



National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities

What we're thinking about lately

The team at the National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities (NIMC) recently collaborated on a working definition of anti-racism based on the work of Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Anti-Racist*.

This effort resulted in the definition below, which will underscore our work individually and collectively.

Anti-racism is the practice of dismantling White supremacy and racism through deliberate action. It is an essential antidote to the pervasive racist thoughts and behaviors that influence all of us on a daily basis. Anti-racism involves intentional efforts to seek to reduce and ultimately eliminate the harmful effects of racism in our society for all people.

There are no neutral actions—actions are either racist or anti-racist; if they are not intentionally anti-racist, then they are perpetuating a racist status quo.

Some questions we're asking ourselves:

- How does the anti-racism lens change how I participate in and show up within NIMC?
- What would it mean to apply that concept to my everyday work starting this week?
- What would it mean to apply that concept to what we do together at NIMC?
- How does the anti-racism lens change how I participate in and show up within NIMC?
- What are some anti-racism action steps we need to take as a team?
- What skills do we need to add to our toolbox?

Who inspires us



Ibram X. Kendi, activist and founder of the Center for Anti-racist Research, will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming [1619 Education Conference, Feb. 18-19](#). Kendi is credited with pioneering a movement to define anti-racism and make it accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds.

This free webinar conference invites educators across the U.S. to engage their students with the themes of *The 1619 Project* and to connect with a community of educators committed to helping students better understand the role of Black people in shaping American society and the legacies of slavery that still exist today.



What we're listening to (in case you missed it!): *Bending the Arc* podcast

Episode 13: [Matthew Martin and LC Johnson](#)

Join us for an in-depth exploration into the work of one neighborhood as it transitions to a more socially and economically mixed community. Guests Matthew Martin and LC Johnson are residents and change agents in Weinland Park in Columbus, Ohio, a neighborhood that has been on a mixed-income journey for the last 20 years. Weinland

Park is experiencing a complete revitalization from decades of neglect and disinvestment to now being one of the most intentionally cultivated mixed-income neighborhoods in the country. Matt, along with co-authors Kip Holley and Steve Sterrett, contributed an [essay on Weinland Park](#) to our [What Works](#) edited volume on inclusive and equitable community building.

What we're reading



[“Structural Racism Explained”](#) by the Othering & Belonging Institute

This video and teaching guide were developed by Stephen Medendian as a curriculum for educators to clarify the terms we use while building more equitable and just schools and communities.

[Systemic Racism 101: A Visual History of the Impact of Racism in America](#)

This piece was written by our colleagues at Living Cities in collaboration with historian Aminah Pilgram, PhD. The authors break down concepts of systemic racism, starting with Columbus' arrival in 1492 to the Black Lives Matter movement. This book offers historical overviews, infographics and more to help you uncover the history behind systemic racism and learn tactics to close racial wealth gaps. Breaking down the complicated, dense and difficult history of societal, economic and political oppression, this book calls out the harms over the past 500 years and gives the insight needed for steps forward.



Worth celebrating

On Friday, Jan. 27, community leaders celebrated the groundbreaking for construction on Phase II of the Woodhill Homes project in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and City of Cleveland a \$35 million Choice Neighborhoods Initiative grant in 2021. Construction is already well underway on the first phase of construction nearby, with 120 households expected to be moving in this time next year.

Marilyn Burns (second from right in the photo) has lived in the Buckeye-Woodhill community for more than two decades and says this project is a long time coming. “We need a positive change. We need to beautify and enhance our neighborhoods to bring some fresh light into our area.”

The initiative includes the demolition of the existing Woodhill Homes estates, construction of 638 new housing units as well as a home repair program, retail stores, recreation, and an early childhood education center for the neighborhood. NIMC has served in a central coordinating role for the initiative, working to align stakeholders and put into daily practice the resident-centered creed.

[Learn more about the project in this story by *Cleveland 19 News*.](#)

Have colleagues or friends who would benefit from our newsletter?

Encourage them to sign up today!

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10900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7164
216.368.2290 | mandelschoolnews@case.edu