

Culture

JCSU virtual-reality project to showcase Black neighborhoods torn apart by urban renewal

Using grants totaling \$307,000, researchers at the school will use computer technology to reconstruct the former Brooklyn and Greenville neighborhoods.



With aid from computers and historic documents, JCSU researchers will use historic photos such as this to stitch together two Charlotte communities long vanished. (Photo: Courtesy of JCSU)

KNIGHT FOUNDATION GRANT ACTIVITIES

1. Building Community Support

– News Coverage of the Project

Charlotte Observer
Queen City Nerve
Q City Metro
GovTech
WFAE

WSOC TV

https://youtu.be/E_M8EfregTY



Collect Oral Histories

(identified past interviews at UNCC, Duke, etc.) and conducting 10-15 new interviews for this project. Two of the interviews are with Pop and Marie Saddler, including a video tour of the old Greenville neighborhood.

<https://youtu.be/1ik9vBwBzsA>

Collected 200 + digitized photographs and documents from community members, local archives and alumni associations so far

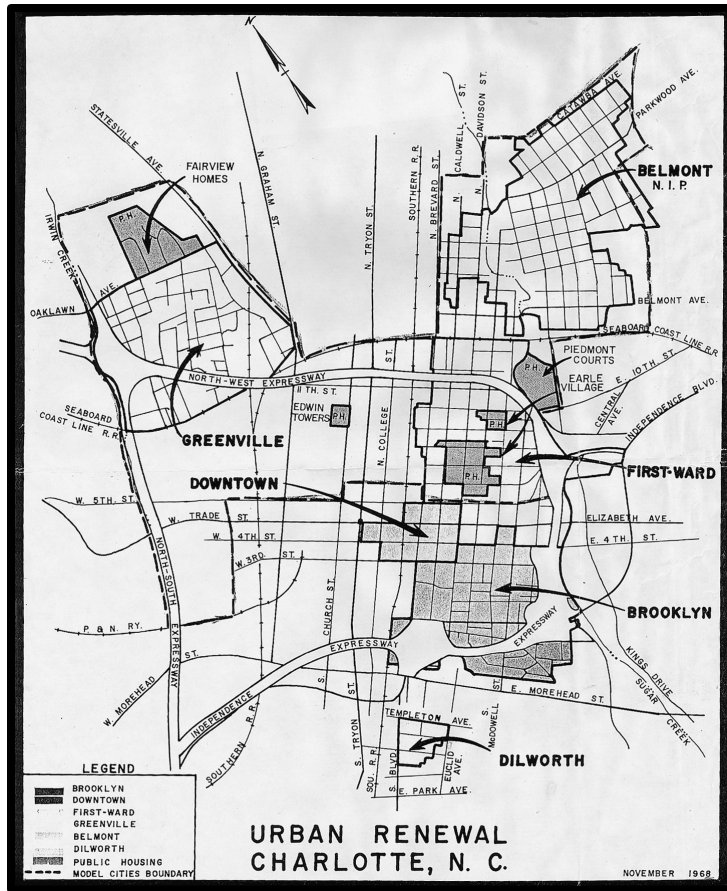


Second Ward High School, 1950's

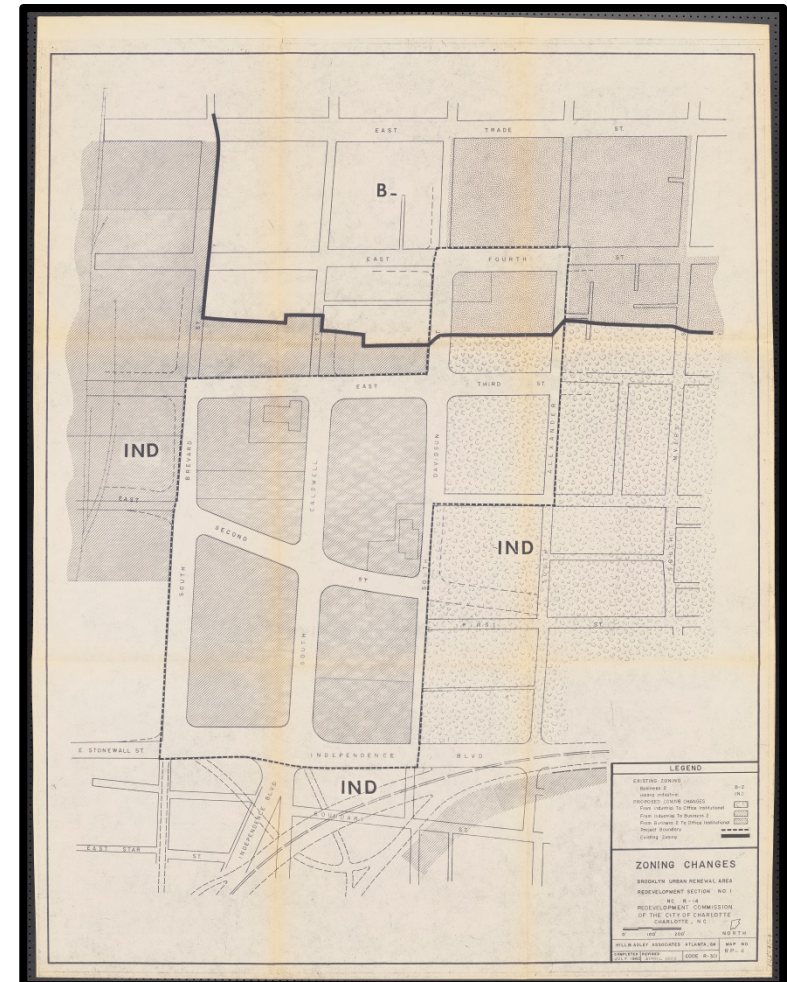


Second Ward High after Demolition

Professional and Community Researchers: UNCC, NC Center for Film, Second Ward Alumni House, Greenville Historical Association have contributed photos, documents, and oral histories.



Maps from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Dept. digitized by UNCC.
46 plus oversized maps processed, digitized with forthcoming metadata, funding from
National Parks Service





Future Processes

1. African American Neighborhood Pamphlets:
Brooklyn, Greenville,
Biddleville, First Ward, Third
Ward
2. Working with Build Team,
viewing wire frames of various
potential models of and modes
of our site. Funding from
National Archives (NARA)



<https://www.romereborn.org/>

Our Vision

Our team is currently working with Duke University's Digital Humanities Department and UNCG Engineers to reconstruct homes and public buildings, recreating streetscapes of the old neighborhoods.

These communities will be replicated through site-detailed schematic 3D modeling, and interactive interfaces where users may view 3D models based on historic photographs, and will be able to pan, zoom, tilt, fly over, and walk through lost streets, houses, businesses, schools, and churches in a first person point of view.

Our Timeline


Year 1 2021-2022 Planning, Community Input & Research

Year 2 2022-2023 Build -Site is Operative

TULSA INTERACTIVE PROJECT

Reconstructing the Neighborhood
Destroyed in the Tulsa Race Massacre

Using maps, newspaper clippings,
testimonies and more, a team of graphics
editors created an interactive 3-D portrait
of the community that was burned down
in 1921.



The Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 killed hundreds of residents, destroyed more than 1,250 homes and erased years of Black success.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/05/24/us/tulsa-race-massacre.html>



Good Samaritan Hospital, Third Ward

**Thank you for
supporting this
research and
community involved
project!**