Gentrification, **noun**. \jen-truh-fi-**key**-shuh n\: businesses." ("gentrification," Dictionary.com.)

"To **renovate** and **improve** (especially a house or district) so their way of life) more refined or dignified." ("gentrification," having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-Google, Oxford English Dictionary.)

Merriam-Webster.)

more affluent residents, which results in increased property values and the displacing of lower-income families and small businesses." ("gentrification," Wikipedia, Web: 10 Jul 2018.)

Editor's Note: There is a pervasive myth that gentrification is somehow subjective; that it's not always a "bad thing." take the time to examine the meaning of the word.

the cadence, that words with positive denotations—renovate, lands "empty" and open for European occupation. revive, improve, renew, rebuild—always open the sentence, reflex. These glorifying words are qualified with a quiet "but..." displacement of lower income or poorer residents. Note Turtle Island, now known as North America. the aggressive nature of the movements and actions: conform, "To **conform** to middle class taste." (Blights Out, 2017.)

encoded and embedded into their design and layout. Like Of Tears," Wikipedia, Web: 10 Jul 2018.) architectural ornamentation, words communicate information for empathy.

without displacement." (Shana griffin, Co-founder, Jane Place Military History: M - Z, ABC-CLIO, 2011, p. 282–284.) Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative (JPNSI), the first community PUNCTUATE.)

EN: Definitions are not impartial, but what is agreed upon across all dictionaries is that **gentrification does entail displacement**. So, perhaps we can dispel this myth, first and foremost.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, [...] income, by adding new stores and resources in previously run- assisted activity; and down neighborhoods.

to or availability of the following:

affordable healthy housing healthy food choices transportation choices quality schools bicycle and walking paths, exercise facilities, etc. social networks Changes can also occur in:

stress levels injuries

violence and crime

mental health social and environmental justice" ("Health Effects of Gentrification," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 15 Oct 2009, Web: 10 Jul 2018.)

"The word gentrification derives from gentry-which comes from the Old French word genterise, "of gentle birth" (14th century) and "people of gentle birth" (16th century). In England, Landed gentry denoted the social class, consisting of gentlemen. British sociologist Ruth Glass coined the term "gentrification" in 1964 to describe the influx of middle-class people displacing lowerclass worker residents in urban neighborhoods." ("gentrification", Wikipedia. Web: 10 Jul 2018.)

EN: Dictionary definitions give us clarity and insight into the mindset that underpins the argument that gentrification is not always "that bad." The decision to value the displacement of families in relation to its benefit to the upper classes is a choice. One can consider, if one likes, the working class as no more than as a means to an end. What, then, does it matter how one achieves that end? We are all free to choose our side because, as these definitions make clear, the commodification merely a new skirmish in an old race war.

South Africa, 2018: "Although this is new terminology, this is nothing new; the experience is the same, but in different New Orleans, 2017: "So, there were 25% of us [left]. In 2010, or request to close a branch with a set of interventions through contexts, in different moments. Let me take you on this chronological journey to show you what has transpired over the what I thought back then was that other people were gonna come Orderson. Azania Rising Productions, 2018.)

EN: In his film, "Not In My Neighborhood," Kurt Orderson, the top of the same porch that I grew up in for the past [23 years]. I segments of their communities, including low- and moderatea native of South Africa, unmasks cycles of colonial spatial find myself connecting my sense of self and my story to everything income neighborhoods. Congress passed the Act in 1977 to planning through a critical investigation of gentrification in Cape that gets torn down." (Toya Lewis, Organizer, Stand With Dignity; reduce discriminatory credit practices against low-income Town, South Africa; Brooklyn, New York, USA; and São Paulo, former tenant of the Calliope Housing Projects, New Orleans.) Brazil. Orderson exposes gentrification as a single tick along the

followed ideas, saying, *let's push this idea of Apartheid.*"

"The process of renewal and rebuilding accompanying the prevailing on those territories, or parts of them. They form at constructive and destructive, the soft and hard power used to present in other areas of the city. To this day, as a consequence of influx of middle-class or affluent people into deteriorating present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined control the racial makeup of societies. [See: Blight] areas that often displaces poorer residents" ("gentrification," to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity, as the basis of 2006: "Settler colonialism has both negative and positive those in White neighborhoods. [See: Development] their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their dimensions. Negatively, it strives for the dissolution of "Gentrification is a process of renovation and revival of own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal system." ("The Native societies. Positively, it erects a new colonial society Butler: "In New Orleans, ACORN used HMDA data against deteriorated urban neighborhoods by means of influx of Concept of Indigenous Peoples," Department of Economic and on the expropriated land base—settler colonizers come to stay: a number of banks in the 80s and essentially turned around Social Affairs, United Nations, 2004.)

1620: Vacuum domicilium, the legal justification for the Journal of Genocide Research 8, No. 4. Dec. 2006: p. 388.) systematic theft of Indigenous land, was coined by John Winthrop, Puritan election rigger, founder of the Massachusetts Bay EN: Once the original inhabitants are removed, their former Colony, and father of the "City Upon a Hill" School of American properties are flipped to become assets for speculation—lucrative EN: Redlining has evolved to fit today's lending practices Gentrification is a popular subject of heated debate, yet we rarely Exceptionalism. Winthrop declared Indigenous land use to be investments for the new owners. [See: Auction] valueless because it was in **balance with nature**—regenerative rather than extractive; collective rather than individualistic; 1823: "The measure of property acquired by occupancy is is able to secure a loan, predatory lending practices like high-"It is important to pay close attention to the privileges that words sustainable rather than profiteering. Indigenous methods of land utter. The particular and peculiar patterns that are formed. Note stewardship rather than land ownership rendered their ancestral

implying an order of importance or perhaps a hasty defensive EN: Violent forced relocation events, the most infamous of "New Orleans became a blank slate after Hurricane Katrina Recession (December 2007-January 2009), followed by a solitary **negative** effect of **secondary** importance: grabs of indigenous territory in the ongoing colonization of experiment with new ideas for building and running a city.

influx, make. Strong words, full of manly character. Google and "The Trail of Tears was a series of forced relocations of Mississippi River) that had been designated as **Indian Territory**. At A Time." NPR, 2 Jul 2012. Web: 24 Jul 2018.) The forced relocations were carried out by government authorities **EN:** Definitions are kind of like architecture. There is meaning following the passage of the **Indian Removal Act** in 1830." ("Trail "In 1979, geographer Neil Smith came up with what has become commissioned by the

State has offered an exchange—a deal—for homelands stolen, the Neighborhood, Nation Books: 2017.) sometimes promising one-for-one replacement.

1974: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNED DEVELOPMENT, CHAPTER 7 SECTION 104(d) RELOCATION AND ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Health Effects of Gentrification: "Gentrification is a housing, B. One-for-One Replacement. A requirement to replace all Corporation (HOLC) ranked the risk level of mortgage loans by federal economic, and health issue that affects a community's history and occupied and vacant occupied lower-income dwelling units #ethnicity, keeping housing segregation firmly in place without # h i g h e s t culture and reduces social capital. It often shifts a neighborhood's (defined in 24 CFR 42.305) that are demolished or converted to the need for explicit racial covenants. characteristics, e.g., racial-ethnic composition and household a use other than lower-income housing in connection with an

"Other health effects include limited access relocation assistance to any lower-income person (defined in 24 By barring Black residents from receiving home mortgage loans, the Indians and the government as 'resembling that of a ward to his connection with an assisted activity.

> EN: Yet a homeland is more than a physical space; what home Beth Butler, 2016: "There was a low-income woman Poverty." Forbes. 13 Mar 2014. Web: 24 Jul 2018.) contains, what home represents, cannot be substituted. State- with five sons who wanted to buy a house where she had been [See: Development] [See: Demolition]

basically **delete you out of history**."

EN: Moreover, from Indian Territory to government housing 1939: "D18: This area is about 75% improved, with negroes the project to minimize standards at minimum cost." (Arend, projectsts, the promise of one-for-one replacement is often a lie. scattered throughout it except on Elysian Fields, Frenchmen, Orissa. Showdown in Desire: The Black Panthers Take a Stand in ndigenous peoples were promised lands in the west in exchange Kerlerec and Columbus which are occupied almost entirely by New Orleans. University of Arkansas Press: 2009. p. 4-5.) for their homelands across Turtle Island. But soon, America's fickle White population. The better properties in the area are located policies, like the Dawes Act (1887) began to chip away at even on these 4 streets and also on Claiborne, Galvez, Laharpe, EN: "Public and Indian Housing" are a joint category on the these meager substitutes. [See: Development]

Georgia, 1838-9: "Families at dinner were startled by the area. Schools, churches and stores are located in [the] area and 2. Public Housing, noun. \puhb-lik hou-zing\: udden gleam of bayonets in the doorway and rose up to be driven it has adequate transportation and all utilities. With a mixed housing owned or operated by a government and usually offered with blows and oaths along the weary miles of trail that led to **population** throughout the area and **poorly maintained** at low rent to the needy. ("public housing," Dictionary.com.) because, as these definitions make clear, the commodification the stockade [where they were held prior to the removal event.]

of housing is an act of class warfare. In colonized nations,

Men were seized in their fields or going along the road, women

THE

No properties scattered, as a whole it presents a very bad picture."

(HOLC Description of "D" grade neighborhood, meaning a properties scattered, as a whole it presents a very bad picture."

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No properties scattered, as a whole it presents a very bad picture."

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No properties scattered, as a whole it presents a very bad picture."

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No properties scattered, as a whole it presents a very bad picture." were taken from their wheels and children from their play. In hazardous place to loan home mortgages.) many cases, on turning for one last look as they crossed the ridge, they saw their homes in flames, fired by the lawless rabble that **Butler:** "Banks had been redlining Black people and Black followed on the heels of the soldiers to loot and pillage." (James M. neighborhoods [for decades]. ACORN started working on Mooney, Historical Sketch of the Cherokee, Orig: 1900. Chicago anti-redlining campaigns in New Orleans in the early 1980s, Aldine Translation: 1975, p. 124.)

2011 we realized they kept a fence up around the other 75%, and the **Community Reinvestment Act** of 1977." last 400 years or more." ("Not In My Neighborhood," Dir: Kurt home and it was about the be the city it once was. But that wasn't 1977: "The Community Reinvestment Act is a United States true at all. They was getting ready to demolish everything else—the federal law designed to encourage commercial banks and other 75%—and they did. And so, I watched the demolition from savings associations to help meet the needs of borrowers in all

ongoing timeline of colonial spatial planning. [See: Blight] "Slowly, those people become whispers of memory. Some say that: No one used to live there at all. Whether through

Orderson: "I wanted to tell this tri-continental story because it vacuum domicillum or contemporary policy, the only culture of neighborhoods, a practice known as redlining." ("Community "The **buying** and **renovation** of houses and stores in will show you the footprint of global capital and how it operates. gentrification is **money**. It is **policy**. It is an economic Reinvestment Act," Wikipedia. Web: 12 Jul 2018.) deteriorated urban neighborhoods by upper- or middle- It has the same faces, ultimately, if you look at the colonial and political system. It is capitalism. It is also often apologetic. It income families or individuals, thus improving property experience in South Africa and the colonial experience in only meant well; it only wanted to make things nicer; it only wanted Butler: "That's when we would obtain their Home Mortgage values but often displacing low-income families and small North America [...] it is a cut and paste project of how people to introduce more options; how was it to know the repercussions Disclosure Act (HMDA) data and use their own stats to prove that **Indigenous, adjective.** \in **dij** uh nuh s\: than a predator can." (Blights Out. "The Cultural Ramifications of would hardball it like Hibernia Bank and as a result we won the that it **conforms** to **middle-class taste**. To **make** (someone or "Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, Gentrification in New Orleans," Shelterforce, 12 Oct. 2017.) first-ever bank hearing in the South by the Federal Reserve Board."

> colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider EN: Like 'positive' and 'negative' eugenics, Indigenous and EN: The perceived "worthlessness" of Black-owned property themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now settler colonial studies teach us of the 'positive' and 'negative', the and neighborhoods long restrained the flow of financial capital

determined, according to the law of nature, by the extent of men's interests loans may lead to foreclosure. wants, and their capacity of using it to supply them." (Johnson &

which is known as the Trail of Tears, preceded massive land struck in 2005. And ever since, entrepreneurs have rushed in to banks targeted minority groups for Among them is a startup called Neighborland.com, a social media disproportionate rate of foreclosure tool for sharing ideas to make your neighborhood better. After among African Americans during signing in to Neighborland, you can find your neighborhood and the crisis. Oxford most directly imply a class interest with their second clause: Native American peoples from their ancestral homelands in the post your idea. The posts all start with "I want," and you fill in the "to make something or someone more refined or dignified." Southeastern United States, to areas to the west (usually west of the rest." (Elliott, Debbie. "Filling In New Orleans' Future, One Blank 2015:

possibly the most influential academic theory on gentrification: ACLU, warns that the rent gap. Smith posited that the more disinvested a Recession will about values, underlying prejudices, assumptions, and agendas. 1830: "In most cases, individual removal treaties negotiated with space becomes, the more profitable it is to gentrify. The White wealth They convey the hopes and fears of a society, the flexibility and the the Native Americans provided for an exchange of land—the cession idea behind his theory is a basic tenet of free-market economics: generation. limitations of human imagination, communication, and capacity of land in the east in exchange for land in the west. The exchange capital will go where the rate of potential return (i.e. the potential and Rasch, was almost never **one-for-one**, however, meaning that tribes gave to make profit) is greatest. Smith realized that gentrification the US up far more land than they gained in Indian Territory." (Tucker, wasn't happening at random. It was predictable. If you wanted Racial Shana griffin, 2017: "You can have displacement Spencer, et al. "Indian Removal Act (1830)." The Encyclopedia of to find the neighborhood that would gentrify next, all you had to without gentrification. But you cannot have gentrification North American Indian Wars, 1607-1890. a Political, Social, and do was figure out where the biggest potential for profit was in a Science city—the place where buildings could be bought cheap and made Council, more expensive in a short period of time." (Moskowitz, Peter. land trust (CLT) in New Orleans. Creator, DISPLACED. Founder, EN: From colonization to urban renewal to gentrification, the How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for E N:

DISINVESTMENT Bank

1. Redlining, noun. \red-lahy-ning\: A practice, begining in the 1930s, whereby the Home Owners Loan

EN: On maps of cities, HOLC drew boundaries around C. Relocation Assistance. A requirement to provide certain based on the race of the residents, regardless of their economic status. poverty in 1831 when he characterized the relationship between CFR 42.305) displaced as a direct result of: (1) the demolition #federal government prevented home ownership in Black or mixed- guardian.'[...] Underlying this doctrine is the notion that tribes are of any dwelling unit or (2) the conversion of a lower-income frace neighborhoods, preemptively condemning these communities not capable of owning or managing their lands. The government dwelling unit to a use other than a lower-income dwelling in as zones of disinvestment and forcing a disproportionate number of is the legal owner of all land and assets in Indian Country and Black people to become impermanent, landless tenants.

sanctioned human removal is always violent and disruptive, employed as a sitter with the owner's mother, who had passed for the owner's mother, who had passed for the owner's mother, who had passed for the owner's mother for the owner's mother, who had passed for the owner's mother for the owner's stripping people of their homes, extracting the land and resources away. There were two little identical houses side by side on the Reservation because, he says, residents have been beneath them, and dismantling life-sustaining social networks. | Elysian Fields Avenue. She lived in one, and the person she sat | removed from society and made dependent on government for [had] lived in the other one. The successors were clear to support. Aaron's mother calls it 'The Bricks,' because that's all her: we want you to buy this; [...] We're going to sell this to you there is. Block after monotonous block of apartments, inhabited South Africa, 2018: "So, a building is a physical space and for \$22,000, which was nothing then! It's still nothing. We [at by uniformly large, poor families; the lack even of shops and people might argue and say yeah, it's just the physical thing. ACORN] were like, Yeah, get a loan at the Whitney [Bank]. We'll amusements—and all of this far from jobs, hospitals and public But the memory that exists—your nostalgia of the space, of do the housing program [...] But they sent out an appraiser from services. Sociologists say Desire offers a virtual blueprint for the street, of playing with your friends, and growing up in this the bank who walked through both houses and said the value was social alienation and despair." ("Project: Violence scares even the space—that whole moment gets deleted and erased. So, the \$\ \gamma 0. We contacted the bank because our organization had all of longtime addicts," The Times-Picayune, 18 Jun. 1989.) history and legacy of colonial spatial planning is exactly that: it | its funds nationally in the Whitney, and said how are we going is the **erasure** of memory and of a people with **history**, with to ever turn around our neighborhoods if your appraiser values if "It wasn't designed for people to live in; it was designed, rather, culture, with an aesthetic. Ultimately, when you think about these houses at \$0?" (Beth Butler, Former Regional Director, to warehouse the city's poorest residents, according to Ed colonialism and White supremacy et cetera [...] it is the idea to ACORN. Founder and Former Organizer, ACORN Community Arceneaux, a former Desire manager and housing management Land Association. Director, A Community Voice.)

20% higher in value than properties on remaining streets in [the]

essentially taking the banks to the feds who discriminated. The legal part of the campaign involved challenging a bank's merger

of its actions; didn't you people want nice things; didn't you make there was discrimination. Some banks would choose to negotiate a money from the sale of your house? It can't help its nature any more program to remedy [their practice], as did First NBC bank. Others

> federal redlining practices, the price of homes in **mixed-race** and non-White neighborhoods continue to be valued lower than

invasion is a structure, not an event." (Patrick Wolfe, what was at the beginning of the 80s among the lowest home "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native," ownership rates for African Americans in the entire country. By the 90s, that was pretty well turning around, and we were among the cities with the highest home ownership."

> and banks still deny home mortgage loans to people of color, facilitating lower rates homeownership. Even if an individual

Graham's Lessee v. McIntosh, 21 U.S. 8 Wheat. 543 543, 1823.) **2008:** In the years leading up to the 2008 **subprime** subsequent **Great**

subprime mortgages, leading to a

study by the Science Resource widen the Black-(Burd-Sharps, Sarah Rebecca. "Impact of Housing Crisis on the Wealth Gap Across Generations," Social une 2015.)

banks like Wells Fargo, J.P Morgan Chase & Co., and of America, continue to etch borders of racial apartheid our cityscapes. In many cities, neighborhoods redlined by the government in the 1930s have the rates of poverty in their respective cities. Similarly, Native American reservations are among the poorest

neighborhoods deemed to be "too risky" for home mortgage loans 🖟 "Chief Justice John Marshall set Native Americans on the path to is required to manage them for the benefit of Indians." (Regan, Shawn. "5 Ways the Government Keeps Native Americans in

communities in the nation.

specialist with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Developers had been under strict orders to build

Lapeyrouse, Onzaga, D'Abadie and St. Bernard, and are about U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's website.

and building substandard subsidized housing in its place.

Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United **States**, **1931**: "There is a wide distinction between homes and mere housing. Those immortal ballads, Home, Sweet and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project.)

1937: The United States Housing Act of 1937 provided federa subsidies to local public housing agencies. The act stipulated that EN: Disaster capitalist planners, politicians, pundits, and into previously disinvested neighborhoods without ensuring that the low-wage hospitality and service industry, along with those for any new public housing created, a unit of "substandard quality" entrepreneurs declared that Hurricane Katrina had reduced New the people who already live there will be able to remain in their whose labors produce the city's appeal as something timeless and must be removed.

1949: The American Housing Act of of 1949 made echoed settler colonial policies like vacuum domicilium and DeDecker: "The idea is, to us, a sustainable neighborhood federal funds available to redevelopment corporations for willfully ignored the people who survived, remained or who had is one where the people who can benefit most from these public demolition of "slums" and the sale of their land, through a **right of return**. eminent domain, to private developers. Federal blighted areas. [See: Blight]

Negro in urban America. Demolition]

"Blighting The Way: Urban Renewal, Center.) Economic Development, and The

Of Blight." Fordham Urban

Journal, vol. 31, no.

Gentrification, noun. \a poem\:

Revival!

urban..

Income, Class (Affluent)

Families, Individuals

income, class (poor)

families, small businesses

Improving! &

Dignified! &

(Dictionary.com, Google, Merriam-Webster,

Oxford English Dictionary, Wikipedia.)

Refined! &

Middle-, Upper-

people.

Renovation!

Influx!

displace

TASTE

CONFORM

Renewal!

L_{ow-}, L_{ower}

Buying! &

Increased

PROPERTY VALUES

Deteriorating...

Deteriorated...

2, 2003, p. 311.)

failure of public housing was storm] whenever a bus came through, it stopped at a different bagged my groceries at the store? What happened to the girl who from the historic abuse of various cultures and the labeling of their its design. Neglecting spot from the time before. State police would open a gap in one rang up my prescriptions at the pharmacy?" (Andreanecia M. bearers as "primitive," "inferior," "dangerous," and "illegal" in order additional funding for of the barricades, and people would rush for the bus, with no Morris, Executive Director, Housing NOLA.) maintenance and information given about where it was headed. Once aboard the operations, basic bus, evacuees would find out where they were being taken: Baton DeDecker: "The post-Katrina planning process was brutal. be separated from the theft of their land, life, dignity, freedom, and was Rouge, Arkansas, Dallas, or other locations." (Flaherty, Jordan. There was this continuous recycling of, come to this meeting rights. It cannot be separated from colonialism, from the murder ependent on the rents Floodlines: Community and Resistance from Katrina to the Jena to develop a plan for the neighborhood. You had the Lambert with impunity of Black men and women by the police, or from the tenants. The Housing Act Six. Chicago, Haymarket Books, 2010. p. 40.)

ing options onto the EN: An orchestrated response from the State of Louisiana, the like the Claiborne's Livable Communities planning processes EN: Settler colonialism is a structure, but also a way of market and placed income limits on public federal government and private security forces like Blackwater and then the Choice Neighborhoods planning processes. [...] governing; a culture; a design; an art. Settler colonialism housing. As those of middle class means left for the suburbs, exacerbated the chaos, precarity, and vulnerability of postthose with the least income were concentrated into public Katrina New Orleans. Instead of first-responders, they acted One of JPNSI's co-founders, Shana griffin, put it best when she under occupation must be continuously re-settled. The Native's as **frontiersman**, clearing human beings from the City through said that folks got invited to these meetings in order to **plan** body is always an obstacle to be circumvented to make way 1970: "We are fighting against the top [...] to acquire operational people suffered in the chaos, corporations and individual speculators developers created opportunities for people to come together to everchanging, voracious wants. Settler colonialism is a true funds, against ignorant powers [...] against public leaders who saw profits in a New New Orleans, an experimental privatized create a vision for communities with better resources and better master of its art. Today, settler colonialism is known as:

are all too often ignorant of the misery and frustration that cause American Dreamscape. addicts to revert to drug-dependence behavior [...] we are fighting against the bottom—the crummy building we live in, reeking 2015: "Residents overthrew a corrupt government. A new replace them with wealthier, Whiter residents." with the smell of urine, the dirty floors and broken windows, the mayor slashed the city budget, forced unpaid furloughs, cut backyard that's littered with garbage; the millions of cockroaches positions, detonated labor contracts. New Orleans' City Hall En: The practice of re-naming landmarks, neighborhoods, streets, usually minority-occupied neighborhood where property values crawling over us when we are asleep, sharing our coffee when we got leaner and more efficient. Dilapidated buildings were and schools is a classic tool of settler colonialism. It disorients the have been historically suppressed through racist and classist are awake; the huge flies and tiny mosquitoes that come through torn down. Public housing got rebuilt. Governments were original inhabitants and erases their signature from the land. As policies is gradually re-branded as desirable according to the tastes our window, left open in summer heat so that we can breathe 'fresh consolidated. An underperforming public school system saw a new settlers arrive, their cultural ignorance is corroborated by a of the White upper class, enabling real estate developers to profit pollution". ("Desire Community Center leader's letter to the States-complete makeover. A new schools chief, Paul Vallas, **designed** land pillaged of historical context, meaning, and memory. Item." Reprinted in Arend, Orissa.)

residing in public housing." to seep into those Black communities and force them out."

isolation of living in public housing, then [was] demonized for

THE SECOND PERFECT

it—tal—iz—uh m /: The practice (by a government, regime, etc.) of taking advantage of a major disaster to push the poor out **Breonne DeDecker**, 2016: "We're in a really speculative organized that, and then it kept going." of the inner city and turn every public service into an opportunity market right now. People are able to make a lot of money flipping for profit by the already-wealthy. (Editor's Definition.)

in New Orleans. Chaos. Tragedy. Heartbreak. [...]" (McQueary, Kristen. "Chicago, New Orleans, and Rebirth," Chicago Tribune.

Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina. Dec. 2005.)

Web: 13 Aug 2015.)

Orleans to a **blank slate**, a blighted ruin, an empty canvas on homes and access the new resources. [See: Auction] which to realize a Neoliberal vision. Their pronouncement

rules allowed local governments to define slums and THERE ARE OVER 100.000 FEWER BLACK PEOPLE IN POST-KATRINA NEW ORLEANS HousingNOLA, 2015: New Orleans is in the midst of an

This large scale human "By looking at tax data, [Neil] Smith could pinpoint blocks that spending at least 33% of their income on rent. Since Katrina, nicknamed seemed to be gentrifiable, which usually meant buildings were rents and property values have doubled; there is a need for at least Removal" due to its in disrepair (so they could be bought cheap) and were close to 33,000 new affordable housing opportunities. ("10-Year Strategy A: If you're not growing, you're dying. It's certainly not a good disproportionate other gentrified areas (so it wouldn't be too much of a stretch and Implementation Plan," Housing NOLA, 2015.) people living for gentrifiers to move in). The rent gap was the disparity [S e e : between how much a property was worth in its current state DeDecker: "Housing advocates are saying that we are out of what to be an affordable place are priced out. and how much it would be worth gentrified. The larger the gap is known as a 'naturally occurring affordable house,' which means [... in the neighborhood, the higher the chance it would gentrify." there's now so much competition for affordable housing that it no **Q:** But what about that last third? The poorest. How do you e (Moskowitz. ibid.)

Endesha Juakali: "The question of blight had nothing to land to private didn't think the land was valuable, but as time went on and they people left in the wake of its collapse." (Blights Out, 2017.) and use the decided that they wanted to come back and recoup the city and

EN: The fate of public housing followed the same trajectory as dictating for whom New Orleans has and has not been rebuilt, Properties. Interviewed in Moskowitz, Peter. "Destroy and 50s era slum removal. HUD's condemnation of these buildings— all the while postulating and profiting from an ahistorical Rebuild: A Q&A With One of New Orleans' Biggest Developers," most of which were declared structurally sound after the storm— construction of authenticity, organic community, and ascriptive Gawker, 16 Feb 2015. Web: 24 Jul 2018.) L a w as blighted allowed for their demolition. [See: Demolition] affinity as the basis for representation." (Adams. ibid.)

intentional neglect and one-way bus tickets out of town. While themselves out of their own neighborhoods. Planners and for something new, modern, chic that conforms to man's

a school system with the flexibility of an entrepreneur. No restrictive mandates from the city or the state. No demands **DeDecker:** "You can just look at, for instance, what happened **EN:** Tomorrow settler colonialism may simply be considered griffin, 2016: "I would say public housing is where I became from teacher unions to abide. Instead, he created the nation's in St. Roch Market. People were repeatedly the "natural" impact of climate change. Facing the increased

EN: A translation of the Neoliberal "Newspeak" (to quote George sells expensive small plates and five-dollar half gallons of organic cultivated to ground those policies, to prevent... Orwell) above: After Katrina, public workers were fired en masse. milk—and it was built with FEMA recovery dollars!" Lee, 2018: "Throughout time and throughout history, The Teachers' Union was decimated through the firing of 100% planning policies are some form of consolidating the amount of New Orleans' public school teachers one week after the storm. Lewis: "All I have now is being excited and stopping and talking designed to protect only the wealthiest from of Black people to a certain amount of space, [and] reducing the Displaced residents' homes were sold from underneath them to people when I pass back there. But it's not the same sense of the rising up of seas and people overall amount of available property or land mass to them. It's at auction or, if determined valueless, were torn down without community. I been thinking about that a lot, trying to figure out essentially a holding pattern, and then whenever equity is built notice. Public housing was demolished and rebuilt as private for- what that means. I lived around the same people for 23 years, and griffin: "I'm not interested in any work about, anything related to around wherever White people were living, they could then start profit apartments. Our school system was taken over and illegally they created a certain existence. I always remember Ms. Marty affordability. I'm only interested in permanent affordable housing held by the Recovery School District; today the school system who's still around—she bought a house right outside the projects and really thinking about an expansive version and definition of is a for-profit enterprise with zero public schools. Moreover, the [...] When I think about organizing, I think about Ms. Marty. Ms. what affordability truly means, which includes security of tenure, STORM. nation's oldest public hospital, Charity, was forcibly closed to Marty organized the first 'let's let the kids clean up the projects' and also expansion of different housing tenure types, going beyond make way for a \$1.1 billion private medical complex, which was for the summer and pay them something for that. From that, the just housing—homeownership versus renting, what does renting or 3. Disaster Capitalism, noun. / dih-zas-ter kap- built on top of 30 blocks of middle income housing in Mid City. Housing Authority picked it up and started doing summer jobs. equity look like, what does cooperative housing look like?"

> meetings around the **Master Plan** where the planners in charge **as capable of gauging the harm caused by** But context matters." (Blights Out, 2017.) said things to the room that were like, we need to attract a middle **gentrification."** (Blights Out, 2017.) class to New Orleans. Not build one. Not figure out how to raise people up to the middle class. Not even how to bring [back] the 2015: "Residents of gentrifying neighborhoods also tend to PLACE middle class who was once here but displaced from Katrina [...] benefit from gentrification across the board, experiencing an PEOPLE That wasn't the framing. It was we need to attract a new middle average increase of 11 points in their credit scores—and roughly class to New Orleans. And that's what we're seeing happening right 23 in neighborhoods with intense gentrification—compared now." (Breonne DeDecker, Program Manager, JPNSI.)

was creating the perfect conditions for disinvestment and unpredictable, haughty, devastating swirl of fury. A dramatic levee result of individual behavior or of systemic shifts. The reality is their credit scores, as they are forced into other neighborhoods they were also bankrolling the demolition of so-called "slums" forced onto the rooftops. That's what it took to hit the reset button make disasters. So who is responsible? To name but a few names: analyses of gentrification are blighted by bias. Benefit and harm

the West, were not written about tenements or apartments. | miles outside the city, and they could have moved in and gotten majority of the city council; former city councilman Oliver Thomas these factors." (Blights Out, 2017.) They are the expressions of racial longing which find outlet in people out sooner. People were allowed to die. Animals from the (who famously hoped to rid the city of soap opera watchers following the living poetry and songs of **our people**. They were written and fish from the fish aquarium were evacuated the flooding); musical ambassador and public library embezzler Irvin about an individual abode, alive with the tender associations | before the people. The President and local officials issued shoot to | Mayfield; Teach for America and the New Teacher Project; | behind the mask of cultural appropriation: its finely crafted cycles of childhood, the family life at the fireside, the free out of doors, kill orders' and people were shot. People who asked for help were actor, organic food provider-cum-profiteer, and would-be realthe independence, the security, and the pride in possession of the threatened with being shot. My niece and her fiancé, they needed sestate developer Wendell Pierce; virtually every neighborhood family's own home—the very seat of its being." (Herbert Hoover: gas. Her fiancé asked military help and they told them if you don't association in the city; urban planning and revitalization groups from "The 'grand experiment' perpetrated on New Orleans teachers, "Address to the White House Conference on Home Building and get back inside we will shoot you. Bodies are still being found the local St. Claude Main Street to the national Urban Planning students, and schools has always been done in the language of Homeownership," December 2, 1931. Online by Gerhard Peters & every day in New Orleans. Most people in New Orleans do not Institute; elite interest groups like Tulane University, New believe the official body counts. [...] As a hurricane survivor, Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, and Downtown I and my family were detained, not rescued." (Statement of Development District; countless more minor nonprofit hacks and has not just been reconceived and reimagined—it has been rebuilt Public housing was not Leah Hodges, Evacuee, New Orleans Louisiana, United States. wannabe power brokers." (Adams, Thomas Jessen. "How the Ruling to serve and further specific material and ideological interests. It the American Dream in mind. Congressional Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Class Remade New Orleans, Jacobin, 29 Aug. 2015. Web: 12 Jul 2018.) is a city increasingly designed not to produce equality but to give

investments can stay in the neighborhood. People who have lived in the community for generations can stay in the neighborhood." developer. I think of myself as on a

affordable housing crisis. 55% of residents are cost-burdened,

longer just exists in the market—you now have to actually do policy house them? interventions to grow and preserve affordable housing."

do with the demolishing of public housing. The main player in "A gentrified aesthetic is by definition out of place and time and is the demolition of public housing was the fact that you had this devoid of context, spirit, or backstory. It is aspirational and unhinged housing for poor people strategically representing all the most from reality. Its obsession with an 'industrial aesthetic'—high ceilings, c l e a r convenient parts of the neighborhood. You had this very very open floor plans, raw materials of brick, steel, and wood—fetishizes with federal valuable land. When White folk wanted to go to the suburbs, they our nation's manufacturing industry, ignoring the suffering of the

cover the put poor folk in the suburbs, this land became very very valuable." "Indeed, what appears to be a motley group with every conceivable of minorities, or whatever keeps market rate uncomfortable redevelopment costs." (Gordon, Colin. (Endesha Juakali, Housing Justice Organizer, Creator, Fight Back background and ascriptive subjectivity is, upon closer inspection, moving there—one of the realities is that when the market rate a class. It is a class well past the point of consolidation and one come in, those people move to another neighborhood. It's whose prerogatives have indelibly shaped the city's rebuilding— a pain in the ass, but they move." (Pres Kabacoff, CEO, HRI

Plan, the United New Orleans Plan, then you had the Master gentrification of their neighborhoods." (Blights Out. ibid.) Planning process, and you had all these other planning processes,

amenities, and then developers came along behind it, scooped up all the properties, and kicked people out of the neighborhood to **Gentrification**, **noun**. \jen-truh-fi-**key**-shuh n:

intimately aware of disparities in housing, but also the social first free-market education system." (McQueary, ibid.) asked what do you want to see? And they repeatedly said, we want frequency of climate disaster, we must ask ourselves what a grocery store. And then they received a bourgie food stall that policies are needed, but more importantly, which values must be

She was the first one to organize the kids that got to do that. She

to non-residents." (Florida, Richard. "The Closest Look Yet at Gentrification and Displacement," CityLab, 2 Nov 2015.)

"[CityLab] goes on to measure displacement's negative toll on the

EN: In the 1930s, at the same time that the federal government 2015: "I find myself wishing for a storm in Chicago—an En: Usually, the debate presents gentrification as either the gentrified neighborhood's poorest residents by the lowering of abandonment in non-White neighborhoods through redlining, break. Geysers bursting through manhole covers. A sleeping city, somewhere in between After all, man made systems and men with higher concentrations of poverty. Like dictionaries, these are reduced to profit and loss, neighborhoods are reduced to "Charter school hucksters like Louisiana Superintendent of Education markets, and communities are reduced to shareholders. Little is John White and millionaire businesswoman Leslie Jacobs; multi- said of aspects of life not measurable by dollars or data. Never millionaire developer and destroyer of public housing Pres Kabacoff is it assumed that folks might want to stay in or leave their 2005: "The people of New Orleans were stranded in a flood and 1 and his legion of aspirants; politicians ranging from former mayor neighborhoods for reasons such as history, community, or culture. Home; My Old Kentucky Home; and the Little Gray Home in were allowed to die. The military had personnel stationed just 40 Ray Nagin to current mayor Mitch Landrieu, along with the vast

social justice, antiracism, and multiculturalism. So has the broader grand experiment of the "new" New Orleans. New Orleans opportunity to the "worthy" while driving out as many "unworthy" EN: City-led redevelopment projects often inject new resources as possible. (The exception of course being those needed to staff supposedly outside the market and the profit motive—an appeal that is one of market culture's most valuable commodities in contemporary capitalism.)" (Adams. ibid.)

> "I don't think of myself as an opportunist mission." —Pres Kabacoff

"What about gentrification? Are you concerned with all these new developments, even the mixed-income units, that New Orleans is becoming unaffordable?

true when a neighborhood comes back many people who found it

solution to stop development to protect neighborhoods. And it's

A: If there's crime that follows, the market rate gets nervous,

votes with their feet and leaves, then it doesn't work. So what do you do with the third that's too difficult? You just don't take them, or you evict them. Just get them out of there. I don't have the staff to deal with them. But the cold truth is, if you're going to **revitalize** a neighborhood that's in bad shape or where market rate won't go-because of

the amount of crime, the amount of poverty or the amount

2017: "Cultural appropriation—the theft and hollowing out of Jordan Flaherty: "[In the immediate aftermath of the Andreanecia Morris: "What happened to the lady who culture, place, and people into commodities—cannot be separated to establish dominion over them. People whose cultures have been commodified are mad about cultural appropriation because it cannot

evolves to fit the **trends** of the **time** and must be upkept; land

A planned process of extraction from and disposal of working class people, during which a disinvested, advantageously located, from raising property values. (Editor's Definition.)

...our cities from becoming gentrified fortresses

"Reparations must be paid—in the form of law, land, and culture—to return dignity to people and to the Earth itself. [...] houses. There's been a concerted effort to attract a new, primarily "The value system of the dominant culture (the Art and culture are not platonic 'goods.' Sometimes they can be Whiter, wealthier, demographic to the city. I was personally in culture of 'people with money') is upheld predators, sometimes prey, and sometimes they can be zombies.

HISTORY

MATTERS. MATTER.

MATTERS.

Image: In a self-portrait on the house/art compound of a newcomer. an artist lounges against a backdrop of rendered blight, gazing gapemouthed over the 7th Ward, an historically Black neighborhood presently undergoing violent gentrification. Creative Commons © Blights Out, 2018. www.blightsout.org

