

# A Raisin in the Sun

Lorraine Hansberry

# Context

- Originally debuted on Broadway in 1959
  - Has seen several revivals as recently as 2014—Denzel Washington played Walter Younger
- South Side of Chicago
- The title is based off of Langston Hughes' poem, Harlem (A Dream Deferred).
- Motivated by real-life lawsuit, Hansberry v. Lee (1940), to which Hansberry and her family were fighting racially motivated, restrictive housing covenants

# Themes

- Assimilation and Identity
- Redlining and Racism
- Being a “man”
- Concept of Home
- Being a Brother’s Keeper
- Family and family dynamics/roles and family obligations/commitments
- Dreams Deferred
- Gender Roles

# Redlining

- **The Great Migration** was the movement of 6 million African-Americans out of the rural Southern United States to the urban Northeast, Midwest, and West that occurred between 1910 and 1970.
- A phenomenon known as **white flight** occurred during the 1950s and 1960s consisting of middle-class whites leaving racially diverse urban areas to racially homogenous suburbs. Causes are varied, some argue desegregation of schools, others blame the migration of African-Americans out of southern states, while others argue that whites generally defended their space by way of violence intimidation, and legal tactics.
- In the United States, **redlining** is the practice of denying services, either directly or through selectively raising prices, to residents of certain areas based on the racial or ethnic composition of those areas.
- In some cases, there are restrictive covenants in place to keep specific minority groups out.

# Racially Restrictive Real-Estate Covenant

said Tracts to a corporation or association formed by residents or owners of property in Innis Arden No. 2, or to a corporation or association formed by residents or owners of Innis Arden, for community purposes, in the activities of which corporation or association residents of Innis Arden No. 2 shall have the right to participate, subject to reasonable restrictions and requirements imposed by such corporation or association.

14. *RACIAL RESTRICTIONS*...No property in said addition shall at any time be sold, conveyed, rented or leased in whole or in part to any person or persons not of the White or Caucasian race. No person other than one of the White or Caucasian race shall be permitted to occupy any property in said addition or portion thereof or building thereon except a domestic servant actually employed by a person of the White or Caucasian race where the latter is an occupant of such property.

15. *ANIMALS*. No hogs, cattle, horses, sheep, goats, or or similar livestock shall be permitted or maintained on said property at any time. Chicken hens, pigeons, rabbits and other similar small livestock, not exceeding a total of twenty-five in number, shall be permitted but must be kept on the premises of the owner. Not more than one dog and cat may be kept for each building site. No pen, yard, run, hutch, coop or other structure or area for the housing and keeping of the above described poultry or animals shall be built or maintained closer



# What is Gentrification?

- The process of renovating and improving a house or district so that it conforms to middle-class taste.
- Gentrification is typically the result of increased interest of external citizens to live in a certain environment.
  - These areas generally contain a more unique flair or culture than most other places among society but might contain certain familiar middle class convenience or familiarity.
- In a community undergoing gentrification, the average income increases.
- Poorer pre-gentrification residents who are unable to pay increased rents or property taxes are forced out.

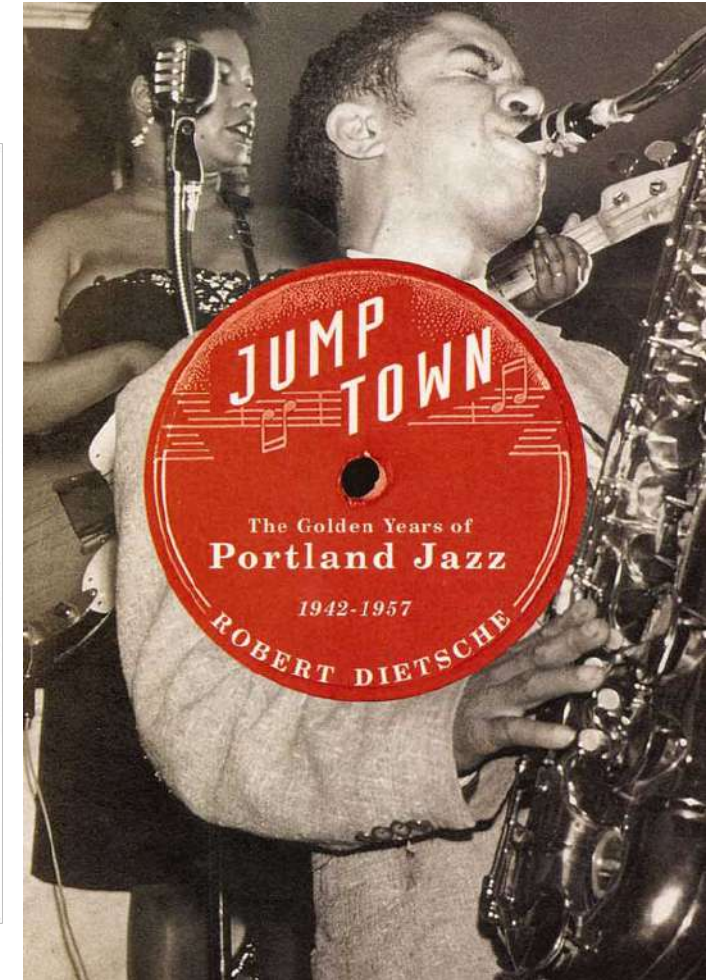




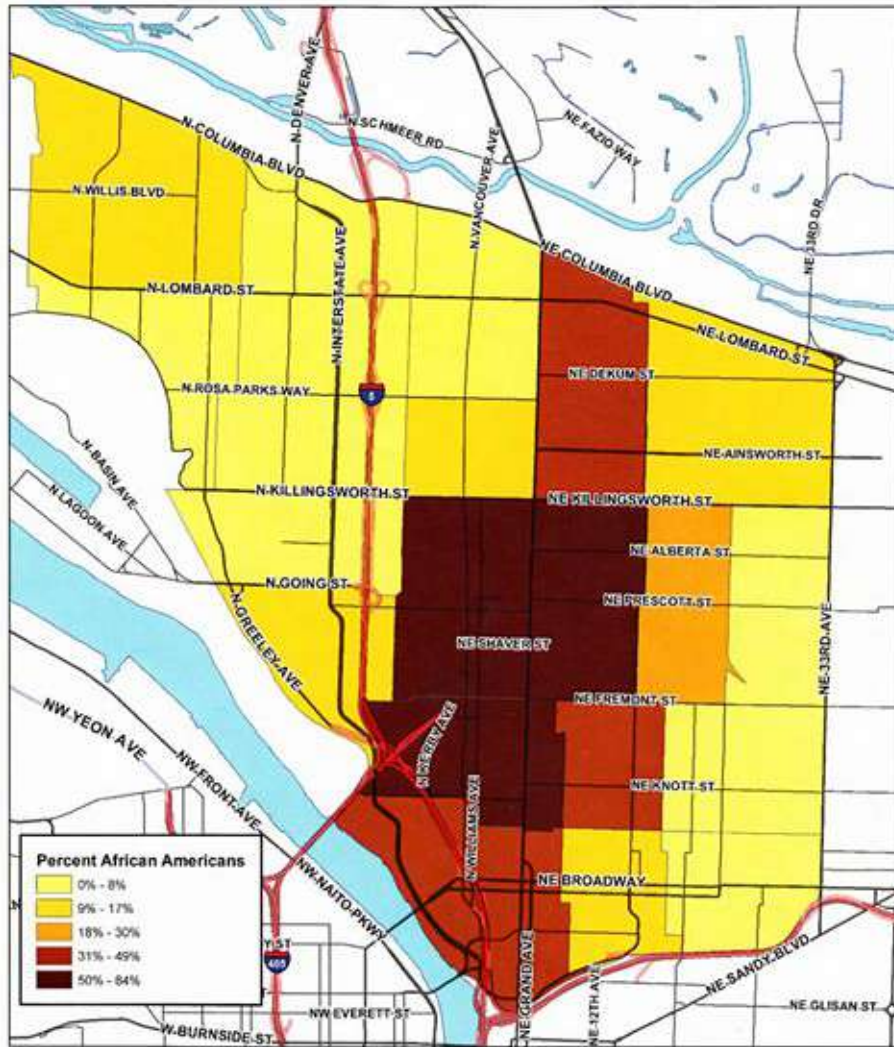
# Portland's History



Figure 4. In 1971, protestors demand that Emanuel Hospital provide the jobs it promised and keep the health clinic open. Oregon Historical Society.



# NE Portland African-American Population in 1970



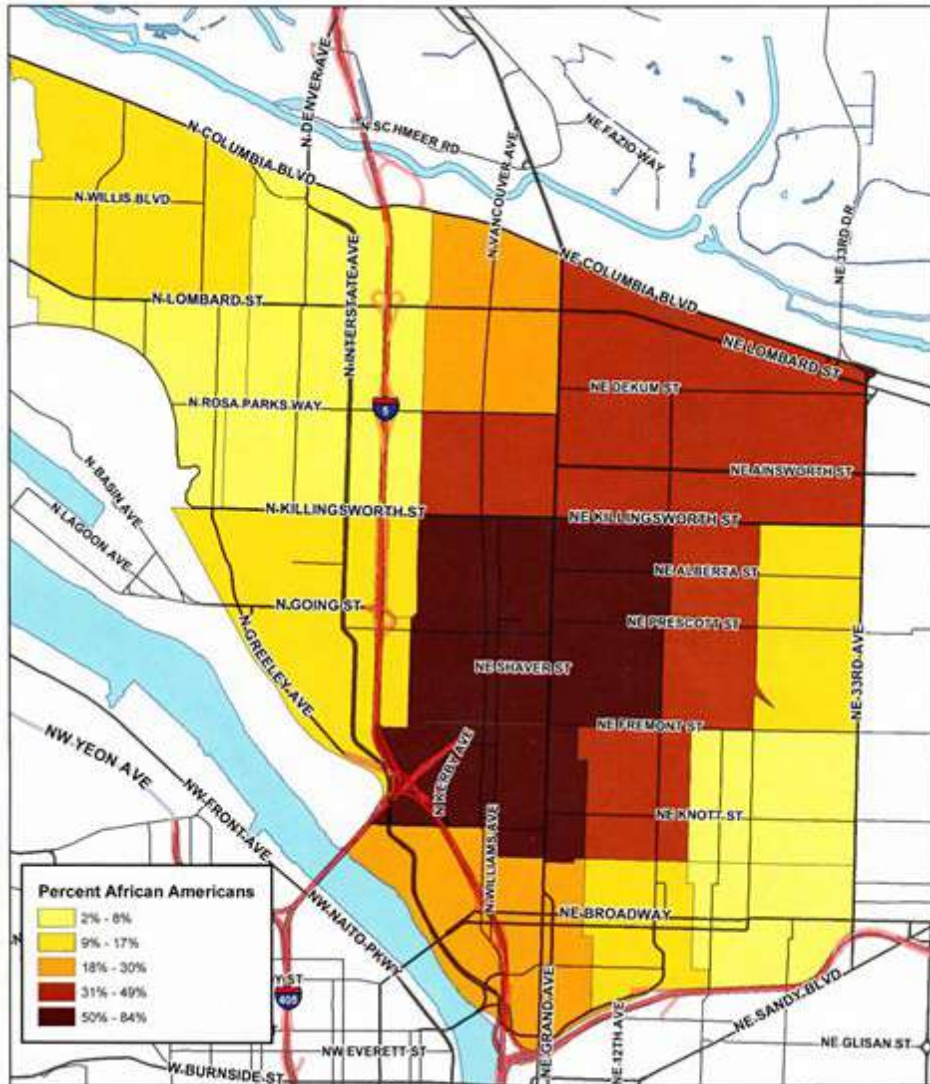
**Black or African American Percent of Total Population 1970**  
**North/Northeast Portland**  
**by Census Tract**

Created by Portland Housing Bureau, June 2014  
 Source: 2010 Decennial Census, National Historic Geographic System

Area	African-American	Total	Percent
Portland	21,572	382,619	6%
North/Northeast	19,463	87,891	22%



# NE Portland African-American Population in 1980

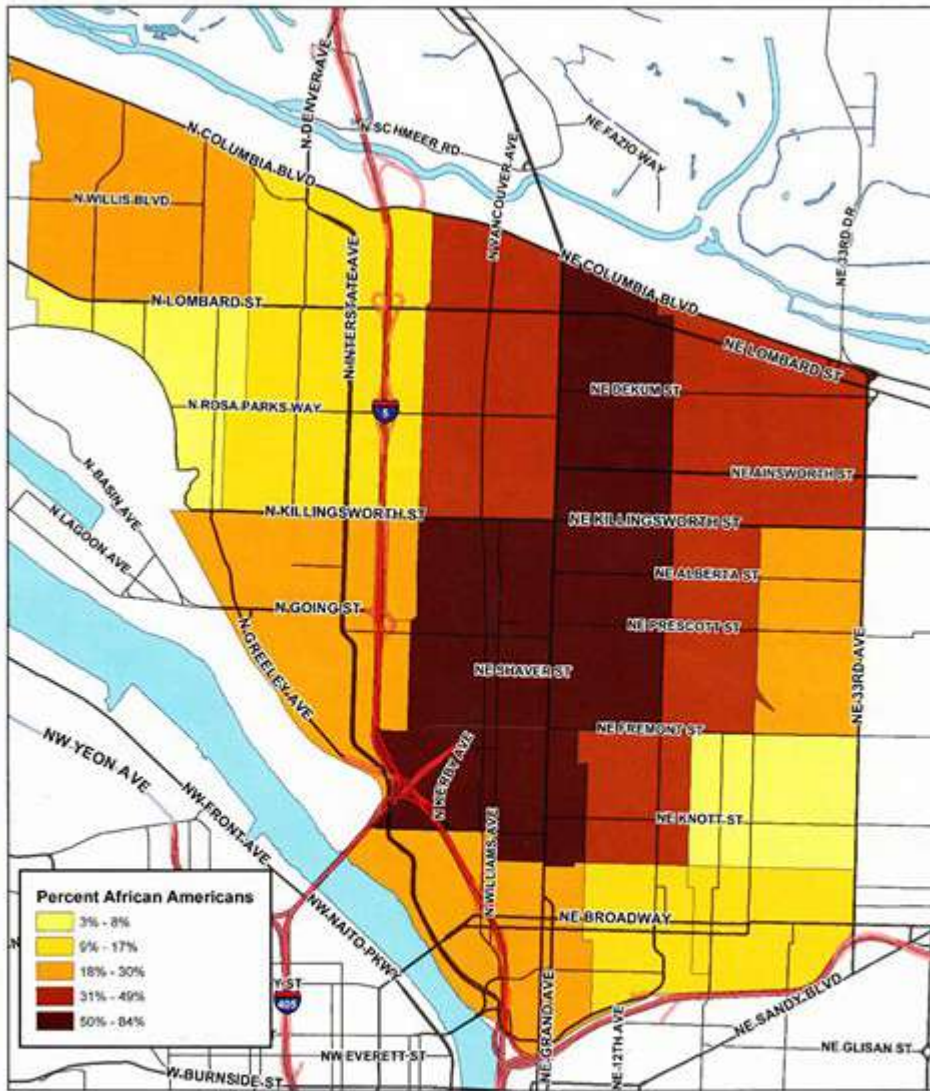


**Black or African American Percent of Total Population 1980**  
**North/Northeast Portland**  
**by Census Tract**

Area	African-American	Total	Percent
Portland	27,734	366,383	8%
North/Northeast	22,387	80,984	28%

Created by Portland Housing Bureau, June 2014  
 Source: 2010 Decennial Census, National Historic Geographic System

# NE Portland African-American Population in 1990

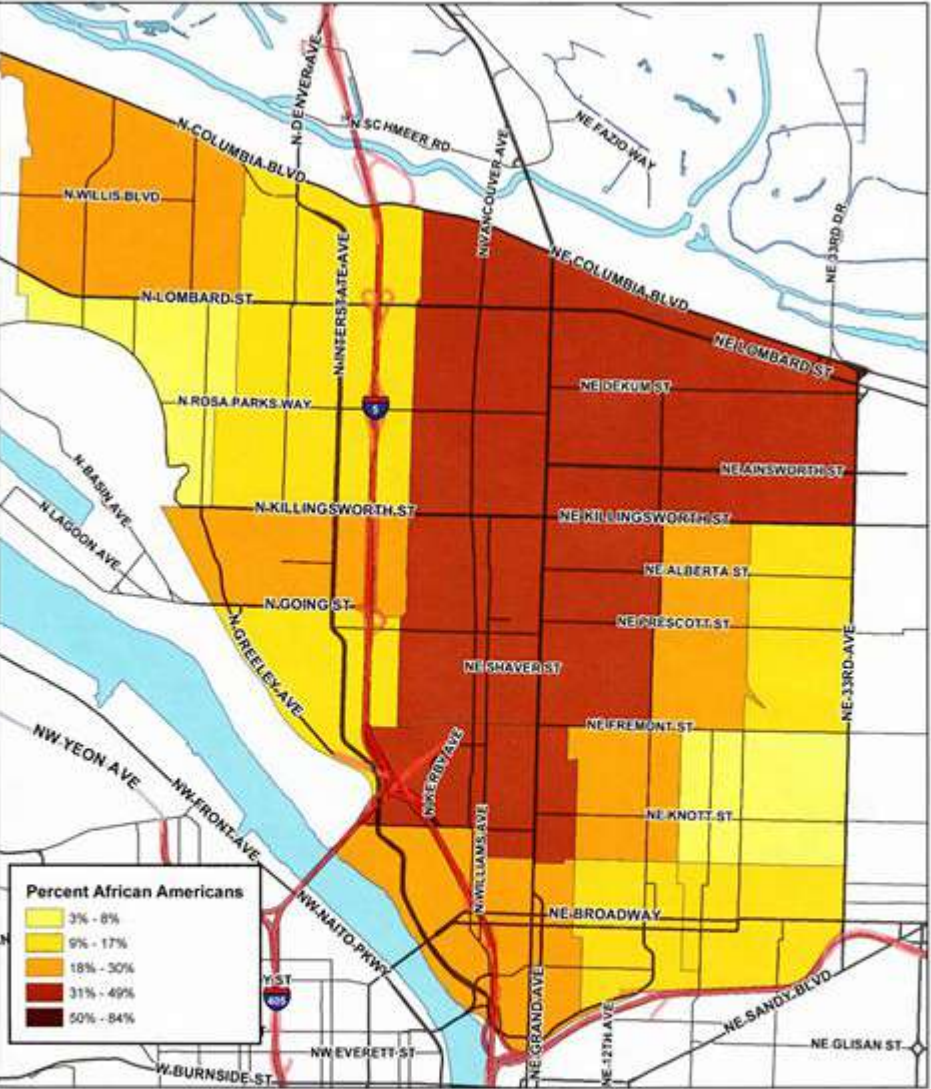


**Black or African American Percent of Total Population 1990**  
**North/Northeast Portland**  
**by Census Tract**

Created by Portland Housing Bureau, June 2014  
 Source: 2010 Decennial Census, Minnesota Population Center, National  
 Historical Geographic Information System

Area	African-American	Total	Percent
Portland	33,530	437,319	8%
North/Northeast	23,724	77,195	31%

# NE Portland African-American Population in 2000



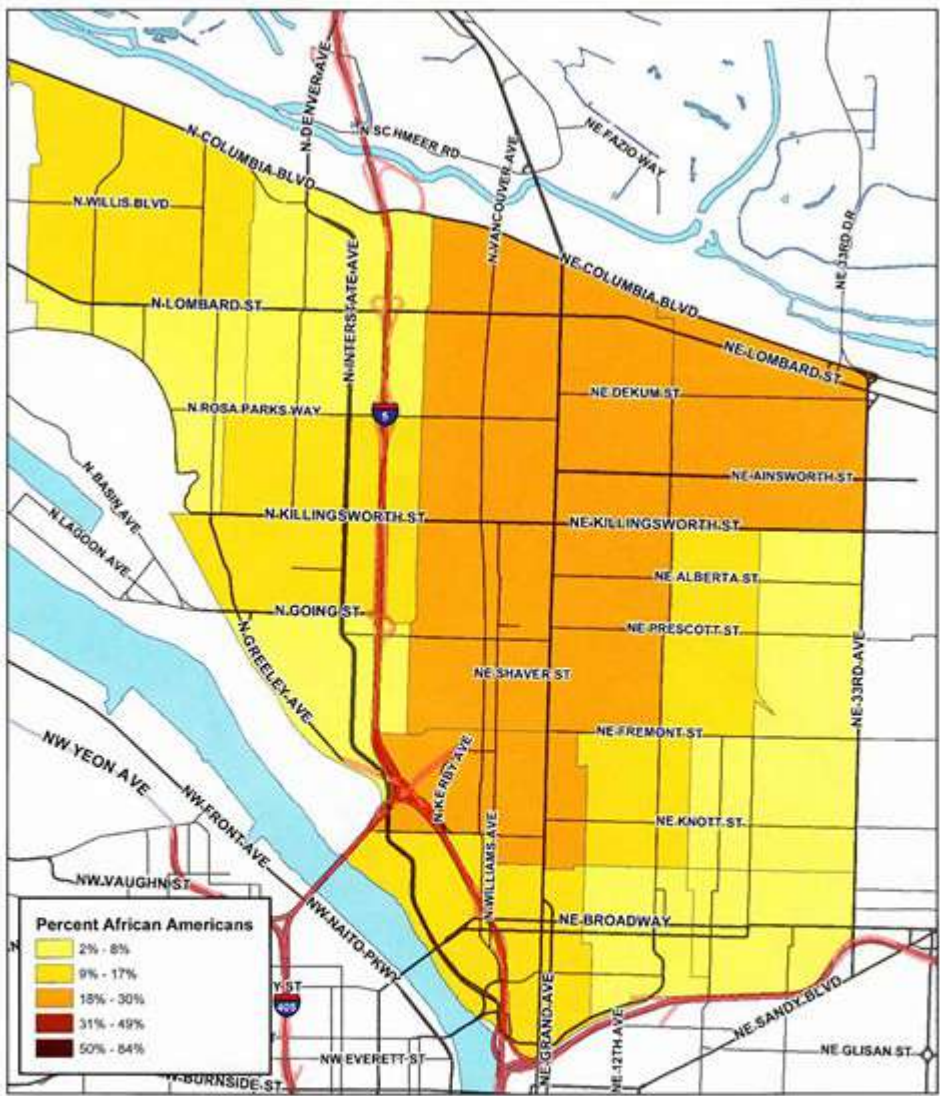
**Black or African American Percent of Total Population 2000**  
**North/Northeast Portland**  
**by Census Tract**

Created by Portland Housing Bureau, June 2014  
Source: 2000 Decennial Census

Area	African-American	Total	Percent
Portland	35,115	529,121	7%
North/Northeast	19,922	80,557	25%



# NE Portland African-American Population in 2010



**Black or African American Percent of Total Population 2010  
North/Northeast Portland  
by Census Tract**

Created by Portland Housing Bureau, June 2014  
Source: 2010 Decennial Census, National Historic Geographic System

Area	African-American	Total	Percent
Portland	36,695	583,776	6%
North/Northeast	12,274	83,237	15%