Project Meeting Check-in

What has the team accomplished since the last time you met with the instructional team?

Conducted client meeting with Bob Rand and Rhema Bjorkland to gather insights on Greenbelt and its reparations committee. We collected historical and demographic information about Greenbelt, such as the origin as a New Deal town in 1937. The initial exclusion of African Americans from the residency, and the segregation trends and demographic shifts over time. We were also able to establish a connection with Terry Ruby from Howard University for urban planning collaboration in the future.

What is the team hoping to accomplish in the next two-week sprint?

We are hoping to begin our GIS mapping of Greenbelt's demographics. Collect census data and historical redlining maps to visualize the demographic changes. We will analyze the existing Greenbelt community divisions and their racial compositions; and prepare the preliminary visual representations of demographic distribution. We will also address the Greenbelt Reparations Committee's objectives and potential data needs.

What barriers or challenges has the team encountered?

One of the primary challenges the team faces is the lack of complete historical demographic data, as current census data may not fully capture the shifts over time. Another issue is finding accurate redlining maps to clearly show past housing policies. We also need to make sure everyone on the team can access and use GIS mapping tools. Working with Howard University's urban planning team for GIS expertise is helpful, but coordinating with them might be complicated. Overall, we have very limited time to process and analyze all the geographic data before the sprint ends. Additionally, another potential challenge we may face as we work towards a deliverable is navigating using GIS technology to perform the required visualization. Our team has limited experience with GIS and the client is very interested in developing a GIS visualization.

Screenshot:



