

## Challenging Separation

Kendra Freeman, Metropolitan Planning Council The Cost of Segregation: metroplanning.org/costofsegregation

### DISCUSSION QUOTE 1

"Housing segregation and school segregation have always been entwined in America. But the opportunity to buy into 'good' neighborhoods with 'good' schools... has never been equally available to all." -Nikole Hannab-Jones

At your table reflect on what this means. What are the connections to the policy challenges we just learned about in the video and presentation (eg., redlining, homeownership, wealth gap)?

#### DISCUSSION QUOTE 2

# "Making individuals responsible for the behavior of racial groups and making entire racial groups responsible for the behavior of individuals are the two ways racism infects our perception of the world." *-Ibram X. Kendi*

Reflect on how personal bias can create positive and negative false narratives about groups based on race. How have these narratives influenced where we choose to live, who we do business with and with whom we choose to build personal relationships? What impact does this have on how our communities and institutions function?

#### DISCUSSION QUOTE 3

"We have greater political and social conflict because we must add unfamiliarity with fellow citizens of different racial backgrounds to the challenges we confront in resolving legitimate disagreements about public issues. Racial polarization stemming from our separateness has corrupted our politics, permitting leaders who ignore the interests of white working-class voters to mobilize them with racial appeals." *-Richard Rothstein* 

Reflect on your comfort level discussing difficult topics with those who may be from different racial, religious and/or economic backgrounds. What can we do to bridge the distrust that may come from living separately? (As individuals? As a community?) What intentions will you set for yourself/your family coming out of this conversation?