

*To Resurrect A Community* began with a single question: *why do we design unhealthy cities?* I was particularly interested in unveiling the detriments of car-dependent infrastructure and outlining more human design strategies — green space, walkability, bike paths. In my preliminary research, however, I encountered a common and unsurprising trend: most urban renewal projects benefit rich, new, White residents and harm minority residents. This led to new questions: *who can take advantage of the changes brought by urban renewal? Who is pushed aside in the process? Why does this pattern keep repeating, regardless of geographic or temporal location?*

A story was forming, a story of a country with racism built into its physical foundations — the very bricks which make up the United States — from the days of segregation to today. The issue was too broad, however, until I found a mural in a tunnel under Baltimore Avenue, untouched by sunlight. The mural presented the history of the Lakeland District of College Park, former home to a thriving Black community now relegated to the past, uprooted by an urban renewal project half a century ago. Intent on learning more, I discovered articles in *The Diamondback* and *The Lakeland Community Heritage Project* about Lakeland. After additional research, my primary line of inquiry was born: *how has infrastructural development/gentrification formed racial geographic divides and displaced minority communities (enforcing segregation), particularly in College Park's Lakeland community?* The topic was specific enough for obtainable results, yet applicable to the country as a whole; importantly, the topic was pertinent to local residents and students at the University of Maryland. The issue remains significant today, with ongoing construction in College Park threatening to displace more residents and discussions of reparation at the forefront of town discussion.

To fully understand the issue, I followed two primary lines of inquiry: researching general theory and expert opinions on the broad, nationwide issue, and uncovering information specific to urban renewal in Lakeland. To study the former line of inquiry, I made extensive use of library resources. In the University library website, under the Database Finder, I primarily used the Academic Search Ultimate Database, which includes myriad articles and studies on a variety of subjects. Within the databases, I used relevant search terms to find useful sources. As I found sources, I used their citations or referred papers to find additional sources or to expand my search terms. With this methodology, I was able to obtain a relatively comprehensive view of the sources in the databases which pertained to my research.

Throughout the research experience, Professor Montroso of the English Department helped me direct my efforts and take full advantage of the University's library system. It was with Professor Montroso's encouragement that I decided to tackle this nuanced and difficult subject, and it was through his guidance that I learned how to research, synthesize, and communicate this nuance.

Most of the academic sources I consulted throughout the research process were peer-reviewed, vetted papers, indicating their validity. In selecting papers, my first considerations were the repute and potential bias of the author(s), whom I researched for each source, and the subject matter in the abstract. If the content in the abstract pertained to my research or added to

my overall picture of the issue, I read further. In essence, my preliminary selection process involved evaluating the integrity/credibility of the source and determining the source's pertinence to my research. Following this, I read through each source, usually multiple times, and took note of important information, statistics, and quotes.

Through academic sources, I developed a strong understanding about the use of urban renewal and gentrification as a tool for displacement. One such source I discovered through library databases — Archer — played an integral role in my research, providing a detailed and rigorous portrait of racial equity considerations in infrastructure.

To understand the local events in Lakeland, I consulted articles in *The Washington Post*, *The Diamondback*, the *College Park Here & Now Newspaper*, and information compiled by *The Lakeland Community Heritage Project*. These popular articles provided historical and research information regarding Lakeland, allowing me to paint a picture of the local issue and analyze it as an instance of the national issue. To fill in the rest of the picture, I had an enlightening conversation with Maxine Gross, Director of the Lakeland Community Heritage Project, who kindly provided her insight and expertise for my project.

Beyond learning about the oppressive nature of many American infrastructure and renewal projects on a national and local scale, the development of this paper greatly enhanced my research and writing skills. The extensive research done for the project — both academic and journalistic — led to my growth as a problem solver in general. Most importantly, I believe I am now equipped to not only question my environment, but to understand the nuance surrounding those questions and approach thoughtful, productive answers. Throughout my career, as I continue to question my surroundings and interpret the world/universe through writing, I will value the foundational experience this project provided.

While writing the paper, I also discovered that aspects of creative writing — imagery, figurative language — play an important role in academic papers; through such techniques, we can make stories heard, we can move our listeners, and, hopefully, we can improve the world, bolstering oppressed voices and forming a more just future. Writing and story-telling are human traditions well-tested by time; they serve as vessels for elucidating and improving the human experience. I appreciate the library's dedication to making these essential practices more effective and accessible.

Given the nature of my project, I would like the library to more strongly emphasize and distribute the stories and art of the local community and cultural communities across the world; academic publications played an essential role in my research, but personal perspectives were equally as important. Contact with Lakelanders' stories of joy, community, art, suffering, and oppression urged me to fight for the beauty they contain. If more people are exposed to these histories, tangible change begins to take form.