## 1970

Parts of Central District grew to over 35% Asian and Pacific Islander.

Source: Ana Sofia Knauf from The Evergrey

The Central District remains a unique and flourishing neighborhood in the heart of Seattle today. CD's changing demographics, vibrant culture, gender and sexuality, and overall physical and mental health are only some of the important aspects of its population health.

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# DEVELOPMENT

Source: Evergrey

As mentioned in the previous description, Central District was first inhabited by Manuel Lopez in 1852 and William Grose in 1860, when they arrived and set up their own shops. They had owned a plot of land, which they had allowed other African Americans to live on, because of racist housing practices, slowly expanding the land to the size of Central District today.

Both of the first non-native inhabitants set up their own shops, which set a precedent for the future generations. Nowadays, Central District is primarily made of local businesses created throughout the years. The housing in Central District has changed as well. In the 2010s, 91.5% of the housing units available in Central District are occupied, while the remaining 8.5% housing units are vacant. As for other buildings and structures, there are many parks and cultural buildings all around Central District.

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## THE BOUNDARIES OF CD

The boundaries of Central District were set over the years by the increasing amount of African American inhabitants. Because of the racist housing practices, the land that would soon be known as Central District had to expand to accommodate for the increasing population. Eventually, expansion stopped and the boundaries were set.



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## DEVELOPMENT IS AN ASSET

The creation of Central District created a lot of history that is still important today. Many local businesses came to thrive because of their uniqueness and the construction of many parks and cultural buildings can provide entertainment and educate the general public.



Source: SeattleTimes

Northwest African American Museum

# Changing Demographics



Source: CrossCut

## DEMOGRAPHICS

As of 2010, the demographics of Central District consisted of 59.6% Caucasian, 21.4% African American, 7.3% Hispanic and Latino, and the remaining population of 11.7% is a mix of other races. The average age of a person living in Central District is 36 years old. The average income per household is ~\$70,000 per year.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

Comparing the demographics in the 2000s to the demographics in the 2010s, the population of Caucasians increased by nearly 10% and the African American population decreased by 12%. The average income also increased by about 40%, and unemployment decreased by ~38%.



Source: SeattleTimes



Source: FreemanSeattle

## A NEIGHBORHOOD THRIVING THROUGH BUSINESS

The Central District neighborhood is made mostly of local businesses, much like it was decades ago. The other small percentage of businesses are big businesses that are located all over the world.

## DEMOGRAPHICS ARE BOTH AN ASSET AND A BARRIER

Due to health disparities that are present, most races will not be able to receive quality health care and possibly not easily accessible healthcare.

# RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CULTURE

The Central District consists of one of the largest BIPOC populations, with a vibrant and dynamic culture.

- Race, ethnicity, and culture can serve as both an asset and a barrier.
- CD's culture and traditions have been preserved over the years and contribute a lot, as the people living in the area are still deeply connected to the culture of those that lived there before them. Several churches are sprawled throughout the city, suggesting that the community might be fairly connected with one another.
- However, someone's physical characteristics could prevent them from obtaining certain resources, exacerbating health disparities in the community. The availability of parks, gyms, hospitals, etc. in Central District appeared limited in comparison to other neighborhoods, illustrating a potential barrier for many.
- The CD has placed a continual emphasis on strengthening the sense of community and appreciation of culture within its residents.

## Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute

Founded in 1969, the LHPAI is a cultural, community, and artistic center named after Langston Hughes, renowned writer and leader of the Harlem Renaissance.



## Brown Box Theatre

Aspires to break down barriers by bringing the best in performance, design, and collaboration to underserved populations to reach the widest audience possible.



The JCCCW aims to promote culture by offering language lessons, traditional art lessons, etc.

## Japanese Cultural & Community Center of WA



## Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas

Created in 1999, the CD Forum empowers Black artists and builds community through art.

Source: Seattle.gov

In December 2015, the City of Seattle named the Central District Seattle's second official Arts & Cultural District.

Its three pillars are preserving an African legacy in the area, strengthening the sense of place for cultural relevancy, and "establishing continued support of artistic creation, economic vibrancy, livability, affordability, desirability, and artistic vitality" (Richter).

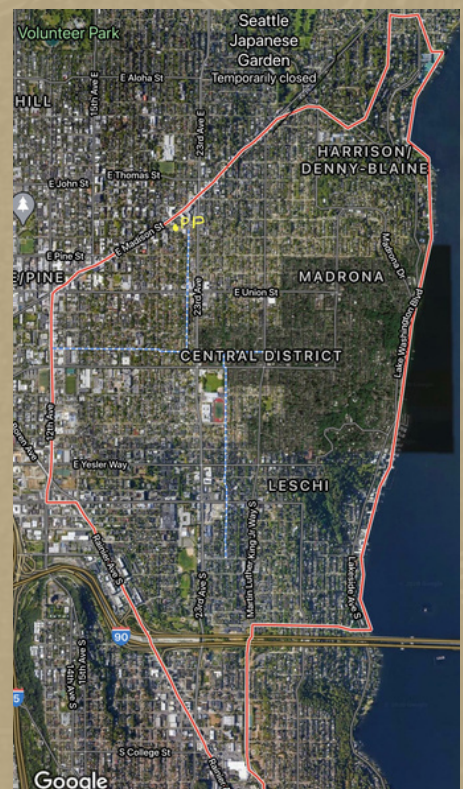
# HEALTH

## MENTAL & PHYSICAL

Central District is usually referred to as a neighborhood that is predominately Caucasian and African American. The neighborhood has a long history of development and culture. Although the neighborhood may be growing, there is some barriers for resources. We discovered that Central District has no near by clinics, or hospitals besides a Planned Parenthood in the area. It does have parks and limited access to a gym.

## PHYSICAL

As of 2011, the life expectancy was 78.6 years, which is average for a person living in the US. The community would be expected to have great resources, but instead the only health resource in the area is a Planned Parenthood and a couple pharmacies. As for health concern, type 2 diabetes is the most common in the neighborhood.



Google Maps  
Planned Parenthood

## MENTAL

After the observation of the neighborhood and noticing the amount of resources they lacked. We were able to find multiple parks but limited gyms. These resources can contribute to physical and mental health. The only issue was finding if those resources are being used. Additional resources that could not be found in the neighborhood but nearby was access to counseling or therapy.



Years Of Seattle Parks



Seattle.gov

For health in the neighborhood, it is unexpectedly higher given the lack of resources that should change the outcome of the residents but does not. The community continues to develop and hopes for possible resources like clinic, counseling, and gyms in reasonable distance that can improve the residents physical and mental health.

# GENDER & SEXUALITY



## ASSET AND BARRIER



Can be very useful as there is a Planned Parenthood in the district however, there is only one. And it is located at the edge of Central District, so people might have to go out of their way to access this resource.

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD



Everyone has access to STI testing and HIV testing, women are able to get pap smears, mammograms, birth control, pregnancy testing, and abortions at fairly inexpensive prices. They also provide men's health care along with women's health care.

## OTHER SERVICES



Planned Parenthood is incredibly inclusive. They have plenty of information for members of the LGBTQ+ community, such as support groups, resources and education, and hormone therapy.

Central District has always been a fairly inclusive place, they have a long history of advocating for LGBTQ+ rights and women's rights. Planned Parenthood is able to offer so much support for the area, and it is the only place like this in the district which makes it all the more important.

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