



**Reparations Task Force**  
***June Meeting***

June 29, 2023

# Our Mission

Enable and inspire our diverse student body to achieve academic excellence and make positive contributions to our world.

Excellence

Equity

Engagement

Enrichment



# Agenda

**1**

**Board Meeting Presentation  
Recap and Discussion  
(20 mins)**

**2**

**Review of Draft Syllabus &  
Timeline for Recommendations  
(20 mins)**

**3**

**Reparations Landscape - Examples  
and Legal Considerations  
(60+ mins)**

EXCELLENCE

EQUITY

ENGAGEMENT

ENRICHMENT

# Board Meeting Recap

- Report back from Presenters  
(2 minutes each)
- Observations from others  
(1 minute each)
- Lessons learned

# Task Force Purpose

- How can BUSD fund reparations?
- What does reparations look like?
- How can and should BUSD implement such a program?

# Proposed Decision Making

- Consensus (of those present/voting), if possible
- Majority vote (of those present/voting), when necessary

# Syllabus

## ***What does reparations look like?***

- June 29 (Thursday) - TF Meeting
  - Review of landscape (examples and legal)
- July (Date TBD)
  - Optional student/discussion session
- August 28 (Monday) - TF Meeting
  - Continue review/discussion from June 29
  - Prepare for community engagement

# Syllabus

## ***What does reparations look like?***

- September (Date TBD)
  - Community engagement
- September 28 (Thursday) - TF Meeting
  - Reach preliminary agreement on recommendation for type of reparations
- October (Date TBD)
  - Update presentation to Board



# Syllabus

## ***How can BUSD fund reparations?***

- October 23 (Monday) - TF Meeting
  - Review of funding options
  - Prepare for community engagement
- November (Date TBD)
  - Community engagement
- November 27 (Monday) - TF Meeting
  - Reach preliminary agreement on recommendation on funding funded

# Syllabus

## ***December/January - Dates TBD***

- Community engagement regarding final recommendations?
- Draft final recommendations?
- Present final recommendations to Board?

# Reparations Landscape

- [Presentation by Ashley C. Adams, Associate Adjunct Professor of Public Policy at Mills/Northeastern and Erika Weissinger, Assistant Professor at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley] - Slides to be added



# The Need for Repair:

An overview of local reparations efforts



Ashley Adams, PhD

Erika Weissinger, PhD



# Black Reparations Project

Advancing Reparations Learning, Policy, and Action

MILLS  
COLLEGE

Northeastern  
University

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## Who We Are

The Black Reparations Project (BRP) aims to maintain and create space for the education and collaboration of individuals seeking to study, advocate for, or manage reparations policies for Black Americans.

## Our Mission

BRP aims to reinforce connections between Black reparations movement leaders while serving as an educational medium via articulating controversies and strategies within the Black reparations movement. Through continuous documentation of the reparations movement works, BRP serves as a source of academic research and policy analysis for the state of California and beyond.



# Agenda

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1. Reparations frameworks
2. Landscape
  - a. California reparations
  - b. Local reparations initiatives and examples
3. Frameworks for analysis & research
4. Questions & answers



Photo Credit: Nair, 2021

# Reparations Frameworks

# General Assembly resolution 60/147. (2005).

Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law

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**Restitution** *reversing through freedom restoration, recognizing humanity, identity, culture, lived experiences, legal rights*

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**Compensation** *distributing monetary quantifiable compensation to address economic loss, damage, rights violations*

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**Rehabilitation** *providing health, mental, well-being, legal, and other social services*

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**Satisfaction** *addressing emotional and mental damage, injury to reputation, safety, erasure, public apologies, commemorations, tributes*

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**Guarantees of non-repetition** *prioritizing human rights, representation and inclusion in civilian and military, law enforcement, legal/judicial, medical, etc. proceedings*



**United  
Nations**



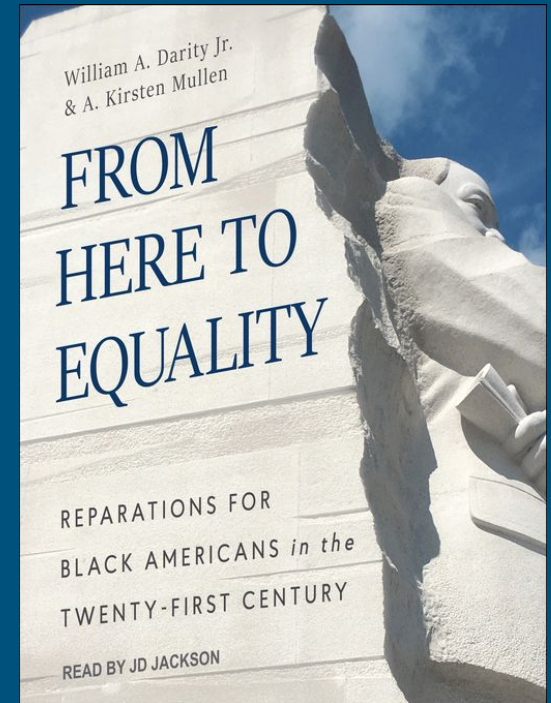
UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



# The ARC of Reparations (Darity & Mullen)

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1. Acknowledgement includes recognition and admission of wrong by perpetrators and beneficiaries on the injustice, apology and commitment to redress.
2. Redress is the provision of restitution, typically in the form of monetary compensation.
3. Closure means the agreement by the victimized community and the culpable party that the debt has been paid. The victims would make no further group-specific claims on the culpable party, unless new atrocities took place.



# What might redress look like?

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## Conditional cash payments to individuals:

Educational scholarships or debt forgiveness

Home loan financing or debt forgiveness

Down payment assistance

Entrepreneurship

Baby bonds

## Unconditional cash payments:

Direct cash payments to individuals

## Support to communities

Community investments

Non-profits (e.g. San Francisco's Dreamkeeper Initiative)

Educational institutions: public schools, HBCUs

Early childhood education

Harlem Children's Zone→Promise neighborhoods

# Definitions

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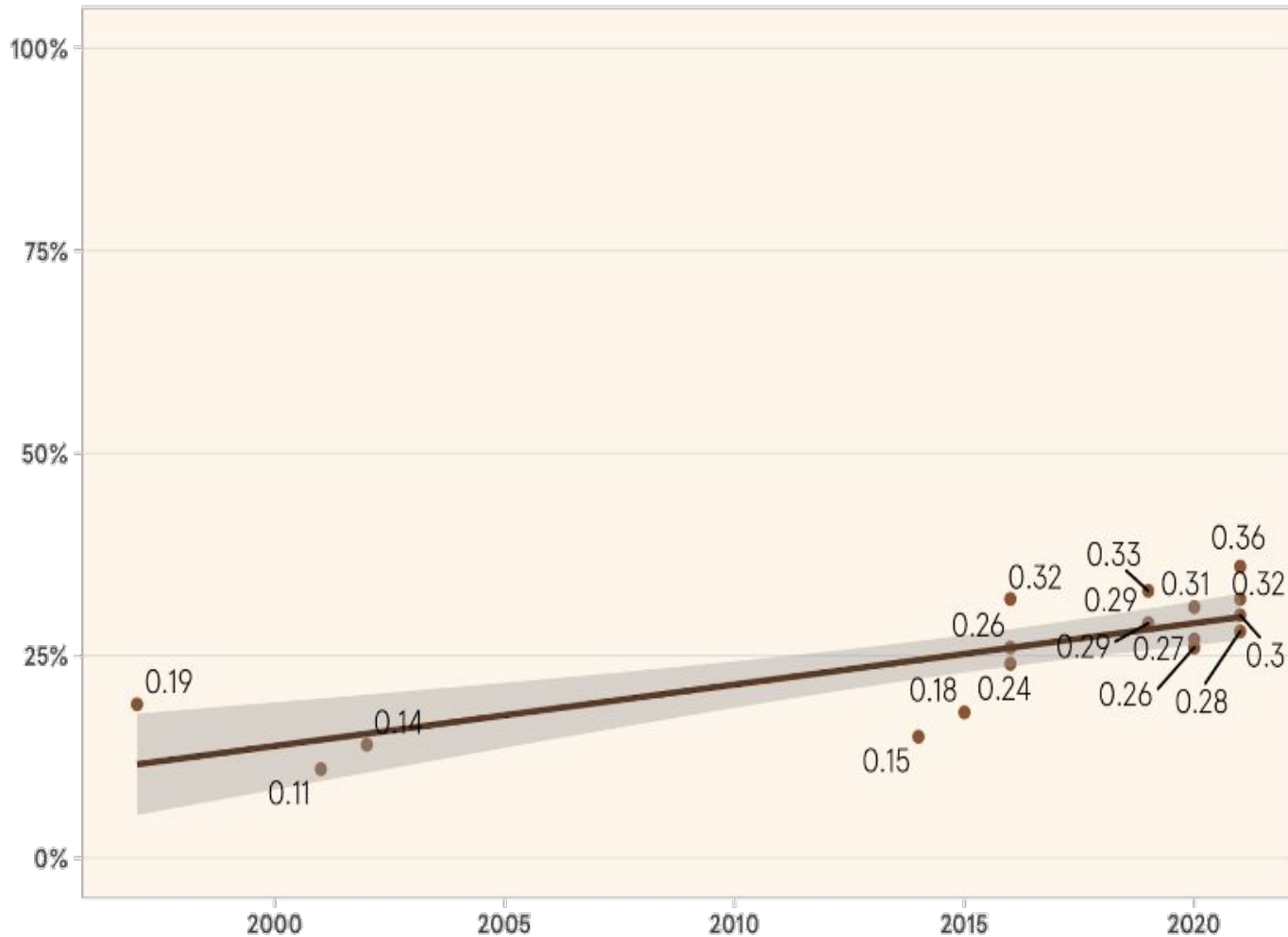
**Conditional Cash Transfer:** Programs that provide cash payments on the condition that the money must be spend in a particular way (E.g., down payment assistance, educational scholarships, business loans).

**Unconditional Cash Transfer:** Cash payments with no requirement of how the money is spent.

Examples: universal basic income (E.g., UBI, General income (GI), Cares Act checks.)

## Support for cash reparations for slavery has grown in the last 25 years

Synthesis of results from 18 national polls between 1997-2022



Source: Liberation Ventures, 2023

# U.S. Reparations Landscape

## Reparations Commissions, Committees, and Task Forces across the United States

### State and Local

#### California

- Berkeley USD Reparations Task Force
- California Reparations Task Force
- Hayward Russell City Reporative Justice Project
- Los Angeles Reparations Advisory Commission
- San Francisco African American Reparations Advisory Committee

#### Illinois

- Evanston, Illinois Reparations Committee
- State of Illinois African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

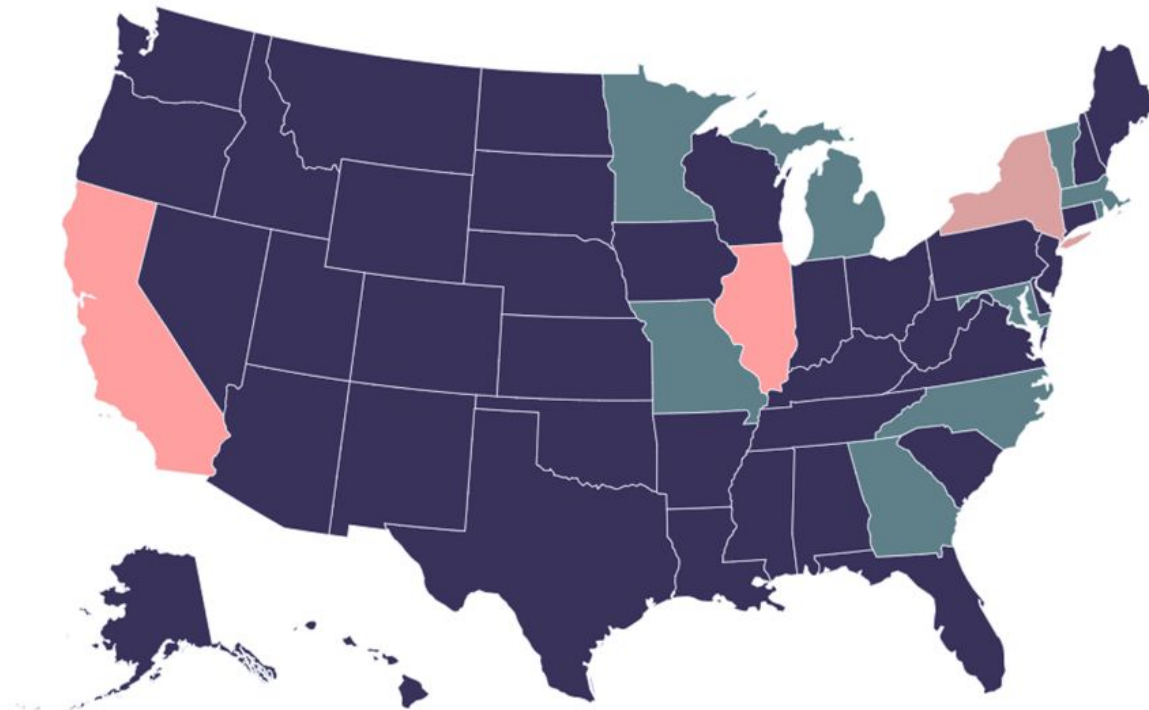
### State

#### New York

- New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies

### Local

- Amherst, Massachusetts African Heritage Reparation Assembly
- Asheville, North Carolina Community Reparations Commission
- Boston, Massachusetts Task Force on Reparations
- Burlington, Vermont Reparations Task Force
- Detroit, Michigan City Council Reparations Task Force
- Fulton County, Georgia Reparations Task Force
- Greenbelt, Maryland Commission to Study and Develop Local Reparations Proposals
- Kansas City, Missouri Commission on Reparations Committee
- Providence, Rhode Island Municipal Reparations Commission
- Saint Paul, Minnesota Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission
- St. Louis, Missouri Reparations Commission

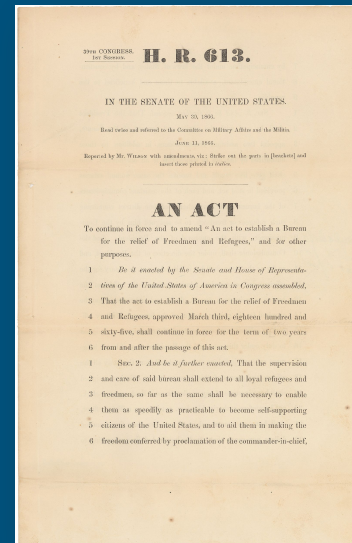


# Black Reparations: What's Happening In California?

## 2023: California Reparations Task Force Final Report

### 12 areas of harm against descendants of U.S Chattel Slavery

- Enslavement
- Racial Terror
- Political Disenfranchisement
- Housing Segregation and Unjust Property Takings
- Separate and Unequal Education
- Racism In Environment
- Pathologizing African American Families
- Control Over Creative, Cultural, and Intellectual Life
- Stolen Labor and Hindered Opportunity
- Unjust Legal System
- Mental and Physical Harm and Neglect
- Wealth Gap



**Recommending  
California  
American  
Freedmen Affairs  
Agency (CAFAA)  
to serve as “main  
office or  
headquarters”**

Municipalities



## **Black Reparations: Government Actions in Recent History**

### **Evanston, Illinois – Local Reparations**

- 2019: Evanston City Council established a reparations fund and subcommittee
- Committed \$10 million of Municipal Cannabis Tax (3% on gross sales of cannabis)
- Reparations for housing and economic development programming for Black Evanston residents
- Results to date: 16 recipients received \$25K for housing



## Black Reparations: Government Actions in Recent History Asheville, North Carolina

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- 2020, the Asheville City Council passed a resolution to apologize for the city's role in slavery, discrimination, and systemic racism.
- Created a Community Reparations Commission to develop recommendations.
- Allocated \$2.1 million from sale of City land to a reparations fund.
- Multiple government-adjacent non-profits supporting participatory action research e.g., Every Black Voice.



## Black Reparations: Government Actions in Recent History

### MORE Members agree to:

- Commitment to support H.R. 40 (Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act)
- Form reparations advisory committees and/or commissions
- Identify funding, work with committee/commission to implement pilot reparations program for Black residents



Eric Garcetti  
Mayor • Los Angeles, CA  
MORE Founder and Co-Chair



Michael Hancock  
Mayor • Denver, CO  
MORE Co-chair



Tishaura Jones  
Mayor • St. Louis, MO



Keisha Currin  
Mayor • Tallahassee, OK



Jorge Elorza  
Mayor • Providence, RI



Steve Adler  
Mayor • Austin, TX



Elaine O'Neal  
Mayor • Durham, NC



Esther Manheimer  
Mayor • Asheville, NC



Quinton Lucas  
Mayor • Kansas City, MO



Darrell Steinberg  
Mayor • Sacramento, CA



Melvin Carter  
Mayor • St. Paul, MN



Damon Seils  
Mayor • Carrboro, NC



Michael Tubbs  
Former Mayor • Stockton, CA  
Emeritus Member

**Mayors Organized for Reparations and Equity (MORE)**  
**EST. 2021**

# What's Happening In California?

## California City and County Reparations Task Forces, Commissions, Committees, and Initiatives:

- Alameda County\*
- BUSD Taskforce\*
- City and County of San Francisco\*
- City and County of Los Angeles\*
- Culver City\*
- Hayward\*
- Palm Springs
- Richmond
- Sacramento\*
- Vallejo
- Palm Springs

\*Created by a government authority



# Reflections on

## *The Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation*

- In 1838, Georgetown College—Jesuits arranged sale of 272 enslaved African Americans—yielded approx. \$115,000 then—equal to approx. \$3 million today—portion went to university
- In March 2021, Jesuits of US announced a \$100 million program—“*truth and reconciliation*” effort—*benefit the descendants of enslaved*
- Sum raised by Descendants Truth & Reconciliation Foundation, Est. by the GU272 Descendant Association, representatives of the US Jesuits, members of other race relations organizations

# Other Reparative Education Models

- **Brown University** - students voted for preferential admission and direct payments
- **Loudoun County, Virginia** - \$250,000 partnership with University of VA to study impact of school segregation
- **Oakland Unified School District** - OUSD reparations resolution and teacher strike
- **State of Virginia** - state colleges and universities established before 1865 offer four-year full scholarships and grants to descendants

# Criteria to consider for all implementation-related questions

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1. **Restorative Justice:** Ensuring the reparations program positively contributes to restorative justice goals.
2. **Political Feasibility:** Assessing the viability of proposed measures within the political landscape.
3. **Process Equity:** Providing fair and inclusive processes that represent the voices of those most impacted.
4. **Outcome Equity:** Striving for equitable outcomes that address structural barriers.
5. **Replicability and Likelihood of Setting Precedents for Other School Districts to Follow:**  
Assessing the potential for the project to be replicated and serve as a model for other school districts.
6. **Solidarity/Intersectional Support:** Fostering collaboration and support from diverse stakeholders.

# BUSD Reparations Task Force Recommended Next Steps

1. Invite California Reparations Task Force Member(s) to speak about *Separate and Unequal Education* Recommendations
2. Increase community engagement (e.g., conduct Participatory Action Research (PAR) with BUSD students)
3. Assess research needs and learning gaps within the task force
4. Conduct policy analysis for proposed interventions
5. Consider seeking philanthropic funding for research activities



# Thank You!

## Black Reparations Project

Advancing Reparations Learning, Policy, and Action

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[reparations.sites.northeastern.edu](https://reparations.sites.northeastern.edu)

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# Reparations Landscape: Japanese American Redress & Reparations

- Historical Grounding & Terminology:
  - **Who:** Japanese v. Japanese Americans
  - **What:** Incarceration v. Relocation/Internment and Redress and Reparations
  - **Where:** Concentration v. Internment Camps
  - **When:** World War II
  - **Why:** Racism, war time hysteria, and a failure of political leadership

<https://densho.org/terminology/>

# Reparations Landscape: Japanese American Redress & Reparations

- Early Efforts:
  - Court Challenges
  - Evacuations Claims
  - Commission on Wartime Internment and Relocation of Individuals

[https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Redress\\_movement/](https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Redress_movement/)

# Reparations Landscape: Japanese American Redress & Reparations

- Different approaches to redress
- Coram nobis
- Civil Liberties Act of 1988
  - National apology and cash payments

[https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Redress\\_movement/](https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Redress_movement/)

# Legal Landscape

- Current state law (Prop. 209) prohibits
  - ***discrimination against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race***
- Federal law has a similar prohibition unless the policy is “narrowly tailored” to achieve a “compelling governmental interest”

# Legal Landscape

- Basic test is whether a policy treats two similarly situated individuals differently because of their race
- In the reparations context, it can be useful to think about the harm that the reparations policy is responding to
- Consider the following examples...

# Legal Landscape

- Example:
  - Reparations policy to provide no interest home loans to the descendants of anyone who tried but couldn't purchase a home in a Berkeley neighborhood because of redlining



# Legal Landscape

- Example:
  - Reparations policy to provide guaranteed admission to a UC campus to the descendants of anyone who was prohibited from attending a school in CA because of school segregation

# Legal Landscape

- Example:
  - School district enrollment policy, which grants preference to individual students to attend specific elementary schools based on the racial makeup of their neighborhood (but not the individual student's race)

# Next Steps

- Optional Deeper Dive: Review the final report from CA Reparations Task Force
  - <https://oag.ca.gov/ab3121/reports>
- Have a great summer and see you on August 28 (it's a Monday)!