**New Film Sheds Light on Impacts of Planning on Communities of Color**

Press Release: New film “Voices of Impact” shares stories of individuals impacted by housing and land use policies enacted by federal, state and local governments

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The social equity crisis continues to inequitably impact individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC). Californians who live in underserved communities comprise one-third of the state’s population[[1]](#footnote-1). However, their voices and perspectives are rarely heard beyond their own neighborhoods. To shed light on these residents and their experiences, the California Planning Roundtable conducted interviews across the state.

Six people are interviewed and generously share their distinct life experiences. Despite having to endure the trauma of discrimination, they are able to rise above it and explain how to see it and stop it from continuing, particularly through city and infrastructure planning that adversely impact communities that are already under resourced. Whether experienced in South Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, or San Diego, each person provided insightful and detailed accounts of the negative impacts of redlining, “White flight,” housing unaffordability, pollution, and gentrification, highlighting how these and other issues shape future community outcomes associated with federal, state, and local planning initiatives.

“It is critical that decision makers engaged in housing and land use policy understand and respond to the needs of all community members, particularly the most economically vulnerable, before taking action. Only then will our efforts to improve health and advance equity take root in a lasting way,” said Miguel Vazquez, President of the California Planning Roundtable.

To help all of us, especially planners, to be a part of the solution, one place to start is seeking out and listening to personal stories to better understand each other and the diverse range of lived experiences within our communities. We hope audiences of this film will try to step in each other's shoes and as a result make better city planning processes, policies, and ultimately decisions to benefit the greater good in a systematic and intentional way. To succeed we need to center the needs of those who are, unfortunately, experts in suffering and neglect by government and private institutions, for generations. Those who have the greatest unmet need are whom planners need to prioritize as we co-create a vision of healthy, affordable, equitable and inclusive communities of diverse people and place, across the state.

To help educate a broader audience (community members, to students, planners to elected officials, government board and commission members) about these important perspectives, the California Planning Roundtable compiled the interviews into a medium length (30 minutes) film called *Voices of Impact*, accessible on YouTube from this [LINK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-i2TxSFV5hU).

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*The California Planning Roundtable is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the practice of urban planning in California through innovation and leadership.* *Each year, the Roundtable chooses one or more timely and significant California planning issues for study and produces insights that are widely distributed to urban planners, the California legislature, and local public officials. For more information, visit* [*www.cproundtable.org*](http://www.cproundtable.org)

**Media Contact:**

Miguel Vazquez

President, California Planning Roundtable

mavurbanplanning@gmail.com

1. Poverty in California, Public Policy Institute of California, 2019. Source: <https://www.ppic.org/publication/poverty-in-california/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)