

Service Learning and Community Advocacy: Promoting Social Justice from Where You Are

Transformation and Restoration While Embracing Challenge





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415 Walnut Collective

Local residents & neighbors

Grassroots community organizers

Nonprofit organizations

Local governments

Arts and Culture community

Startups and entrepreneurs

Academic institutions and schools



415 Walnut Collective

Collective Vision: A thriving and healthy community where dreams are possible.

Collective Mission: To create a destination for celebrating arts, heritage, and wellbeing by preserving and restoring the Historic Walnut St. / Faith Temple Baptist Church building.

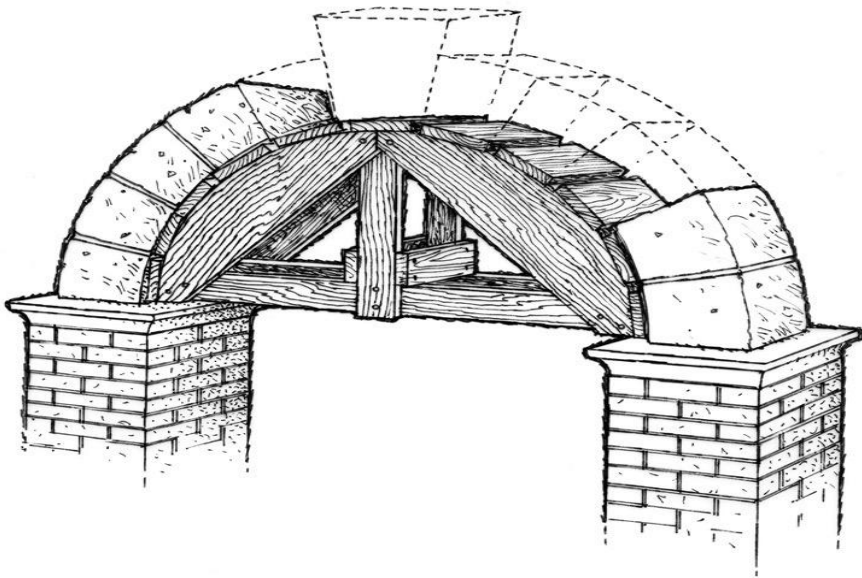
Strategic Planning Team Mission: Rethink a new foundation for memories and imagination.

Strategic Planning Team Outcomes: Centering community engagement and Draft Adaptive Reuse Vision/Plan.

This is bigger than one project

Although we are all part of the 415 Walnut Collective...

This process is different... CENTERING + COMMUNITY + EQUITY.

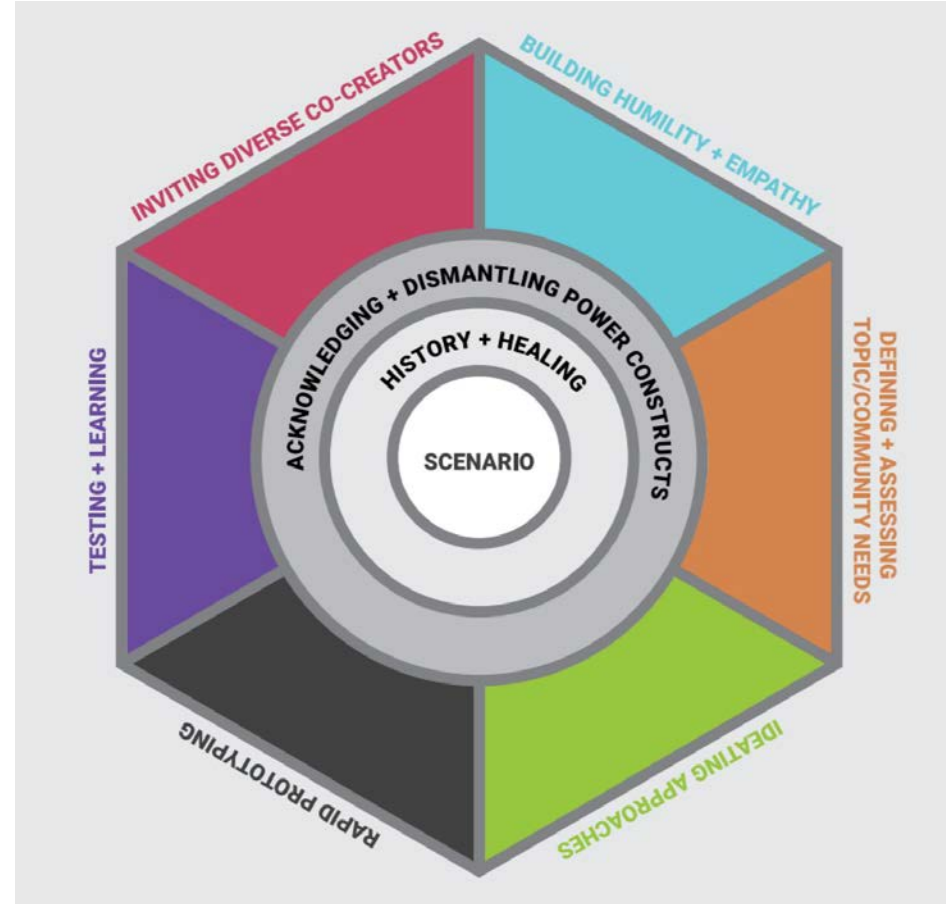


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Equity Centered Community Design

Equity Centered Community Design is a unique creative problem-solving process based on equity, humility-building, integrating history and healing practices, addressing power dynamics, and co-creating with the community.

- Creative Reaction Lab



Overview

Theme: “Embracing challenges to empower (change) opportunities”

Our collective aims today:

- Invite you to experience the journey we’ve embarked upon
- Demonstrate what it means to show up with heart and mind, consistently
- Imagine how healing, restoration, and expanding a sense of place for communities and institutions can lead to healthy transformation and change.

Reflective question

Can you name a challenge that you were transformed by (*i.e. changed how you think and feel about yourself, your work, or your purpose*)?

How did you change? When did you accept that you had been transformed?



Restoration for healing and transformation

PLACE

“A space or location”

“An area having unique physical and human characteristics interconnected with other places.” i.e. “the emotions attached to an area based on lived experiences.”

Location: 415 Walnut Street

Locale: Eastside of Waterloo

Sense of Place: Historically Redlined Neighborhood. Childhood stomping ground.

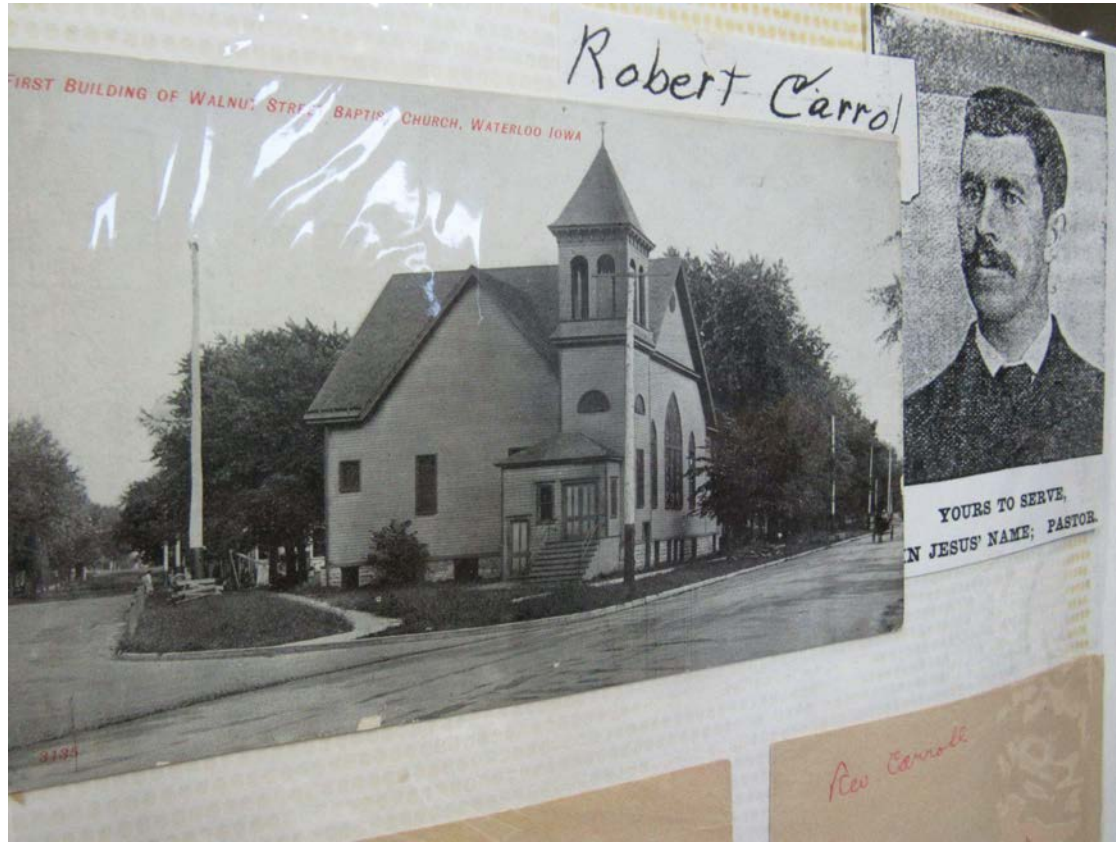
Table conversation

Think back to the transformation (change) you thought of earlier in this session.

What role did **PLACE** play in that transformation (change)?

- The **Location** (i.e. geographically)?
- The **Locale** (i.e. site, setting, environment)?
- The **Sense of Place** (i.e. emotions, memories, lived experiences)?

415 Walnut St. Baptist Church - Circa 1908



TODAY

*Built by Clinton P. Shockley

- Waterloo Architect
- Built 1908; American Styles
- Two years after starting practices (Circa 1906).

*Listed on National Register of Historic Places; POS: 1900 - 1924

*Published - 08/16/2000



Significance of the PLACE

Historic - architecturally, socially, culturally

Historically redlined neighborhood

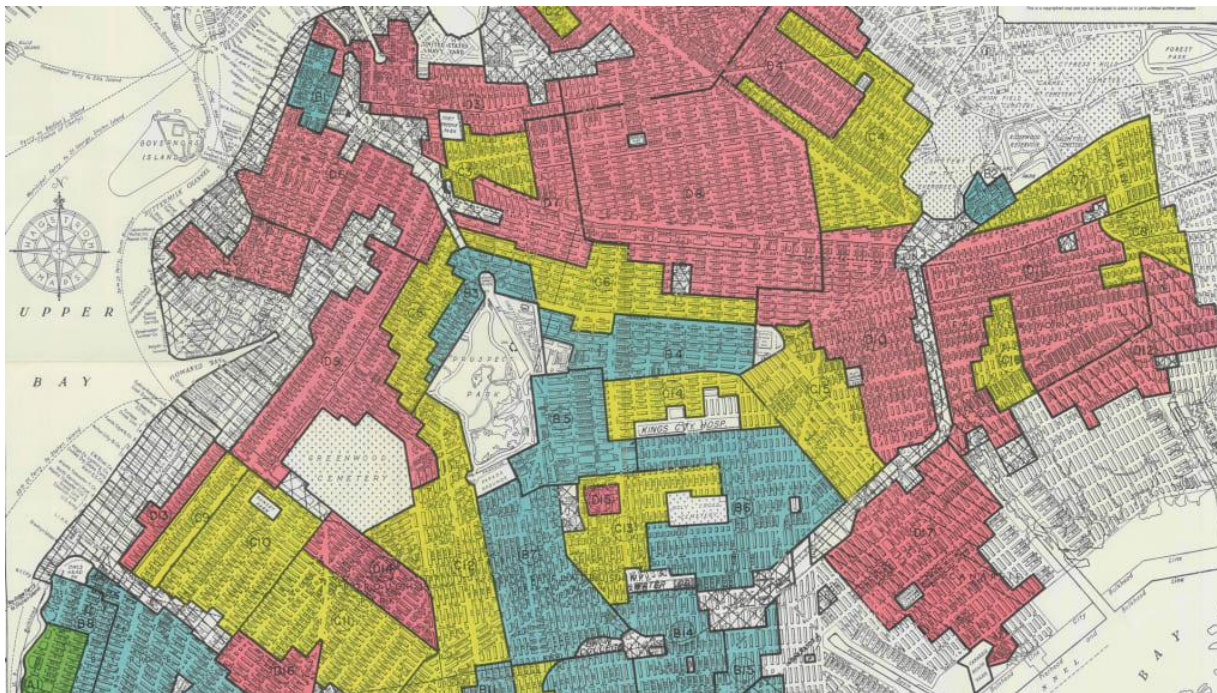
Proximity to downtown and East 4th Street Business District

Home to Walnut St. Baptist and Faith Temple Baptist church congregations

Visible skyline from afar and within the local neighborhood

Local landmark of Iowa's Civil Rights History

Historically Redlined Neighborhood



1946 Banquet







ROBERT T.
KETCHAM, D.D.
Pastor

1939-1948



Interior of the Walnut Street Baptist Church - Walnut St. & ...

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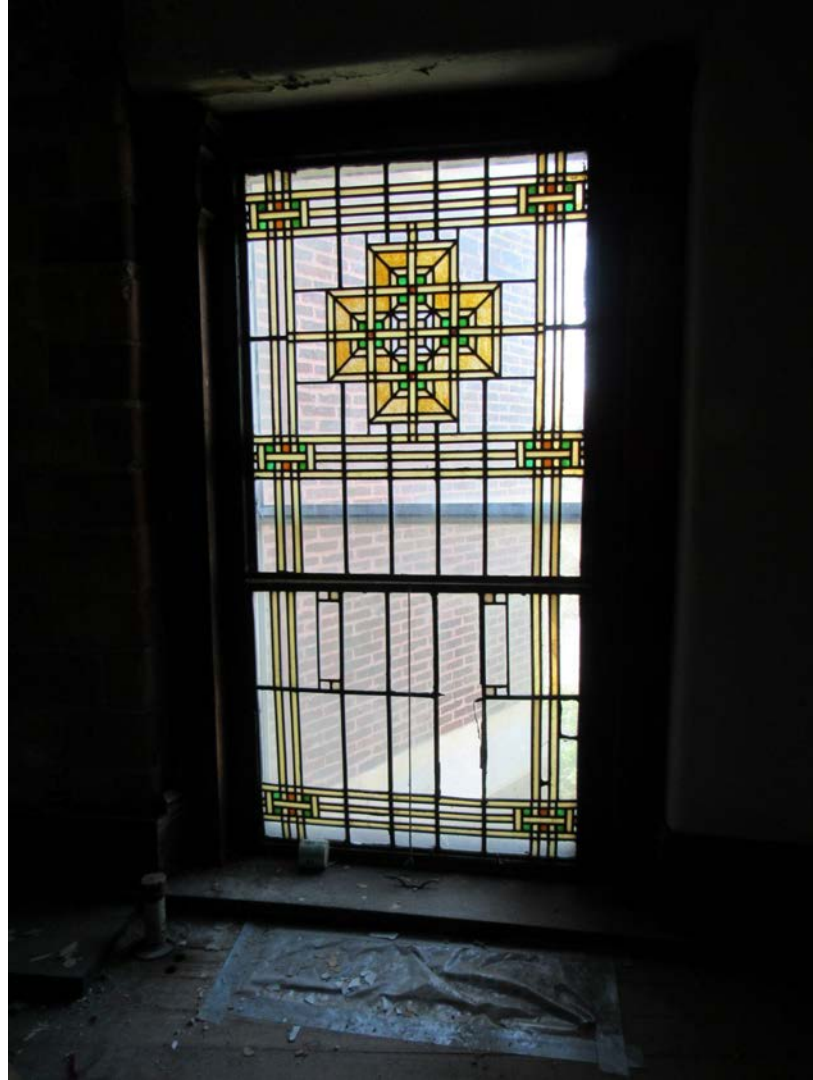
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Faith Temple Baptist Church - Circa 1970s





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Reflective Questions

Think back to the transformation you named at the beginning of this session.

What role did PEOPLE play in that transformation (change)?

Restoration and healing through a healthy process

People are the process

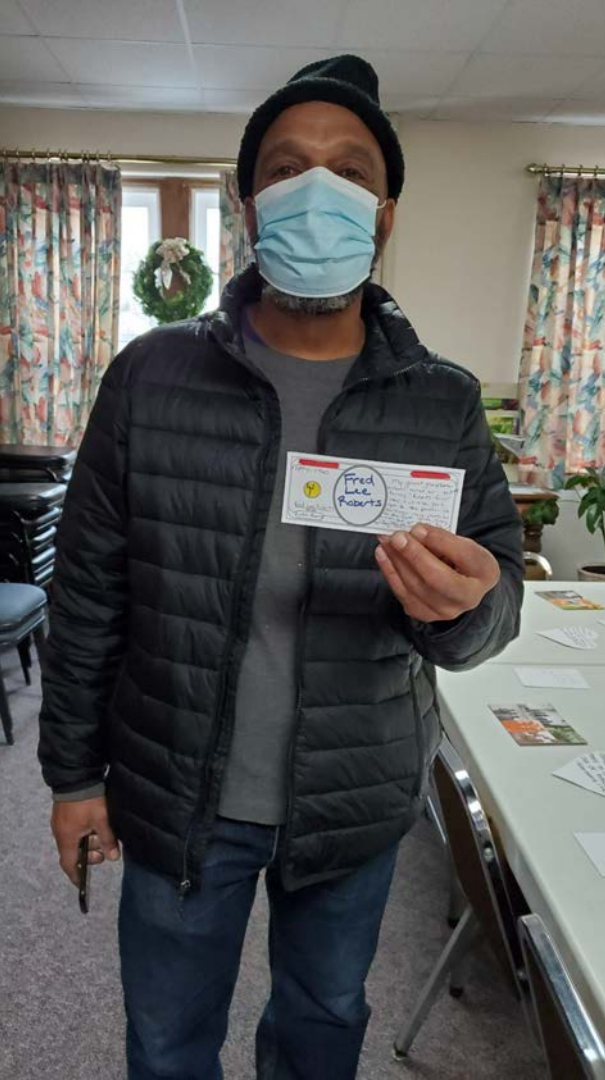
Without the people, there would be no project!

Healthy people need a healthy process

A healthy process needs healthy people

Demonstration: Community brunches





Benefits of a healthy process

When we center the community in this project, people benefit

This community faces challenges

People need a healthy space to show up fully

A healthy process is a healthy space

The upstream/ downstream parable

Upstream

Living conditions

Physical environment

Economic and work environment

Social environment

Service environment

Institutional inequities

Social inequities

Downstream

Risk and protective behaviors

Chronic disease

Infectious disease

Injury

Mortality

Life expectancy

Table conversation

Think back to the transformation you named at the beginning of this session.

What role did people play in the transformation?

Reflective question

Think back to the transformation you named at the beginning of this session.

What role did purpose play in the transformation?

Restoration and healing through community engagement

Purpose - Community



Purpose - UNI Administration



Purpose - Faculty



Purpose - Students





Table conversation

Think back to the transformation you named at the beginning of this session.

How did that transformation empower opportunity?

Extra slides



Notes

Conference theme

Relationship with higher education

Narrow the scope a little bit

Work with academia is more front-facing

New way of considering academic involvement - Habitat reached out to UNI, Matthew was brought into the process, dynamic of project shifted to bring community voice to the forefront; Restorative justice approach

Impact is location based and people based

Notes

Embracing challenges and creating opportunities

Moving from experiencing to embracing, creating with a new way forward

Academia has a poor track record of being a patriarchal system of box-checking

We're moving to a new level of problem solving, issues are understood at a more complex level

Women are poised to multi-task around heart and mind things

Women have been outside of leadership roles in academia; fitting community into student learning

Notes

Wholeness - showing up with heart and mind

Healing and restoration of spaces, communities, and individuals

Expansion and restoration of people, purpose

People + purpose + place = power

415 project is the framework/example of how we are navigating the process
(project is not the primary point)

Strategic Objectives

Assess needs, strengths, and desires of the local neighborhood/community in relation to the Walnut street building.

- Activity example: Community surveys, community forums

Preserve the shared histories, memories, and lived experiences of the building and its people.

- Activity example: Visioning events, resident interviews

Rethink a new foundation for shared memories by creating opportunities and strengthening capacity for creativity and imagination for the new space.

- Activity example: Youth programming

Strategic Objectives

Build a network of stakeholders to focus on literacy, learning, and health for all ages.

- Activity example: Strategic partnerships

Promote conversations and actions to improve race relations and dismantle systemically racist structural barriers to literacy, learning, and health.

- Activity example: Community events, intergenerational programming

Strategic Objectives

Communicate regularly with the local neighborhood/community regarding all program activities and all findings of data collection efforts.

- Activity example: Newsletter and social media presence, community events

Build capacity and gather resources for building preservation and reimagining.

- Activity example: Grant writing and other fundraising

Strategic Process

1. Build Trust
2. Organize
3. Operate
4. Design

