

In postwar Los Angeles, land privatization, industrialization, slum clearance, contentious debates over public housing, and the development of suburbia divided communities on the basis of ethnicity and socioeconomic status. Not only did the infrastructural development of the city displace individuals under the name of urban renewal, but it also laid the foundations for further segregation.

Beginning in the fall of 2015 and continuing through the summer of 2016 as a Rains Undergraduate Research Fellow, I embarked on a research-based photographic exploration of structures in Los Angeles that contribute to residential segregation by displacing and dividing communities. Inspired by my experiences growing up alongside Interstate 10, I uncovered the history and ongoing significance of the dividing structures that disproportionately affect low-income people of color by separating communities from each other and serving as manifestations of geographical dichotomies.

In conducting this research, I implemented a range of methodology. I employed a comprehensive literature review of sources in city planning, history, urban health, and environmental science with primary source analyses of photographs, maps, housing advertisements, and newspaper articles. The William H. Hannon Library was invaluable in this process. To locate relevant secondary sources, I conducted searches on Onesearch and targeted specific journals by discipline. Through this processes, I developed and refined a list of search terms that provided me with relevant sources. After examining the bibliographies of particularly applicable scholarly articles to find related authors, I further expanded my search.

To inform my understanding of the city's history with residential segregation and its changing landscape, I consulted the Hurley-Wright Surveyors Map Collection and collections

from the Center for the Study of Los Angeles, including the Carroll and Lorrin Morrison Photographic Collection, the Catholic Human Relations Council Collection, and the James Keane Collection of Fritz Burns Biographical Materials. Through interaction with primary materials, including housing manuals that recommended purchasing homes in ethnically homogenous neighborhoods, the Barrio Defense Committee's housing advertisements that promoted equity and fair housing, and maps and photographs of Los Angeles prior to urban development, my understanding of the city's history grew to inform the other elements of my research.

During my research, I had a variety of questions that I sought to answer through my various methodologies. Though most of these were answered through analysis of academic articles, I was unable to find examples of where displaced people moved until I visited the library's special collections. Here, I found an L.A. Times article titled "Ravine Once Was Close-Knit Community," which looked retrospectively at the building of Dodger Stadium over a Chicana/o neighborhood and traced the paths of two families, the Arechigas and Santillions, who moved to City Terrace and East L.A. These findings provided me with concrete examples that rested within an overarching trend of eastward settlement suggested in secondary sources.

Throughout this process, I had to maintain critical awareness of the perspectives of the authors and audiences of my sources, and especially those that were produced during periods where outright discrimination against people of color and immigrants was normalized. Newspaper articles, housing manuals and development plans, and even older secondary sources from the 1980s often utilized outdated and offensive language. This served as a cue for me to

analyze and address the intention behind the creation of these documents and incorporate these analyses into my findings.

In addition to utilizing the William H. Hannon Library's resources, I also consulted the Los Angeles Public Library's online archives, including their map and photo collections. Informed by my literature review, I utilized direct observations and on-foot exploration to qualitatively measure navigability around freeways, cemented rivers, and privatized areas and to experience these various development projects from a pedestrian's perspective. On these site visits, I examined public art to reinforce my understanding of how people react to the placement of concrete structures in their neighborhoods through muralism and graffiti. As a photography major, I also employed artistic methods throughout the research process, including photography, book making, and map creation, to visualize my findings and personally reflect on the system of freeways that bisects my childhood neighborhood and many others.

Through my various means of research and heavy reliance on library resources, my project shifted and grew immensely from an idea based on a personal experience (feeling alienated while growing up alongside Interstate 10) into a comprehensive synthesis of the social and geographical history of Los Angeles.