

An aerial photograph of a city grid, likely Long Beach, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. A river or canal runs along the left side, and the coastline is visible on the right.

Historic Context Statement: Suburbanization & Race

Equity and Human Relations Commission
July 6, 2022

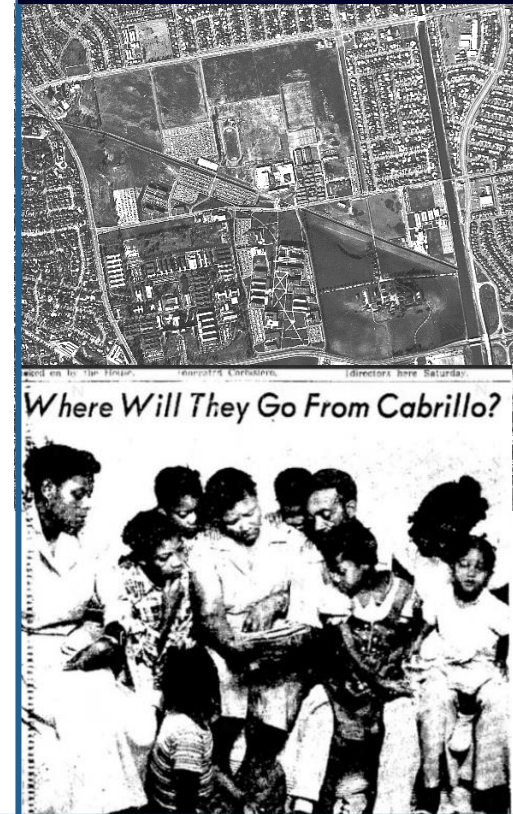
Project Scope

- Historic context focused on the intersection of the built environment and housing restrictions & the fight for fair housing in Long Beach, 1945-1979
- Includes an overview of diverse communities in Long Beach
- Supplements the Citywide Historic Context
- Included related community outreach effort
- Funded by a State of California's Certified Local Governments (CLG) grant
- 2019 grant; extended due to COVID-19

RESIDENTIAL SECURITY MAP

LEGEND

- A FIRST GRADE
 - B SECOND GRADE
 - C THIRD GRADE
 - D FOURTH GRADE
 - SPARSELY BUILT UP
(COLOR INDICATES GRADE)
 - COMMERCIAL (IMPORTANT RETAIL AND WHOLESALE AREAS)
 - UNDEVELOPED OR FARMLAND
(UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)
- PREPARED BY
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK BOARD
WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE
APPRAISAL DEPARTMENT
HOME OWNERS' LOAN CORPORATION
SEPTEMBER 30, 1939



Historic Contexts

- A historic context is a narrative document that provides the framework for identifying and evaluating historic resources
- Not a definitive history of any topic
- Critical tool for protecting resources that reflect the varied and complex history of Long Beach
- Tool for staff, the community, and decision-makers
- Intersectional approach provides a better understanding of development patterns in Long Beach
- Assists future historians and the continued work to understand and recognize Long Beach's diverse communities



Community Outreach

- Partnered with Stratiscope Community Engagement Team
 - Developed Historic Context Advisory Committee
 - Representative of the diverse communities of Long Beach and Long Beach Heritage
 - Virtual Outreach Meetings
 - Social media campaign
- Advisory Committee
 - Provided family resources (ephemera and photos)
 - Recommended individuals for one-on-one interviews
 - Draft context reviewers
- 5 readers/subject matter experts reviewed the draft
- City staff review and comment



Historic Context Statement: Suburbanization & Race

- Narrative Overview
 - Discriminatory Practices of the Early 20th Century
 - Segregation and Discrimination in Long Beach, 1941-1959
 - Civil Rights & Integration, 1960-1975
 - North Long Beach Transformed, 1976-1979
 - Racial and Ethnic Groups of Long Beach
- Contexts and Themes Related to Postwar Development
- List of properties and neighborhoods identified through research and by the community
- Bibliography of sources for future researchers



Next Steps

- Cultural Heritage Commission Study Session: July 26
- Public hearing at the Cultural Heritage Commission for approval/adoption: August 30
- Publish for use by communities and preservationists to provide better understanding of the built environment in Long Beach, and aid in the ongoing research of the City



How Can You Contribute?

- Review Public Draft of Document:
 - <https://longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/preservation/mark-the-map/>
- Please send written comments to:
historicpreservation@longbeach.gov
- Provide comments at 7/26 Cultural Heritage Commission meeting
- Final day to provide public comments August 5th by 5pm.

