

Diversity and Inclusion in Historic Preservation



Adrienne Burke, AICP, Esq., Principal Planner
MDC Office of Historic Preservation
April 13, 2021
Miami Beach Historic Preservation Board

History of Formal Historic Preservation in the U.S.

- Traditionally, HP in the U.S. has meant protection of the built environment – buildings, objects, landscapes, sites
- Late 19th century: Early preservation efforts in the U.S. focused on Washington's HQ (NY) and Mount Vernon (VA)
- 1889: First statewide preservation group – Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities
- 1906: Antiquities Act
- 1916: National Park Service established
- 1931: First local preservation ordinance + district – Charleston
- 1933: Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) organized
- 1949: National Trust for Historic Preservation chartered by Congress
- 1966: National Historic Preservation Act

- Most early grassroots preservation leaders were [White] women, but focus was on White male history.
- Majority of historic preservation framework as we know it was established before the Civil Rights Act, during Jim Crow-era segregation, and before movements for women's and LGBTQ+ rights.
- Formal preservation movement was/is not inclusionary of voices outside a White, privileged perspective and ignored efforts of other communities.



Mount Vernon
Ladies' Association,
mountvernon.org

Historic Preservation Stats

- Only 8% of 95,000 sites on the National Register of Historic Places focus on women or racial/ethnic minorities
 - Only 2% of the 8% focus on African-American sites
- Less than 6% of the National Park Service's 20,000 employees are Black
- African Americans comprise less than 4% of archeologists, 5% of architects and engineers, and less than 1% of professional preservationists
- Data at state and local levels varies, and either does not exist or is not easily accessible

Archaeology

- Only 4-5% of archaeologists are non-White
- Majority White profession is working on and interpreting sites that are in many cases non-White, and using historic knowledge or information from non-White cultures
- Male academics, who comprise less than 10% of North American archaeologists, write the majority of the archaeology field's peer-reviewed literature. Women make up half of archaeologists in North America.

Archaeology is in the habit of creating history. And, in the space of creating history, it is important to have as many voices as we can at the table. That means having more voices from women, women-identified folks, people of color, different spiritual-religious affiliations, and sexual orientations. Archaeology is still very Anglo-centric and heteronormative. The benefit of including more voices in the field is that we get a greater diversity in the histories we're creating.

- Dr. Ayana Omilade Flewellen, co-founder Society of Black Archaeologists



<http://www.succinctresearch.com/the-2020-race-uprisings-and-archaeologys-response/>
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190729123835.htm>
<https://www.messynessychic.com/2020/09/17/where-are-the-black-archeologists/>
<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/blog/she-digs-ayana-omilade-flewellen/>

Florida Data

Disclaimer: Information is dependent on National Register documentation categories, coding, or keywords on forms and reports. It is likely not everything is captured, or the reports/forms do not adequately capture the full history of a site.

National Register Sites ¹	African American/Black	Ethnic Heritage ²	Women	LGBTQ+
1844	74	77	27	Inconclusive
	4%	4%	1.5%	N/A

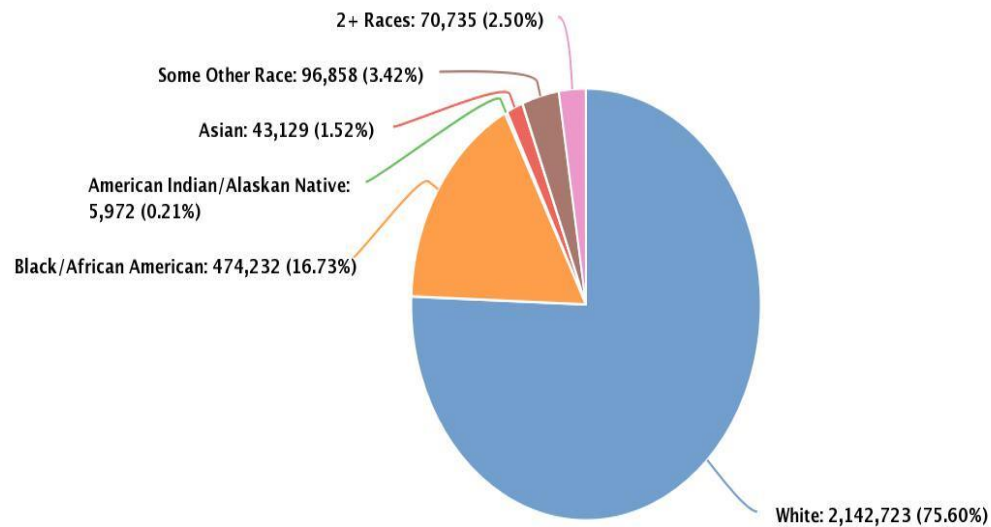
¹ – Includes Sites and Districts (not including individual contributing properties to districts). Information is limited to National Register documentation categories.

² – Includes overlap with African American/Black category.

Florida Master Site File Sites ¹	African American/Black	Women	Cuban or Latino/a/x	LGBTQ+	Native American
200,000+	2742	188	128	2	28,505
	1.4%	1%	<1%	<1%	14%

¹ – Includes broad “cultural resource” category including archaeological sites.

Population by Race County: Miami-Dade



Claritas, 2020. www.miamidadematters.org

Demographics

- 2019 estimates:
 - Hispanic or Latino: 69.4%
 - African American: 16.7%
 - Women: 51.4%
 - LGBTQ+: 6.8%

United States Census; miamidade.gov

- 128 languages spoken in metro Miami metropolitan area (2015)
wlrn.org

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Female students: 48.8% (2017)
*Miami-Dade County Public
Schools*

LGBTQ+ students: 16% self-
identify (2019 estimate)
miamidade.gov

ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF STUDENTS* BY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT OCTOBER 2017

District**	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Other***	Total
I	367	20,464	5,512	324	26,667
II	1,371	21,910	14,322	419	38,022
III	7,115	7,197	15,970	904	31,186
IV	1,007	3,322	44,491	397	49,217
V	1,074	900	29,191	468	31,633
VI	3,888	2,070	36,739	591	43,288
VII	2,445	3,179	29,590	954	36,168
VIII	1,355	408	37,001	542	39,306
IX	5,677	13,017	38,324	1,666	58,684
TOTAL	24,299	72,467	251,140	6,265	354,171
PERCENT	6.9	20.5	70.9	1.8	

* 2017 FTE membership excludes PreK students enrolled as part of the Teenage Parent Program (TAP).

** Includes vocational/technical education centers, charter schools, alternative/specialized centers, Miami-Dade Online Academy, and Educational Alternative Outreach Program centers.

*** Other includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Multiracial categories.

Source: Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Miami-Dade County Historic Sites and Demographics

- Total Designated Sites = 188
 - 8 historic districts
 - 45 archaeological sites/zones
 - 135 individual historic sites
- Assumptions made in reviewing sites:
 - Sites may have underrepresented history that is not well-documented or significant part of the designation (ex: Goulds Historic District or Sunset Elementary School). **Sites were counted if this is a possibility. This presumption counts for many of the sites assigned a demographic group.** More research is needed to tell the fuller history of these sites.
 - Structures that are oolitic limestone may have connection to Bahamian people who quarried and did construction (ex: Walker's Coral Castle)

MDC Designated Sites

Demographics:

County Sites	Indigenous	African American/Black	Latino/a/x	Caribbean	Women	LGBTQ	Asian
188	46	22	2	4	29	0	0
%	24.5%	11.7%	1%	2%	15.4%	0%	0%

Categories (numbers are rounded):

History	Architecture	Archaeology	Social/Political Movements	Religion	Art/Literature (No music)
99	111	47	2	4	5
53%	59%	25%	1%	2%	3%

Commerce	Planning/ Landscape Arch.	Recreation/ Entertainment	Education	Government	Notable People
47	39	14	7	24	32
25%	21%	7%	4%	13%	17%

Erica Avrami, “Preservation’s Reckoning” in *Preservation and Social Inclusion*

- “But simply adding more diverse sites to heritage lists is not enough to redress social and spatial disparities. Racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, enslaved and indigenous people, the economically disadvantaged, women, and those identifying as LGBTQ could not historically claim or occupy space freely or equally. Spaces representing their narratives have been underinvested in and undervalued, and were often made invisible or systemically destroyed. Accordingly, preservation must grapple with how its norms and standards, which privilege architectural value and material integrity, can perpetuate injustice.”

National Trust for Historic Preservation 2019 Survey

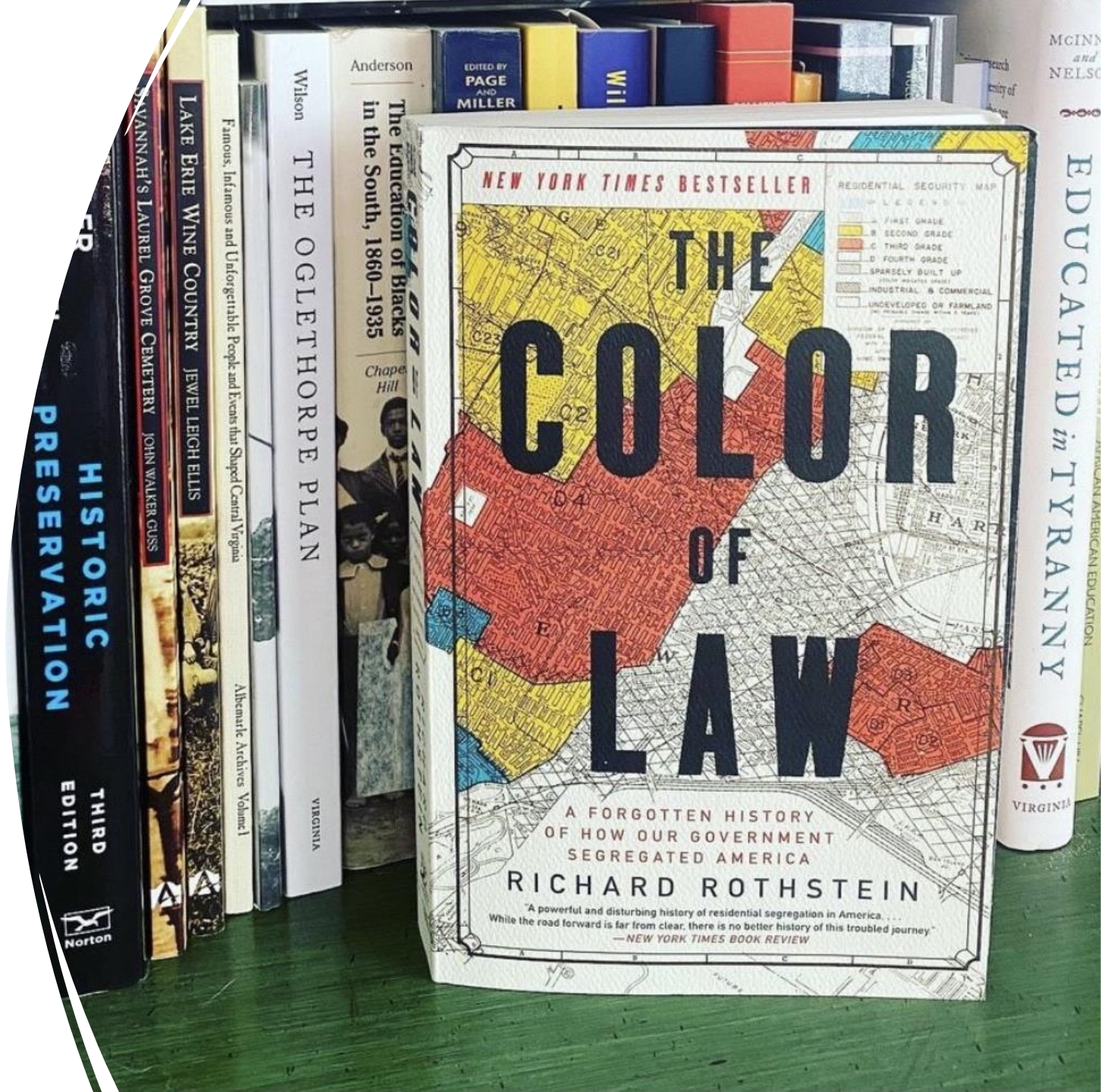
<https://forum.savingplaces.org/blogs/jim-lindberg/2020/10/08/survey-results-innovation-in-preservation-practice>

Preserving African-American Places: Growing Preservation's Potential as a Path for Equity, NTHP, October 2020

- Innovation in Preservation Practice
 - 85% agreed that greater innovation is needed in preservation practices
 - 88% agreed that preservation should help enable residents to live, work, and play in historic neighborhoods regardless of wealth and income
 - 96% agreed that preservation should strive to tell the multi-layered narratives of our history

Preservation and Local Government

- Local government preservation programs are:
 - Regulatory
 - Typically associated with planning departments, but often separated from main planning functions
 - Often unknown by the public and other departments – limited community involvement



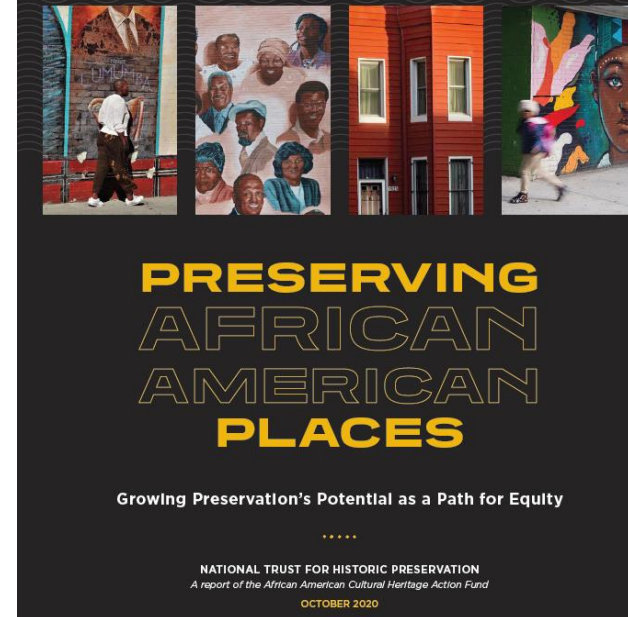
Shifting Government Involvement

- Can we rely solely on preservation tools like the National Register of Historic Places and the Florida Master Site File to tell us what is important to save and how to save it?
- From regulatory to....something else?
- More focus on cultural and intangible heritage?
- More emphasis on community outreach and engagement?
- Less emphasis on federal level aka National Register and more on local significance?



What's being done?

- New survey projects – ex: City of Madison, WI Underrepresented Communities Historic Resource Survey Report
- New reports and context statements
- Revisions to existing National Register nominations
- New National Register nominations
- Conversations around changing National Register criteria and local ordinance criteria
- Increasing diversity of locally designated sites and districts
- Digital and technology tools
- Seeking and encouraging more diverse Boards, professionals and students
- New groups, organizations, collaboratives and funding – Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation, Latinos in Heritage Conservation, the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project, National Trust African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
- Education, outreach, and community engagement
 - Surveys, reports, context statements, NR nominations or revisions, designations – not being conducted in a vacuum. Meaningful and comprehensive outreach with communities to work on and co-create the documents.
 - Events and programming to raise awareness around diverse history and places



Prepared for the City & County of San Francisco
March 2016

106GROUP

SAINT PAUL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC AND CULTURAL CONTEXT, 1837 TO 1975

Ramsey County, Minnesota
May 2017



City of Riverside Latino Historic Context Statement

Prepared for:
City of Riverside Community and Economic Development Department
3900 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Riverside, California 92522



San Antonio: Office of Historic Preservation – Living Heritage Program

“Preservation is all about **People + Place**. Local heritage is more than just our historic buildings. It's the personal and shared experiences that give places meaning. We launched the *Con Safo* social media campaign in 2015 to provide a method for people to share their favorite places and stories. Con Safos is a term used to mean “this is protected, don’t mess with it” (among its other meanings), and it's the perfect phrase for San Antonians to use when sharing the stories of places that matter to them.

[#ConSafoSanAntonio](#) is an ongoing social media campaign. Submit your photos today!”

www.sapreservation.com



gether Achieving Revitalization) is a partnership between the Office of Historic Preservation, San Antonio College, the Historic Preservation Association (HPA), and local contractors. The program provides maintenance and repairs to homeowners within local historic districts. Graduate and undergraduate students are trained to assist homeowners with repairs to windows and screens, siding, and porches, as well as exterior painting. This is a free service provided to eligible property owners.



**SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**Historic Preservation Commission
Resolution No. 1127
Centering Preservation Planning on Racial and Social Equity**
HEARING DATE: JULY 15, 2020

1650 Mission St.
Suite 400
San Francisco,
CA 94103-2479

Reception:
415.558.6378
Fax:
415.558.6409



[OUR WORK](#) ▾ [CALENDAR](#) ▾ [RESOURCES](#) ▾ [PERMIT CORNER](#) ▾

Due to COVID-19, the Planning Department is not offering any in-person services, but we are operating remotely. [Click here for more information.](#)



Citywide

Racial And Social Equity Initiative

San Francisco Planning's Racial and Social Equity Initiative aims to pro-actively advance equity in the Department's internal and external processes such as community planning, policy development, resource allocation, and process improvements. To accomplish this, the Department's Action Plan will contain specific goals, objectives, actions and accountability measures we will implement and track. On June 11, 2020 the San Francisco Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 20738 centering the Planning Department's work program and resource allocation on racial and social equity. [Read the full document here.](#) On July 15, 2020, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted Resolution No. 1127 centering Preservation Planning on racial and social equity. [Read the full document here.](#)

San Francisco Planning: Preservation

Cultural heritage program efforts include cultural heritage districts and a legacy business registry.

sfplanning.org/cultural-heritage

Reimagining Preservation....

“Carla was interested in her grandmother’s story initially, but it [became] about ... the larger story. She is using the historic idea of her grandmother’s store in a tangible [and] intangible way to build community. It is **not an official approach to preservation**, but one that is a breath of fresh air. They are following in the footsteps of Mrs. Pearson, working in the community to make it better. ... That is the heritage that she is continuing: **more of a heritage cultural practice and wanting to know more about history and how it affects those in the present, not just to preserve buildings.**”

Preservation as social justice,
community health and
environmental justice
opportunities

<https://bit.ly/2M3cGX9>
tilliescorner.org



What can we do now?

- Broaden concept of historic preservation beyond the building
- Proactively identify more diverse sites for potential listing or other preservation strategies – work with communities, conduct outreach
- Evaluate and update existing designations to tell a fuller history of the sites
- Prioritize future survey work for underrepresented sites and neighborhoods
- Conduct community outreach and engagement
- Encourage diverse Board membership and staff
- Work on these initiatives with partners like Dade Heritage Trust and others
- Ensure on-going education around these issues for staff and Board members

An advantage in Miami-Dade County...our ordinance!

- We do not have a specific number of designation criteria that must be met.
- We have designation criteria 16A-10(1)(a). Sites, districts, or zones considered for designation shall possess an integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, or association, and shall:
 - Be associated with distinctive elements of the cultural, social, political, economic, scientific, religious, prehistoric, paleontological, or architectural history that have contributed to the pattern of history in the community, Miami-Dade County, south Florida, the state or the nation.
- We have flexibility with age of a structure if there is “exceptional importance.”
- We can designate archaeological zones and sites.

Office of Historic Preservation

Sarah Cody, Historic Preservation Chief

Jeff Ransom, County Archaeologist

Adrienne Burke, Principal Planner

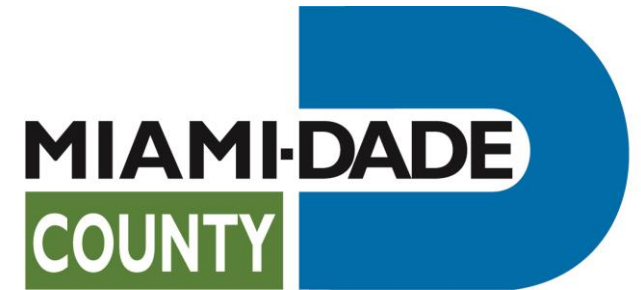
111 NW 1st Street – 12th Floor

Miami, FL 33128

(305) 375-4958

historicpreservation@miamidade.gov

www.miamidade.gov/planning/historic-preservation.asp



“The privileged view, focusing solely on the physical and economic distress of a community, fails to see the personal and cultural meanings of these historic places in people’s lives. Preservation offers permanence to the history of marginalized Americans and may, over time, create a sense of shared history with all Americans.”

Feldman, R. (2013). Social Justice Through Historic Preservation. In Jane Addams Hull House Museum (Ed.). *Architectural Encounters: Historic Preservation and the People’s History*. p.22. Chicago, University of Illinois.