

A PLACE TO BE

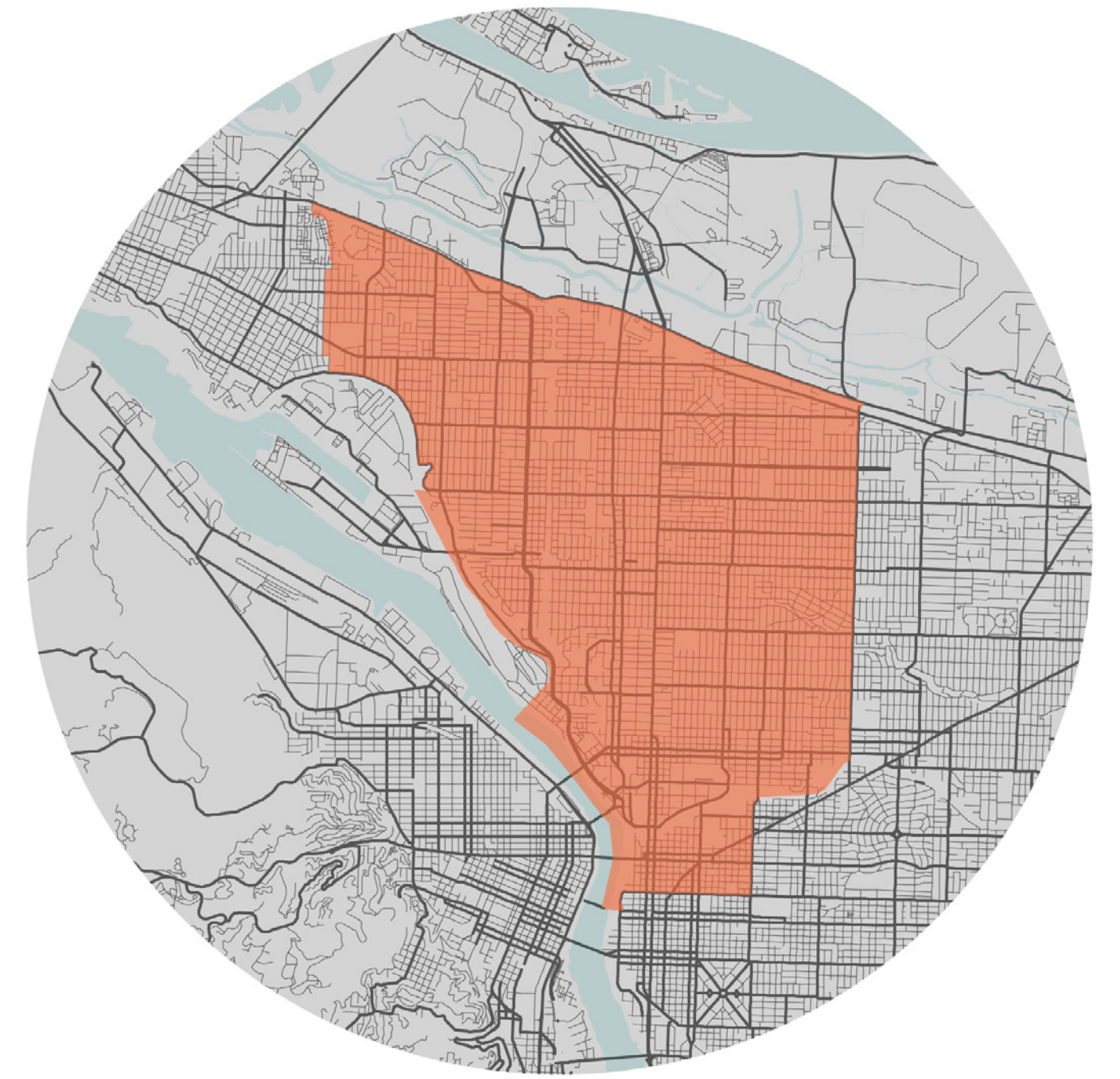
“...while many Black Portlanders appreciate the physical improvements associated with the recent neighborhood revitalization, they also lament the loss of community that has come with it.” Karen Gibson - “Bleeding Albina”

DISPLACEMENT IN NORTH PORTLAND

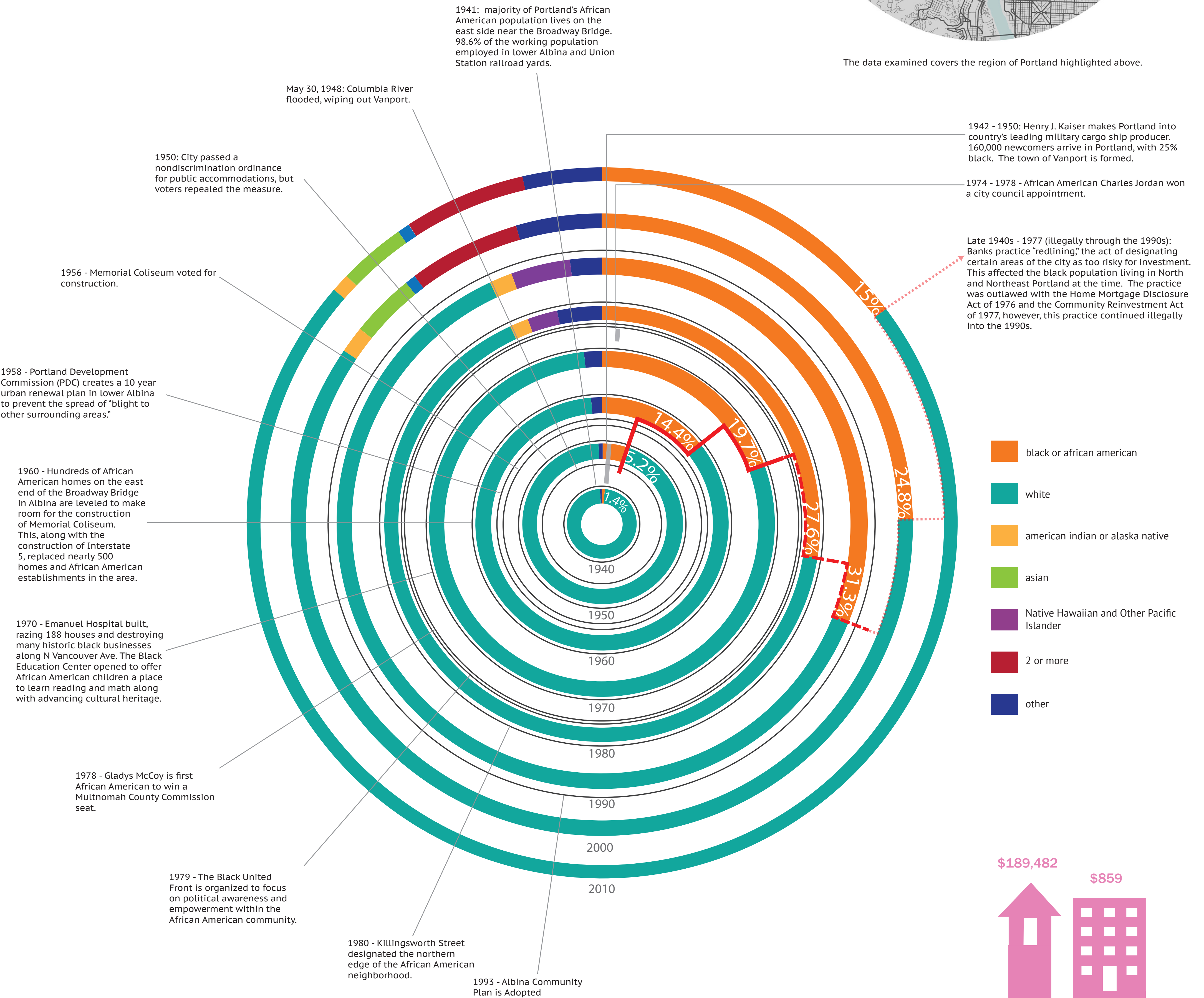
For much of the past half century, the black population of Portland has resided in neighborhoods north of the Broadway bridge. In neighborhoods like Boise, Eliot and Alberta, many African American households and businesses existed and thrived for decades. Over recent years, however, development in the region has outpriced many residents and businesses owners out from these neighborhoods. Gentrification has introduced outside investors to the region and broken down many communities in these neighborhoods, displacing its residents either to the outer boroughs or outside of the city altogether.

Whether it be through gentrification or red-lining, displacement has historically been an issue for Portland's black population. Through historical events and trends, neighborhoods in north Portland have seen dramatic changes in their diversity and typology.

The charts on this page examine the changes of these neighborhoods through census tract studies beginning in 1940. The study examines demographic changes along with important historical moments with the area. It also looks at issues of house and rental pricings over the years, as well as home ownership by race.



The data examined covers the region of Portland highlighted above.



1941: majority of Portland's African American population lives on the east side near the Broadway Bridge. 98.6% of the working population employed in lower Albina and Union Station railroad yards.

May 30, 1948: Columbia River flooded, wiping out Vanport.

1950: City passed a nondiscrimination ordinance for public accommodations, but voters repealed the measure.

1956 - Memorial Coliseum voted for construction.

1958 - Portland Development Commission (PDC) creates a 10 year urban renewal plan in lower Albina to prevent the spread of "blight to other surrounding areas."

1960 - Hundreds of African American homes on the east end of the Broadway Bridge in Albina are leveled to make room for the construction of Memorial Coliseum. This, along with the construction of Interstate 5, replaced nearly 500 homes and African American establishments in the area.

1970 - Emanuel Hospital built, razing 188 houses and destroying many historic black businesses along N Vancouver Ave. The Black Education Center opened to offer African American children a place to learn reading and math along with advancing cultural heritage.

1978 - Gladys McCoy is first African American to win a Multnomah County Commission seat.

1979 - The Black United Front is organized to focus on political awareness and empowerment within the African American community.

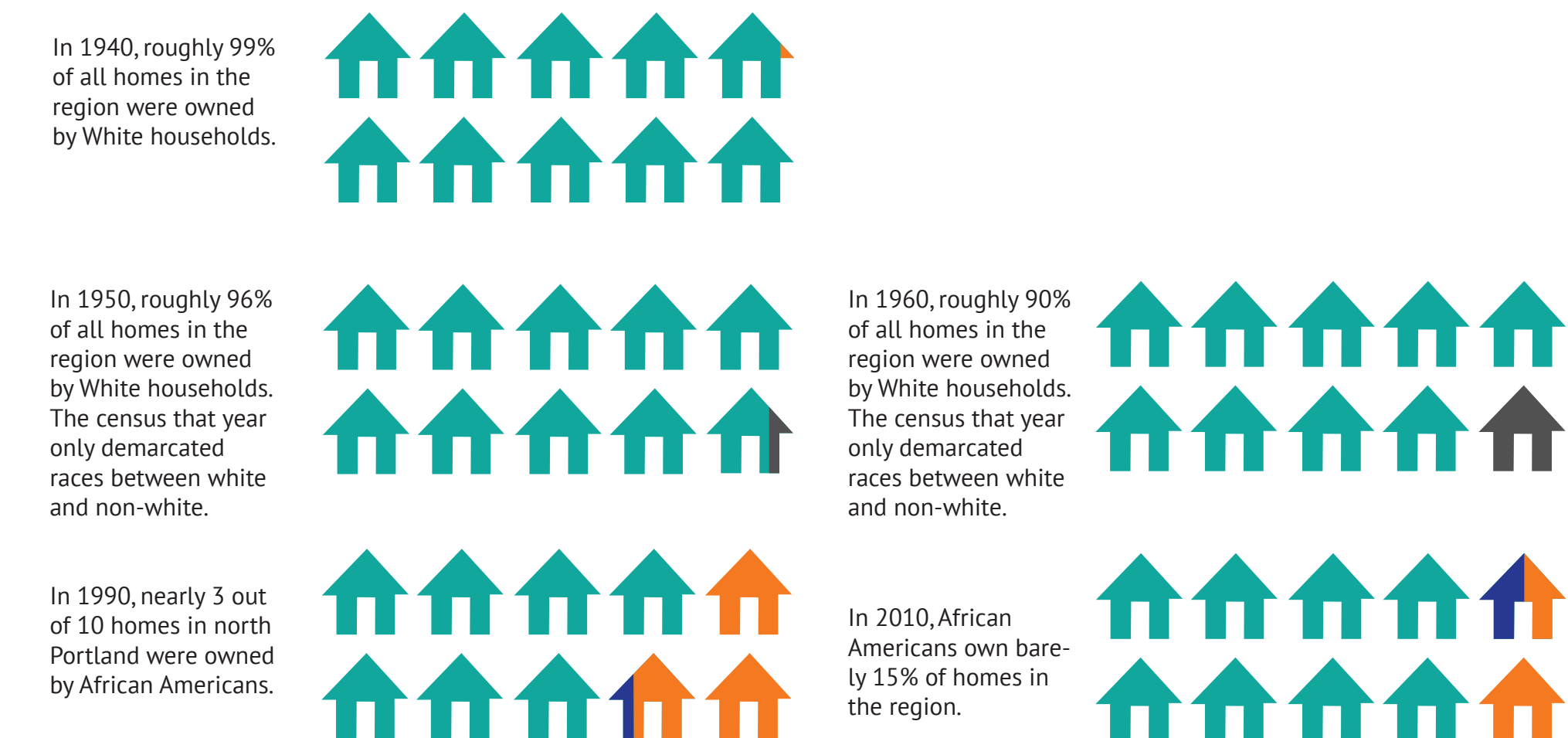
1980 - Killingsworth Street designated the northern edge of the African American neighborhood.

1993 - Albina Community Plan is Adopted

1942 - 1950: Henry J. Kaiser makes Portland into country's leading military cargo ship producer. 160,000 newcomers arrive in Portland, with 25% black. The town of Vanport is formed.

1974 - 1978 - African American Charles Jordan won a city council appointment.

Late 1940s - 1977 (illegally through the 1990s): Banks practice "redlining," the act of designating certain areas of the city as too risky for investment. This affected the black population living in North and Northeast Portland at the time. The practice was outlawed with the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1976 and the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, however, this practice continued illegally into the 1990s.



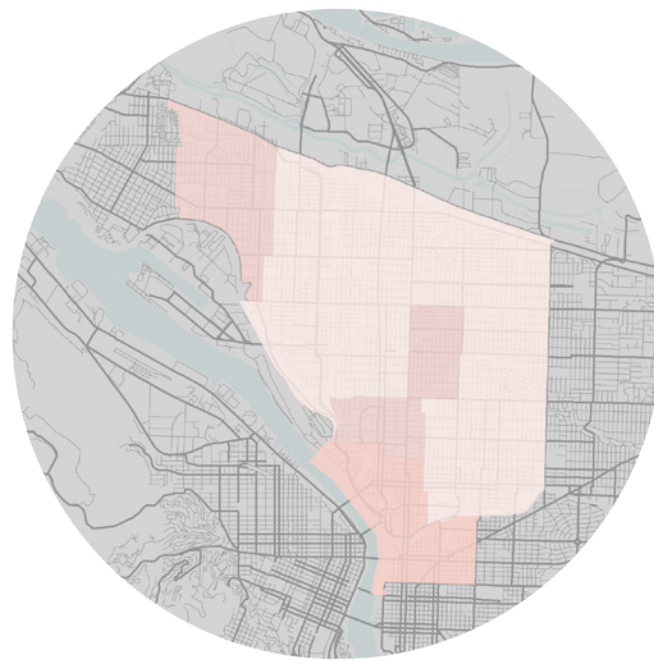
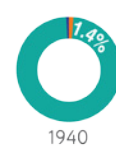
The above charts show the region's house ownership by race based on the census tracts between 1940 and 2010. There was not census tract data available in this category in 1970 and 1980.



Gibson, Karen J. "Bleeding Albina: A History of Community Disinvestment, 1940-2000." Gragg, Randy. "Black in Portland: 130 years of dislocation." Boyle, Indrani. "Measuring Gentrification in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area." Portland City Council. "The History of Portland's African American Community (1805 to the Present)." Census Data from Social Explorer (www.socialexplorer.com/explore/tables)

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1940

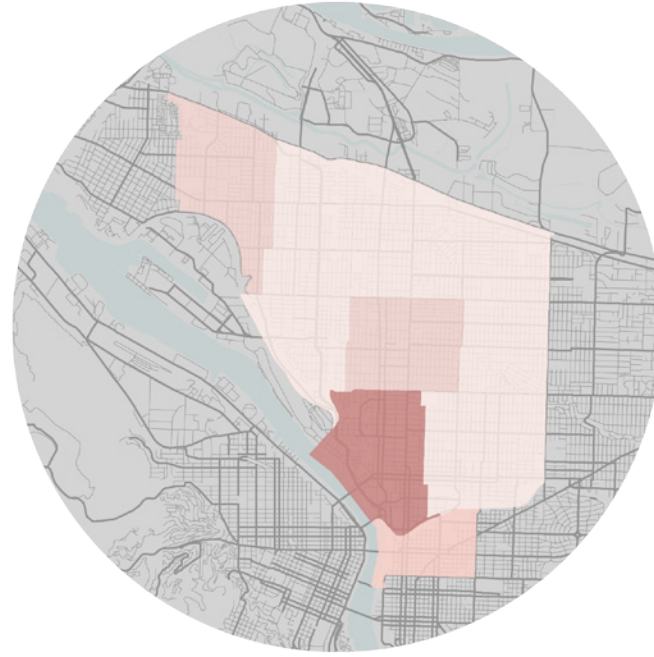
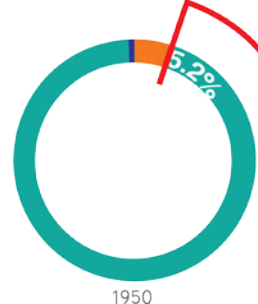


1940s - some store owners put posters outside their businesses to protest anti-black sentiment by other retailers



1948 - Vanport floods

1950

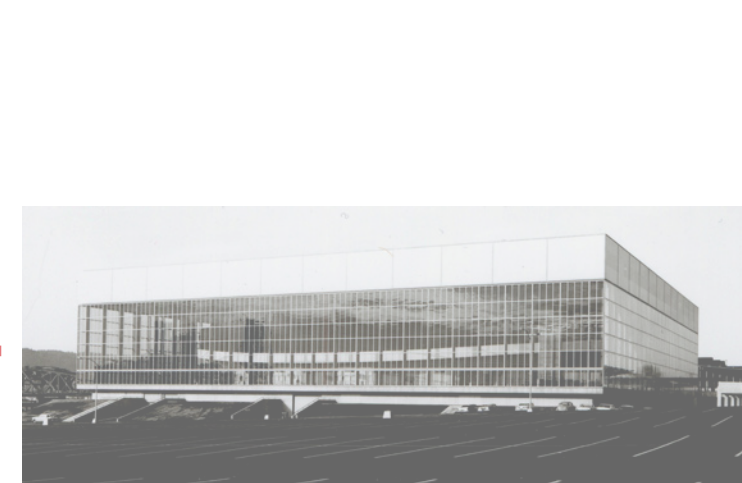
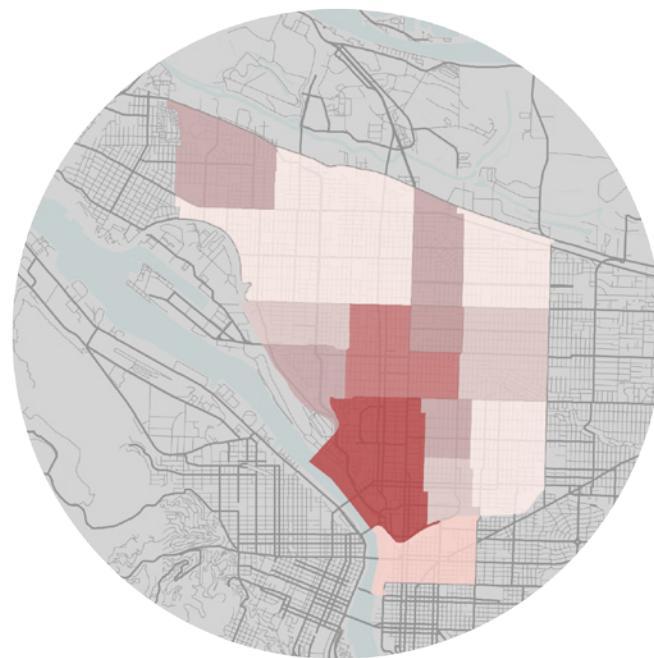
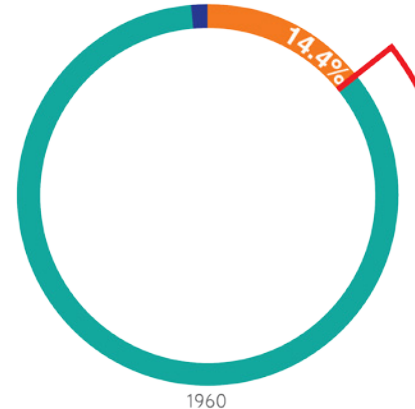


1950 - E. Shelton "Shelly" Hill worked with Rose City Transit to hire Portland's first nonwhite bus operators.



1959 - 125 homes and businesses were leveled to make way for Interstate 5.

1960

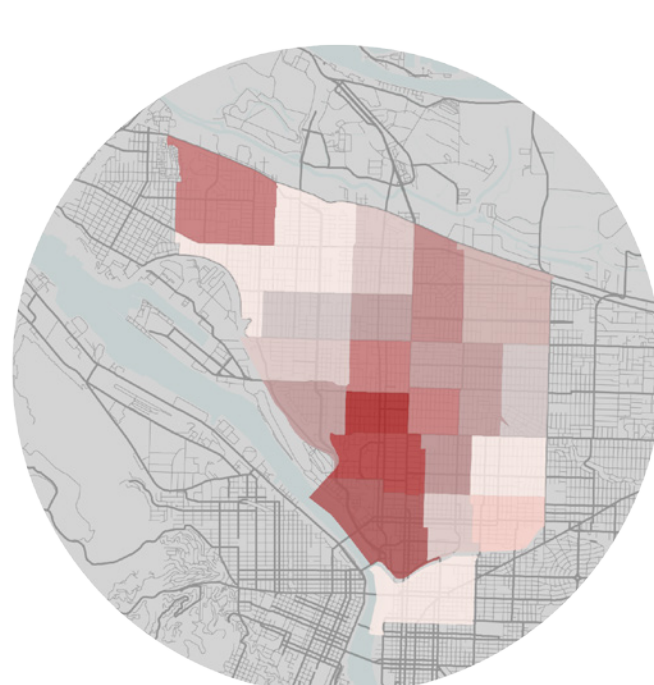


1960 - Memorial Coliseum completed



1966 - Planned riot occurs along Union Ave

1970

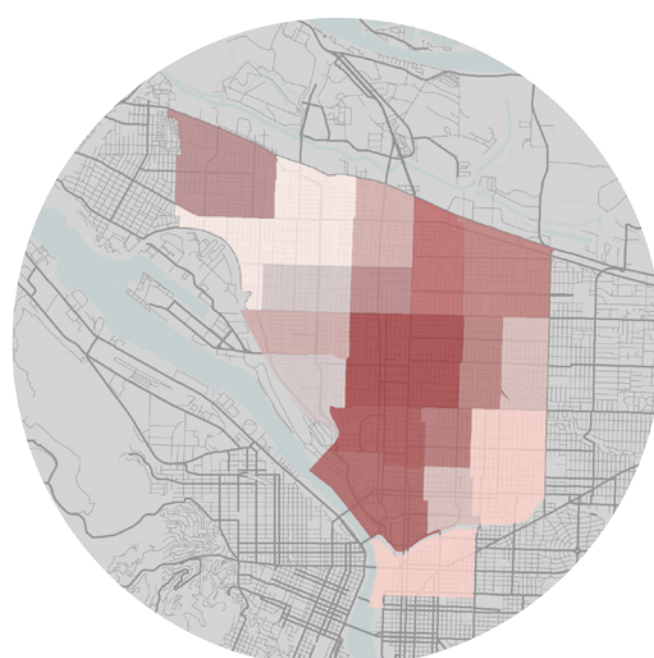
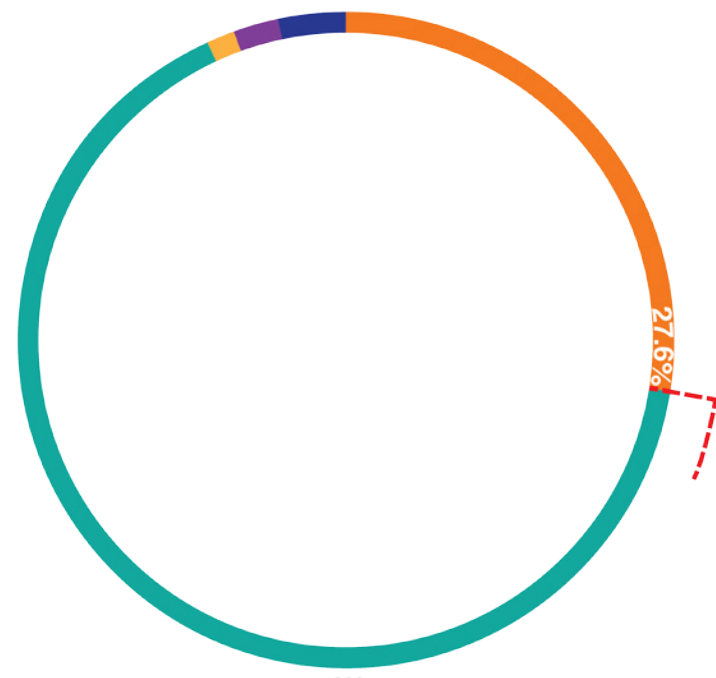


1970 - Emanuel Hospital built



1978 - Gladys McCoy is first African American to win a Multnomah County Commission seat.

1980

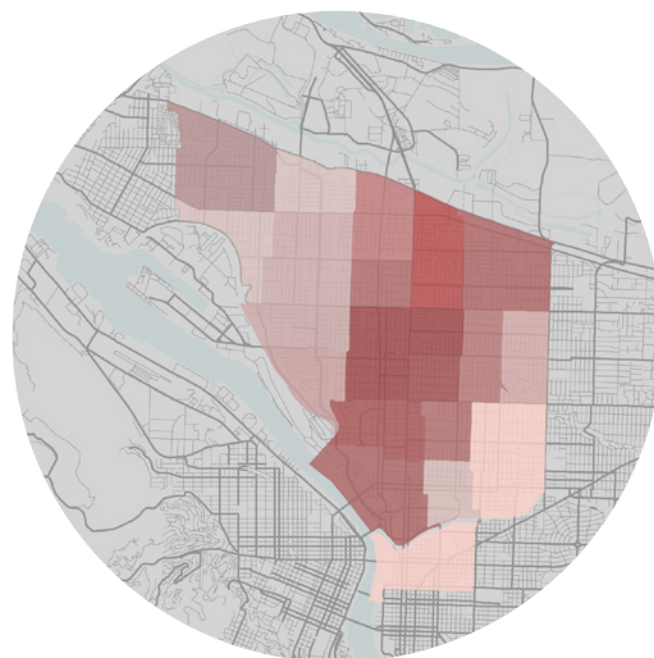
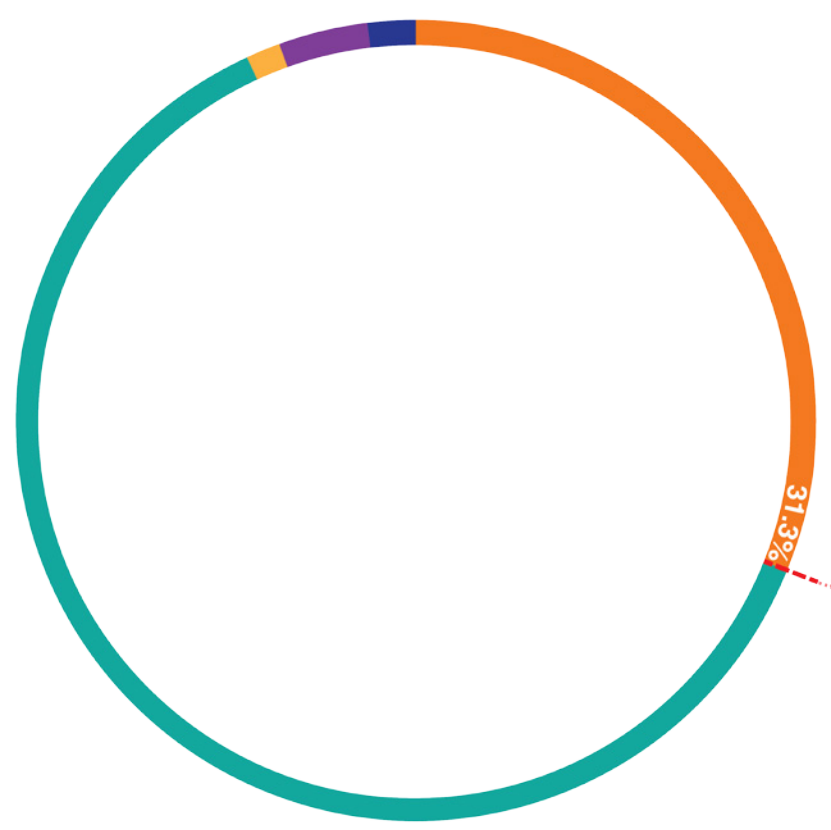


Late 1980s - Community efforts to decrease drug trafficking in north Portland



Late 1980s - Blueprint for a Slum series researched for the Oregonian, underlining practices of redlining within Portland.

1990

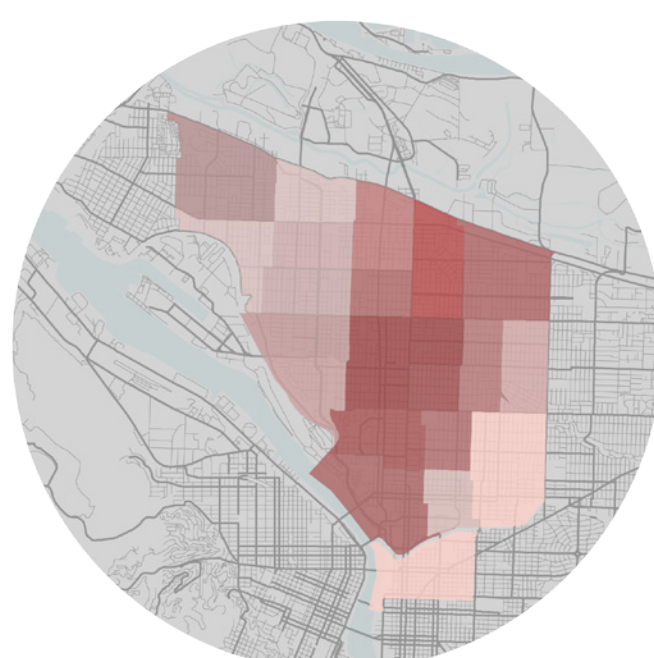
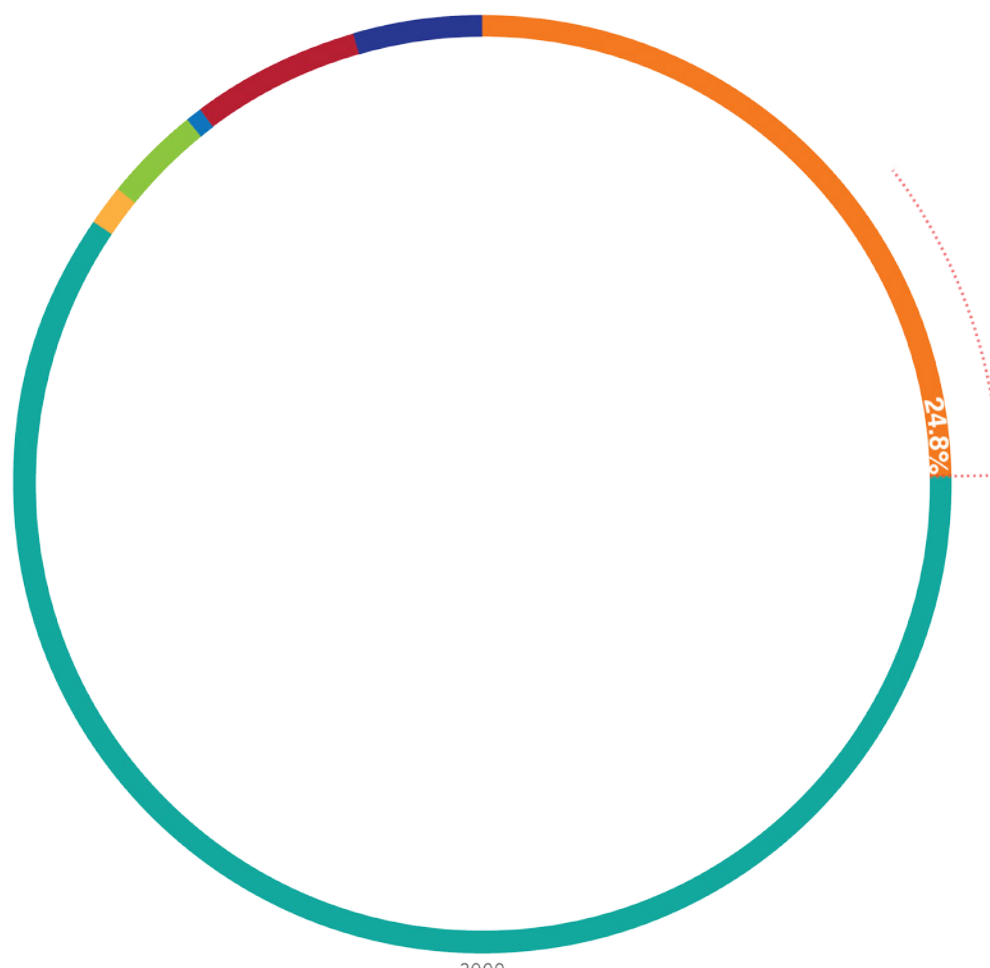


1990 - House of Umoja opens, a sanctuary for gang youths



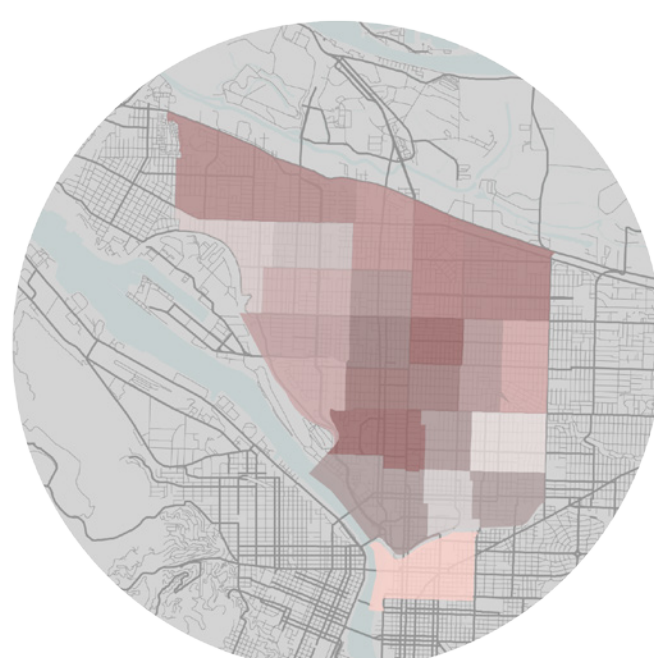
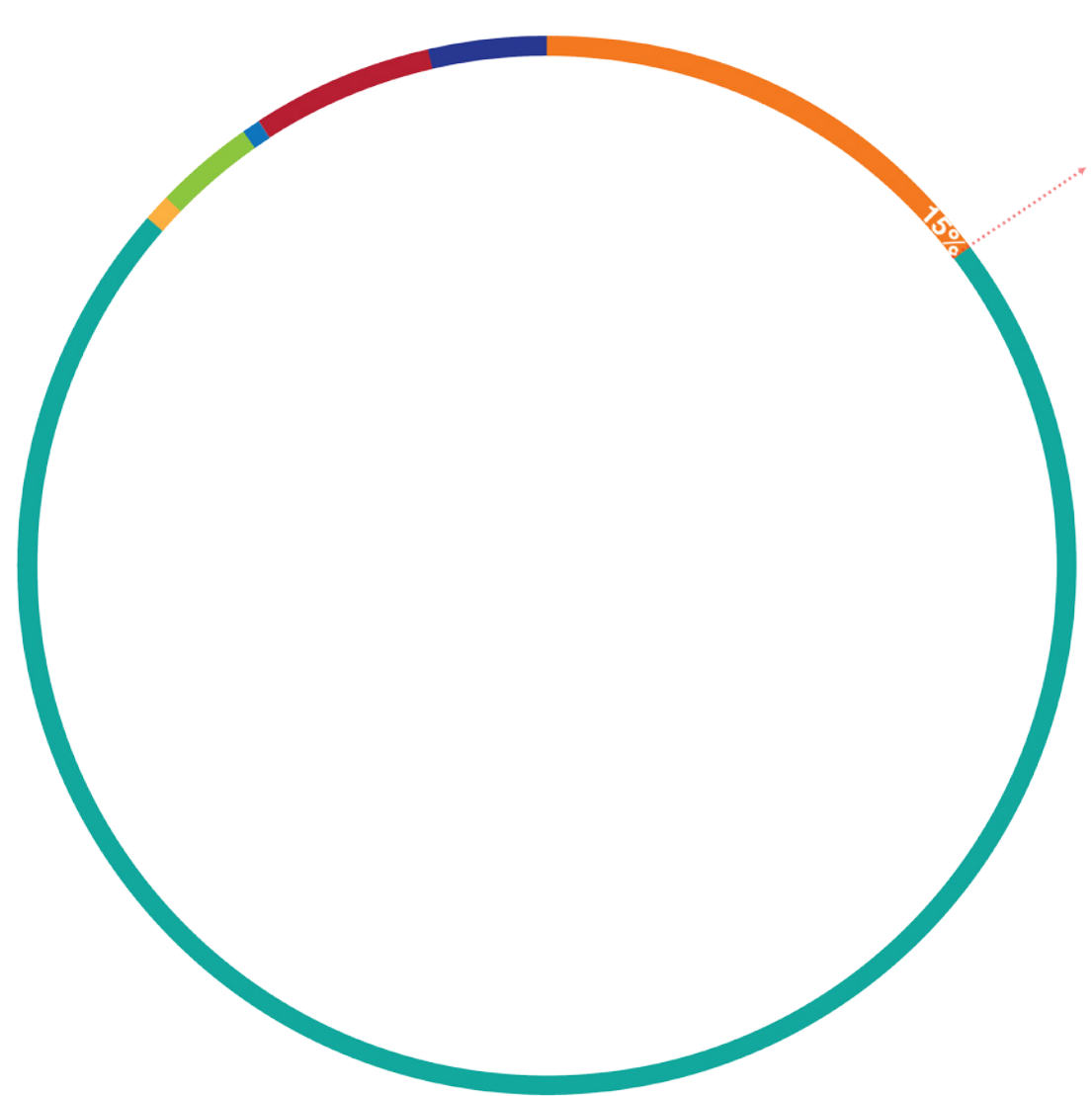
1995 - Rose Garden opens

2000



In the early 2000s, senators Margaret Carter, Avel Gordly, and Jackie Winters (in order left to right above) served in the Oregon State Legislature, pushing efforts of reform for African American communities in the state and ousting remaining anti-black legislation.

2010



Present day - In Other Words Feminist Community Center occupies the space of the area's once Albina Women's League. Many other once-black businesses and churches have become something completely different over the years.



Organizations such as Self Enhancement Incorporated continue to exist in North Portland as community establishments that empower African Americans within the community.