

### **Segregation by Design: Conversations for Action and Collected Essays**

**Proposal Statement:** This grant proposal seeks funding to support research that will explicate and document a collection of conversations on American Apartheid that will result in a publication. The book of the research team will highlight the role of planning and design in bringing about segregation and to suggest potential mitigation strategies. These conversations are the result of a series of gatherings – Segregation by Design, Bring Your Own Idea (BYOI), funded by the Office of the Provost – that were hosted at Washington University in St. Louis between June and December 2015. The gatherings were strategically planned to support the development of curricula for the course “Segregation by Design: A Historical Analysis of the Impact of Planning and Policy in St. Louis”, funded by The Divided City Initiative (DCI) – A Mellon Foundation Initiative. Participants in these conversations included not only faculty and administration from several of the schools at Washington University, but from most of the higher-education institutions in the region – such as Harris-Stowe University, St. Louis University, UMSL, SIUE, and Lindenwood University. Simultaneously, the conversations involved key stakeholders from governmental institutions (City of Ferguson, City of Berkeley, and East-West Gateway) and non-profit organizations (Beloved Streets of America, the Missouri Historical Society and the Creative Exchange Lab). As a result of the unique mix of participants, the conversations were exceptional. While the transcripts can stand on their own merit as a powerful resource tool for area researchers on segregation, in order to become publishable, the conversations need to be curated. We intend to conduct additional research that will assist in the editing and annotating of the conversations with archival and spatial data. It is for this research that we are seeking funding.

The working title of our proposed book is *Conversations for Action and Collected Essays*. The book will be divided into two major parts: i. reflective essays on race and American Apartheid by national scholars and activists (Eric Mumford, Kenneth Jolly, Joseph Heathcoth, Leslie Brown, and Cissy Lacks) and ii. edited and annotated conversations with introductions by local scholars and non academic actors for each conversation session (Bob Hansman, Jonathan Smith, Priscilla Dowden, Andrea Boyles, Reynaldo Anderson, Rosalind Williams, Jasmine Aber, and Sylvester Brown). Photographs from Cissy Lacks will illustrate the cultural divide.

*Conversations for Action and Collected Essays* is intended to serve both as a call for action and as a resource for current and future leaders in remedying racial and economic disparities in our cities. By bringing together and recording these enlightening conversations, we see our book as a vital tool for achieving sustainable urbanism. By using these conversations as documentation of the causes and consequences of segregation, the book will be a road map in what needs to be done to achieve social justice and equality. It will explore the question whether the ultimate goal should be integration or should it be inclusiveness and equity. It will attempt to look at these questions both from a historical perspective, while at the same time considering the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability. We envision the book as a catalyst in promoting projects and initiatives in St. Louis, as well as other cities, that will lead to collaborations between academic and non-academic leaders from different fields.

**Objectives:** We propose to: i. to curate a series of transdisciplinary round table conversations on the role of planning and design in enabling segregation by editing the conversations and providing robust annotations to them (census data, maps, diagrams, references, etc); ii. to invite the essayists to continue these conversations through a panel at the St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO), Regional Neighborhood Conference involving both the academic and non-academic actors; and iii. to publicize this publication through matching

funding from the Olin Library that will allow our team to curate an exhibition on Lack’s work “City Walk... Street Talk”, with quotes from the conversations and selected graphic information. **Intellectual underpinnings:** Segregation as a consequence of design has been widely debated by scholars from architecture and urban studies to environmental policy and planning. Recent events in Ferguson, Baltimore and Charleston, and New York have demonstrated the urgency of propelling this debate forward into action. As *The New York Times* recently noted, “Fifty years after the creation of the Department of Housing and Urban Development – and nearly that long after the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 – the fight against the interlinked scourges of housing discrimination and racial segregation in America is far from finished. Economic isolation is actually worse across the country, as more and more minority families find themselves trapped in high-poverty neighborhoods without decent housing, schools or jobs, and with few avenues to escape.”<sup>1</sup> But while most of the actions and policies that have institutionalized segregation have been amply discussed, this debate has been conducted without a frank examination of what the ultimate goal of desegregation should be. For too long, scholars have assumed that integration is the desired objective for all African Americans. Moreover, what these conversations suggest is that many African Americans seek an urban world characterized by inclusiveness and diversity rather than integration. That for them the real aim is to achieve a just and equitable city. As Alan Mallach has observed, “a city cannot be a successful city without a strong economy, without strong neighborhoods, and without a diverse, productive population with opportunities to improve their lives. The last, after all, was – and should still be – the traditional promise of the city.”<sup>2</sup> The issue is, therefore, how can this be accomplished? Without answers to these questions, ill-informed policy decisions are perpetuated which only further entrenches racial, cultural, physical and socio-economic segregation.

**Outcomes:** We are currently in conversations with a university press and other publishers to publish the conversations and collected essays. In addition, we are hoping to publicized the book through a panel discussion at the 2016 SLACO Conference to be held in St. Louis. The intent of this session is to continue the conversations initiated in BYOI and documented in our book proposal with the St. Louis community. Last, we plan an exhibition that will feature Cissy Lack’s work “City Walk... Street Talk”, which will be accompanied by quotes from the conversations and other selected graphic information. The exhibition is expected to open by the end of Fall 2017. This exhibition will synthesize the spirit under which this research has been conducted.

**Project Timeline:**

S15	Su15	F15	S16	Su16	F16	S17	Su17
DCI Segregation by Design Research							
BYOI Lunch series							
Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities: Omnium II (WashU)							
DCI. Joseph Heathcott Lecture							
SLACO conference panel (HSSU)							
Voices & Visions of St Louis panel (GSD)							
<b>FASF. Submission of Essays by Authors</b>							
<b>Segregation by Design Seminar</b>							
<b>FASF Editing of BYOI Conversations.</b>							

<sup>1</sup> Sulzberger, A. O. J. (2015, September 6) The Architecture of Segregation, *The New York Times*, pp. 8.

<sup>2</sup> Mallach, A. (2012). *Rebuilding America's Legacy Cities: New Directions for the Industrial Heartland*. New York, NY: Columbia University, The American Assembly.

	<b>FASF SLACO Panel: Mumford, Jolly, Brown &amp; Lacks</b>
	<b>FASF. Book proposal submission to publisher</b>
	<b>FASF. Editing of Essays</b>
	<b>Exhibition opening</b>
	<b>FASF Book submission to publisher</b>

**Collaboration:** Our book proposal, *Conversations for Action and Collected Essays*, is the result of research produced by Freixas and Abbott under two recently awarded academic research grants. The research conducted not only bridges humanities and architecture through transdisciplinary coursework, but also is intended to activate both universities’ roles within the community, building on the service-learning methodology traditional of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). HSSU and its network in the African-American community has been instrumental in drawing important African-American stakeholders to the BYOI luncheons and the on-going conversations this fall. The relationship with HSSU is key in bringing the book proposal to fruition, as well as making the *Segregation by Design* seminar a success and using it as a springboard to bring about change in St. Louis. Moreover, the Public Relations Department at HSSU will be pivotal in ensuring that the book receives adequate marketing and distribution among St. Louis’ African-American.

On result of the partnership between HSSU and WashU is that it has attracted Joseph Heathcott – the Mellon Distinguished Fellow in Architecture and the Humanities 2016, to the project. Last fall, Heathcott presented, “More Menacing than Fire and the Elements: Race, Neighborhood and Planning in the Twentieth Century” as part of the 2016-2017 Sam Fox lecture series. In addition, Heathcott joined Freixas in a panel discussion on race and community relations as part of the concluding keynote session at the 2015 SLACO Regional Neighborhood Conference held at HSSU.

Funding from FASF will enable the research team to expand the collaboration with key actors on the topic of segregation. We have invited Eric Mumford, Prof. of Architecture, Washington University; Kenneth Jolly, Prof. of History, Saginaw Valley State University; Leslie Brown, Assoc. Prof. of History, William College; and Cissy Lacks, activist and independent scholar, to contribute to our research efforts because of their previous research on segregation, in particular issues revolving around St. Louis. Jolly’s book *Black Liberation in the Midwest: The Struggle in St. Louis, Missouri, 1964-1970* addresses the city of St. Louis and the Black liberation struggle, while Brown is currently working on a book about the black life in the segregated south. Lacks’ photograph collection “City Walk... Stree Talk” captures images of cultural and social order, giving a major visual contribution to portrait the reality discussed throughout the pages of the proposed book.

In addition, the edited conversations will be introduced by local scholars and non-academic actors that participated in the BYOI gatherings during the summer and fall of 2015. These commentators include: Robert Hansman, Assoc. Prof. of Architecture, Washington University; Jonathan Smith, Assist. Prof. of African American Studies and Special Assist. to the President for Diversity and Community Engagement, St. Louis University; Priscilla Dowden, Assoc. Prof. of History, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Rosalind Williams, City of Ferguson, Director of Planning City of Ferguson; Jasmine Aber, Executive Director of the Creative Exchange Lab; and Sylvester Brown, Executive Director of Sweet Potato Project and former columnist for the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.

**Ferguson Academic Seed Fund**  
**Grant Application Project Member & Invited Scholar Bio Sketch Form**

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Please complete an electronic copy of this for each member of your project team and for each invited scholar. You will be required to upload completed bio sketch forms on the grant application page. You may collate forms into a single document for ease of submission.

Invited Scholar:  Team Member:  Both:

Team Member count: 1.00 of 4.00

**TITLE:** Segregation by Design: Conversations for Action and Collected Essays

**FIRST NAME:** Catalina

**LAST NAME:** Freixas

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** freixas@wustl.edu

**WEBPAGE:**

**AFFILIATE INSTITUTION (s):**

Washington University in St. Louis

**SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (200 WORDS OR LESS):**

Catalina Freixas is a practicing architect from Argentina who has practiced and taught in the United States for over 13 years. Freixas' research has focused on sustainability assessment and brings an experienced design perspective to both her research and methods with a focus on clear, accessible, and visually rich communication strategies. Through her writings, Freixas has redefined the phenomena of post-industrial cities as metamorphic cities, metropolises that take on transformation through eco-urbanism, advocating a shift from conventional planning goals of economic and population growth to environmental sustainability and increased quality of life. Through her research, Freixas attempts to create a new set of metrics to evaluate shrinking cities through the lens of triple bottom line sustainability. Freixas was a co-recipient of a grant through The Divided City – a Mellon Foundation Humanities Initiative under the topic of Segregation by Design. The grant has advanced her research on the impact of the imbalance of Triple Bottom Line Sustainability in the current environmental socio-economic situation. It is expected that the findings will promote sustainable wellbeing and guide policymaking. She continues to devote herself to promoting sustainability via her research, teaching and practice drawing on her unique multicultural and multinational perspectives of the city.

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Invited Scholar:  Team Member:  Both:

Team Member count: 2 of 4

**TITLE:** Segregation by Design: Conversations for Action and Collected Essays

**FIRST NAME:** Mark

**LAST NAME:** Abbott

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** abbottm@hssu.edu

**WEBPAGE:**

**AFFILIATE INSTITUTION (S):**

Harris-Stowe State University

**SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (200 WORDS OR LESS):**

Mark Abbott is a Professor of History at Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU), a HBCU located in Midtown St. Louis. In addition to teaching courses in History and Urban Studies, Professor Abbott is the Director of the HSSU Center for Neighborhood Affairs, an institute that provides technical assistance to under-served community based organizations in Metropolitan St. Louis. His research interests include History of St. Louis and the History of Urban Planning. He is currently working on an intellectual biography of the noted 20th Century St. Louis urban planner, Harland Bartholomew.

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Invited Scholar:  Team Member:  Both:

Team Member count: 3.00 of 4.00

**TITLE:** Segregation by Design: Conversations for Action and Collected Essays

**FIRST NAME:** Leslie

**LAST NAME:** Brown

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** lb1@williams.edu

**WEBPAGE:**

**AFFILIATE INSTITUTION (S):**

Williams College

**SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (200 WORDS OR LESS):**

Leslie Brown is the author of *Upbuilding Black Durham: Gender, Class, and Black Community Development in the Urban South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008), winner of the 2009 Frederick Jackson Turner Prize from the Organization of American Historians for the best book in U.S. History written by a first time author. With Anne Valk (Brown University), she edited *Living With Jim Crow: African American Women and Memories of the Jim Crow South* (New York: MacMillan, 2010), which in 2011 received the Oral History Association's Biennial Book Award. Her newest publication, a collection of primary source documents, *African American Voices: From Emancipation to the Present* (London: John Wiley), will be available late fall 2013. Brown is also co-editing (with Leslie Harris, Emory University) the Oxford University Press *Handbook of African American History*, projected to go online to accompany the opening of the Smithsonian Museum of African American History. Her current projects focus on gender and migration, urban race relations, and teaching across the color line.

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Invited Scholar:  \_\_\_\_\_ Team Member:  \_\_\_\_\_ Both:  \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member count: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE:** Associate Professor of Urban Studies

**FIRST NAME:** Joseph

**LAST NAME:** Heathcott

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** jheathcott@gmail.com

**WEBPAGE:** <http://tinyurl.com/zwcuj7f>

**AFFILIATE INSTITUTION (s):**

The New School, New York, NY.

**SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (200 WORDS OR LESS):**

Joseph Heathcott is an Associate Professor of Urban Studies at The New School in New York, where he teaches in the School for Public Engagement and Parsons School of Design. Prior to that he taught at Saint Louis University and at Washington University. He is past president of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Planning Association. His work on St. Louis has appeared in a wide range of venues, including journals, magazines, edited volumes, and exhibits. His research on Pruitt-Igoe led to an exhibit titled "Vertical City" installed at The Sheldon Galleries and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and informed the documentary film "The Pruitt-Igoe Myth," in which he also appears. With Angela Dietz he co-authored the book *Capturing the City: Photographs from the Streets of St. Louis, 1900-1930* (Missouri Historical Society Press, 2016).

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Team Member count: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE:** Professor

**FIRST NAME:** Kenneth

**LAST NAME:** Jolly

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** kjolly@svsu.edu

**WEBPAGE:**

**AFFILIATE INSTITUTION (s):**

Saginaw Valley State University

**SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (200 WORDS OR LESS):**

Kenneth Jolly is a Professor of History and Coordinator for Black Studies at Saginaw Valley State University where he teaches courses in African American history, Africana Studies, the African Diaspora, and U.S. History. Jolly's book *Black Liberation in the Midwest: The Struggle in St. Louis, Missouri, 1964-1970* was published by Routledge in 2006 as part of the African American History and Culture series. In 2013 Jolly's book *By Our Own Strength: William Sherrill, the UNIA and the Fight for African American Self-Determination in Detroit* was published by Peter Lang Academic Publishing Group as part of the Black Studies and Critical Thinking series. His articles and reviews have appeared in edited collections and journals such as *The Journal for the Study of Radicalism* and *The Journal of American History*. He has also presented his research at numerous national conferences and invited talks.

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Invited Scholar:  \_\_\_\_\_ Team Member:  \_\_\_\_\_ Both:  \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member count: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE:** Rebecca and John Voyles Professor of Architecture

**FIRST NAME:** Eric

**LAST NAME:** Mumford

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** epm@wustl.edu

**WEBPAGE:**

**AFFILIATE INSTITUTION (s):**

Faculty Scholar, Washington University Institute of Public Health

**SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (200 WORDS OR LESS):**

Eric Paul Mumford, PhD, is Rebecca and John Voyles Professor of Architecture in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, Washington University in St Louis. He also holds courtesy appointments in the departments of Art History and in History, and is a faculty scholar at the Institute of Public Health. Mumford is the author of *The CIAM Discourse on Urbanism, 1928-1960* (MIT Press, 2000), the only book-length history of the International Congresses for Modern Architecture, and *Defining Urban Design* (Yale University Press, 2009). He is also the editor and co-author of *Modern Architecture in St Louis* (St Louis, 2004); *The Writings of Josep Lluís Sert* (Yale University Press, 2015) and the co-author, with Hashim Sarkis, of *Josep Lluís Sert: the architect of urban design* (Yale University Press, 2008). In 2014 he received a Mellon Foundation Urban Humanities grant at Washington University for a collaborative exhibition project at the Missouri History Museum, St Louis, *Visualizing Urban History: the Mill Creek Valley*. He has lectured widely nationally and internationally, and in 2013 was a Fulbright Specialist in urban planning at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima. Mumford is a 1980 graduate of Harvard College, taught as a Visiting Associate Professor of Art History at Harvard in 2004, and was chair of the Harvard Graduate School of Design Visiting Committee from 2010-14.