

Living for the City: The Black Middle Class in Milwaukee

Johnnie Brooker, A&S, Journalism

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robert S. Smith, Harry G. John Professor of History

Co-PI: Dr. Ermitte St. Jacques, UW-Milwaukee

Community Experts: Dr. Sandra Jones, Matthew Mixon

Center for Urban Research, Teaching and Outreach (CURTO), Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

"Living For the City"

Oral history project exploring the Black middleclass in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We are attempting to dive into their lived experiences. Milwaukee is one of the most segregated cities in America.

The Black narrative of Milwaukee has been of poverty, incarceration, lead poisoning, evictions, and educational underachievement. What we do not hear about is the Black middleclass experiences. These oral histories will be analyzed in relation to sociological assumptions about the residential patterns of middleclass African Americans in major metropolitan areas of the United States.

Research Team

Kitonga Alexander, UW-Milwaukee
Drake Bentley, Marquette University
Annika Johnson, UW-Milwaukee
Kai Johnson, UW-Milwaukee
Elijah Nicks, UW-Milwaukee
Nateye Taylor, UW-Milwaukee

Beginning in Spring 2023, I will lead the team in interviewing those participants connected to the Marquette University community.

Related Experience/Skills

Marquette Wire

I was a reporter for the non-profit organization on Marquette's campus where it was my tasks to produce content for print on a weekly basis. Having to conduct daily interviews and to transcribe it into a story incorporating effective listening abilities

Honors/Communications Mentor

Being hands on by impacting lives on a consistent basis is the core to these roles. Taking heed to what students are in need of by being an advocate for their great work and being a listener through their dark moments.

Methodology

Oral Histories

- * Interviews
- * Audio/Video
- * Transcriptions

Memory extracting accurate info
Archival info

Community-Engaged Research

- * Bi-directional
- * Mutual benefits
- * Equal representation of all parties

InterBDC smBDC ETQ EMC /FA