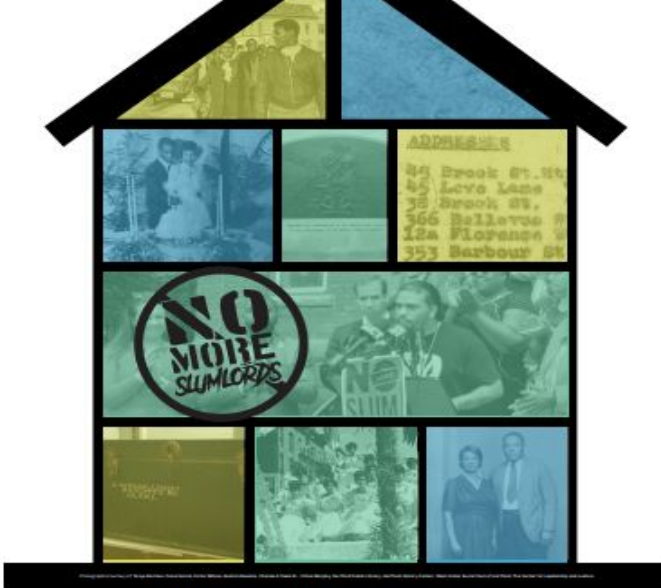

Teaching Resource on
HARTFORD HOUSING
1940-2019

Dr Fiona Vernal, UCONN
History & Africana Studies
fiona.vernal@uconn.edu



ADDRESSES

44 Brook St. 1940
45 Love Lane
38 Brook St.
566 Bellevue St.
12a Florence St.
353 Harbour St.

NO
MORE
SLUMLORDS

**AFRICAN AMERICAN,
& PUERTO RICAN,
WEST INDIAN**
HOUSING STRUGGLES
IN HARTFORD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

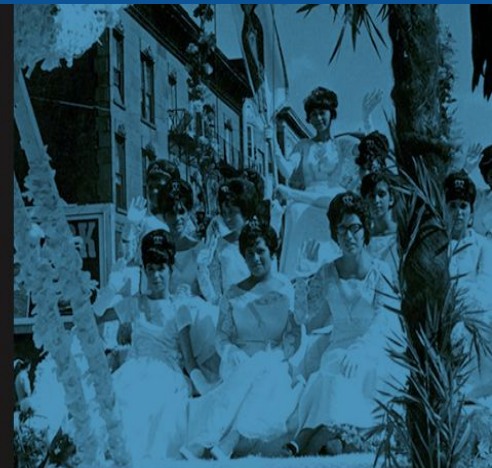
1940 - 2019



HARTFORD



BOUND



The story of [NAACP](#), [SCLC](#), and [CORE](#) in Hartford

By [Fiona Vernal](#) and [James Kolb](#)

HARTFORD, POVERTY & PLENTY:

1900 - 1950

“

I see one-third of a nation
ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Second Inaugural Address on January 20, 1937

The housing and economic crisis that riveted FDR's administration was part of a long boom and bust cycle that had transformed major American cities from the turn of the century until the Great Depression. Like many industrial cities in the Northeast, Hartford has been home to a succession of immigrant communities, in search of employment, asylum, and a better life. The city's population doubled between 1900 and 1930 from 79,860 to 164,072 as European immigrants from Southern and Eastern European jostled alongside local-born residents to make a new life. They were joined by African Americans also making their way to manufacturing and agricultural centers that could offer better jobs than those found at home and seeking refuge from discriminatory laws and racial violence.

By 1940 the majority of Hartford's foreign-born population claimed Italian, Polish, Russian, and Irish ancestry while the Great Migration deposited a significant number of African Americans from Georgia. The city could boast of 45 insurance companies, a robust manufacturing sector, and a boutique shade tobacco industry competing for white collar and blue collar workers. Yet major segments of Hartford's population benefitted unevenly from this cycle and these rapid population shifts created significant challenges in housing the steady stream of new residents. Hartford's tenement housing burst at the seams. Slum clearance, urban renewal, and public housing emerged as major policy interventions to save Hartford and many other industrial centers.

When West Indians, Puerto Ricans, and African Americans joined the labor stream, Connecticut had represented many things: a relocation to the mainland, to the North or to "foreign," as West Indian termed overseas territories. With new job opportunities came challenging neighborhoods with overcrowding, high rents, dilapidated houses, and absentee landlords.

Products Manufactured

Typewriters, precision machines, tools, trunks, revolvers, machine guns, dish washing machines, coasting devices, power transmission chains, vacuum systems, chucks, castings, electrical equipment and supplies, turbine and marine engines, special machinery, drop forgings, telephone equipment, horsehoes, auto massive radiators and parts, screws, electric refrigerating machines, porcelain, plumbing and heating supplies, sewing machines, gold beating, steam turbines.

Source: Greater Hartford Districts, Vol. 1, 1988, pp. 222-223, Center for Urban and Regional Studies



Hartford

1900 → **1930**

79,860 → **164,072**

PUERTO RICAN SETTLEMENT

Between 1950 and 1960, 470,000 people, or approximately one-fifth of Puerto Rico's population, relocated to the United States.

New York attracted the vast majority of these sojourners who settled in manufacturing, service, maintenance, and domestic jobs. Like other ethnic groups before and in concert with them, Puerto Ricans sought better economic opportunities in their cities of first entry before moving out to nearby cities like Philadelphia, Chicago, Bridgeport and Hartford, to join family or pursue other opportunities.

The Jones Act of 1917 granted Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship making relocation to the mainland far easier in principle than other groups impacted by the restrictive immigration policies that closed US borders for the next four decades. Yet farm labor programs offering employment also played an important role in facilitating the initial transportation to the United States. These programs recruited 421,238 Puerto Ricans workers between 1948 and 1990, the second largest mobilization of seasonal laborers after the Mexican Bracero program.

Connecticut's shade tobacco industry was one of the sectors that attracted Puerto Ricans to the Hartford area. Like other migrants however, seasonal work was a temporary strategy. Once settled in Hartford, the manufacturing and service sectors absorbed Puerto Rican workers. Despite U.S. citizenship, Puerto Ricans faced discrimination in housing, employment, and the provision of equal educational services. Whatever the actual level of English language proficiency, an accent—any accent—was an instant marker of outsider status and a sensitive filter for the daily interactions of new migrants. Social service agencies that could help them settle in the local area often had no bilingual services; Catholic Churches that served as an important spiritual home sometimes held services in the basement or did not offer mass in Spanish. Schools proved ill-equipped and sometimes neglectful in addressing the demographic changes unfolding their midst. Bilingual education became one of the touchstones of Puerto Rican civil rights activism in Hartford and across the United States.

Source: Hartford Courant © November 1955

Committee Considers Puerto Rican Problems

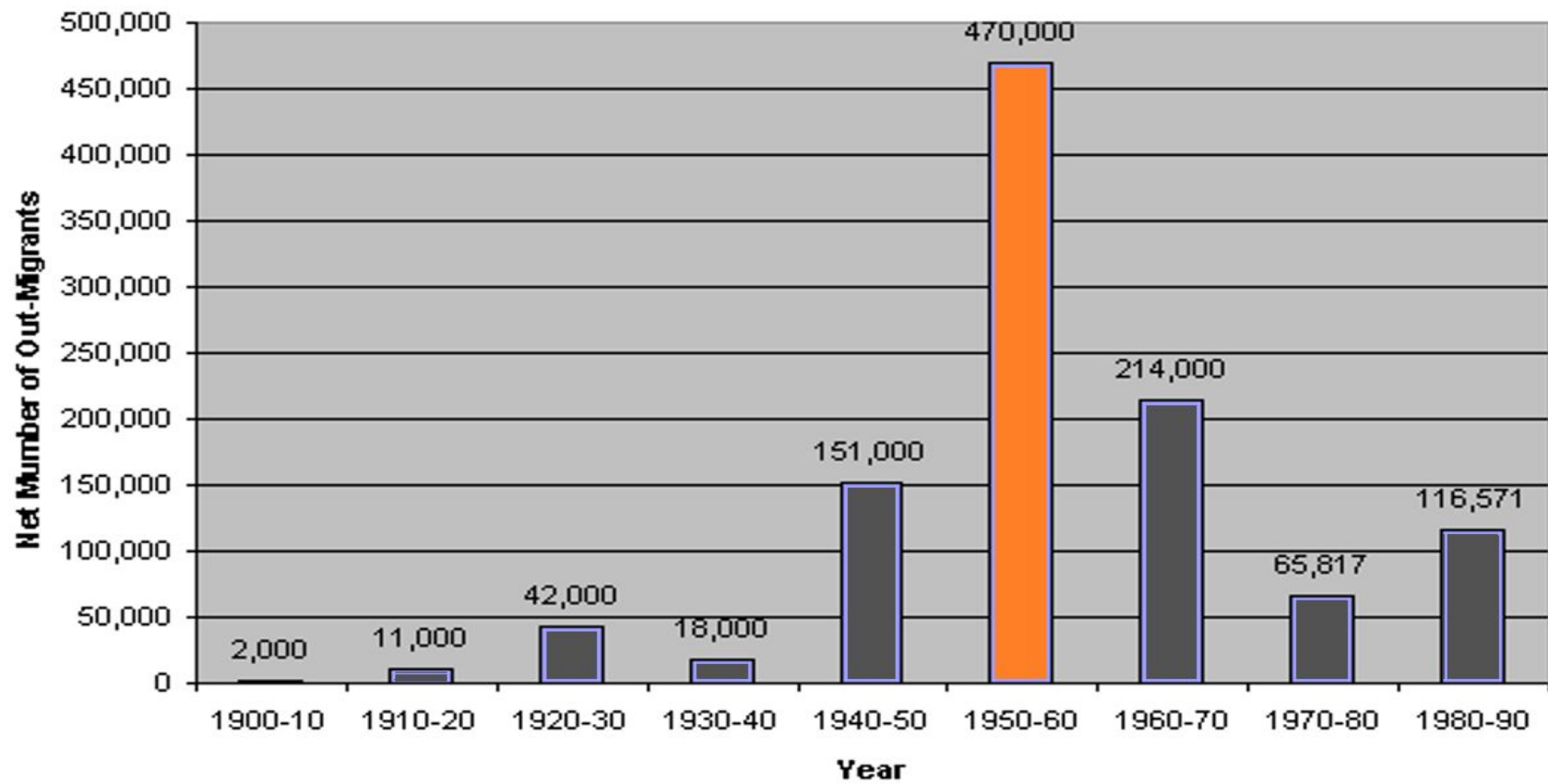
Housing, employment, recreation and language problems of Puerto Ricans who have settled in Hartford are being considered by a 12-member committee of the Greater Hartford Community Council.

Mrs. Carleton F. Sharpe, wife of the City Manager, heads the committee. It has started to hold monthly meetings. Mrs. Sharpe said that according to a recent estimate there are about 4,000 Puerto Ricans in the city. Her committee will try to find out

Women gathered on a Puerto Rican parade float with a partially visible sign that reads "Hartford. One woman holds a banner



Emigration from Puerto Rico, 1900-1990



Puerto Rico

1950 → 1960

470,000

Comerío, Caguas, Cayey,

Puerto Rico →

Hartford

USDA Rural Development Puerto Rico



Camuy Mayagüez Utuado Morovis Juana Díaz Caguas

*US Farm Labor Recruitment,
Puerto Rico*

1948 → 1990

421,238

PORTO RICO - RAISING TOBACCO UNDER CHEESE CLATS



Housing Challenges

Old Housing Stock

Poorer Sanitation And Repair

Municipal Neglect:

In the Areas of

**Street Cleaning, Paving, And
Lighting**

Settlement:

Clay Hill Area

Albany Avenue

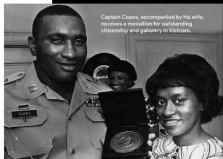
Main St

***Public Housing:
Charter Oak,
Bellevue Square***

Housing pressures:

- *Supply,*
 - *Overcrowding*
 - *High rent*
 - *Push to South Green*
 - *and Frog Hollow*
-

CHARTER OAK TERRACE



Hartford Housing Authority Photograph Collection

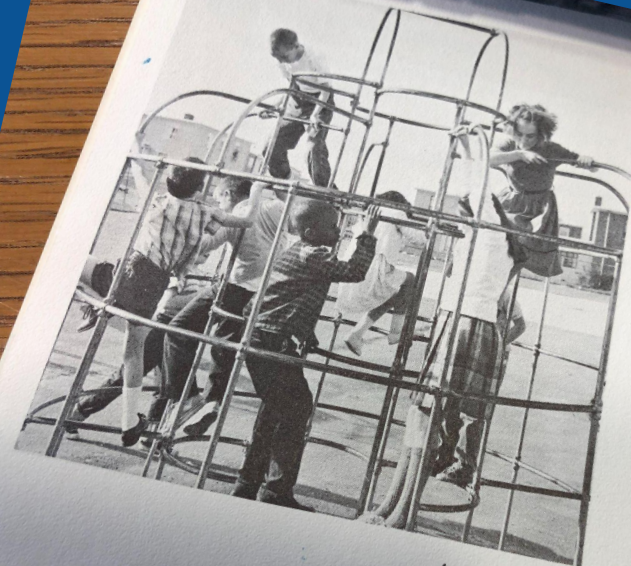
With 1000 units Charter Oak Terrace held the promise of addressing the severe shortage of affordable housing in Hartford. The unit located at Flatbush and Newfield Avenues, and Dart and Chandler Streets, had twice the occupancy of Bellevue Square and opened in 1941. Whereas Bellevue Square sat on 12.5 acres, Charter Oak Terrace covered 124 acres. The design, like other public housing units, encompassed recreational, educational, medical, and religious services. The Hartford Good Will Boys' Club hosted recreational activities and the Christian Activities Council of Hartford conducted Sunday School and Church Services. Children attended the local community school at **Mary Hooker School**, which like the housing complex, was new.

This planned community represented both an important policy intervention and a particular vision of urban planning. Children would have access to education, healthcare and religious services, and would be reared in a wholesome environment that promoted family values. Those who grew up at Charter Oak Terrace in its early years, like Vietnam Veteran Ron Copes, recall with pride the sense of the community and family. Whether they were going to the library, or the movies, playing basketball, street ball, or baseball, it was possible to have a good childhood. Many of the kids spent their summers at *Camp Courant* and for a moment, the goals of public housing seemed like they had been achieved.

1953 Mary Hooker School 4th Grade. Miss Sullivan, Classroom. Below students. From left to right: Marisol Sanjuan, Rosalinda Lopez, and Marisol Lopez. Photo from the Hartford Housing Authority Photograph Collection. The absence of Charter Oak Terrace.

I was born in Hartford, Hartford Hospital. My mom lived in Charter Oak at the time. We grew up there and lived on 81 Delta St. I went to Walburton Pre-k, Mary M. Hooker kindergarten thru 6th grade, Fox Elementary for 7th and 8th and Bulkeley for High school. I got my diploma through the adult education school on Washington St, though. Being a young mom (15 to be exact) and married at 16, I couldn't do full time school and work. I lived in Charter Oak Terrace on and off for 23 years.

Marisol Sanjuan



Where would you place your children playing around the Rosie? at Charter Oak Terrace (above) cluttered backyards in the Northeast section of the city (Right, above.)

PUBLIC HOUSING IS NO LONGER AN EXPERIMENT

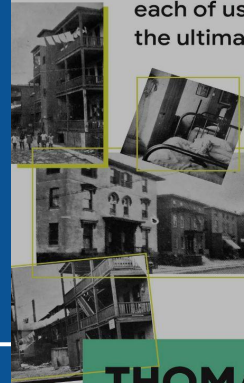
- ○ ○ Hundreds of our communities all over the country have seen fit to erect dwellings that have done much to beautify the surroundings besides giving to the underprivileged many of the living conditions that they were heretofore unable to receive. Another effect, and most important, is the **clearance of slum districts and sub-standard dwellings**. From a health, economic, and social viewpoint the benefits are immeasurable. Excessive fire and accident hazards, unsafe and unsanitary houses will be a thing of the past. Safe play for children, indoors and out, will be provided.

ROBERT A. HURLEY
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, 1941-1943

THERE IS A NEED FOR A HOUSING REFORM...

- ○ ○ which need cannot be fully answered until there is complete cooperation between our own city, our contractors, our building trades, and the individual citizen.

To solve the entire problem calls for not only the cooperation of all of us but a willingness upon each of us to make **some personal sacrifice** for the ultimate **good of the community**.



Sound economics cannot be abandoned in housing any more than any other enterprise. On the other hand, when there is a scarcity of rents such as now exist in our city and when the cost of those rents is prohibitive for the person of small income, the result is far-reaching and affects all of us.

THOMAS J. SPELLACY
MAYOR OF HARTFORD, 1935-1943

Referred to Committee on Human Rights & Opp... LCO No. 3
Introduced by SEN. SMITH- 2nd DIST.
Assembly,
... Session, A.D., 19...



THE RESURGENCE OF TENANT ACTIVISM AND ORGANIZING IN HARTFORD

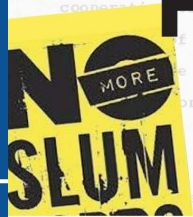
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Assembly...

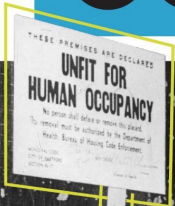
Section 1. ... by aid or
assistance representing payment for or toward the rental of any
housing ... public
assistance ... exists
any violation of any provision of chapter 352 of the general
statutes, as amended, or of any health ordinances with
respect to the building ... odations which is
dangerous, hazardous or detrimental to the life or health.

Sec. ... The violation of any such statute and
cooperation ... a ... under
... act, any other into agreements or arrangements
... release of any part of aid or assistance withheld
... on 1 and the elimination of such violation or
... It shall be a valid defense in any action against
... assistance recipient alleging nonpayment of rent to show

STATE LIBRARY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
SECTION



UNFIT FOR HUMAN OCCUPANCY



Hartford Times photograph by David Ploss; February 2, 1970

A tenant examines the distressing notification that her building was "unfit for human occupancy," 2 February 1970. The building was owned by Jerome Diamond, who was cited for numerous housing code violations and issued warrants to appear in housing court.

SLUMLORDS THEN... SLUMLORDS NOW.

Slumlords. Urban blight. Black mold. Rodent infestations and numerous other housing code violations. Recent *Hartford Courant* headlines continue to document the enduring legacies of segregated housing and poverty in Hartford. "Hartford has the Highest Rate of Urban Dweller Living in Economically Troubled Neighborhoods," a June 2018 *Courant* headline reads. These headlines are disturbingly timeless for many of the ethnic and racial minorities who call the city their home. They could have described any decade between the 1930s and 2010s as poverty limited housing options and poor housing created or exacerbated poverty. Even middle income families facing poor housing choices can have their health and job prospects ruined when they have to spend emotional and financial capital addressing horrendous living conditions. Hartford again made headlines when the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) terminated the contract of New York's infamous landlord, Emmanuel Ku. After years of inadequate maintenance and deplorable living conditions that posed a risk to his tenants' health and safety, tenants and community activists finally won their bid to oust Ku. An organized group of tenants demonstrated that ordinary people could win against a wealthy, unscrupulous landlord. HUD's regime of inspections continues to fail many of the clients who rely on the agency to certify that housing units are suitable for occupancy.

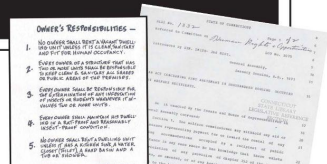
HOUSING CODE VIOLATIONS ANEW



MICE. MOLD. BED BUGS. POOR VENTILATION. LACK OF HEAT. BROKEN WINDOWS. MISSING SCREENS.

These violations are legion among properties owned by slumlords, yet often fall through the cracks based on inspection protocols that emphasize the exterior of the building. In many instances, misperceptions about the character of the tenants may lead the public to make value judgments about what people living in public housing deserve. The No More Slumlords movement has worked to change these perceptions. New horizons remain in the struggle.

The No More Slumlords campaign has become a beacon for other residents interested in addressing substandard and unsafe conditions in their housing units. Since that pivotal victory, resident-leaders like Teri Morrison, Milagros Ortiz, and Joshua Serrano have attended dozens of tenant meetings rallies, public hearings, panel discussions, and coalition meetings to remind the public that the work has only just begun. Overhauling Hartford's outdated, ineffectual municipal housing code was one new prong in the movement; navigating the challenge of relocating to another unit proved to be another. Some families, like Milagros Ortiz's, have had to move more than once, while others have left the state because of the limited resettlement options. Housing conditions have proven no better in some instances and many tenants have expressed distress about how dispersal has atomized the sense of community. Limited financial help, unrealistic deadlines, and feckless relocation specialist have wrought further emotional and financial havoc on tenants who have had to attend to their families' needs while propelling a major social movement forward.

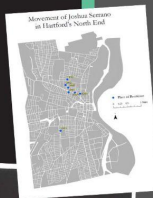


JOSHUA JESUS SERRANO

FATHER. SON. COMMUNITY ORGANIZER. CITIZEN.

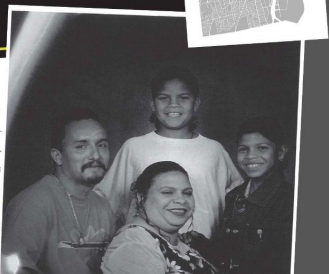


The roots of Josh Serrano's journey into community activism can be traced to his family's history in Hartford. His mother, at around age 16, Luz Belinda Estremera moved to Hartford from Ponce, Puerto Rico along with his maternal Aunt Edith. It was a journey undertaken by several generations of Puerto Ricans before them. Luz would settle and move around in the north and south end while Edith settled permanently at Bellevue Square. She would marry Jesus Serrano and Josh was born on Enfield St, Hartford. Spurred by the opportunity to pursue a better life for her children, Luz worked in Head Start and Community Renewal Team (CRT); her husband worked as a window washer and eventually became the building superintendent where he lived. The family moved between the north and south end of Hartford, sometimes driven by hardship, in other instances moving to better accommodations. These journeys would take them to Zion, Magnolia, Garden, and Bedford Streets. Along the way, they adopted a cat, Kitty who accompanied them on their journeys. The family moved finally to the Clay Arsenal Renaissance Apartments (CARA) when Josh was about 13 years old. Ms. Estremera eventually passed down the residency to Joshua who then became the head of household and she moved to the Blue Hills area.



CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06108

TO CHILD'S HOME FROM	IN NAME	SERRANO	DATE OF BIRTH
JOSHUA	JESUS		FEBRUARY 19, 1992
SEX	AGE	HOUSE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH
MALE	2337		
PLACE OF BIRTH	HARTFORD	HARTFORD HOSPITAL	



MILAGROS ORTIZ, JR

LEADER. MOTHER. INDOMITABLE SPIRIT, ANIMAL LOVER

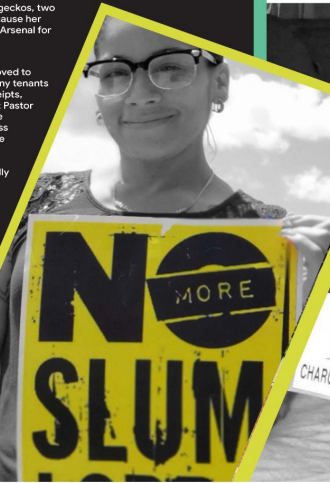
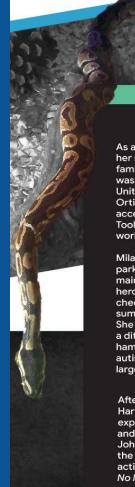


As a tenant leader in the No More Slum Lords Movement, Milagros Ortiz has become accustomed to sharing her story with the public. Dig a little further and you will be in Campanilla, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico. Here, her family grew so large and tight-knit that they started to move to houses on the same street. Her grandmother was among the first to set off for New York, one of the prime destinations for Puerto Ricans sojourners to the United States. Milagros' paternal family and some of her maternal relatives settled in The Bronx. Milagros Ortiz the elder, eventually for Connecticut in part to get away from the fast-paced life of New York and to access the American School for the Deaf. The family settled in New Britain. She worked various jobs at CW Tools, McDonalds, and as a cleaning lady to support her family. Her father, Ramon Ortiz was a landscaper and worked across the country.

Milagros Jr remembers her childhood in New Britain being enjoyable, filled with lots of open space and parks and a strong sense of community. They held big family parties and celebrations that helped to maintain the tradition of spending time with your family. Milagros aspired to be a wrestler, making heroes of figures like Stone Cold and Steve Austin. She was active in softball, wrestling, basketball, cheerleading, gymnastics, chorus, and played numerous instruments and attended many summer camps. Although she hoped to enlist in the military, a pregnancy foiled those plans. She moved several times between New Britain and East Hartford, including to deal with a difficult relationship. At one time she had several dogs, three snakes, two geckos, two hamsters, two birds, and a cat, a scorpion, amongst many other animals because her autistic son, Jency, loved animals. She eventually relocated Hartford to Clay Arsenal for larger accommodations and to be closer to family in Hartford.

After a period of good maintenance and property upkeep when she first moved to Hartford, the arrival of a new owner brought disorganization and chaos. Many tenants experienced issues with the management using important paperwork, receipts, and work orders. Milagros personally experienced issues with rats. She met Pastor Johnson during a meeting between tenants and the project manager, where the landlord was a no-show. Tenants agreed to meet at a later time to discuss actionable steps moving forward, which sparked what became known as the No More Slumlords Movement.

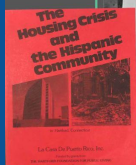
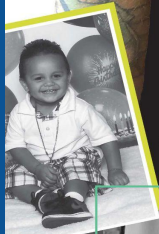
It may take a while for Ortiz to tell you that her housing struggles were deadly for her pets, that the comfort Jency took in these animals was one of the sacrifices she was forced to make. She continues to rebuild that support network.



SERRANO'S HARTFORD

Joshua Serrano's Hartford was a multi-cultural one, with Puerto Ricans and African Americans jostling alongside each other, forming bonds of trust, friendship, and mutual reliance. The adults looked out for each other; parents checked on everyone's children. Kids played tag, kick the bottle, and cops and robbers. As the second generation to live in public housing, Serrano could compare the challenges his mother faced when she wanted to address complaints to her landlord to his own struggles.

Second-generation public housing residency also meant, however, that some people could get used to conditions they may have experienced their entire childhood and adolescence. Puerto Ricans and African-Americans also shared this experience and with it, the steady deterioration in the quality of life as their public housing units faced limited responses to requests for routine maintenance: ineffective, cosmetic approaches to address mice infestations; leaky pipes and poor ventilation that made children more susceptible to respiratory illnesses. These were more than violations of the municipal housing code: these were serious conditions that threatened the health and well-being of the families who called these residences home. Although taking on a slumlord required a massive effort in organizing, Joshua Serrano was ready for the challenge when he met AJ Johnson of the Christian Activities Council, now the Center for Leadership and Justice.



ASHLEY "AJ" JOHNSON

SENIOR PASTOR, URBAN HOPE REFUGEE CHURCH, HARTFORD LEAD COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES COUNCIL.

LEGACY. SON. FATHER. HUSBAND.

VISIONARY. LEADER. PASTOR.

When he was a young boy, Ashley "AJ" Johnson saw a diagram in his father's office that molded his views of the role of the church. In this diagram, the church was central, a hub from which social, economic, and political activities emanated. It was a model of community engagement his father adopted with the Urban Hope Refugee Church and a legacy AJ implements in his own ministry. The history of the Johnson family is deeply intertwined with patterns of the Great Migration of African Americans to the north as well as the evolution of the African American community in the North End of Hartford. Bishop Dr. William M. Johnson and Dr. Celeste Johnson, both originally from North Carolina, resettled in New York like 6 million other African Americans who made a similar exodus from the South. They worked in the ministry between the Bronx, Harlem, and Hartford. AJ knows that he was a "98 North baby" because his parents split so much of their time between New York and Connecticut. The Johnson family, William and Celeste and their sons, Mylious and Ashley, split their time between New York and Hartford. Dr. William Johnson had a background in urban planning while Dr. Celeste Johnson has a background in education.

Neither their degrees nor their status in the community shielded them from discrimination. The refuge they sought in Rocky Hill proved to be a journey into eviction before the family would settle down in Manchester. AJ's path took him to South Carolina, in some ways a refuge from some of the challenges of home. There, the community of black people was an inspiration and he tried to identify where his passion and future lay. Would he get involved in politics? Would he be called to the ministry? He ran unsuccessfully for a seat on Hartford's Court of Common Council and emerged from that experience with a keen understanding of politics as a tool. Since then, AJ Johnson has found his calling in both of his roles as Lead Community Organizer for the Christian Activities Council (now the Center for Leadership and Justice) and as Senior Pastor of the Urban Hope Refugee Church in Hartford. In these dual roles, Johnson battles the legacy of civil rights and human rights pioneers like the Rev. Richard Battles of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, William Brown, Executive Director of the Urban League of Greater Hartford and of his father Bishop Johnson. The passion he brings to the No More Slumlords movement is duplicated in his support of entrepreneurship in the local community and his backing of a \$15 minimum wage.



HARTFORD AT A GLANCE

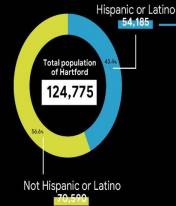
RACE / ETHNICITY

RACE / ETHNICITY (2013 - 2017)	HARTFORD (CITY)	PERCENTAGE	CONNECTICUT (STATE)
White	41,124	33.1%	2,464,450
Black or African American	47,124	37.9%	372,696
American Indian and Alaska Native	418	0.3%	152,782
Asian	3,686	3.0%	9,399
Other/Multi-Race	24,406	19.6%	284,582
Two or more races	7,645	6.1%	537,728

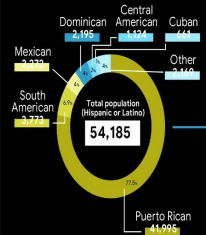
HOUSING / REAL ESTATE

HOUSING STOCK (2010 - 2016)	HARTFORD (CITY)	HARTFORD COUNTY	CONNECTICUT (STATE)
Total Units	53,297	374,672	1,493,798
% Single Unit (2012-2016)	14.7%	55.1%	59.1%
New Permits Auth (2017)	5	957	4,547
As % Existing Units	0.0%	.03%	0.3%
Demolitions (2017)	447	509	1,403
Home Sales (2013)	240	6,413	26,310
Median Price	\$159,100	\$234,900	\$269,300
Built Pre-1950 share	50.4%	28.6%	29.7%
Owner Occupied Dwellings	10,877	222,638	900,223
As % Total Dwellings	23.7%	64.1%	66.5%
Subsidized Housing (2017)	19,875	52,270	168,576

HISPANIC OR LATINO DATA



The vast majority of Hartford's Latino or Hispanic population is Puerto Rican. The census identifies Hispanic ancestry separately from race. Hartford has elected two mayors of Puerto Rican ancestry: Eddie Perez and Pedro Segarra. New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Springfield (MA) have the 4th largest population of Puerto Ricans followed by Hartford, while Bridgeport is 7th.



The Hispanic or Latino (of any race) for Hartford was

—

**Why is this
important?**

80/80

In the last 80 years
Hartford has become a
majority-minority city,
with 80%

- African Americans
- Puerto Ricans
- West Indians



Puerto Ricans

Hartford, CT #5

- 41,995 (By total Numbers:

NY, Philly, Chicago, Springfield)

Hartford, CT - #6

By Density 33.66%

Three (3)

Connecticut's cities

Hartford, Waterbury, Bridgeport

feature in the

top 15 cities

for overall Puerto Rican population

Like the African American population,

New York, Philadelphia and Chicago:

top three cities

for the overall number of

African American and Puerto Rican

—

**Why is this
important?**

Themes

Segregation by Design

Urbanization
Segregation
Demographic
Change

Housing
Access and
Discrimination

Community
Identity
Resilience

Key Questions

How did urbanization impact Hartford's demographic profile ?

How did housing access and discrimination shape where African Americans, Puerto Ricans and West Indians settled in the city?

How did residents organize to build community, develop strong cultural identities, and to promote resilience?

—

**Why is this
important?**

You Document Cultural Resilience

Social
Organizations



Local
Businesses



HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PUERTO RICAN FAMILIES
TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

You should how people
build monuments

You Document Resistance

**Tenant
Organizing**

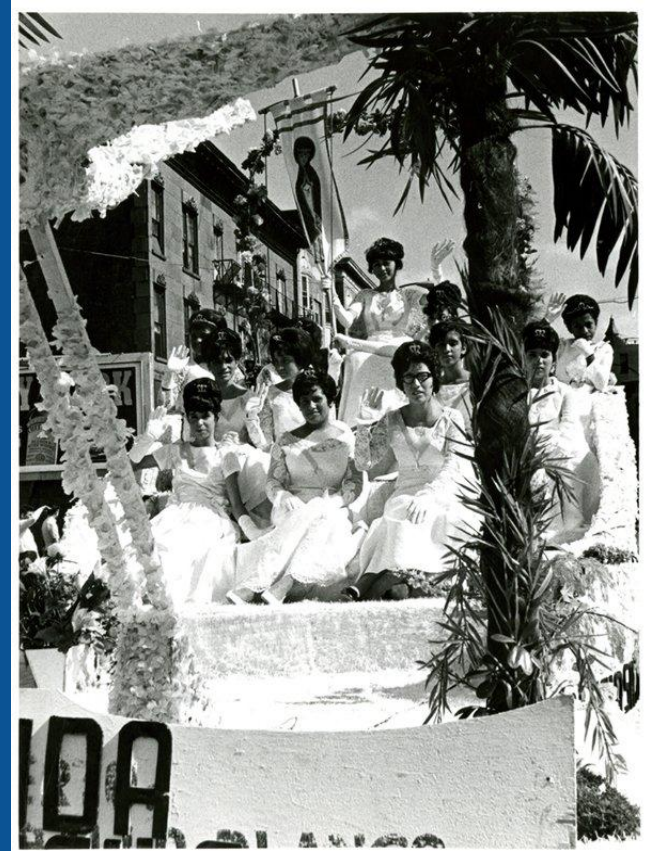
**Political
Organizing**

**Home
Ownership**

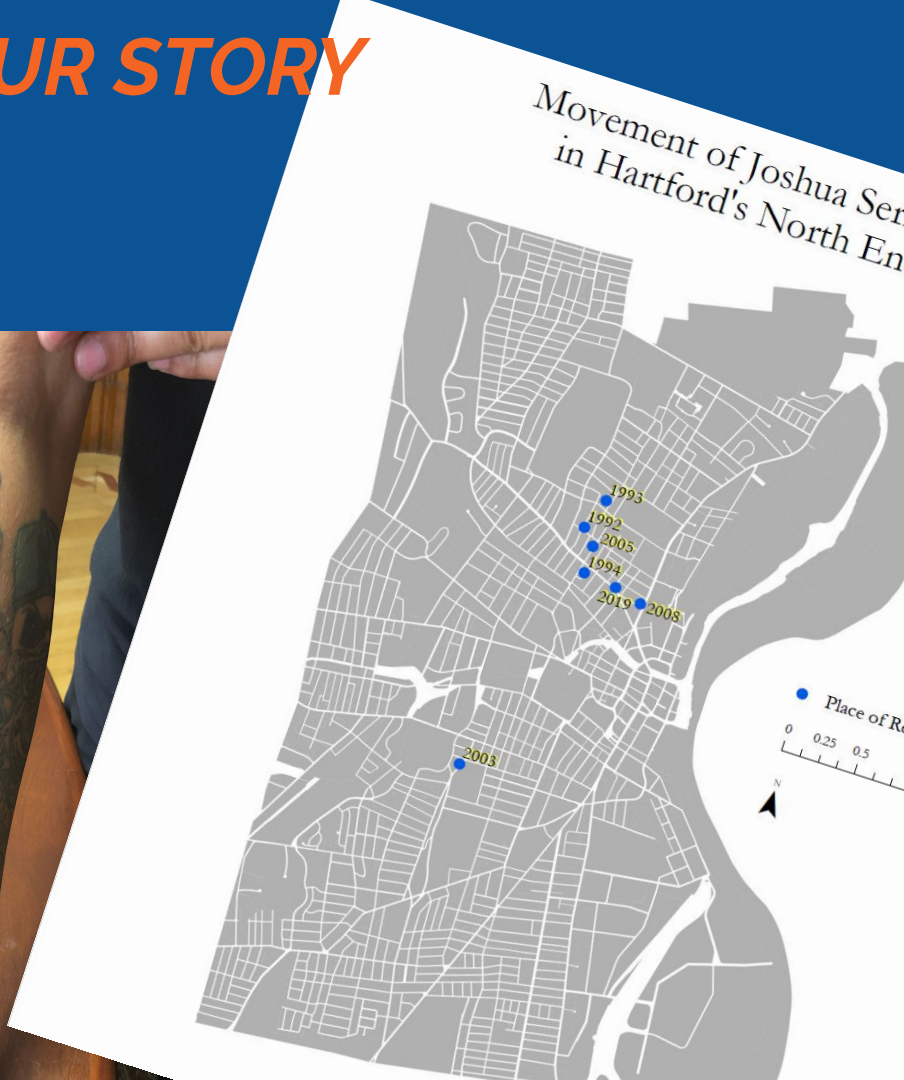
EL MERCADO



Resistance
Resilience



YOU TELL YOUR STORY

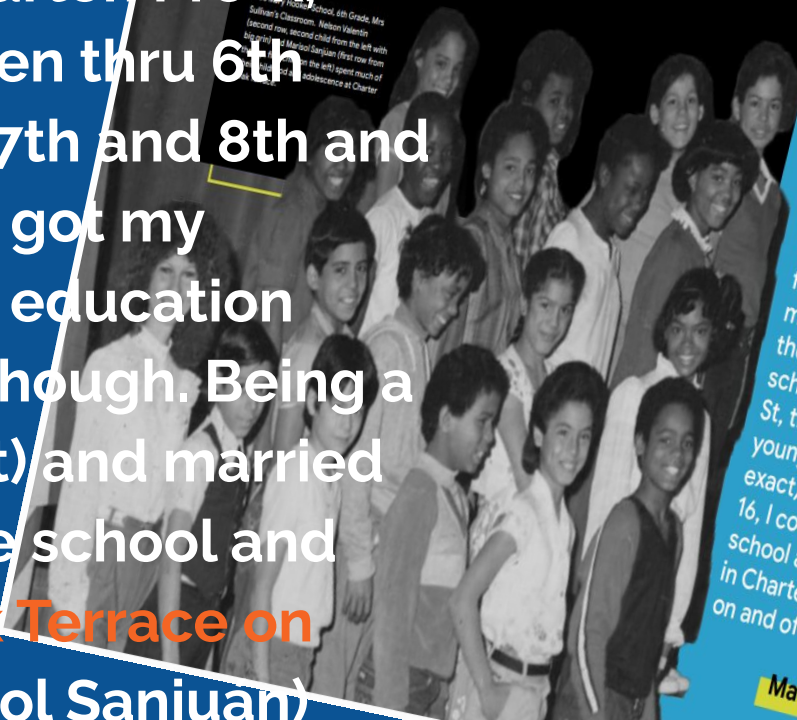


— “ I was born in **Hartford**, Hartford hospital. My mom lived in Charter Oak at the time. We grew up there and **lived on 81 Delta St.** I went to Walburton Pre-k, Mary M. Hooker kindergarten thru 6th grade, Fox Elementary for 7th and 8th and **Bulkeley for High school.** I got my diploma through the adult education school on Washington St, though. Being a young mom (15 to be exact) and married at 16, I couldn't do full time school and work. **I lived in Charter Oak Terrace on and off for 23 years.**” (Marisol Saniuan)

Photograph Collection

This planned community represented both an important policy intervention and a particular vision of urban planning. Children would have access to education, healthcare and religious services, and would be reared in a wholesome environment that promoted family values. Those who grew up at Charter Oak Terrace in its early years, like Vietnam Veteran Ron Copes, recall with pride the sense of the community and family. Whether they were going to the library, or the mall, playing basketball, stickball, or baseball, it was possible to have a good childhood. Many of the kids spent their summers at Camp Courant and for a moment, the goals of public housing seemed like they had been achieved.

1983 Mary M. Hooker School, 6th Grade Mrs. Sullivan's Classroom. Nelson Valentin (second row, second child from the left with his arm around Marisol Saniuan) (first row from the left) spent much of his childhood at Charter



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Marisol Saniuan

You make people visible;
you dig through the archive

14091

Form 2203
Department of Commerce and Labor
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 21297

TRIPLICATE
(To be given to the person making the Declaration.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DECLARATION OF INTENTION
(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of New York, }
County of Kings, } ss: In the Supreme Court of Kings County.

I, John Vidal, aged 24 years,
occupation Chauffeur, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color White, complexion fair, height 5 feet 8 inches,
weight 146 pounds, color of hair Brown, color of eyes Gray,
other visible distinctive marks Scars on cheek and forehead
I was born in Mayaguez Porto Rico
on the 24 day of June, anno Domini 1888; I now reside
at 292 Hewes St, Brooklyn, N. Y.
(Give number and street.)
I emigrated to the United States of America from San Juan Porto Rico
on the vessel San Juan; my last
foreign residence was Mayaguez Porto Rico
~~It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign~~
~~prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to~~
....., of whom I am now a subject I
arrived at the port of New York, in the
State of New York, on or about the 4 day
of August, anno Domini 1906; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
SO HELP ME GOD.

John Vidal
(Original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Brooklyn, N. Y., this
13 day of May

[SEAL]

**You triangulate with other
sources and other public
programming**

You Capture Testimony

<https://ctdigitalarchive.org/islandora/object/50002%3A5531>

Jasmin Agosto's HPL

programming on revolutionary

Latinas

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://ctdigitalarchive.org/islandora/object/50002%253A5531>

**You share the story with the
public, invite them to participate
and tell their stories;**

You rinse and repeat

Thank you!

Questions?

hartfordbound.com

African American Population

Population doubles
between 1910 and 1920
and increases again by 70%
by 1930 but still
4% of the population



YEAR	1910	1920	1930	1940
POP.	1745	4567	6510	7090

1945: 250 West Indians

**By 1960, 6000 Puerto
Ricans**

