

# FROM HERE TO EQUALITY

## COMMUNITY READ & CONVERSATION

### SESSION 4: REPARATIVE ACTIONS

with William “Sandy” Darity, Kirsten Mullens,  
Simona Goldin, and Danita Mason-Hogans

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programs and reparative actions



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UNC Commission on  
History, Race and  
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WITH DANITA MASON-HOGANS



# JASMINE POWELL

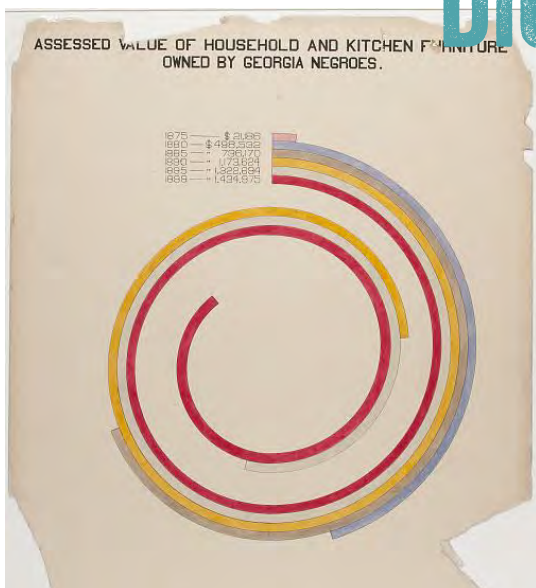
Jasmine Powell is a creative expressionist from Hillsborough, NC, having attended Oberlin College (BA) and Hollins University in collaboration with the American Dance Festival and Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts -Germany (MFA). Her mission investigates the interrelation of genres as inquiry into how opposites can be embodied in each other through dance. Through her teaching as a Professor at Elon University, cultural history, technique and the creative process are normalized in her classrooms. In her active artistry, Jasmine embodies the traditional diaspora connecting to source through a contemporary nature.

Jasmine smiles at the opportunity to share her work rooted in conceptual storytelling and is always relating to others through a creative expressionist lens.



[www.jasminepowell.co/](http://www.jasminepowell.co/)  
[@iamjasminepowell](https://www.instagram.com/iamjasminepowell)

## DIG INTO DATA



***“No good result can come from any investigation which refuses to consider the facts. A conclusion that is based upon a presumption, instead of the best evidence, is unworthy of a moment’s consideration.” – Ida B. Wells, 1901***

US Census Data



[census.gov/data](https://census.gov/data)

Chart prepared by W.E.B. Du Bois for the Negro Exhibit of the American Section at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1900 to show the economic and social progress of African Americans since emancipation.



**The Mapping of Race in America: Visualizing the Legacy of Slavery & Redlining, 1860-Present.**

[arcg.is/0fm19v](https://arcg.is/0fm19v)

**“The Black Wealth Data Center is building a comprehensive repository for Black wealth data. Our Racial Wealth Equity Database aims to empower decision-makers with reliable data and raise the national standard for data collection and accessibility.”**



[blackwealthdata.org](https://blackwealthdata.org)

# Reparative Actions

## CONNECT WITH THE ANCESTORS

*“Raicism, or rootedness, is the choice to bear witness to our specific, contradictory historical identities in relationship to one another. It is an accounting of the debts and assets we have inherited, and acknowledging the precise nature of that inheritance is an act of spiritual and political integrity.” --Aurora Levins Morales*



Chart prepared by W.E.B. Du Bois for the Negro Exhibit of the American Section at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1900 to show the economic and social progress of African Americans since emancipation.

Reparative Genealogy. “Sankofa’ teaches us that we must go back to understand our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone, or been stripped of can be reclaimed, revived, preserved, and perpetuated..”



[reparations4slavery.com/  
reparative-genealogy/](http://reparations4slavery.com/reparative-genealogy/)

# Reparative Actions

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## SUPPORT A NATIONAL REPARATIONS PROGRAM

“The goal is pure reparations. The bill as currently constituted will not get us from here to there.” -- William “Sandy” Darity & Kirsten Mullen

What HR 40 Gets Wrong and Why



### THE BLACK REPARATIONS



### PROJECT

A HANDBOOK FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

EDITED BY WILLIAM A. DARITY JR.,  
A. KIRSTEN MULLEN, & LUCAS HUBBARD

"How do you put a price on the atrocity of slavery, generations of stolen labor, and centuries of lost freedom? Shutting down critics who dismiss any dollar amount as 'just a check,' Darity and his colleagues deftly show how reparations would be powerfully transformative for Black Americans and lay the foundation for a racially just, equitable society."—Jennifer Lee, Julian Clarence Levi Professor of Social Sciences, Columbia University



available  
for preorder

# Reparative Actions

## PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT LOCAL, BLACK-LED REPAIR



WITH DANITA MASON-HOGANS

Our mission is to cultivate our capacities & brighten our communities through educational opportunities for the descendants of the enslaved in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



The Hannah Ruth Foundation is a community-based non-profit enhancing the quality of life for inter-generational populations in our community through service and advocacy. We are located in Chapel Hill and serve communities in Orange county.



E3 Camp (Empowering Excellence thru Exploration) mission is to provide African-American middle/high school students with hands-on activities, educational field trips and on site presenters in Art and STEM fields, necessary to become productive citizens in the 21st century workforce.



**EMPOWERment** INC



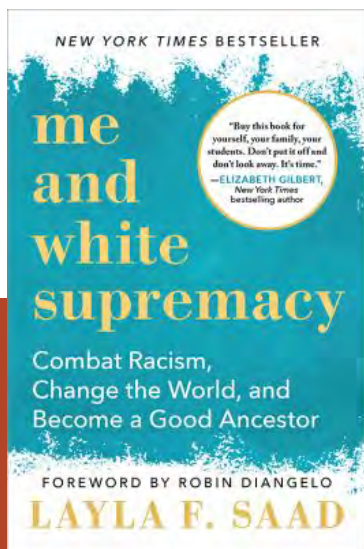
EMPOWERment, Inc. is a Community Development Corporation with the mission of empowering individuals and communities to achieve their destiny through community organizing, affordable housing, and grassroots economic development.

## DEVELOP AND DEEPEN ANTI-RACISM PRACTICES



[dismantlingracism.org](http://dismantlingracism.org)

dismantling Racism workbook  
“We cannot dismantle racism in a system that exploits people for private profit. If we want to dismantle racism, then we must build a movement for economic justice.”



*“the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house.”*  
--Audre Lorde

Me and White Supremacy by Layla F. Saad.  
A book that “...leads readers through a journey of understanding their white privilege and participation in white supremacy, so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on black, indigenous and people of color, and in turn, help other white people do better, too.”



[laylafsaad.com](http://laylafsaad.com)

# INVISIBLE TOWN

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## by Danita Mason-Hogans

Chapel Hill is my beloved hometown. I am so happy to be from the town of James Taylor and Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts and Liquid Pleasure. It was here at UNC where I first saw Michael Jordan play at Granville Towers and Barack Obama stomp for his primary speech. I remember drinking from the Old Well, dancing at the Cat's Cradle and missing Swensen's Ice Cream until Ben & Jerry's came.



Like so many other local people, I come from many many generations of this town. When the University was built in 1789 my ancestors along with the native people from this area were here. The natives built the bricks and we laid the foundation of this University and town along with it. This has been our relationship to Chapel Hill and to the University and to its history. We have always lived a parallel existence in this town. In this town with great wealth, there has also always been great poverty. When the powerful, proud confederates told the history of this town, they left out the narrative of our ancestors who built this university, that it was built on the backs and with calloused hands of those of us who were invisible to them. I call us local generational Black people, the invisible town. We carry the names but not the privilege of the legacy of those who built great fortunes and constructed false narratives. We've always been here working in a town and for a system that was designed to serve and to elevate the University and therefore the town and to keep us invisible and content with our sugar-coated oppression.



# INVISIBLE TOWN

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by Danita Mason-Hogans

When school integration came about and the schools merged in 1966 our invisible town lost 75% of our teachers and administrators, our student leadership and our student organizations. Since then, the divide has persisted. Chapel Hill at the same time has one of the highest performing student populations and the second largest achievement gap in the country.



Because of generational neglect the descendants of the people who built the university have a special history with the University and the Town and therefore need and have earned with their literal blood sweat and tears, a targeted remedy to suit those needs. We have been given an Advil as a remedy and we need a full operation.

In spite of being left behind for many generations, we have always tried to make a way to elevate our future. The former students from the segregated high school tried to make a way for us, their children, by tutoring and advocating for us in the community. And I always knew that I wanted to be a part of the educational solution in Chapel Hill. Since I was 19 years old, I have researched and implemented successful school programs. After I received a master's degree in education, I ran an after school program for local children who all had failing or close to failing grades. I worked alongside another dedicated woman who became my sister, and by the end of the school year, with hard work and with help from UNC student volunteers, the students were caught up and all had A's or B's in school. Our program was underfunded but we were determined. My co-director and I used to turn over our paychecks to buy food, clothing or other things that our children might need until the funding ran out.

# INVISIBLE TOWN

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by Danita Mason-Hogans

What if we decided to put truth over comfort?  
What if we said that facing this is awkward and painful but we are going to do the right thing this time?  
What if we really decided to be bold?  
What if we decided to tap into the underdeveloped intellectual talent that has always been here?  
What if we were all brave together?  
What if we tried something new and truly progressive?

It shouldn't be that hard. I have seen success on a smaller scale time and time again. Look at all of the resources that we have in this affluent town. If we have special targeted programs--and we should--to address the specific needs of LGBTQ youth to deal with the discrimination and suicide rates in that community and if we have special targeted programs--and we should--to address the specific needs of differently-abled youth to deal with the discrimination and needs of that community and if we have special targeted programs--and we should--to address the discrimination that comes with English not being the first language in some communities, then what would it look like if we had a specially targeted program for the descendants of the local people who built this university, offering free college tuition to the school that their ancestors built? Imagine the oldest public university in the country becoming a model of inspiration for the rest of the country in reconciling that truth to audacious action.

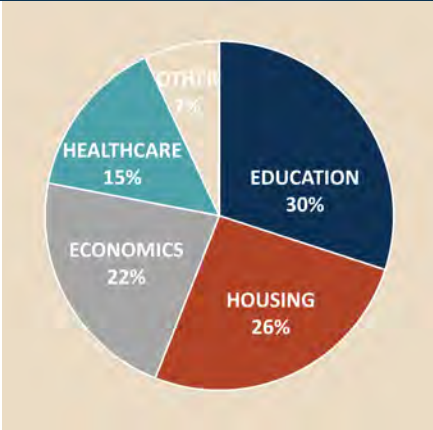
My favorite quote from Langston Hughes is "Looks like what drives me crazy don't have no effect on you but I'm gonna keep right at it 'till it drives you crazy too." I believe that every child is a gift and a promise and whether we have benefitted from this powerful university system or if we have suffered under it, we all have work to do in the name of our ancestors. Let's be bold together for our beloved Chapel Hill and write a new narrative, one that holds equity and truth. If we develop our brightest minds in this manner then the charity will belong to us all for having created a better society.

*"Man, this town is hard to crack. It's called a liberal place, but that's a mirage man. When you go to get water, you just get a mouthful of sand." --Harold Foster*



# YOUR QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

## Participatory Budgeting Activity Results



### “Other” comments

- "Removing the racial bias in our judicial system"
- "Money towards revamping the institutions"
- "the theft of land and city push out Black people."
- "reduce or create property tax-free for those who are descendants of formerly enslaved"
- "support for immigrants who settle in the area"
- "sustainability"
- "extend & connect Rogers Rd residences to sewer lines using funds from pandemic federal grants"
- "direct payments to Black residents"
- "food"
- "arts & play"
- "help people to vote!"
- "cooperative organizing"
- "political action to pass reparations legislation at the local level"
- "Black-owned businesses"
- "food"



## Data charts from Week 3

## All of your questions & notes in one document

"Do you think you'll see this happen in your lifetime?"  
"How do we teach this to young folks?"  
"Has UNC acknowledged its role in institutional racism?"



## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF & TO ASK THOSE IN POWER

Who holds the decision making power in the room?

How is this power distributed?

Is equity or equality being advanced?

Are there local long term residents in the room?

Are they advisory or decision makers?

If not, how are you being informed by the past for future planning?

How many marginalized decision makers are in your meeting spaces?

## PRACTICE CHANGE

### We have a habit of

- Addressing the pain and not the system
- Asking and relying on others to speak
- Being silent
- Not honoring or paying people for their racial equity labor
- Advocating only for individual and not system-level change

### We must break these habits by

- Disrupting the systems that produce those pains
- Looking inward to understand our own selves and privilege(s)
- Committing to continually growing and stretching our learning to learn and grow our racial literacy
- Insisting on asking at every decision: how can I contribute to substantive repair?

# ME A DNA POEM

by Vickie Fornville

I'm derived from generations of family on Tobacco Road  
Known for education and basketball.  
I graduated from UNC by the Sea  
And integrated a Henderson County court program in Apple  
Valley.

My NC is beautiful from Manteo to Murphy.  
I stepped off the school bus to a beautiful Carolina Blue Sky  
without my house key. I know I can go to any one of the houses  
and I'll be home. The beauty of Rangewood in the 70s.

I am Not "The Angry Black Woman" Because you don't like my  
tone or what I have to say. I am not angry, I am intentional.

I believe Genesis 12:2, "I will bless you...And you will be a  
blessing." As prior generations taught me, it is my job to continue  
to teach.

Oral history is food to my soul.  
My young parents grew up while raising me. They made sure I  
had options.

Knowledge is in my DNA. I am Not a Dumb Scared Girl Because  
My parents taught me to love books and to defend myself  
when needed.

NC State Public Service became my rite of passage.  
Truck Love is my Love letter to my Black Kings on Tobacco  
Road.

I am the bottom point of the V Pack. They are the two lines  
reaching to the sky.

I am Resilient.  
I'm not where I used to be.  
Current me isn't Old me.  
I'm not yet where God is Leading Me.

# THANK YOU!

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# THANK YOU!

We are immensely grateful for the ways that so many of us have made this series happen. This includes the many people named here and countless others who worked to bring us to this opportunity to listen and learn from each other.

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