

BRONZEVILLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS RESEARCH SYNTHESIS

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OCTOBER 2024

*Prepared for Hood Design Studio regarding their
development of a landscape strategy for the
Bronzeville Center for the Arts at 2300 King Drive in
Milwaukee, WI*

RESEARCH PROCESS

This research review was developed by me, Hester Tittmann, of Rabbit Rabbit Studio, for Hood Design Studio regarding their work on the Bronzeville Center for the Arts (BCA). The mapped timelines that follow are intended to orient the Hood Design team to the history of the site they are working in, as well as provide inspiration for potential design schemes.

What follows is a spatial overview of my understanding of Milwaukee's Black commercial and cultural development since the early 19th century, when the first Black residents arrived in the area.

This overview is neither exhaustive nor novel as all of what is mapped here is commonly accessible in well-known texts and sources (which I list). Anything not commonly listed was derived from conversations with local artists and historians which I did my best to corroborate elsewhere.

I organized the mapped sites into political, cultural, infrastructural and industrial categories, seeking out what most impacted this region of Milwaukee surrounding the BCA site especially as it relates to the experiences of Black people.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

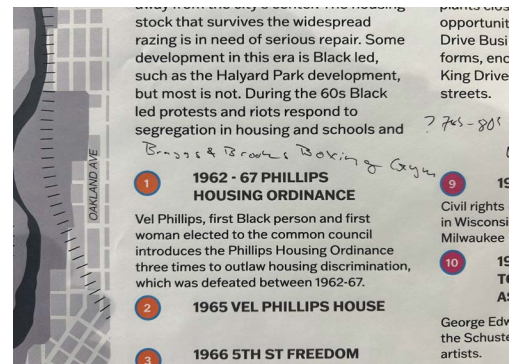
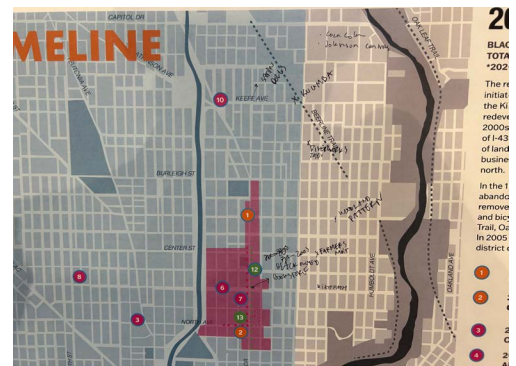
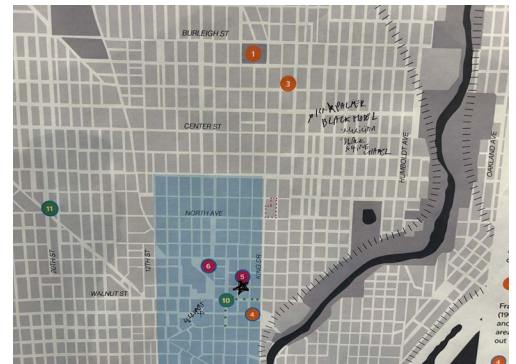
The map underlays were made in collaboration with Isabella Cosentino, Intern at Hood Design Studio, and the design was developed with feedback

from Hood Design Studio Partners Alma Du Solier and Walter Hood, and Designer Elliot Surber. I was hosted by Sara Daleiden at her and Wes Tank's Washington Park Media Center and supported in residency as a part of MKE>LAX. Sara graciously connected me to several of her local contacts for my research process.

RESEARCH SOURCES & OUTPUT

The research I conducted included ethnographic, academic and archival processes. I visited Milwaukee twice in person, as well as conducted online and text based research from my home near Boston, MA. I visited Milwaukee July 25-29th, and September 24th-28th. During those trips, in addition to speaking 1-1 with folks, I spent time walking the site at 2300 King drive, doing photo documentation, and in the Zeidler Humanities Room of the Central Branch of the Milwaukee Public Library looking at maps, archival documents, and city directories. I was able to attend a Community Brainstorming event with Sara Daleiden.

I did my best to approach this research process with humbleness, curiosity, and rigor. The richness and complexity I was able to achieve is all thanks to the generosity of those who spoke with me in Milwaukee. I mapped what I found into a series of maps showing the



Timeline annotations from the community event



development of an area of the North side of Milwaukee roughly bounded by the Menomonee and Milwaukee Rivers, Capitol Drive, and 27th Street. Each map shows a different “snapshot” of the city’s infrastructure development.

This graphic timeline was displayed at a community engagement event led by Hood Design Studio, in concert with Saiki Design and the Bronzeville Center for the Arts, at the America’s Black Holocaust Museum. The timeline served to spark conversations with attendees and encourage edits and additions. Those edits and additions have been incorporated for this document.

A huge thank you to the local arts, culture and history leaders I was able to speak with 1-1. Their insight greatly impacted the following maps and what is included within them (in order of whom I spoke with). I was connected to these folks through Sara Daleiden and Deshea Agee, unless otherwise noted.

Sara Daleiden, Sara Daleiden Consulting, MKE>LAX, Washington Park Media Center

Dr. Robert Smith, Professor at Marquette University and Director of the Center for Urban Research, Teaching and Outreach

Mr. Clayborn Benson, leader of the Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum

Kirsten Thompson, Manager of Arts & Humanities at the Milwaukee Public Library

Dan Lee, Librarian, Milwaukee Public Library

Mutópe Johnson, Artist, Creative Director of the BCA

Deshea Agee, VP of Emem Group

Edgar Birdsong, Owner of Birdsong Distributors

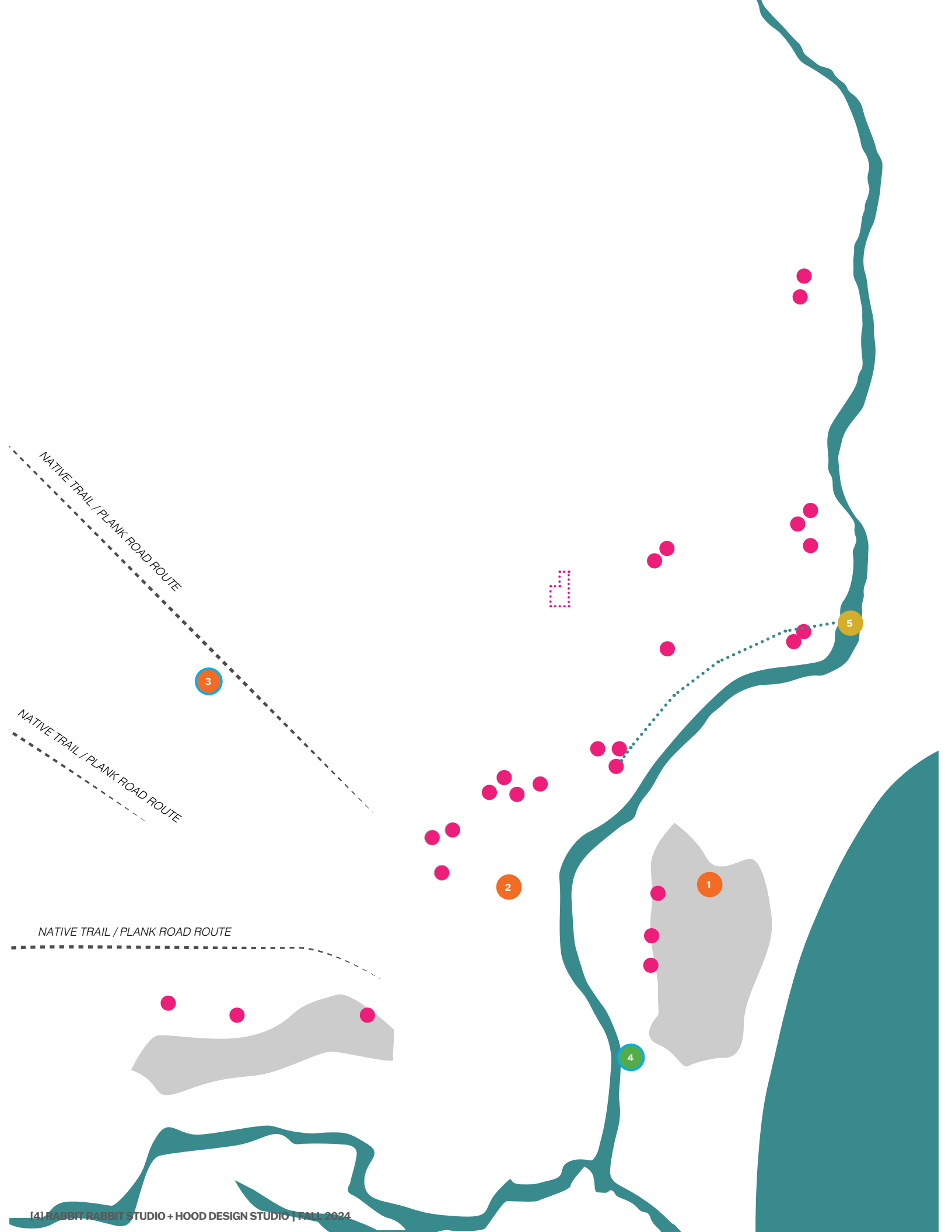
Della Wells, Artist and Board member of BCA

Teju Ologboni, Artist, Storyteller, Griot

Prof. Sheri Pannell, Thespian, Theater Professor at Peck School of the Arts at UW Milwaukee

Evelyn Terry, Artist (connected to by Della Wells)

Interactive timeline/ maps on display at the engagement event at the America’s Black Holocaust Museum



11,000 BCE - 1845 GATHERING PLACE

BLACK POPULATION: 25*
TOTAL POPULATION: 9,508**
*1842 **1846

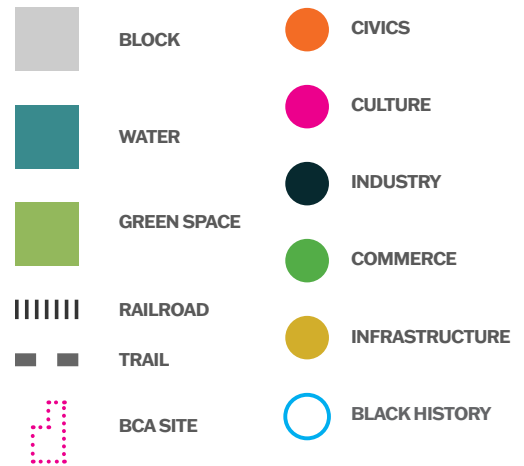
Indigenous people established a gathering site on the land that is now known as Milwaukee after the end of the last Ice Age.

People migrated and traded along rivers and over land. Tribes in the area included, and include today: Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Oneida, Fox, Sauk, Odawa, and Mohican.

In the 1600s and 1700s, French and then English people began participating in these trade routes.

African and African-descended people came to the Midwest as both free and enslaved people.

What is now the city of Milwaukee was first a trading outpost, and then expanded to a trading center. The most commonly traded goods were furs and lead.



1600S INDIGENOUS VILLAGES

Wigwams were built on bluffs by the Milwaukee and Menomonee rivers, rice was grown in the Menomonee river valley.

1 1818 JUNEAUTOWN

Solomon Juneau established Juneautown as a trading center on behalf of the American Fur Trading Co. Joe Oliver, a Black cook, worked in Juneautown and voted in the city's first election.

2 1835 KILBOURNTOWN

Land surveyor from Ohio had area west of the river included in a land survey despite being Potawatami land where he established a settlement as a real estate investment.

3 1842 DEACON SAMUEL BROWN'S FARM

Abolitionist farm, sheltered Caroline Quarles as she escaped slavery. Brown purchased the lot in 1835, the first to purchase any land in Kilbourntown. Thousands of escaping slavery sheltered here.

800-1200 EFFIGY MOUNDS

Indigenous people built effigy mounds along waterways, created in abstract shapes or to evoke animals or birds. Most have been developed over.

4 1838 EMPORIUM OF FASHION

William Green opened a successful Barber shop, one of the first Black owned Businesses.

4 1840S MILWAUKEE HOUSE

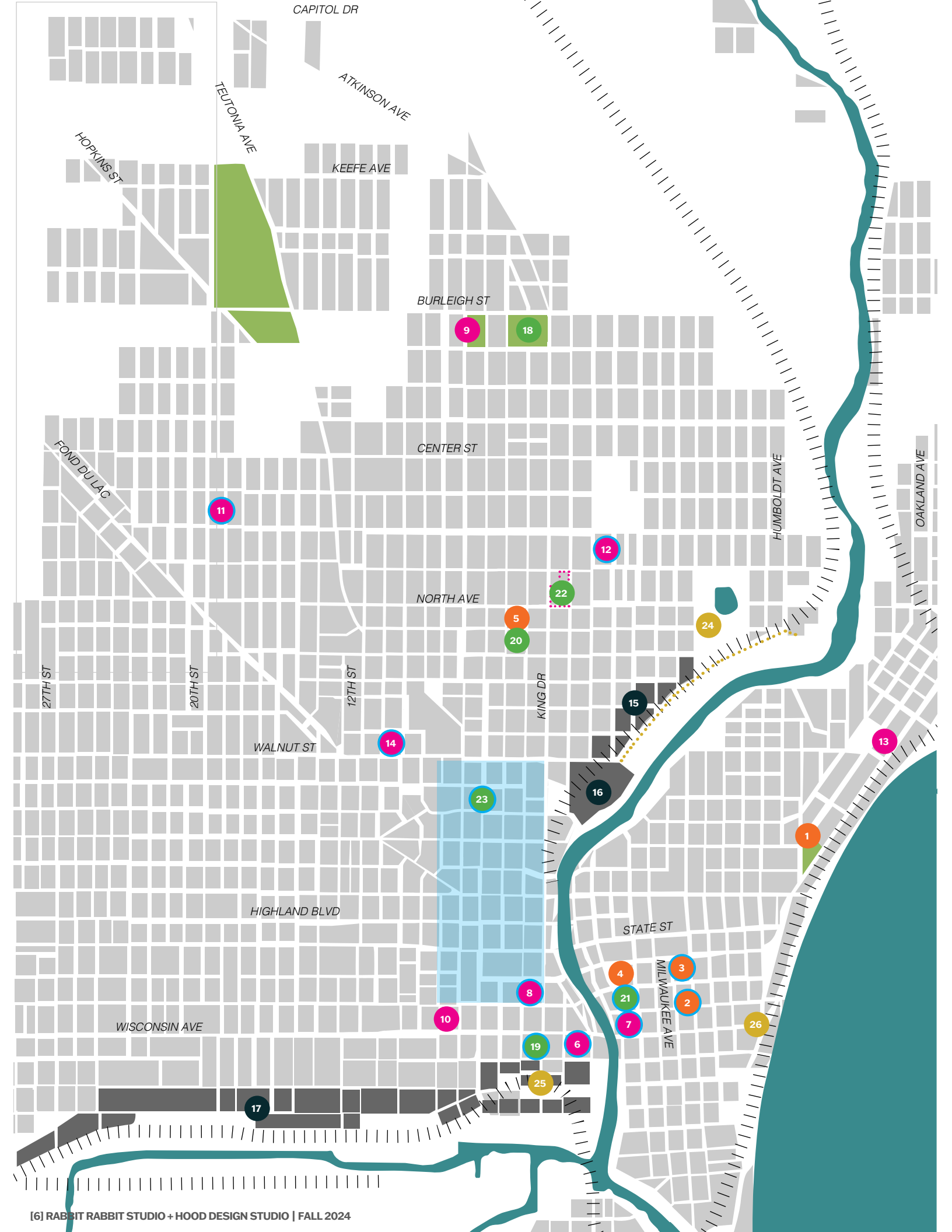
The Milwaukee House employed Robert Titball, former slave, as a barber and a musician. His marriage to Sarah Abel Brown in 1842 was the first between Black people, and Titball sheltered Caroline Quarles, who was being hunted by slave catchers, on her way to Canada.

1600S NATIVE TRAILS

Several of Milwaukee's early roads and highways were widened and straightened paths already used by Indigenous people. Oak planks were laid over roads to make wagon and foot traffic easier. Many of these routes are still roads today bearing similar names

5 1838 KILBOURN'S NORTH AVE DAM & CANAL

Built to connect river to the Mississippi, instead powered industrial mills along the canal. (The construction of railroads made its construction less cost effective).



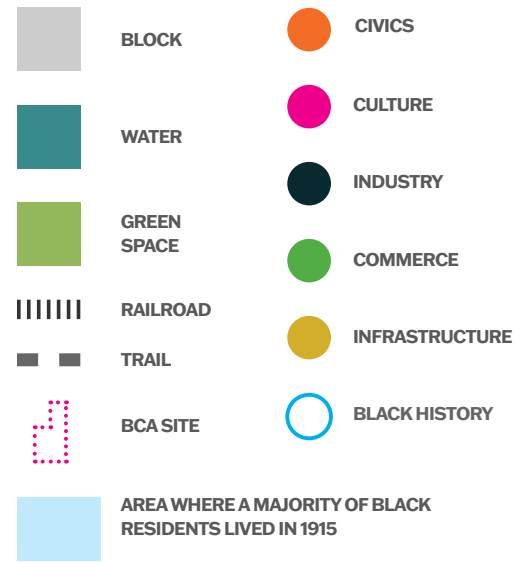
1846 - 1919 INDUSTRIALIZATION

BLACK POPULATION: 2,200*
TOTAL POPULATION: 457,147*
*1920

Juneautown & Kilbourntown merged to create the City of Milwaukee in 1846. Milwaukee became an important site on the Underground Railroad due to its status as a major railway hub and a port city, as well as the presence of a concentration of engaged Abolitionists. Most Black residents arrive from the upper South, or other Midwest cities like Chicago.

Agricultural processing such as brewing, milling and meat packing expand, then are surpassed by

manufacturing of iron, steel, and machinery. Socialists rise to power in the early 1900s and design the city's expansion. The city's Black population is small and is mostly employed in hotels and other service industries. King Drive (then 3rd Street) develops as a commercial center for a mostly German neighborhood with dry goods stores, saloons, butcher shops and bakeries. In 1890 electric streetcar service commences.



1 1847 FIRST WARD PARK

Donated by James H Rogers, later named Franklin Square now Burns Commons. One of Milwaukee's first parks.

2 1852 EZEKIEL GILLESPIE

Grocer, and later, a porter who escaped slavery. He sued for his right to vote, and in 1866 the Wisconsin Supreme Court grants Gillespie and all Black men suffrage.

3 1854 JOSHUA GLOVER

Thousands protested and freed Joshua Glover, who had escaped Slavery in Missouri, was recaptured and then held in Milwaukee County Jail.

4 1895 MILWAUKEE CITY HALL

5 1902 GARFIELD SCHOOL

6 1851 AMERICAN HOUSE

Lyman Benjamin, cook at the American House and a property owner – collects and brings art by Black craftsmen to the Crystal Palace Expo in London.

7 1859 JONATHAN MEYERS

Joined American Colonization Society, grocer, travels to Africa with his son, establishes museum of African art and culture.

8 1869 ST. MARKS

First AME church in Milwaukee founded.

9 1888 ATHLETIC FIELD

A baseball field, later called Borchert Field, opens. Frozen in winter for skating!

10 1898 PUBLIC LIBRARY AND PUBLIC MUSEUM

11 1904 2522 N 18TH ST HOUSE BUILT

12 1906 2463 N PALMER ST HOUSE BUILT

13 1909 ALLIS HOUSE BUILT

Charles Allis, heir to Allis-Chalmers money built his house. (father was first president of the company)

14 1919 MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE

15 1840S AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

Flour milling, slaughtering and meat packing (especially of pork), tanning, and brewing (employed very few Black workers).

16 1870 SCHLITZ BREWERY

Moves from 4th & Juneau. By 1890 expands to several blocks.

16 1880 F. MAYER BOOT & SHOE COMPANY

17 1870S MENOMONEE VALLEY

Digging Canals and dredging creates land for industrialization. Falk, Miller, Milwaukee Road brewing, some manufacturing.

18 1866 PABST PARK

First a shooting range, it develops into a beer garden and then, in 1890, an amusement park.

19 1867 PLANKINTON HOUSE HOTEL

Largest employer of Black workers alongside other hotels.

20 1884 SCHUSTER'S

Department store opens

21 1902 TURF HOTEL

Joe Slaughter, a pullman porter from Virginia, got into gambling, made some money, and opened the hotel with a white partner in the city's vice district known as "the badlands."

22 1911 FIRST WISCONSIN NATIONAL BANK

23 1918 BLACK COMMERCIAL BLOCK

Cluster of Black owned businesses

24 1873 KILBOURN RESERVOIR

Provides fresh water, rivers and lake are polluted with sewage. Connected with 58 miles of water mains

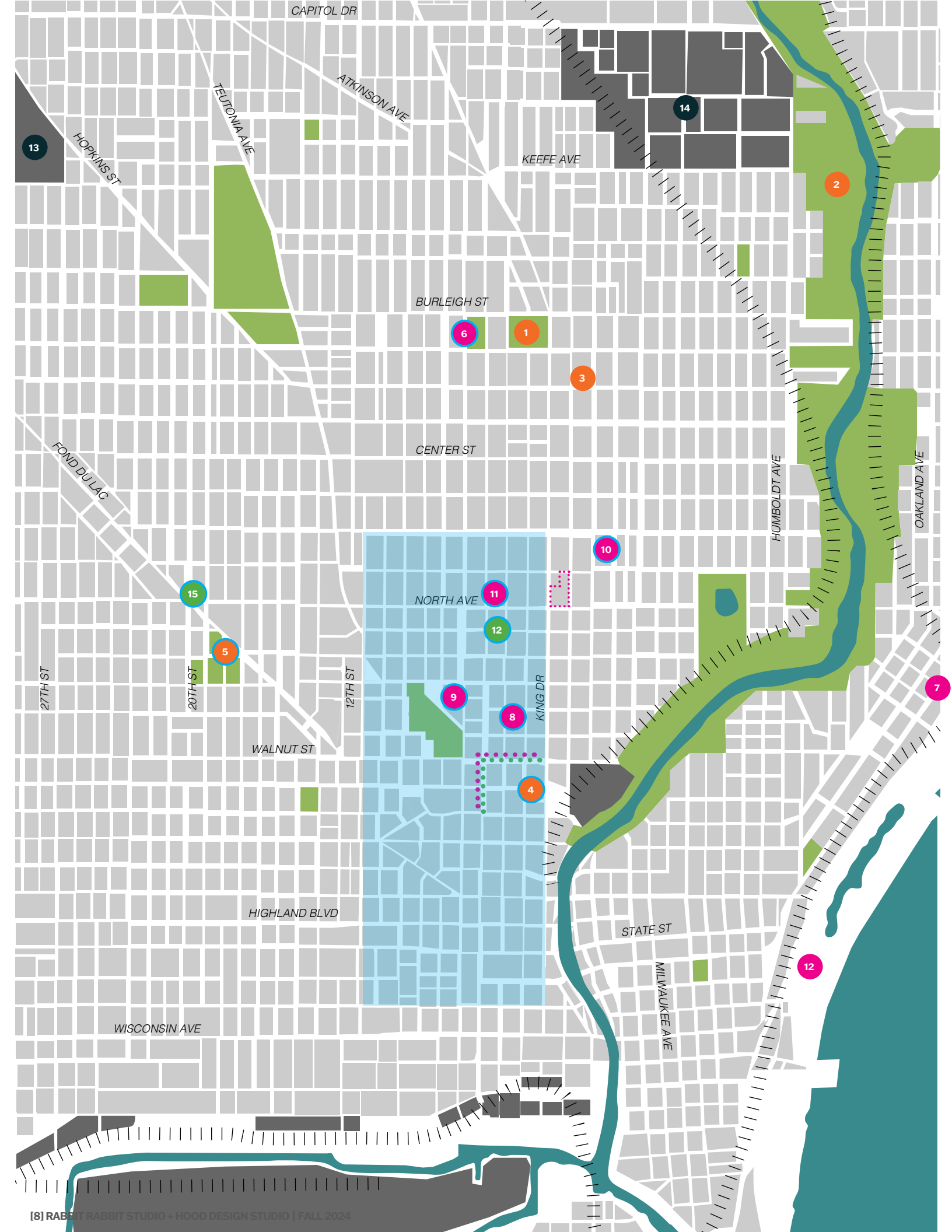
1880 COMMERCIAL STREET

Conversion to steam power, canal is filled.

25 1880 MILWAUKEE UNION STATION

Serves the "Milwaukee Road"

26 1890 LAKE FRONT DEPOT



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BURLEIGH ST

CENTER ST

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NORTH AVE

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27TH ST

20TH ST

12TH ST

WALNUT ST

KING DR

HIGHLAND BLVD

STATE ST

MILWAUKEE AVE

WISCONSIN AVE

12

7

HUMBOLDT AVE

OAKLAND AVE

CAPITOL DR

ATKINSON AVE

KEEFE AVE

TEUTONIA AVE

HOPKINS ST

FOND DU LAC

1920 - 1959 GREAT MIGRATION

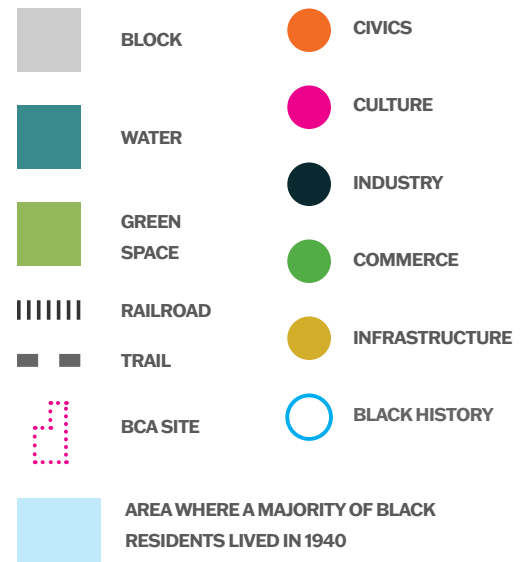
BLACK POPULATION: 62,458*
TOTAL POPULATION: 741,324*
 *1960

Major industrial expansion, particularly in brewing and manufacturing, drive the city's economy and encourage an influx of migrants. Many are Black migrants escaping Jim Crow laws in the South. During World War II, weapons manufacturing booms. In the 20s and 30s, Walnut Street emerges as a central Black commercial and cultural district. Third Street continues to thrive as a commercial corridor until the Capitol Court mall is built in 1956.

Housing stock begins to age and

become dilapidated. Redlining further deteriorated Black neighborhoods: government-backed mortgages were constrained by the Home Owner's Loan Corporation, which assessed neighborhoods in Milwaukee's inner core to be "high-risk" due to the presence of Black and Jewish residents. Electric street car service ends in 1958.

The first plans for an expressway are made in the 40s, by 1949 plans were considering the 16th street corridor for the north-south expressway. The 1956 National Interstate and Defense Highway Act is passed, creating funding opportunities.



1 1921 GARFIELD PARK

Pabst sells its theme park to the city after Prohibition passes, makes it into a park.

2 1923 CHARLES WHITNALL'S MASTER PLAN

Charles Whitnalls, a socialist, 1923 master plan established parks along water ways. Proponent of Garden City planning, and connected socialist ideals to city planning.

3 1946 TO 2006 FRANK ZEIDLER'S HOUSE

Frank Zeidler, social democrat, elected mayor (1956). Mayor's study committee on social and infrastructure problems in the inner core area of the city, "the Zeidler report" comes out in 1960

4 1950S ST MARKS AME CHURCH

5 1950S JOHNSON PARK

where deacon brown's spot on the underground railroad used to be, after houses were demolished for an expressway that was never built, now Clarence and Cleopatra Johnson park was built

6 1923 MILWAUKEE BEARS

Negro National League baseball team, lasted only one year

7 1924 LLOYD SMITH VILLA TERRACE BUILT

President of AO Smith Corporation has house built

8 1930S MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE

Buys Abraham Lincoln House. Previously a Jewish Community Center (address approximate)

9 1940 AL JARREAU MOVES HERE

10 1953 JONES-HILL HOUSE

bar in the basement, which provided after-hours music and rooming house for acts.

11 1955 OZELL'S 502 CLUB

Ozell Howard and Henry King Moore opened Ozell's 502 Club, considered by some to be the oldest licensed black-owned establishment in the city.

12 1955 WAR MEMORIAL CENTER

WWII veterans and visual art center, Art museum joins in 1957

13 1919 A.O. SMITH CO. FACTORY

AO Smith manufactured weapons during WWII, as well as auto frames, beer tanks, water heater units etc.

14 1920S SEAMAN AUTO BODY

Area north of Keefe Ave becomes an industrial district in the 20s, making cars, shoes, pianos, elevators, toys.

1920S TO 1940S BLACK CULTURAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Black-owned businesses established restaurants, cafes, hotels, rooming houses, commercial laundries, shoe shine parlors, drug stores, real estate agencies, funeral homes, regular Black weekly. Specific institutions include:

1922 THE MILWAUKEE UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

1925 COLUMBIA BUILDING & LOAN BUSINESS

Columbia Building and Loan business started in 1925 is Milwaukee's first black owned financial institution, established by Wilbur and Ardie Halyard (also leaders of local NAACP chapter).

1925 WISCONSIN ENTERPRISE BLADE

J Anthony Jonesy moved from Madison to Milwaukee and continued publishing his Black Weekly newspaper (1916-1944) challenging discrimination, segregation, and racism. Also participated in YMCA and lobbied for hiring of Black school teachers.

1937 BOOKER T WASHINGTON BRANCH OF YMCA

1937 PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVE STORE

Grocery store opened, effort led by Dr. CF Turney (phys.) invested in by community who fundraised \$1800 over 2 years

1940S 711 CLUB

Run by Clinton (Joe) Harris, one of city's wealthiest Black people, benefactor to many cultural institutions.

1940 THE GOODEN & ARD SMOKE SHOP

Known as policy headquarters. Run by Charles "Smoky" Gooden.

1945 - 1950S CASABLANCA HOTEL

Hosted major musical acts that came through to play in Jazz and Blues clubs such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday, as Black people couldn't stay in white-owned hotels.

1945 MAYOR OF BRONZEVILLE

Josey J Anthony Elected mayor of bronzeville Other people I found reference to who were referred to as the "mayor of bronzeville" include atty. James Weston Dorsey, passed bar in 1928 and set up a firm, Clarence R. Parrish— head of the local NAACP in the 1960s, and Atty. Leonard Brady who practiced ecclesiastical law since 1950s. Today, Rueben Harpole has been called Milwaukee's "other mayor."

1949 - 1954 NEGRO BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Published by Mary Ellen Shadd-Strong who also owned several other publications including the Milwaukee Courier.

1953 - 1967 GOLD COAST BAR

1956 SPEED QUEEN BBQ

15 1958 COLUMBIA SAVINGS & LOAN

Moves to 20th & Fond du Lac

CAPITOL DR

TELTONIA AVE

ATKINSON AVE

KEEFE AVE

BURLINGHAM ST

CENTER ST

WALNUT ST

HIGHLAND BLVD

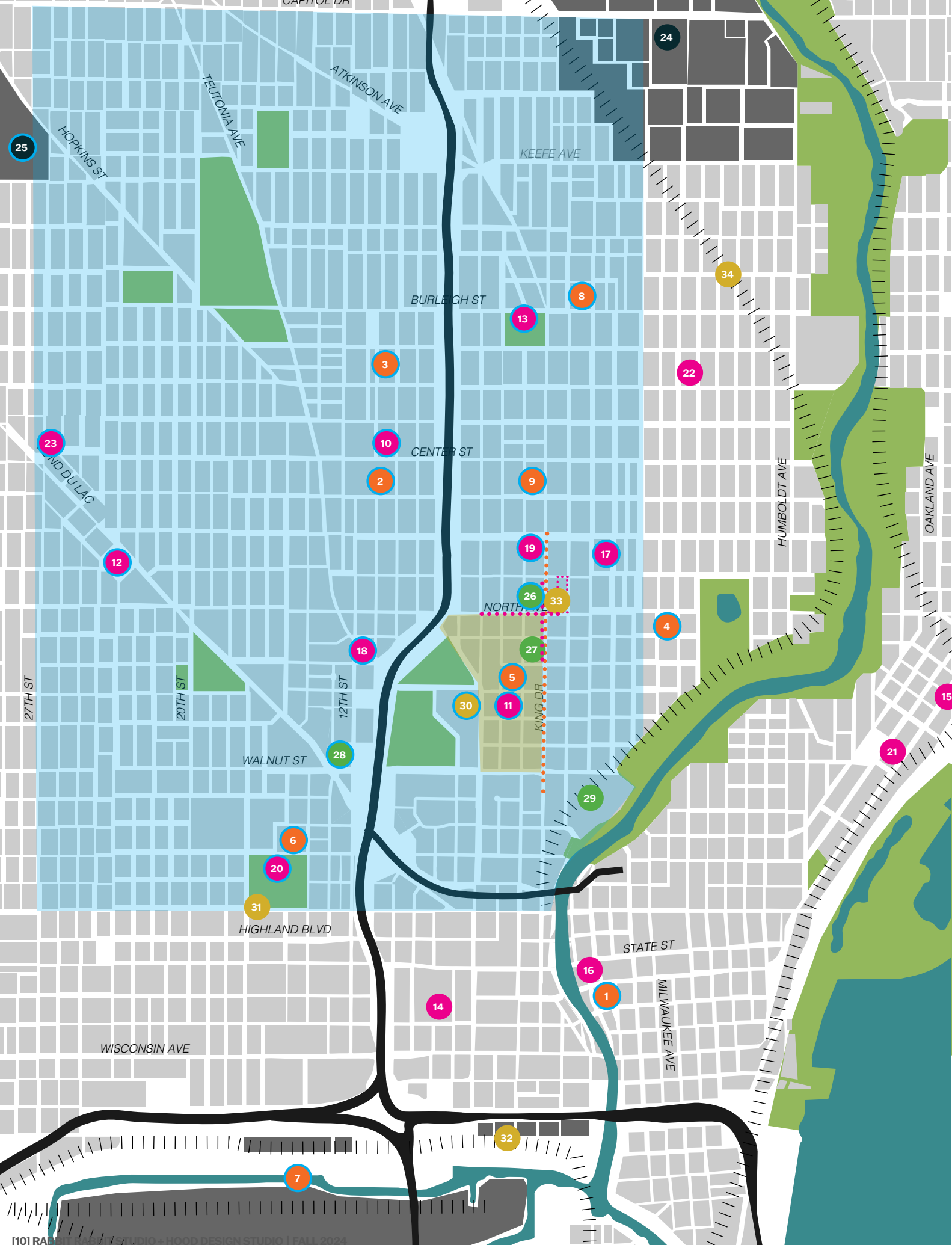
WISCONSIN AVE

STATE ST

MILWAUKEE AVE

HUMBOLDT AVE

OAKLAND AVE



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
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1960 - 1991 RAZING & DEVELOPMENT

BLACK POPULATION: 222,933*
TOTAL POPULATION: 595,991*
 *2000

In 1960, 14,000+ homes are razed both to make way for the I-43 highway (completed 1968) and as a part of clearance efforts to remove older housing stock. Over 50% of the people displaced are Black. White residents, able to secure mortgages and purchase homes outside the inner core, move away from the city's center. The housing stock that survives the widespread razing is in need of serious repair. Some development in this era is Black led, such as the Halyard Park development, but most is not. During

the 60s Black led protests and riots respond to segregation in housing and schools and to racist police violence. These actions precipitate enforcement of federal civil rights laws, as well as changes in local laws and policy. Third Street becomes a ghost of its commercial past. The Upper Third Street Association proposes urban renewal investment in an attempt to revitalize the district. Many industrial plants close, reducing economic opportunity. In 1992 the Historic King Drive Business Improvement district forms, encapsulating Schlitz Park and King Drive between McKinley & Locust streets.

	BLOCK		CIVICS
	WATER		CULTURE
	GREEN SPACE		INDUSTRY
	RAILROAD		COMMERCE
	TRAIL		INFRASTRUCTURE
	BCA SITE		BLACK HISTORY
	AREA WHERE A MAJORITY OF BLACK RESIDENTS LIVED IN 1960		

1 1962 - 67 PHILLIPS HOUSING ORDINANCE

Vel Phillips, first Black person and first woman elected to the common council.

2 1963 ST BONIFACE CHURCH

Father Groppi's church, unofficial headquarters of Youth NAACP, organizing and community resources.

3 1964 - 1967 ST MATTHEWS CME CHURCH

Headquarters of Milwaukee United School Integration Committee (MUSIC).

4 1965 VEL PHILLIPS HOUSE

5 1966 5TH ST FREEDOM HOUSE

The Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council Headquarters

6 1966 15TH ST FREEDOM HOUSE

7 1967-68 MARCH FOR HOUSING RIGHTS

Vel Phillips and the Milwaukee NAACP youth march for open housing bill, lasts 200 days through winter. joined by MUL and others.

8 1967 RIOTS

Starting due to rumours of Police violence. Police had a base at the Schuster building.

9 1969 HARAMBEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

10 1990S VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE PARK

Created by Jeanetta Simpson-Robinson

11 1960S MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE

12 1964 MILWAUKEE COURIER

Established by Mary Ellen Shadd-Strong

13 1977 SATIN DOLLS LOUNGE

14 1960S-70S GALLERY TOWARDS A BLACK AESTHETIC

George Edwards began a gallery, across from the Schuster building, that showed Black artists.

15 1960S-90S MILWAUKEE INNER CITY ARTS COUNCIL

In the old firehouse on north ave, a mural by Reynaldo Hernandez was painted in the 80s

16 1960S MILWAUKEE STAR

Civil rights newspaper "voice of the negro in Wisconsin." Later combined with the Milwaukee Courier, and operated until 2005.

17 1966 - 86 ECHO MAGAZINE

Black arts and culture magazine begun by Virginia Williams.

18 1968 THE PEOPLE'S THEATER CO.

Gerald Wallace built a 40 seat theater in the basement of his office for rehearsals and some performances, at the time the only Black theater company in the state.

19 1977 BOOBIE'S PLACE

A black club that took over ozell's. pLayed jazz & blues

20 1988 AMERICA'S BLACK HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Founded by James Cameron, survivor of a lynching attempt.

21 1964 - 2000S AL MORELAND

Boxing coach and promoter who trained fighters at his gym, the King center, and Garfield park

22 1963 PUBLIC MUSEUM OPENS

23 1966 VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM

Smith family donates house

24 1966 MARCUS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

25 1967 CASABLANCA HOTEL MOVES

26 1969 NORTH SIDE BRANCH OF YMCA

27 1972 UNIVERSITY OF ISLAM

Of a network of schools established by Clara, wife of Elijah Mohammed, Nation of Islam leader.

28 1976 KING CENTER

Parks and Rec. Dept developed the Dr. MLK Community Center

29 1978 CHARLES ALLIS ART MUSEUM

30 1979 WOODLAND PATTERN

Woodland Pattern is a poet- and artist-run nonprofit book center, gallery, and performance space.

31 1987 WISCONSIN BLACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Opened by Clayborn Benson III

32 1988 AMERICAN MOTORS CLOSSES

33 1997 TOWER AUTOMOTIVE

AO Smith Aquired by Tower Automotive, sends many jobs overseas, held by Black people (good wages).

34 1965 LENA'S FOOD MARKET

Black owned grocery chain opens first store

35 1969 GIMBELS CLOSSES

36 1975 SPEED QUEEN BBQ MOVES

37 1983 SCHLITZ PARK DEVELOPED

Schlitz Brewery closes and is redeveloped as an office park

38 1964 LAPHAM PARK PUBLIC HOUSING

39 1967 HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC HOUSING

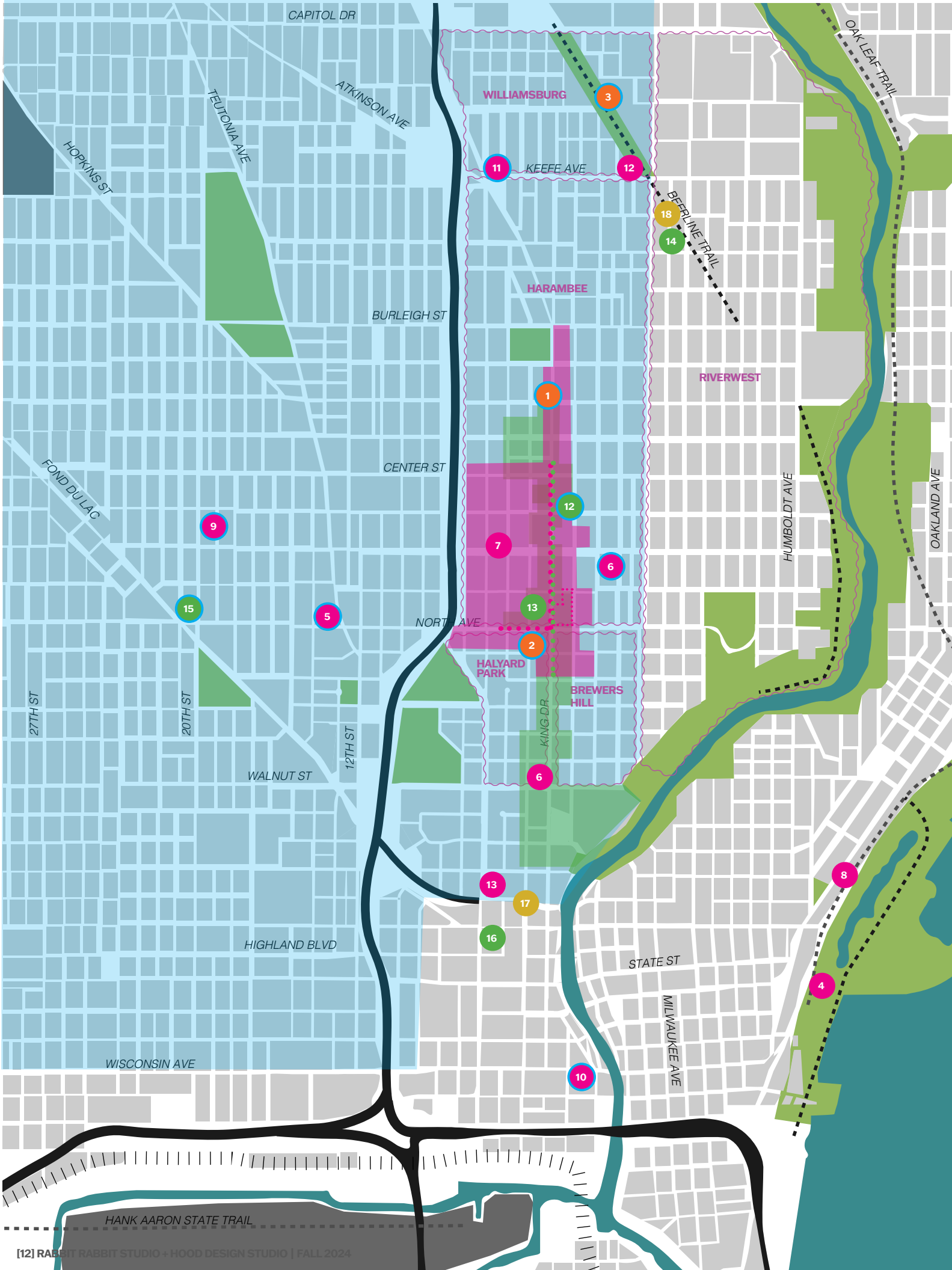
40 1965 MILWAUKEE INTERMODAL STATION

41 1972 HALYARD PARK DEVELOPMENT

Black realty group takes over abandoned urban renewal site, builds 43 homes, all purchased by Black individuals and families in the 1980s

42 1983 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDING BUILT

43 1990S RAILWAY RIGHT OF WAY ABANDONED



CAPITOL DR

ATKINSON AVE

WILLIAMSBURG

KEEFE AVE

HARAMBEE

RIVERWEST

BURLEIGH ST

CENTER ST

NORTH AVE

HALYARD PARK

BREWERS HILL

TELTONIA AVE

HOPKINS ST

FOND DU LAC

27TH ST

20TH ST

12TH ST

WALNUT ST

HIGHLAND BLVD

WISCONSIN AVE

STATE ST

MILWAUKEE AVE

HUMBOLDT AVE

OAKLAND AVE

OAK LEAF TRAIL

BEEHIVE TRAIL

HANK AARON STATE TRAIL

1992 - 2024 REINVESTMENT

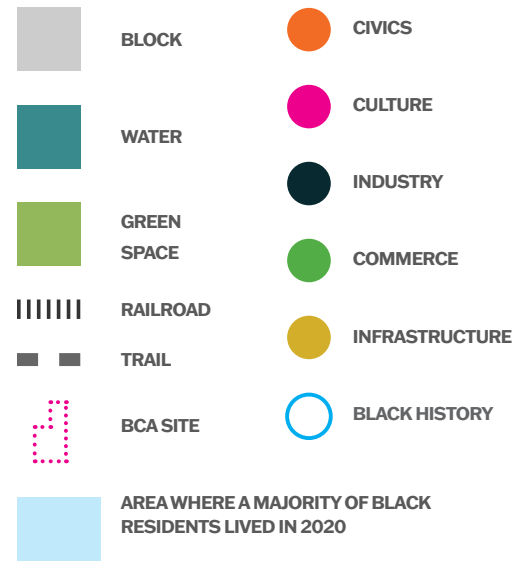
 (SOME) NEIGHBORHOODS














BLACK POPULATION: 217,698*
TOTAL POPULATION: 576,301*
 *2020

The redevelopment of Bronzeville, initiated with efforts like the creation of the King Drive BID and the Halyard Park redevelopment, are bolstered in the early 2000s. In 2002 the Park East section of I-43 is removed, opening up 24 acres of land and reconnecting the central business district to neighborhoods to the north.

In the 1990s, railway tracks were abandoned, and in the 2000s many were removed and converted into pedestrian and bicycle routes such

as the Beerline Trail, Oak Leaf Trail and Hank Aaron Trail. In 2005 the city creates a redevelopment district called Bronzeville, overlaying parts of Harambee, Halyard Park, and Brewers Hill. Black led development efforts from various sectors take advantage of this city plan and by the late 2010s new housing and businesses join the area especially along King Drive near North Ave.



-  BLOCK
-  WATER
-  GREEN SPACE
-  RAILROAD
-  TRAIL
-  BCA SITE
-  AREA WHERE A MAJORITY OF BLACK RESIDENTS LIVED IN 2020
-  CIVICS
-  CULTURE
-  INDUSTRY
-  COMMERCE
-  INFRASTRUCTURE
-  BLACK HISTORY

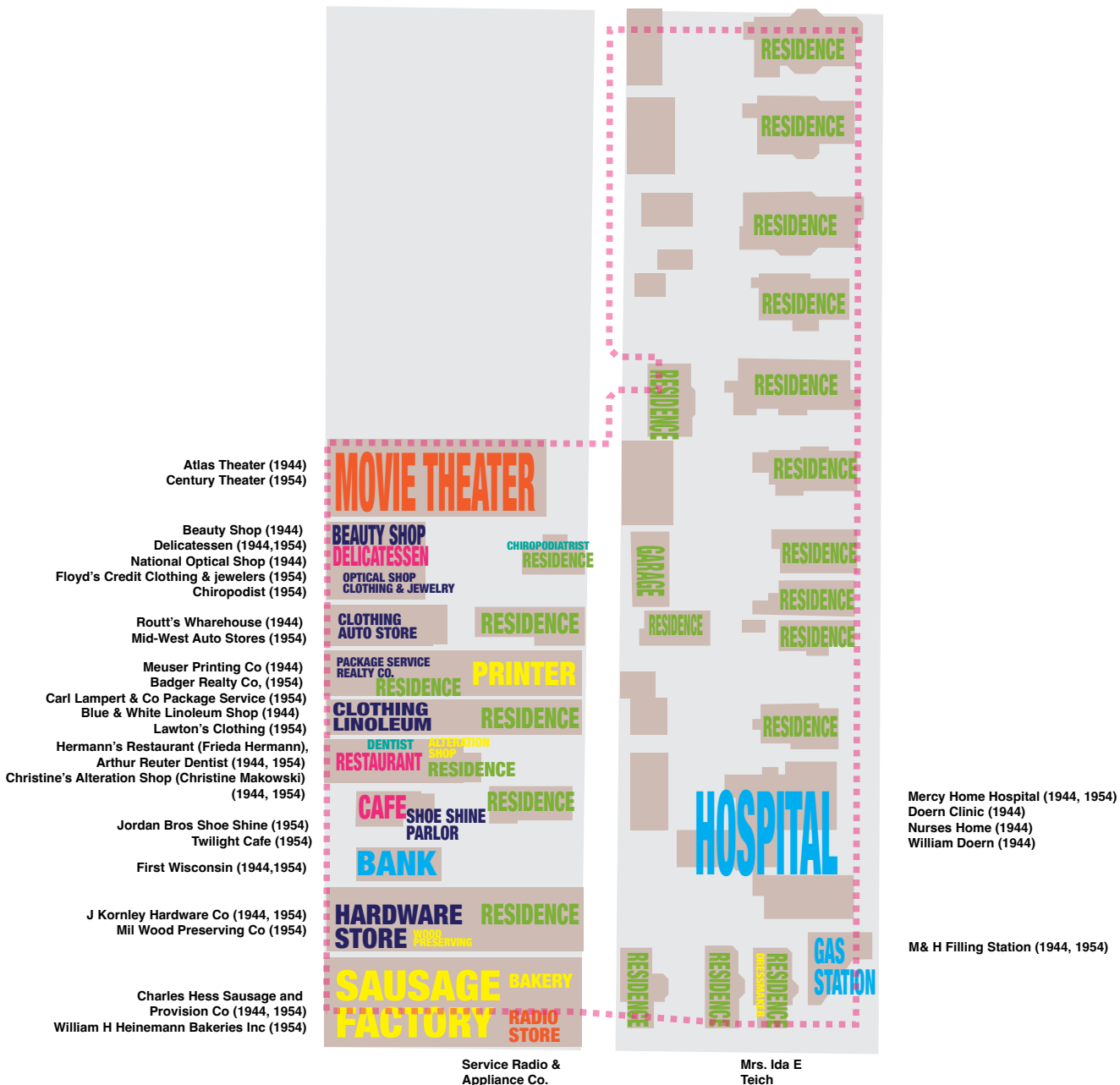
- 2020 GEORGE FLOYD PROTESTS**
- 2024 HOWARD FULLER CHARTER SCHOOL**
- 2015 BEERLINE TRAIL LINEAR PARK**
Area from Richards to Keefe opens for public use. Hood Design Studio hired to create plan for landscape strategy.
- 2001 MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM**
Calatrava designed building opens
- 2002 NORTHSIDE YMCA OPENS**
- 2003 GREENWOOD PARK ART GALLERY & FRAMING**
(Off map) Created by Mr. Fred Robinson to provide affordable framing & African American Art.
- 2003 GREER OAKS GALLERY**
African and African-American Art house museum opened by Calvin Greer, wood turner artist, and Dorothy Greer. Hosts shows by African Americans Beginning to Educate Americans about African American Art (ABEA) founded 2002 by Della Wells and Mutópe Johnson among others.
- 2005 MILWAUKEE YOUTH ARTS CENTER**
- 2005 BRONZEVILLE REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**
- 2008 JEWISH MUSEUM MILWAUKEE**
2000 - 2024 CULTURAL & COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR
A surge of cultural institutions move to or open on King Drive & North Ave
- 2000S GREATER MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE**
- NAACP MILWAUKEE**
- 2004 BIRDSONG DISTRIBUTION**
Purveyor of scented oils, among other products, Edgar Birdsong first operated out of the now-demolished Brooks Plaza (location of Pete's

- Fruit Market) and recently purchased the 1965 location of Lena's grocery store.
- 2006 GARFIELD 502**
Purchased old Boobie's location (closed around 2003), redeveloped it, and created a new bar. Hosts R&B festivals
 - 2013 ART IS FOR LOVERS**
 - 2016 COPYWRITE MAGAZINE**
 - 2017 THE GRIOT**
Garfield School Closes in 2006. Between 2016 - 2017 Garfield School building is redeveloped alongside new construction of "The Griot" building next door. The complex is affordable/artist apartments.
 - 2016 BLACK & WHITE BARBERSHOP OPENS**
 - 2017 GEE'S CLIPPERS COMBINES MOVES**
 - 2017 PETE'S FRUIT MARKET**
BID & community work to get a grocery store, eases food desert conditions in surrounding neighborhoods.
 - 2018 RISE & GRIND CAFE**
 - 2018 HOMEWORKS: BRONZEVILLE**
Homeworks' first live-work space opens. Homeworks launched in 2016 and supported creation of ARCH (Artist Collaborative Hub Program) co-created by Alderwoman Milele A Coggs City sells tax-foreclosed properties for a dollar to arts-focused redevelopment & matching loans up to 25k.
 - 2018 BRONZEVILLE COLLECTIVE**
 - 2019 THRIVEON KING DEVELOPMENT**
announced multi use redevelopment of the old Schuster's building
 - 2022 PEPPER POT JAMAICAN RESTAURANT**
 - 2023 BRONZEVILLE KITCHEN & LOUNGE.**

- 2022 AMERICA'S BLACK HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**
The Americas Black Holocaust Museum, having been without a physical location since 2008, re-locates into the ground floor of the Griot, in the same location as its first free-standing building.
- 2022 GALLERY 507**
Bronzeville Center for the Arts began developing gallery 507, set to open in 2024
- 2022 BRONZEVILLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS**
BCA purchases state-owned DNR site for future Art Museum
- 2009 TERRY MCCORMICK FINE ART AND FOLK GALLERY**
Evelyn Terry created a home art gallery after the death of her partner in 2009.
- 2012 AYZHA FINE ARTS GALLERY & BOUTIQUE**
- 2018 5 POINTS ART GALLERY AND STUDIOS**
Utilized the ARCH program
- 2024 KUUMBA JUICE OPENS**
- 2024 PUBLIC MUSEUM**
Groundbreaking for new natural history museum—set to open 2027.
- 1992 HISTORIC KING DRIVE BID**
- 1992 RIVERWORKS DEV. CORP**
- 1999 BLACK OWNED LEGACY BANK, 2017 SEAWAY BANK CLOSSES**
- 2018 FISERV FORUM**
- 2002 PARK EAST TEAR DOWN**
- 2002 RAILWAY REMOVAL**
Residents together with the City of Milwaukee began to remove the railroad to make way for the Beerline Trail. Similar efforts were made throughout the city.

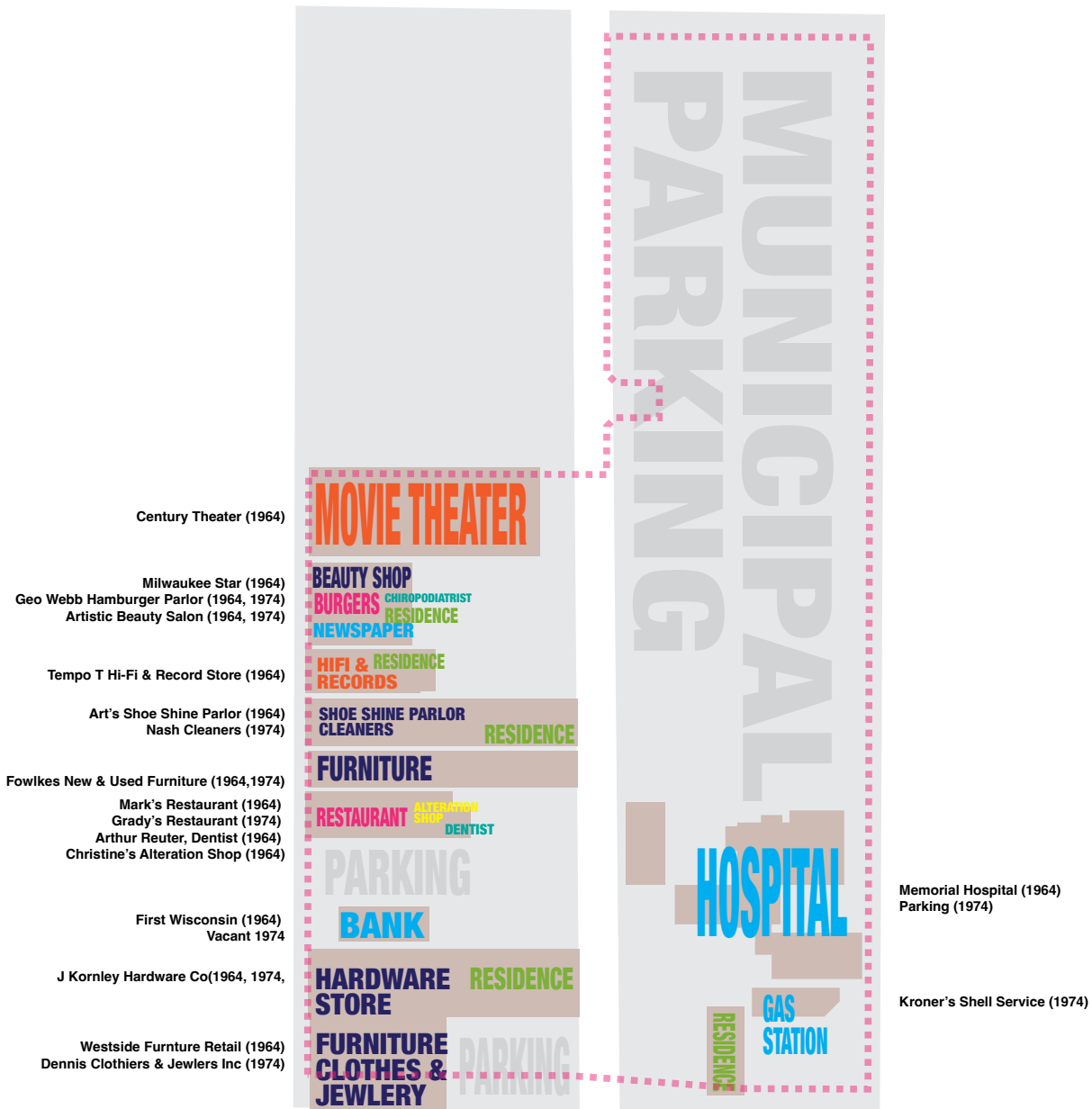
1944 - 1954 SITE USES

-  BUILDING FOOTPRINT
-  BLOCK
-  BCA SITE OUTLINE
- STORE**
- ENTERTAINMENT**
- FOOD ESTABLISHMENT**
- RESIDENCE**
- OFFICE**
- FACTORY/MAKER SPACE**
- PUBLIC UTILITY**
- PARKING**



1964 - 1974 SITE USES

- BUILDING FOOTPRINT
 - BLOCK
 - BCA SITE OUTLINE
- STORE**
- ENTERTAINMENT
 - FOOD ESTABLISHMENT
 - RESIDENCE
 - OFFICE
 - FACTORY/MAKER SPACE
 - PUBLIC UTILITY
 - PARKING



1984 - 2024 SITE USES

- BUILDING FOOTPRINT
- BLOCK
- BCA SITE OUTLINE
- STORE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- FOOD ESTABLISHMENT
- RESIDENCE
- OFFICE
- FACTORY/MAKER SPACE
- PUBLIC UTILITY
- PARKING



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
1984 - Present

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Archival Sources

City Directories of Milwaukee, Zeidler Humanites Room, Milwaukee Public Library

Sanborn Fire insurance maps of the 2300 King Drive area

Upper Third Street Commercial district publications

settlers, WUWM 2022

Ezekiel Gillespie, Lost & Found, Wisconsin magazine of history 1977

Books

Black Milwaukee: The Making of an Industrial Proletariat, 1915-45, by Joe Trotter

The Selma of the North: Civil Rights Insurgency in Milwaukee, by Patrick D. Jones

Continually Working: Black Women, Community Intellectualism and Economic Justice in Postwar Milwaukee by Crystal Marie Moten

Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods by John Gurda

Online Sources:

Milwaukee Public Library online archives

UW Milwaukee's archives, March on Milwaukee

The Encyclopedia of Milwaukee (online)

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Shepherd Express

The Wisconsin Historical Society's online archives

The Wisconsin Black Historical Society's learning center

Milwaukee County Historical Society online Archives

Maps are based on USGS Topographic Surveys

Articles & online documents:

Milwaukee built on 200 Indian mounds, Milwaukee Journal, 1923

The Antiquities of Wisconsin, Increase Lapham, 1855

Central Business District, Historic Resources Survey

A look at Milwaukee's early Black

ADDRESSES USED

(Modern addresses, as of Fall 2024. In order of appearance in this document.)

1600s Indigenous Villages

Locations described in "Milwaukee built on 200 Indian mounds" Milwaukee Journal, 1923

1818 Juneautown

North Water St. & East Wisconsin Ave

1835 Kilbourntown

1110 North King Drive

1842 Deacon Samuel Brown's Farm

16th Street and Fond du Lac Avenue

800-1200 Effigy Mounds

Locations sourced from map in The Antiquities of Wisconsin, Increase Lapham, 1855

1838 Emporium Of Fashion

Marine Plaza, Wisconsin St.

1840s Milwaukee House

Wisconsin and Broadway Streets

1600s Indigenous Routes

Locations sourced from map in The Antiquities of Wisconsin, Increase Lapham, 1855

1838 Kilbourn's North Ave Dam & Canal

North Ave/ Milwaukee River and Commercial Street

1847 First Ward Park

1300 N Franklin Pl

1852 Ezekiel Gillespie

Milwaukee & Mason St (residential address)

1854 Joshua Glover

Cathedral Square Park

1895 Milwaukee City Hall

200 E. Wells St.

1902 Garfield School

2205 Vel R Phillips Ave

1851 American House

161 W. Wisconsin Ave

1859 Jonathan Meyers

Water St. and Mason St.

1869 St. Marks

4th Street and W Kilbourn Ave

1888 Athletic Field

8th, 7th Street, Chambers and Burleigh

1898 Public Library And Public Museum

818 & 814 West Wisconsin Av

1904 2522 N 18th St House Built

2522 N 18th St

1906 2463 N Palmer St House Built

2463 N Palmer St

1909 Allis House Built

1801 N Prospect Ave

1919 Milwaukee Urban League

904 w Vine St.

1840s Agricultural Processing

Commercial Street

1870 Schlitz Brewery

King Drive and Walnut Streets

1880 F. Mayer Boot & Shoe Company

King Drive and Walnut Streets

1870s Menomonee Valley

Menomonee Valley

1866 Pabst Park

King Drive & Burleigh

1867 Plankinton House Hotel

331 West Wisconsin Ave

1884 Schuster's

2151 N. King Drive

1902 Turf Hotel

217 Wells St.

1911 First Wisconsin National Bank

2312 N King Dive

1918 Black Commercial Block

6th between Cherry & Vliet

1873 Kilbourn Reservoir

Kilbourn Park

1880 Commercial Street

Commercial Street

1880 Milwaukee Union Station

West Everett St. between 2nd & 4th streets

1890 Lake Front Depot

918 East Wisconsin Avenue

1921 Garfield Park

King Drive & Burleigh

1923 Charles Whitnall's Master Plan

Parks along Milwaukee River

1946 - 2006 Frank Zeidler's House

2nd & Locust

1950s St Marks AME Church

1517 N 4th st

1950s Johnson Park

1919 W Fond du Lac Ave

1923 Milwaukee Bears

8th, 7th Street, Chambers and Burleigh

1924 Lloyd Smith Villa Terrace Built

2220 N. Terrace Ave.

1930s Milwaukee Urban League

Abraham Lincoln House - Halyard Park, address unknown, 904 w vine st in 1950s

1940 Al Jarreau Moves Here

336 W Reservoir St.

1953 Jones-Hill House

2463 N Palmer St

1955 Ozell's 502 Club

502 W. Garfield Ave

1955 War Memorial Center

750 N Lincoln Memorial Dr.

1919 A.o. Smith Co. Factory

3533 N 27th St

1920s Seaman Auto Body

Keefe & Richards & Holton

1922 The Milwaukee Universal Negro Improvement Association

specific address unknown

1925 Columbia Building & Loan Business

6th & Reservoir, then 6th & Vliet

1937 Booker T Washington Branch Of Ymca

734 West Walnut in 1937

1937 People's Cooperative Store

1800 N 7th St

1940s 711 Club

711 West Walnut

1940 The Gooden & Ard Smoke Shop

1426 N 6th Street

1945 - 1950s Casablanca Hotel

1641 North 4th St

1945 Mayor Of Bronzeville

715 w Somers St

1949 - 1954 Negro Business Directory

2126 N 7th St

1953 - 1967 Gold Coast Bar

638 w Walnut

1956 Speed Queen Bbq

5th & Vliet

1958 Columbia Savings & Loan

20th & Fond du Lac

1962 - 67 Phillips Housing Ordinance

Milwaukee City Hall 200 E. Wells St.

1963 St Boniface Church

1122 W Clarke St,

1964 - 1967 St Matthews CME Church

2944 N 9th ST

1965 Vel Phillips House

2237 N. Booth St.

1966 5th St Freedom House

2026 North Fifth Street

1966 15th St Freedom House

1316 North Fifteenth Street

1967-68 March For Housing Rights

16th St Viaduct

1967 Riots

King Drive, epicenter at 3rd & North, sparked at 3rd & Walnut

1969 Harambee Community School

110 W Burleigh St

1990s Victory Over Violence Park

2625 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr.

1960s Milwaukee Urban League

936 W Center St

1964 Milwaukee Courier

936 W Center St

1977 Satin Dolls Lounge

2337 W Fond du lac

1960s-70s Gallery Towards A Black Aesthetic

Garfield & Vel R Phillips (parking lot now)

1960s-90s Milwaukee Inner City Arts Council

642 North Ave

1960s Milwaukee Star

2334 N King Drive

1966 - 86 Echo Magazine

2200 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

1968 The People's Theater Co.

2208 North King Drive

1977 Boobie's Place

502 W. Garfield Ave.

1988 America's Black Holocaust Museum

401 W North Ave

1964 - 2000s Al Moreland

Rose Park

1963 Public Museum Opens

800 West Wells

1966 Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum

2220 N. Terrace Ave.

1966 Marcus Performing Arts Center

929 N Water St

1967 Casablanca Hotel Moves

2463 N Palmer St

1969 North Side Branch Of YMCA

12th & Garfield

1972 University Of Islam

317 w Wright St

1976 King Center

1531 W Vliet St

1978 Charles Allis Art Museum

1801 N Prospect Ave

1979 Woodland Pattern

720 E Locust St

1987 Wisconsin Black Historical Society

27th & West Center street

1988 American Motors Closes

Keefe & Richards & Holton

1997 Tower Automotive

3533 N 27th St

1965 Lena's Food Market

338 W. North Ave

1969 Gimbels Closes

2151 N. King Drive

1975 Speed Queen Bbq Moves

12th & Walnut

1983 Schlitz Park Developed

King Drive & Walnut

1964 Lapham Park Public Housing

1901 N 6th St

1967 Highland Park Public Housing

1110 N 17th St

1965 Milwaukee Intermodal Station

433 West Saint Paul Avenue

1972 Halyard Park Development

Halyard Park Neighborhood

1983 Department Of Natural Resources Building Built

2300 King Drive

1990s Railway right of way abandoned

Beerline Trail

2020 George Floyd Protests

W Locust & King Dr

2024 Howard Fuller Charter School

2212 N. Vel R. Phillips Avenue

2015 Beerline Trail Linear Park

Beerline Trail between richards & Keefe Sts

2001 Milwaukee Art Museum

700 N Art Museum Dr

2002 Northside YMCA Opens

1350 W. North Ave. Milwaukee

2003 Greenwood Park Art Gallery & Framing

233 W Fond du Lac Ave

2003 Greer Oaks Gallery

2463 N. Palmer St.

2005 Milwaukee Youth Arts Center

325 W Walnut St

2005 Bronzeville Redevelopment District

from city redevelopment plan

2008 Jewish Museum Milwaukee

1360 N Prospect Ave

2000s Greater Milwaukee Urban League

435 W North Ave

NAACP Milwaukee

2745 N. Dr. Martin Luther King

2004 Birdsong Distribution

338 W North Ave

2006 Garfield 502

502 W Garfield Ave

2013 Art Is For Lovers

2228 N Dr Martin Luther King Dr

2016 Copywrite Magazine

2201 N Doctor Martin Luther King Drive

2017 The Griot

2235 N Vel R. Phillips Ave

2016 Black & White Barbershop Opens

2201 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr

2017 Gee's Clippers Combines Moves

2200 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr

2017 Pete's Fruit Market

2323 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr

2018 Rise & Grind Cafe

2737 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr

2018 Homeworks: Bronzeville

2408 N. Vel R. Phillips Avenue

2018 Bronzeville Collective

2236 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr

2019 Thriveon King Development

2151 N. King Drive

2022 Pepper Pot Jamaican Restaurant

2215 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr

2023 Bronzeville Kitchen & Lounge

2053 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr

2022 America's Black Holocaust Museum

401 W North Ave

2022 Gallery 507

507 North Ave

2022 Bronzeville Center For The Arts

2300 King Drive

2009 Terry McCormick Fine Art And Folk Gallery

2522 North 18th Street

2012 Ayzha Fine Arts Gallery & Boutique

161 West Wisconsin Ave

2018 5 Points Art Gallery And Studios

3514 N. Port Ave

2024 Kuumba Juice Opens

274 E Keefe Ave

2024 Public Museum

Sixth and McKinley streets

1992 Historic King Drive BID

1992 Riverworks dev. corp

526 E Concordia Ave

1999 Legacy Bank

2102 W. Fond du Lac Avenue

2017 Seaway Bank Closes

2102 W. Fond du Lac Avenue

2018 Fiserv Forum

1111 N Vel R. Phillips Ave

2002 Park East Tear Down