



The Journey to Justice...

Land...

POWER... and

Liberation!



July 13, 2021- Forever Maryland Conference

Presented by Meleny Thomas, SBCLT Executive Director





# The Promise...

**“They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one; they promised to take our land, and they took it.”**

**Red Cloud, American Indian**



# Understanding Conservation...

**According to the National Geographic Society, Conservation** is defined as “the care and protection of these resources so that they can persist for future generations.”

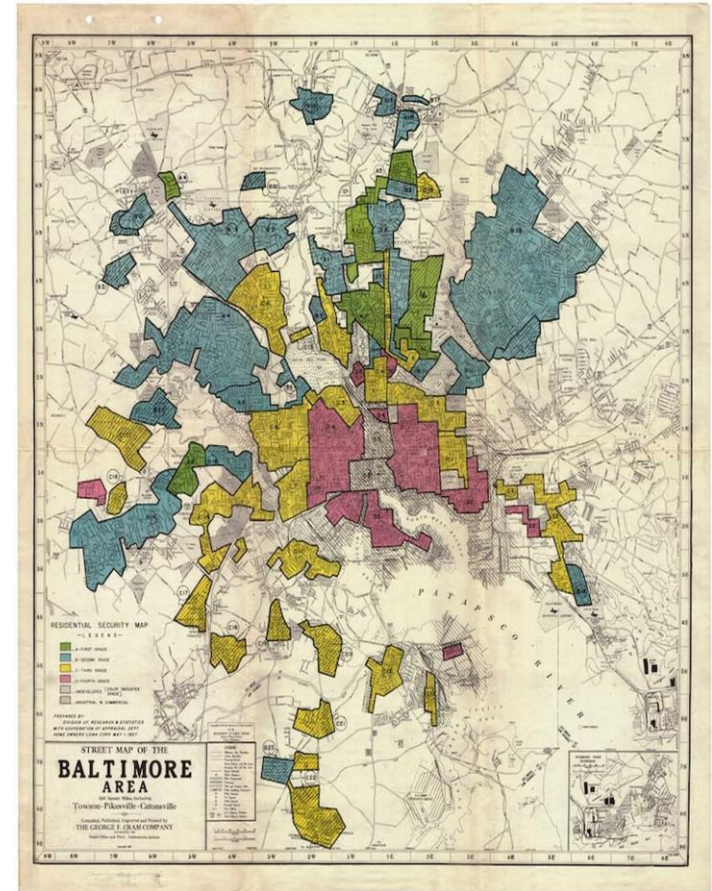


The UGLY TRUTH  
and HISTORY of  
racial segregation  
and discrimination in  
Baltimore

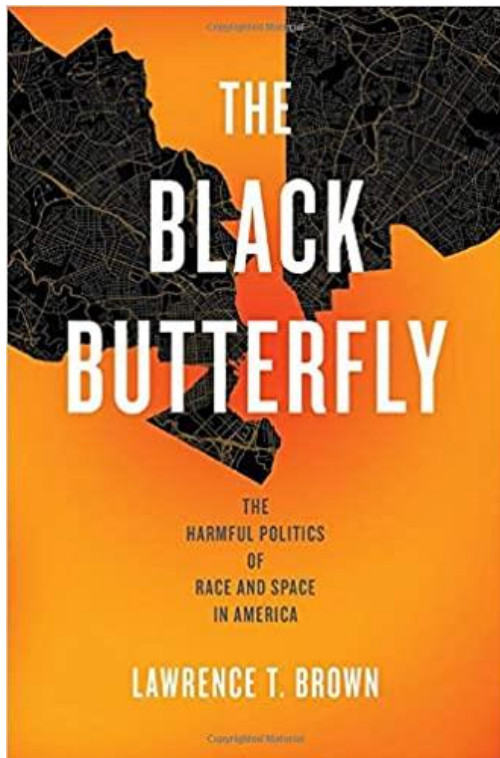


# The history of Injustice in Baltimore- Redlining

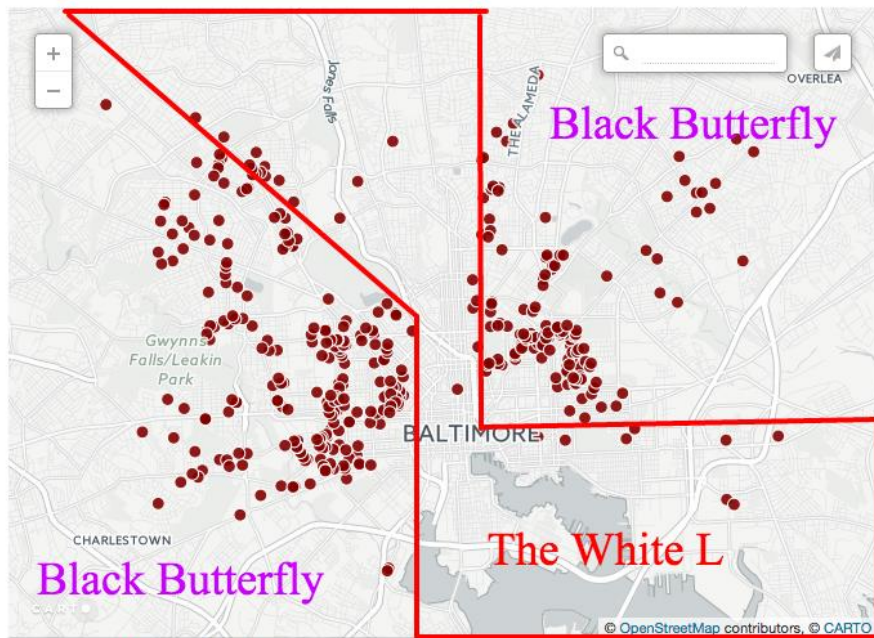
- The practice begun in 1937 by banks and private lenders to deny loans, mortgages, credit to certain areas of the city because of the prevalence of Black households, poor housing, and low sale prices.
- Redlining was made unlawful by a 1968 court case and the Federal Fair Housing Act.
- Congress still had to pass the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) in 1975 to combat redlining practices and to encourage lending in segregated communities.



# The Black Butterfly Map- Coined by Dr. Lawrence Brown



Baltimore City Lead Paint Violation Notices 2006-2016



Map created by Housing Policy Watch

# When land is used IMPROPERLY, the community SUFFERS!

Conservation is about stewardship and support ongoing, but when land is abused it leads to negative impacts.

## **Improper use of land:**


Illegal dumping = blighted properties

Incineration= air pollution and health


Coal Terminals= toxic air

Landfills= Methane





**SBCLT is a community led land trust whose vision is to create permanently affordable housing for all in communities free of environmental injustice. This organization was developed by citizens and students coming together to respond to an issue and cycle of injustice in South Baltimore.**





# Our Core Beliefs and Values

- **EQUITY:** Access to permanently affordable housing and environmental justice for **EVERYONE!**
- **PARTICIPATION:** Assert our basic human rights by those directly impacted by the failed housing and waste management systems.
- **UNIVERSALITY:** No ones life should be undervalued and put at risk. Everyone has the right to live in a healthy community.

Equity calls for support according to need... BIPOC have MAJOR disadvantages!

**We cannot control  
what we do not own!**

# UNITING for CHANGE



- We united through struggle and was defeated the proposal of what would have been the largest incinerator.
- We realized a pattern- Baltimore currently ranks #2 in EVICTIONS under Detroit.
- We helped to create SBCLT to respond to the issues we were hearing from peers and also residents.

## **Building Power Throughout the Community!**

- **Testified at City Council hearings and held the first AHTF commission meeting.**
- **Outreached to Thousands of Residents- they shared their concerns- themes emerged**
- **Worked with Neighborhood Design Center to help plan the community Park and was connected to an architect who is leading our current development**

# The Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF)

- **A fund for the people, by the people... We knew we had an issue and knew that WE had to be the solution!**
- A Baltimore City fund that supports housing development, pre-development, Community Land Trusts, Fair Housing services and other activities related to housing those households with incomes less than 50% AMI. One-half of the fund must go to support those with income less than 30% AMI. The City trust fund law can be in the [City Charter](#), at Article I, Section 14.




# Building Power and Community


# The Process-Breaking through Distrust

In Curtis Bay and many communities in Baltimore, residents are used to **BROKEN** promises... These are barriers we continue to break through and show we are committed to positive change led by community residents and leaders!





“Community is about doing something together that makes belonging matter” Unknown







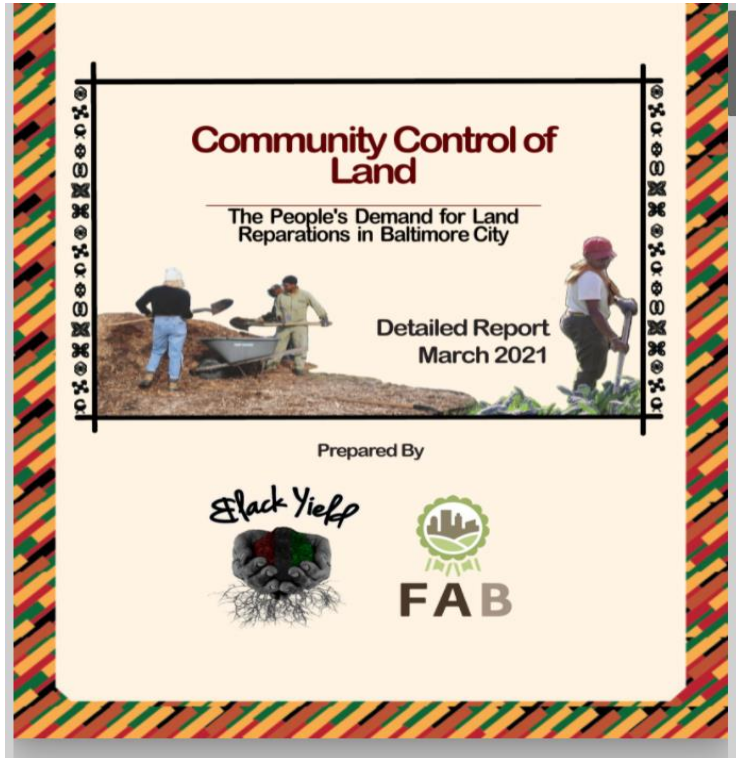
# Development without Displacement

“CLTs, are defined by the community that they serve and this can drive them to go to extraordinary lengths to make developments work in areas that others would have written off.”

John Bibby, [shelter.org](http://shelter.org) blog



# A Call for Land Reparations...



- To view this report Visit [www.blackyieldinstitute.org/reports](http://www.blackyieldinstitute.org/reports)
- Communities use land to create what they need- ie. community gardens provide access to healthy food.
- Grant funding is often tied to site control, no matter how grandiose the vision, without land commitments they will remain just that! We need CHANGE!

What happens on the land impacts the whole community. Now is the time to intentionally invest in actions that: directly improve the health of the land; bring a new and diverse workforce on the land; encourage new, sustainable activities on the land; meet the needs of all communities; and that prepare Maryland to be a leader in sustainable, healthy, communities and environment.

**Sign on to our petition**

**[www.tinyurl.com/SBCLTCallToAction2021](http://www.tinyurl.com/SBCLTCallToAction2021)**



The Journey to Justice, LAND, Power, and LIBERATION is ongoing... We still have a long way to go; but first, we must start by leveling the playing field to ownership, stewardship of land and housing, and commit to protecting community assets.

*The story and journey continues...*

Thank you!

Get Connected - [www.linktr.ee/sbclt](http://www.linktr.ee/sbclt)

Donate- [www.paypal.me/sbclt](http://www.paypal.me/sbclt)

