

# BLUEPRINT FOR BRONZEVILLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Opening the discussion

1. What struck you the most about this film?
2. What neighborhood do you live in? Is it racially diverse?
3. Have you witnessed or experienced racism in your own neighborhood?
4. What makes a neighborhood healthy and vibrant?

## The City of Chicago

At the community forum with the Chicago 2016 Bid Committee, a community member states: "We're in a neighborhood where thousands of units of affordable housing have disappeared. Where people have been displaced. Where two-thirds of those people were supposed to come back here. Where they at? So, I mean, we can't just support a 'trust us, we're good people.' Because our communities are traumatized." How have city policies contributed to the concentration of poverty in Chicago?

The proposed Olympic Village site in Bronzeville, an empty 48 acre parcel of lakefront property, is still undeveloped. With the US economy picking up, this land will inevitably be developed for commercial or residential purposes, and Bronzeville will once again become a hot area for development. What can the city and Bronzeville residents do to assure the neighborhood remains affordable for moderate income residents?

## Olympics

How do you think the Olympics benefits a city and its residents? What are the potential downsides for a host city and its residents?

## Home Ownership and City Government

How important is it to promote home ownership for everyone? Should everyone, no matter how low their income, be able to own a home or condo?

City or local government budgets are usually spent on education, police/fire/corrections, social services, streets and sanitation, public transportation, health and hospitals, and community services, such as arts, parks and libraries. How important is it that cities dedicate funds to develop affordable housing, whether for rental or home ownership?

Cities around the nation are facing challenges of housing affordability, for both rentals and home ownership. What can cities do to support keeping rentals affordable?

How important is it that neighborhoods include a healthy mix of income levels? How can this support lower income families? Does it have an affect on issues like crime, gun violence, or gangs?

## **Media**

At the end of the film Valencia Hardy states that “The media is slanted. They were slanted with the city,” noting that the media didn’t cover community meetings where residents expressed doubts about how the Olympics might affect their neighborhoods. What do you think about how the media covers large business and developer-backed proposals like an Olympics bid, a new stadium, a new rail line, or other major projects?

## **Bronzeville and Segregation**

How does the history of racism and segregation support the argument that the city of Chicago should invest in rebuilding this historic neighborhood for residents of all incomes?

When neighborhoods, schools, or services are segregated, there is inequality. Can a neighborhood like Bronzeville stay predominantly African-American and receive the same level of city services and support as other neighborhoods?

How important is it for Bronzeville to stay African-American?

What can be done to decrease housing segregation?

## **Public Engagement**

What are some of the strategies Housing Bronzeville has used to address the issue of affordable housing? What’s been the most effective?

Have you ever contacted your local politician to address a local issue?

What issues do you see in your own neighborhood that you’d like to see changed?