Increasing Safe Housing for Urban Natives: Leveraging Public-Private-Tribal Partnerships

Roger Valdez – City of Albuquerque Office of Equity and Inclusion

Dawn Begay – City of Albuquerque Office of Native American Affairs

Chenoa Bah Stilwell-Jensen, PhD – University of New Mexico Health

Sciences Center



Office of Equity and Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) was created in 2018 with a mission to inspire and equip city government to make Albuquerque a national role model of racial equity and social justice.

Currently, OEI provides a number of programs and services, including the Office of Immigrants and Refugee Affairs, Office of Black Community Engagement, and the Office of Native American Affairs.



















https://www.cabq.gov/office-of-equity-inclusion/about-office-of-equity-inclusion/our-department/office-of-equity-inclusion-staff

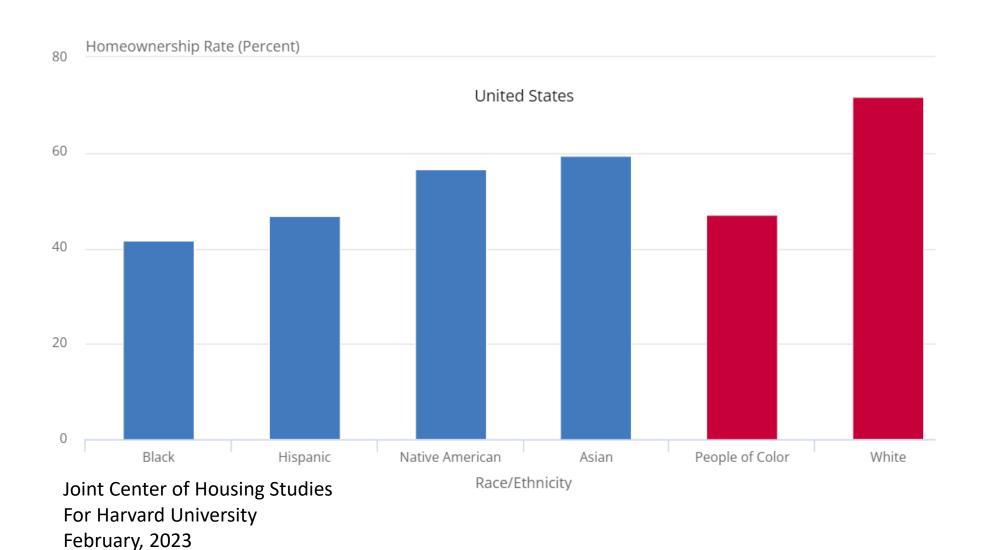


Our Goal

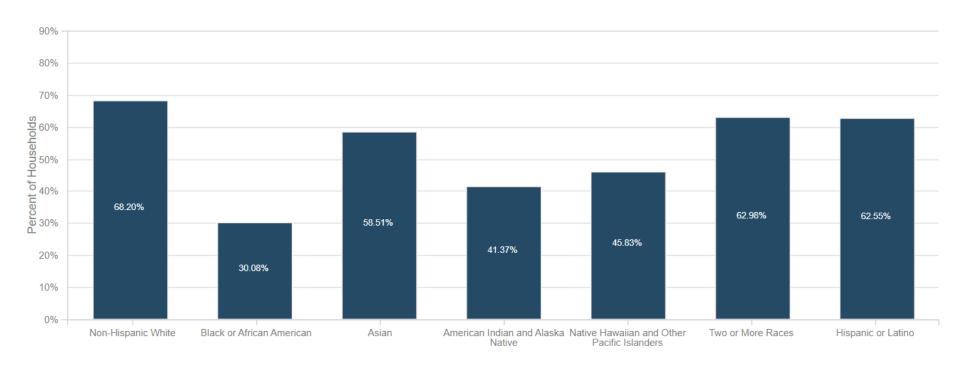
Identify opportunities and challenges around access to culturally responsive, healthy homeownership and small business growth for Black and Native communities in Albuquerque



The Gap: A National Problem



The Gap: Bernalillo County



PolicyMap Homewise Racial Housing Disparity Report July 21, 2023



The Gap: The City of Albuquerque

By every measure and at every level since the end of World War II, Black and Native families have had fewer opportunities to benefit from homeownership. In 2023, "Black communities in Albuquerque own only \$1 in home equity for every \$35 in home equity owned by whites. Native Americans own \$1 in home equity for every \$30 in home equity owned by Whites."

MASS Design Needs Assessment

Mortgage Readiness

16% of Black adults age 18-45 in Albuquerque have the credit characteristics needed to qualify for a mortgage



The gap between Black and Native and white homeowners will continue to grow without aggressive policy change

What's Being Done To Address the Gap?

Ideas we're exploring

- Public financing: Revenue bonds to fund development for homeownership
- Limited equity cooperatives on community trust land: Cooperative ownership is a middle path to build equity, land trusts ensure long time affordability
- Community Reinvestment Act: Pushing lenders to use their CRA resources to invest in homeownership, including grants, and new housing
- Measuring social capital: Black and Native families have assets and protective factors that current credit standards and measures don't capture
- Sustainable mortgage readiness: Using public and private resources to repair credit, support financial education, and prepare households to be owners
- Value capture: Using apprenticeship and mentoring programs at local colleges and vocational schools to provide labor to lower housing costs and train a more diverse real estate industry

Indigenous Build and Design

Land

Identify possible sites for demonstration project

- Tribal Investment
- Land Back

Investors

Meet with lenders to demonstrate there is a demand in Black and Native communities for loans to purchase homes

Developers

Building a Workforce

- Apprenticeships
- Training Programs

Entrepreneurship Opportunities

Contracts

Home Buyer

Building a Market

Market study survey to analyze wider and specific housing market

Focus Groups with Native Households

Mortgage Readiness

 Homeownership and financial education and recruitment for possible ownership

Centering Community Voice

Native Community Engagement:

What do you want in your dream neighborhood?

Highquality assets Friendly & quiet community

Safety & low crime

Access to nature

Parks

Guiding Principles

Financial Health





Financial Stability



Family & Community













Home & Health









Cultural Practice



Wellbeing



Proximity to Health Services



Education

