How Behavioral Science is Helping to Advance Systemic Change in Cities and in the Justice System

Erika Anthony, formerly of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress; currently Executive Director of The Ohio Transformation Fund
The Problem
The Racial Equity + Inclusion (REI) Journey

Partnership with the Racial Equity Institute

[2017] Year of Awareness Building

[2018/19] Year of Deeper Awareness + Action

[2020] The Work Continues...
Operationalizing REI

Source: Frontline Solutions
Who has joined us on this journey (2016-19)?

5,236 participants

897 organizations represented

Check out the 2016-2018 Recap Report for more details. Updated report forthcoming....
Awareness in Action

- Intersectionality + Collaborative Endeavors
  - Creative Fusion: Data Visualization + Environmental Justice
  - Equitable Civic Engagement [Cleveland VOTES]
  - Fix216: Criminal Justice Transformation [Hack Cleveland]
  - Latinx Challenges
  - Undesign the Redline Exhibit
Undesign the Redline
*(Fall 2018-Winter 2019)*

The exhibit launched at Mt. Pleasant NOW Community Development Corporation
(Fall 2019-Present)

Three mobile exhibit sites (2019)
- Detroit-Shoreway Community Development Corporation + Cudell Improvement, Inc.
- YWCA of Greater Cleveland
- Trinity Episcopal Cathedral/Trinity Commons

Total number of participants = 4,500+

Estimated number of organizations engaged = 300+
The Path Forward...
ThirdSpace Action Lab
Activating Space. Activating People

Community Collaboration
Engagement + Organizing + Ethnography

Applied REI Insights
Research + Strategy Development

Space Activation
Reimagining “third places”
Equitable Civic Engagement

• Cleveland VOTES is a year-round nonpartisan democracy building organization that aims to strengthen civic muscle and power to ensure we have a more informed, participatory and cohesive community.
The Ohio Transformation Fund (OTF) is a collaborative fund developed by national and local funders advocating for healthy communities and an equitable democracy across Ohio. At present, the OTF focuses on transforming the justice system, supporting efforts to address the negative impact of the current system on youth, families and communities.
Both economic and racial justice are core progressive priorities, but often we discuss them separately.

Core Insights:
- Discuss race overtly
- Frame racism as a tool to divide and thus harm all of us
- Connect unity to racial justice and economic prosperity
For Future Reference...

- Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
- Cleveland VOTES
- Designing the WE
- Frontline Solutions
- Hack Cleveland
  - Creative Fusion
  - #Fix216: Criminal Justice Transformation
- Ohio Transformation Fund
- Racial Equity Institute
- ThirdSpace Action Lab
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