

"Living For the City"

Oral history project exploring the Black middleclass in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We are attempting to dive into their lived experiences. Milwaukee is one of the most segregated cities in America.

The Black narrative of Milwaukee has been of poverty, incarceration, lead poisoning, evictions, and educational underachievement. What we do not hear about is the Black middleclass experiences. These oral histories will be analyzed in relation to sociological assumptions about the residential patterns of middleclass African Americans in major metropolitan areas of the United States.



Methodology

Oral Histories

- * Interviews
- * Audio/Video
- * Transcriptions

Memory – extracting accurate info
Archival info

Community-Engaged Research

- * Bi-directional
- * Mutual benefits
- * Equal representation of all parties

Research Team

Kitonga Alexander, UW-Milwaukee
Drake Bentley, Marquette University
Annika Johnson, UW-Milwaukee
Kai Johnson, UW-Milwaukee
Elijah Nicks, UW-Milwaukee
Nateye Taylor, UW-Milwaukee

Beginning in Spring 2023, I will lead the team in interviewing those participants connected to the Marquette University community.

Related Experience/Skills

Marquette Wire

I was a reporter for the non-profit organization on Marquette's campus where it was my tasks to produce content for print on a weekly basis. Having to conduct daily interviews and to transcribe it into a story incorporating effective listening abilities

Honors/Communications Mentor

Being hands on by impacting lives on a consistent basis is the core to these roles. Taking heed to what students are in need of by being an advocate for their great work and being a listener through their dark moments.

Interview Questions

Milwaukee Living:

How long have you lived in Milwaukee?
What were your reasons for moving to Milwaukee? [for those who moved as adults]
What comes to mind when you think of Milwaukee?
What are some of the benefits of living in Milwaukee?
How have you benefited from them?
What are some challenges of living in Milwaukee?
What are your strategies for managing and overcoming these challenges?

Defining the Middle Class:

What does it mean to be middle class?
What does it mean to be Black middle class?

