



National Day of Racial Healing 2024

Envisioning a Future Without Racism

In January, BCTRHT hosted its eighth annual National Day of Racial Healing event—an Envisioning Dinner—bringing together around 150 participants at the Record Box Loft in downtown Battle Creek. The gathering provided a space for meaningful dialogue and collective envisioning of a future free from racism.



Attendees sharing their visions at their table

Laniyah, 13, captivated the audience with a powerful poem imagining a Battle Creek where racism no longer divides communities. Her words resonated deeply, earning a standing ovation and setting the tone for an evening of reflection and dialogue. Echoing her optimism, 8-year-old Luna shared her vision of a city where everyone has access to basic needs and experiences kindness and inclusion.

The evening encouraged attendees to engage in visionary conversations, imagining what Battle Creek could look like 100 years from now without racism. Guided discussions and activities allowed participants to express their hopes for unity, equality, and justice.

The event also featured performances by local artists, including a song by a member of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and an electrifying drum and dance performance by Nanou Djiapo. Guests enjoyed a catered dinner while participating in meaningful dialogue, reaffirming their commitment to racial healing and transformation in Battle Creek.

continue on p. 2

Table of Contents

NDRH 2024

Cover - p. 2

Youth Summit

p. 3

Community Envisioning

p. 4

CLT Retreat

p. 5

BC Did Not Burn

p. 6

Human Series & Community Gathering

p. 7

Shared Leadership & Redefining Race

p. 8

Building Equity

p. 9-10

NCHE & NDSL

p. 11

Civil Rights & Fair Housing

p. 11

CMF

p. 12

Advisory Board

p. 13

Resisting Polarization Series

p. 14

About BCTRHT

Back cover

National Day of Racial Healing 2024

(cont'd)

Reflecting on the event, BCTRHT Program Director Elizabeth Garcia highlighted the significance of everyday actions in advancing racial equity.

"It's about going back into what it really means to be a catalyst for this work and living it in our everyday life," Garcia said. "It's breaking bread and sharing stories so that you are feeding your body and feeding your soul."

As BCTRHT enters a new phase of growth with an expanding team and programming, we hope the Envisioning Dinner served as a powerful reminder of this community's resilience and determination to build a better future. Through ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and action, we remain committed to creating a more just and inclusive Battle Creek for generations to come.



Boonika and Tania



Staff from Bronson Healthcare Group



Welcome song performed by Fred Jacko of the Odawa



Elizabeth and Rosemary



Lively performance by Nanou Djiapo



Attendees enjoying their meal



Guests arriving to Record Box Loft



Attendees enjoying the youth presentations



A delicious multicultural spread

NDRH Youth Summit

Envisioning a Future Without Racism

As part of the National Day of Racial Healing, BCTRHT hosted a Youth Summit at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, engaging 70 students from five high schools in open and honest discussions about racial stereotyping, discrimination, and healing.

Breakout sessions provided empowering spaces for students to express themselves, sharing instances of discrimination and the impact on their lives. From feeling misunderstood within family dynamics to facing racial profiling in public, students candidly addressed the challenges they face. Despite these struggles, participants like Khyrinn Herring, who co-facilitated a group, emphasized the importance of using their voices for change, drawing from personal experiences of advocating for racial equality.

Mental Health & Racial Trauma

The summit also shed light on mental health issues within minoritized communities, challenging the stigma surrounding seeking help. Students discussed the intergenerational trauma caused by racial prejudice and the importance of breaking these cycles for future generations. As the day progressed, participants confronted stereotypes and explored avenues for healing and understanding. Victoria Ramon-Fox, co-organizer of the summit, expressed gratitude for the opportunity for students to connect and engage in meaningful dialogue, highlighting the need for more spaces like this in schools.

Commitment to Youth Voices

BCTRHT recognizes that youth voice is frequently overlooked in conversations of significant change. Moving forward, we are committed to fostering youth involvement and providing young people with a platform to speak and lead in racial healing efforts. Shaping a more inclusive community requires true diversity in perspective, and we continue working to amplify these voices in our programs and initiatives.



Boonika leading a discussion



Adults were eager to hear from youth



Participants were excited to participate in the Youth Summit



Youth presentation



Khyrinn shares thoughts



Victoria guides participants

Community Envisioning Sessions

Following the Envisioning Dinner, BCTRHT organized six Community Envisioning Sessions throughout Battle Creek to broaden the conversation and gather diverse perspectives on racial equity.

These sessions took place in various community locations, including Willard Library, BC Pride, the Share Center, RISE Corp, and Washington Heights United Methodist Church.

We had the opportunity to listen to a wide range of voices from different ages, cultures, educational backgrounds, and socioeconomic statuses. The participation in both the Envisioning Dinner and the Community Sessions reflects Battle Creek's ongoing commitment to a future free from racism; its residents remain united in their pursuit of justice, healing, and transformation.



Washington Heights Methodist Church
January 18, 2024
Noon - 2:00 pm
153 N Wood St
Battle Creek, MI 49037

Share Center
Jan 24, 2024
1:00 pm - 3:00pm
120 Grove St
Battle Creek, MI 49037

Willard Library
Jan 25, 2024
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
7 W Van Buren St
Battle Creek, MI 49017

BC Pride
Jan 27, 2024
5:00 - 7:00 pm
145 Capital Ave NE
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Burma Center
February 2024
(By Invitation Only)

RISE
February 2024
(Date/Location TBA)

List of Community Envisioning Events

Emerging Themes

Themes that emerged from the data captured on the vision cards for both youth and community.

Equality and Inclusion	Community Empowerment	Education	Health and Well-being	Economic Prosperity
A strong desire for a community where everyone is treated equally, across all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.	Visions include empowered communities where individuals feel safe, supported, and have access to opportunities and resources.	Many participants envision an educational system that is accessible, equitable, and culturally relevant.	A focus on physical and mental health, with visions of free healthcare, clean environments, and overall well-being.	Visions of a thriving economy with opportunities for all, including well-paying jobs and affordable housing.
Cultural Richness	Safe and Welcoming Spaces	Generational Impact	Social Justice	Environmental Sustainability
Embracing diverse cultures, languages, cuisines, and traditions, creating a vibrant and rich community.	A desire for safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces where individuals can express themselves without fear.	Visions include breaking generational curses, creating opportunities for children, and ensuring a better future for the next generations.	A call for justice, equity, and the elimination of discrimination, bullying, and stereotypes.	Desires for a clean and sustainable environment, free from pollution, with green spaces and access to nature.

Community Leadership Team Retreat

What themes emerged from the envisioning process?

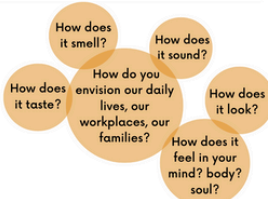
In March, BCTRHT organized a Community Leadership Team (CLT) Retreat to review the visions gathered during the National Day of Racial Healing (NDRH). The aim was to identify recurring themes and align our strategies with the community's aspirations for a racism-free future over the next 100 years. Key themes from the vision cards included equality and inclusion, community empowerment, education, health and well-being, economic prosperity, cultural richness, safe and welcoming spaces, generational impact, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

These themes now serve as guiding principles for the Community Leadership Team as they shape BCTRHT's strategy in the coming years. The insights from the envisioning cards create a vivid depiction of Battle Creek's future, characterized by love, respect, inclusivity, safety, and cultural diversity. From culinary delights to harmonious relationships, the vision for Battle Creek in 100 years without racism envisions a comprehensive transformation of society, embracing unity, understanding, and shared humanity.

Here are some of the visions that community members shared with us:

VISION CARD

Use drawings, words, doodles, or whatever you want, to show us your vision. Here are some questions to guide you:



Envisioning Battle Creek in 100 years, without racism

Sounds like:

"no one using racial slurs or unkind words."

"like waves- ebbs and flows- surrender to what is as everything happens for us"

"Multicultural soundscape featuring various languages and music"

Smells like:

"A flower garden. Really fragrant but relaxing."

"Battle Creek, the Cereal City, will still occasionally smell like cereal."

"It smells like culture and acceptance because our doors and windows will be open."

Looks like:

"More libraries. Free food so no people are hungry."

"we all had equal opportunities and resources."

"Respecting others"

"Everyone sees color and celebrates it."

Tastes like:

"It would taste like the finest cuisines from all different cultures."

"Very flavorful and with each bite or taste you would be able to tell love was the main ingredient."

"Tastes like fusion, fusion of foods from all over the world."

Feels like:

"United and unconditional love-connection."

"For kids to have a future without being scared to walk the streets without getting shot or jumped."

" open-mindedness. A future without racism looks like- connection, sounds-fair, feels-equal"

"No more gun violence. No more walls just longer tables. No pipeline to prison. No harmful labels. No violence in schools equals dreams. Success breaking generational curses in increasing generational wealth children deserve better from us. Free lunches, free health and free Palestine. Togetherness break bread not heart stop gun violence, let's break barriers that prevent us from the life. We all deserve affordable housing for all all you need is love."

"Our community will be filled with the smells of diversity. A soup pot filled with the okra of African nations, the mesa of the latinx neighbors, the sweetness of southern cooking, the soy sauce of Asia, the herbs of indigenous friends all stirred together with love and appreciation for every difference. It sounds like a symphony of cultural instruments and voices all tuned to their heart but all valued and not labeled or categorized by past. It feels warm. It feels bright. It feels challenging at times but it feels alright."

Battle Creek Did Not Burn

Oral History Project

In February, BCTRHT launched the Battle Creek Did Not Burn Oral History Project to illuminate overlooked stories of resilience and activism from the Civil Rights Movement in Battle Creek. While the city may not have made national headlines for unrest, racial injustice and systemic discrimination shaped many lives.

Project Overview

This initiative, led in collaboration with JR Reynolds and Willard Library's Tynisha Dungey, aimed to:

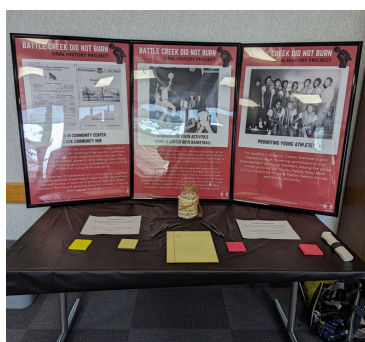
- Document and amplify stories of resilience and activism in Battle Creek.
- Preserve firsthand accounts of elders and activists who experienced racial discrimination and fought for justice.
- Reframe historical narratives by centering the voices of those most affected.

Funded in part by the Binda Foundation, the project includes a documentary, Battle Creek Did Not Burn, directed by Cloudy Productions. The film captures powerful stories of survival, resistance, and the fight for racial justice.

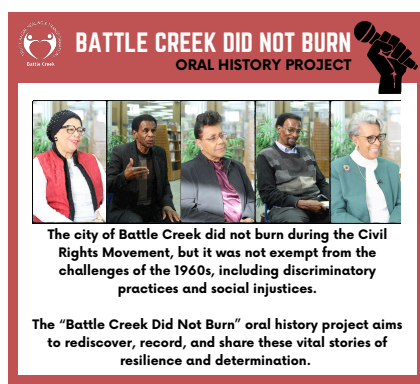
Community Impact

- Oral History Interviews: Five in-depth interviews with longtime Battle Creek residents, including civil rights activists and educators.
- Documentary Screening: Over 100 community members attended the premiere, engaging in discussions on racial justice.
- Archiving Efforts: These stories will be publicly accessible through Willard Library.

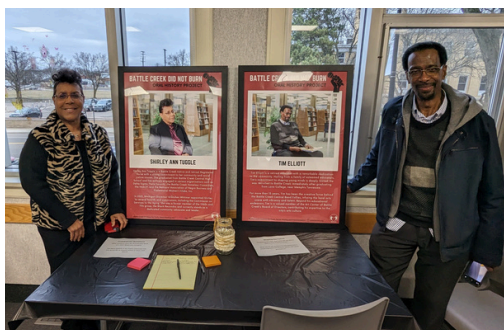
"Our history is powerful. It's time these stories are told." – Presentation Participant



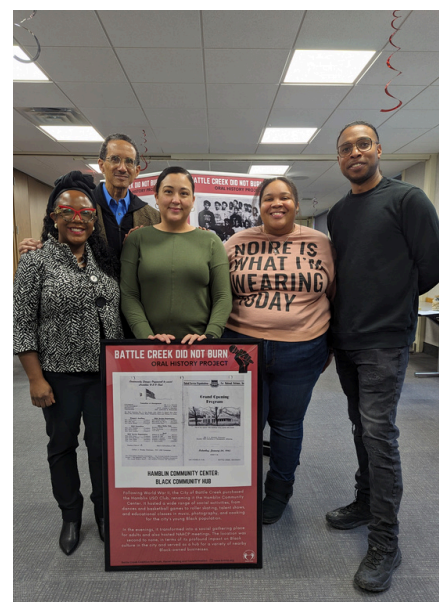
Posters from the screening



Four of the five interviewees



Shirley Ann Tuggle and Tim Elliott



The team that helped make this event possible: Tynisha, JR, Elizabeth, Frances, Erik

Understanding Oppression

Westshore Community College

Westshore Community College invited BCTRHT's Elizabeth Garcia and Boonika Herring to facilitate a workshop as part of its Humankind series. Titled "Understanding Oppression," the session provided participants with tools to foster empathy and belonging, aligning with this year's theme, "Inclusion: Conversations Around a Crowded Table."

Grounded in the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) framework, the workshop examined the historical and contemporary impacts of racism, encouraging critical reflection and action. Dr. John Moore, WSCC associate professor of psychology, contributed insights on the complexity of oppression and its societal implications. The discussion explored the psychological and sociological dimensions of racism, shedding light on how it manifests in daily life.



Elizabeth, Boonika, and Dr. John Moore

Community Gathering

Café Rica

Following a tragic shooting at Café Rica in February, BCTRHT organized a community gathering at the café to provide support, love, and unity. This space allowed individuals—including responding officers, witnesses, and the broader community—to acknowledge the tragedy's profound impact.

Café Rica's owners expressed deep gratitude for the support, emphasizing the power of community in times of hardship. The gathering created a space for people to process emotions, find strength in one another, and foster collective healing.



Café Rica Coffee Company



Owners of Café Rica



Community Members comfort one another



Dr. Elishae Johnson



Community members gather

Shared Leadership Model

Co-Executive Directors Elizabeth Garcia and Tha Par

On May 1, 2024, Tha Tin Par officially became Co-Executive Director of BCTRHT, bringing extensive experience and a deep commitment to social justice. As a founding member, she has played a pivotal role in shaping BCTRHT's vision and fostering community relationships since 2017.



Tha holds a Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's in Social Work from the University of Michigan. She previously served as Executive Director of the Burma Center, advocating for immigrant communities, and has consulted on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives while facilitating transformative dialogue.

As Co-Executive Director, she partners with Elizabeth Garcia to lead BCTRHT's strategy, fundraising, and programming. Her leadership continues to strengthen the coalition's efforts to advance racial equity and healing in Battle Creek, ensuring the organization thrives in its mission to drive systemic change.

Redefining Race

Conversations on Housing and Gun Violence

The premiere episode of Redefining Race Season 2 delves into housing disparities in Michigan, focusing on Battle Creek. It examines the lasting impact of redlining, discriminatory housing policies, and systemic inequities that create barriers to homeownership. Through lived experiences, the episode highlights the struggles of low-income families facing unsafe living conditions, limited resources, and financial hardships that perpetuate poverty. Experts and community members discuss segregation, the fight for affordable housing, and community-led efforts to revitalize neighborhoods like Washington Heights.

The second episode shifts to gun violence and its deep impact on individuals and communities. Guests share personal stories of loss, revealing the lasting trauma and pain. The episode explores how cycles of violence often stem from poverty, lack of resources, and unaddressed community trauma. Discussions emphasize the need for adult mentorship, addressing systemic root causes, and fostering stronger community support systems.

By amplifying diverse voices, Redefining Race Season 2 connects issues of housing and violence, illustrating how economic instability, systemic barriers, and lack of investment in communities contribute to these challenges. The series underscores the urgency of housing justice, the importance of breaking cycles of violence, and the collective responsibility to create inclusive, thriving neighborhoods.



Building Equity

A Panel Discussion on Housing Justice in Battle Creek

BCTRHT recognizes that achieving housing equity requires open dialogue and decisive action. On June 5, 2024, we proudly partnered with local organizations to host a powerful community dinner and discussion at Washington Heights United Methodist Church. The event brought together over 150 community members and featured influential authors Leah Rothstein (Just Action) and Dr. Sheryll Cashin (White Space, Black Hood), whose work aligns with our mission. Their insights shed light on systemic barriers to housing equity and provided actionable pathways for change.

Held during Home Ownership Month, this gathering challenged prevailing narratives about housing inequity while highlighting both challenges and opportunities. Rothstein emphasized the need for local action to rebuild political will for transformative change, while Cashin examined the impact of America's residential caste system and the ongoing disinvestment in Black and Brown communities.



Attendees listening intently to Leah Rothstein

At BCTRHT, we are committed to moving beyond conversation to action. Our hope is to support the community in leveraging our relationships to ensure a Housing Equity Plan that prioritizes affordability, accessibility, and racial equity. We also aim to partner with the City of Battle Creek on its Five-Year Consolidated Plan to ensure an equity lens is applied at every stage.

As thought partners and advocates, we build trust with those most impacted while holding decision-makers accountable for meaningful change. This work requires persistent engagement, from advocating for policy reforms to supporting grassroots efforts that empower residents to claim their right to safe, stable housing. Every step forward must be rooted in equity, transparency, and long-term sustainability.



Leah Rothstein



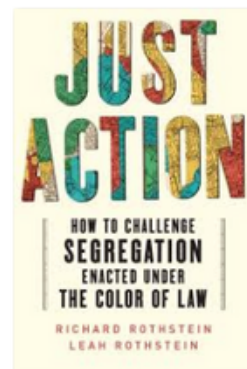
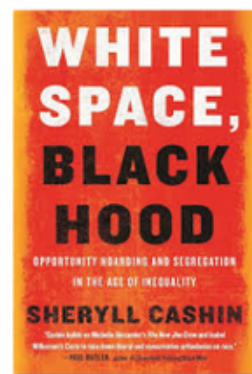
Dr. Sheryll Cashin

As Co-Executive Director Elizabeth Garcia stated, "We wanted attendees to leave with a clear understanding of how historical and current policies have shaped housing inequities in Battle Creek and feel empowered to take action toward justice." Through informed advocacy, civic engagement, and collaboration, we can dismantle systemic inequities and make housing equity a reality for all Battle Creek residents.

Building Equity Book Discussions

In preparation for our June 5 panel discussion, BCTRHT hosted four book discussions in May—three in English and one in Spanish. These sessions explored **Just Action** by Leah Rothstein and **White Space, Black Hood** by Dr. Sheryll Cashin, encouraging participants to examine systemic housing inequities and potential solutions.

Designed to spark dialogue, these gatherings deepened participants' connection to the material and enriched discussions at the main event. Topics included redlining and other historic housing practices, providing crucial context. Attendees also received a copy of one book, fostering continued reflection and advocacy for housing justice in Battle Creek.



Strategic Planning

From Visioning to Action

BCTRHT engaged Cross Movement Social Justice Consulting, led by Rosemary Linares, to guide its strategic planning process. The consultant played a key role in designing the survey instrument, interview protocols, and focus group structure, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach. Meanwhile, the Co-Executive Directors led the implementation of data collection, conducting a multi-layered process that included a survey, nine interviews, and three focus groups. To enhance rigor and credibility, the process incorporated multiple data sources, input from key informants, and quality assurance measures in both collection and analysis. Triangulating data across these methods provided rich insights, capturing diverse perspectives and producing a robust, community-informed analysis.

The first phase of data collection focused on developing and distributing a strategy survey to BCTRHT stakeholders. Sent to 638 email addresses, it received 170 responses, yielding a 21% response rate. To increase participation, the Co-Executive Directors also shared the survey through direct outreach and the organization's e-newsletter, generating an additional 38 responses. Open from September 16 to October 8, 2024, the survey allowed stakeholders to provide critical input on BCTRHT's priorities, direction, and role in advancing racial equity.

Interviews and focus groups offered a deeper exploration of community perspectives, creating spaces for candid discussions about BCTRHT's impact, historical context, and evolving role in Battle Creek. These qualitative methods provided stakeholders an opportunity to voice concerns, share lived experiences, and identify gaps and opportunities for future initiatives. Participants represented a diverse cross-section of the community, spanning various sectors, racial and gender identities, age groups, and affiliations with BCTRHT. By incorporating a broad range of perspectives, the process ensured a nuanced understanding of current conditions, fostering stronger connections and informing the coalition's path forward.

2024 NCHE Convening

Embracing Our Shared Humanity: Bridging Perceived Divides

In July 2024, BCTRHT Co-Executive Director Elizabeth Garcia joined TRHT leaders from across the country at the 2024 National Collaborative for Health Equity (NCHE) Convening, themed “Embracing Our Shared Humanity: Bridging Perceived Divides.” This event provided a valuable opportunity to deepen the connection between Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) and health equity, equipping participants with new strategies to advance racial justice in their communities.



Throughout the convening, participants engaged in Rx Racial Healing Circles, panel discussions, and interactive learning sessions focused on translating TRHT principles into tangible action. These sessions highlighted the power of relationship-building, policy advocacy, and community-driven solutions in addressing systemic inequities. A dedicated youth panel brought fresh perspectives on how young leaders are tackling urgent social and health challenges, reinforcing the importance of intergenerational engagement in this work.

Elizabeth’s participation strengthened BCTRHT’s commitment to racial healing and health equity in Battle Creek. Inspired by the knowledge shared, we are eager to integrate these insights into our local efforts, deepening our impact and furthering the movement for transformative change within our community.

National Day of Summer Learning

Collaboration with KYD Network

On July 26, 2024, BCTRHT proudly sponsored and participated in the National Day of Summer Learning Celebration, hosted by the Kalamazoo Youth Development Network (KYD Network) at Claude Evans Park. This annual event highlighted the importance of summer learning and youth engagement, bringing together families, community organizations, and advocates for an afternoon of fun and enrichment.

As both a sponsor and vendor, BCTRHT connected with attendees, sharing our commitment to health equity and holistic well-being while fostering meaningful conversations with youth and families. The event featured youth performances, a bounce house, yard games, face painting, snow cones, and a DJ-led dance challenge, creating an energetic and engaging atmosphere.

With a shared focus on education, safety, and community wellness, BCTRHT joined KYD Network, the Child & Adolescent Health Clinic (CAHC)/Grace Health, and other dedicated organizations to create a space where young people could learn, grow, and celebrate their potential. We were honored to be part of this impactful day and look forward to continuing our efforts to support and uplift youth and families in our community.



Tha with local youth



Youth imagine a better future for Battle Creek

Civil Rights 101

Collaborated with Battle Creek NAACP and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR)



On Thursday, August 29, 2024, BCTRHT partnered with the Battle Creek NAACP and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) to host the Civil Rights 101 Workshop at the Kool Family Community Center. This powerful event brought together individuals passionate about civil rights, providing an opportunity to explore key concepts and pivotal historical moments that have shaped the movement.

The workshop featured an expert speaker who delivered an engaging overview of civil rights principles, offering both seasoned advocates and newcomers a deeper understanding of these critical issues. Participants praised the interactive discussions, which fostered meaningful dialogue and reflection on civil rights challenges—past and present.

The event created a welcoming space for learning and connection, reinforcing the importance of collective efforts in advancing equity and justice. We are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to this impactful evening and look forward to continuing this vital work together.

Fair Housing Workshop

Collaborated with Battle Creek NAACP and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR)

On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, BCTRHT partnered with the NAACP and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) to host a comprehensive Fair Housing Training at the Kool Family Community Center in Battle Creek. This informative event brought community members together to explore housing discrimination, Fair Housing laws, protected classes, and emerging trends in housing practices.



The training provided valuable insights into tenants' and homeowners' rights, landlords' responsibilities, and effective strategies for addressing and reporting housing violations. Attendees appreciated the session's interactive format, which featured expert speakers and a dynamic Q&A segment that encouraged deeper discussion.

This collaborative event underscored the importance of ensuring fair housing for all and equipped participants with the knowledge and tools to advocate for equitable housing practices in their communities. We are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to this essential conversation.

Unscramble the words

E A N H G L I

— — — — —

H O Y U T

— — — — —

E U F R T U

— — — — —

CMF Conference Session on TRHT

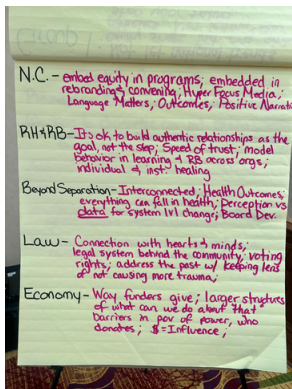
A Nation Healing: The Imperative of Racial Equity

The Council on Michigan Foundations (CMF) Conference session, "A Nation Healing: The Imperative of Racial Equity," led by the Co-Executive Directors of Battle Creek TRHT, provided a deep dive into the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) framework. Held on October 7, 2024, in Traverse City, MI, the session explored the critical role of healing, systemic change, and philanthropic engagement in advancing racial equity.

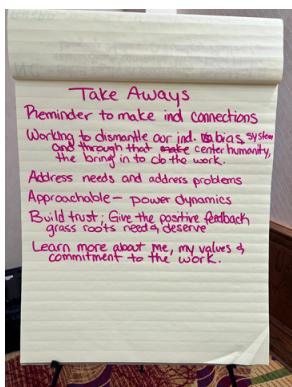
The session began with an overview of TRHT's origins and development, setting the stage for an Rx Racial Healing Circle. This interactive experience engaged participants in storytelling exercises that fostered deep listening, reflection, and relationship-building across racial and cultural lines.

Following the healing circle, roundtable discussions focused on the intersection of racial equity and philanthropy, examining funding challenges, systemic barriers, and strategies for sustainable change. Participants explored TRHT's five pillars—Narrative Change, Racial Healing and Relationship Building, Separation, Law, and Economy—and identified actionable steps to dismantle racial inequities.

Facilitators, including TRHT leaders from across the country, guided discussions on philanthropy's role in racial justice. The session underscored the need for collaborative action, courageous dialogue, and sustained investment in racial healing to drive meaningful, long-term change.



Group reflections



Takeaways from the session



TRHT Leaders from Legacy Places and Campuses

Resisting Polarization and Embracing Our Shared Humanity

Finding Common Ground Through Listening, Values, and Understanding

In a time of growing division, BCTRHT's Resisting Polarization and Embracing Our Shared Humanity six-session series created a space for community members to connect, share stories, and deepen their understanding of one another. Each session blended learning with meaningful dialogue, equipping participants with tools to engage across differences and foster empathy.

October: The Art of Listening

The series began with The Art of Listening, emphasizing the power of active listening and presence in conversations. Participants explored deep listening techniques and practiced holding space for others without interruption or judgment. Many reported feeling more connected and heard, reinforcing listening as a foundation for understanding and relationship-building.

November: Values and Beliefs

In November, the focus shifted to Values and Beliefs, encouraging reflection on core values and personal stories. Community members engaged in pair-shares and group discussions, with 95% agreeing that these conversations helped them connect and appreciate different perspectives. Additionally, 96% felt the experience deepened their self-awareness around values, needs, and beliefs. Many participants highlighted storytelling as one of the session's most impactful elements.

December: Suspending Judgment

The December sessions explored Suspending Judgment, encouraging participants to pause, listen openly, and approach others' perspectives with curiosity rather than immediate evaluation. Through guided discussions and exercises, attendees practiced setting aside assumptions and embracing understanding. Many found this approach not only improved their ability to engage in difficult conversations but also strengthened their sense of community.

As this journey continues, these sessions remind us that by listening, reflecting, and suspending judgment, we can bridge divides and cultivate a more connected, compassionate community.



Participants engage in dialogue



Kool Family Center



Tha leads the discussion

BCTRHT Advisory Board

As BCTRHT enters a new phase, the Advisory Board has been established to strengthen its role as a convener, connector, and catalyst for racial equity. This board upholds accountability to BCTRHT's mission while providing strategic guidance, supporting community outreach, and informing program development. Operating under a fiscal agent, the Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity rather than a governance role, shaping BCTRHT's strategic direction, ensuring transparency, and leveraging the expertise of diverse community leaders to advance racial healing.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Strategic Guidance – Advising on organizational goals and growth opportunities.
- Oversight & Support – Reviewing performance and aligning efforts with BCTRHT's mission.
- Resource Mobilization – Assisting with fundraising and financial sustainability.
- Community Engagement – Acting as ambassadors and fostering partnerships.
- Advocacy & Networking – Promoting racial equity initiatives.
- Evaluation & Feedback – Ensuring continuous improvement of BCTRHT programs.
- Governance & Compliance – Maintaining transparency and best practices.

The Advisory Board includes leaders from diverse sectors, including youth, education, housing, nonprofit, philanthropy, healthcare, and small business. Moving forward, BCTRHT aims to expand the board to ensure broad and inclusive representation, reinforcing its commitment to cultivating a thriving, equitable Battle Creek.



Tristan Bredehoft



Kim Carter



Talia Champlin



Eric Greene



Leonard Harris



Kelley Kellis



Christina Khim



Van McMullan



Mary Muliatt



Brooke Nottingham



Kathy Antaya
Honorary Advisor



Marcus Glass
Honorary Advisor

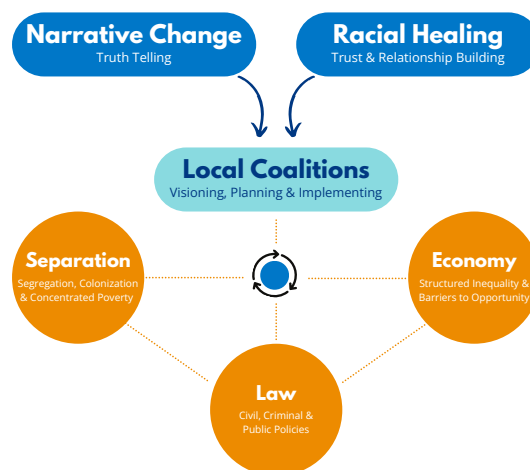
About BCTRHT

The Battle Creek Coalition for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (BCTRHT) is an integral part of the national TRHT initiative, launched in 2016 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Our mission is to serve as a **convener**, **connector**, and **catalyst** for the racial equity movement in Battle Creek, transforming how we live, work, and interact as a community. BCTRHT is dedicated to addressing the deep-rooted historical and ongoing impacts of racism and fostering lasting, transformative change. Our vision is for Battle Creek to experience a **shared humanity where ALL can flourish**.

The TRHT Framework consists of five interrelated areas that lead to transformational and sustainable systems change:

Narrative Change and Racial Healing form the foundation for eliminating the belief in a hierarchy of human value and are intended to be implemented throughout the course of all TRHT work.

These areas help to inform and build the capacity of local coalitions to drive change in the transformation areas of Separation, Law, and Economy.



We never know how our small activities will affect others through the invisible fabric of our connectedness. In this exquisitely connected world, it's never a question of 'critical mass.' It's always about critical connections."

~ Grace Lee Boggs

