

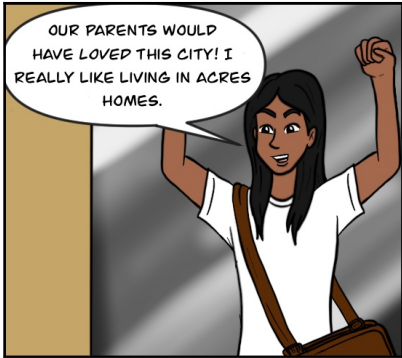


# ACRES HOMES, WE CAN'T BREATHE!



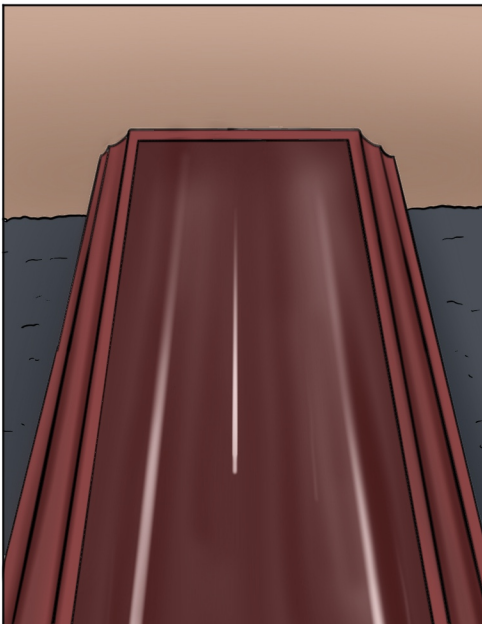
WRITTEN BY MELISSA DIAZ  
AND SASHA MARSHALL-SMITH

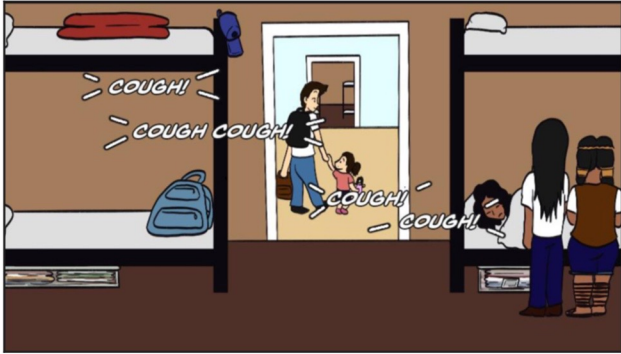
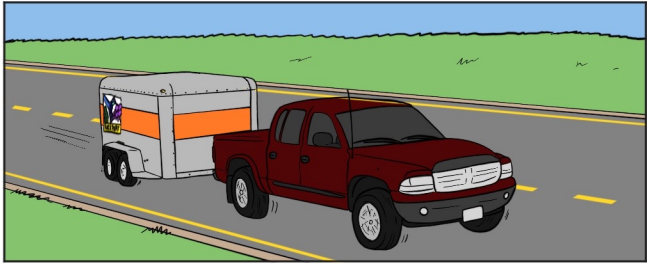
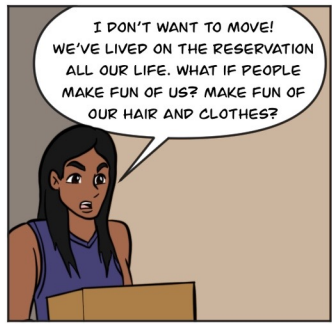
ART BY AUDREY HUTCHINS

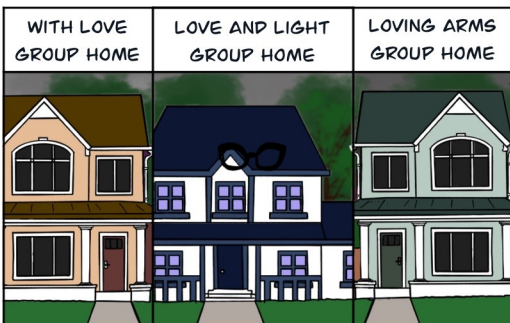
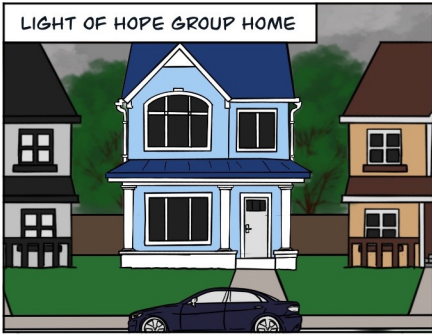
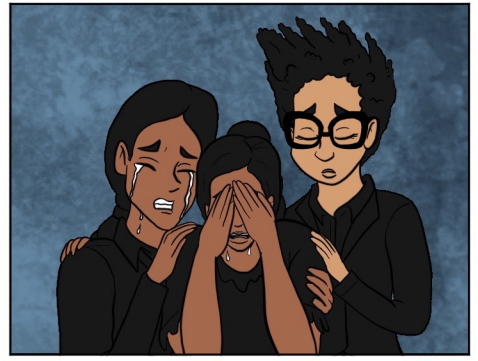
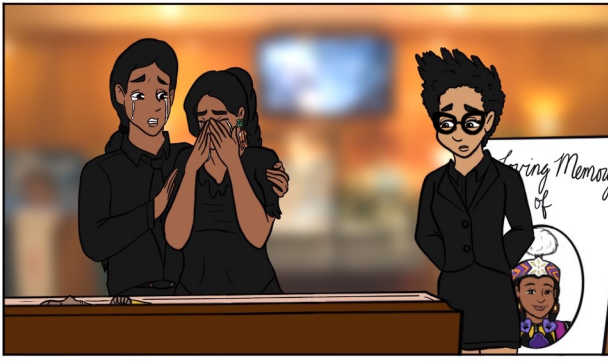


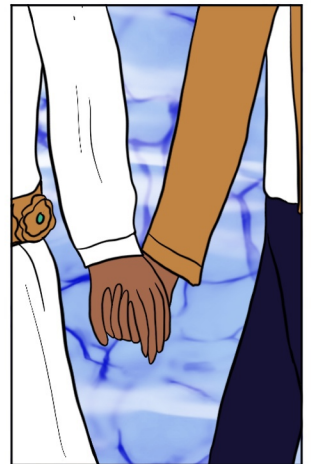
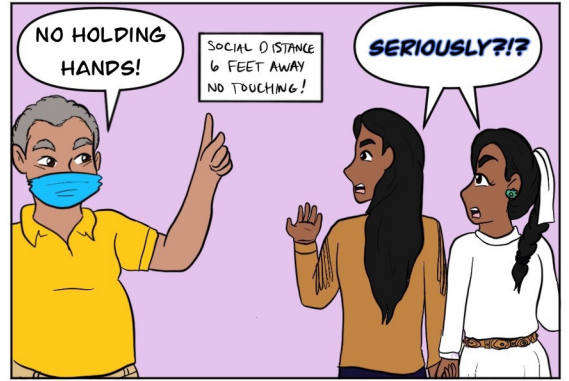
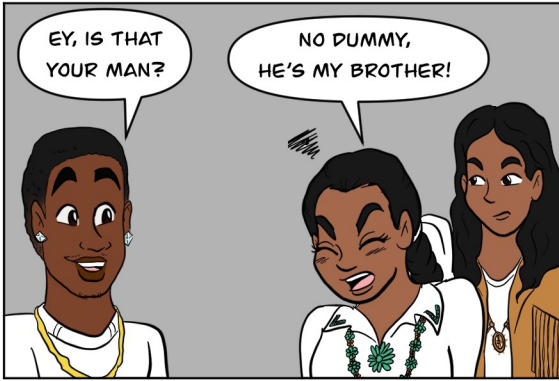
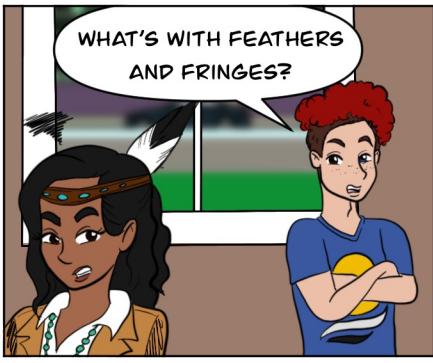


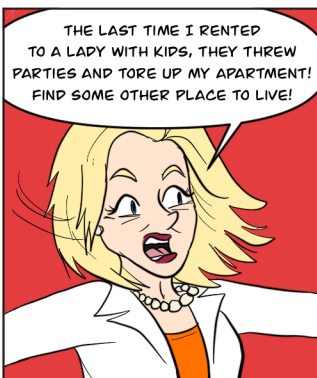
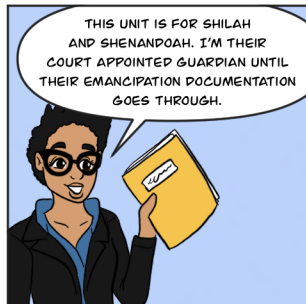
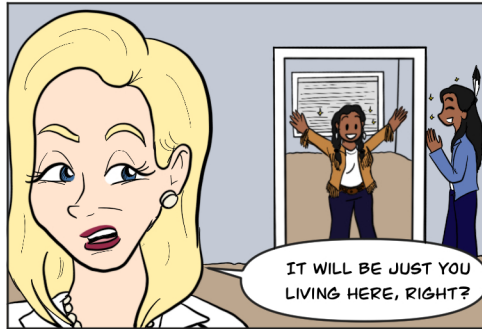
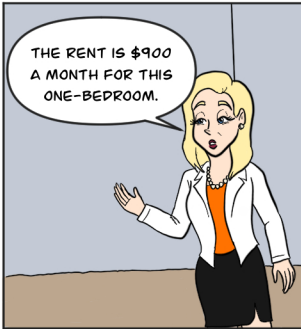
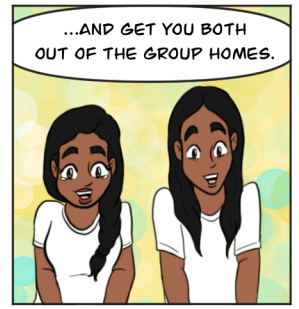
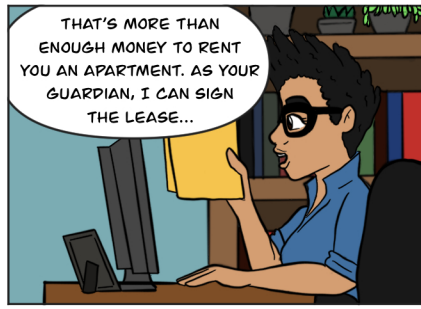
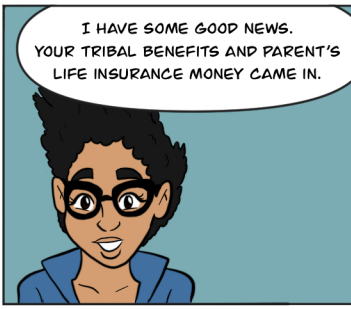
MOM AND DAD WORKED SO HARD. SO MANY LONG HOURS AT THE CASINO. THEY WANTED A BETTER LIFE FOR US...





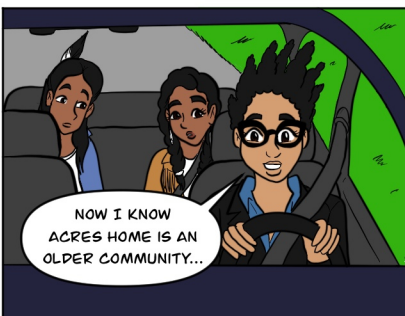
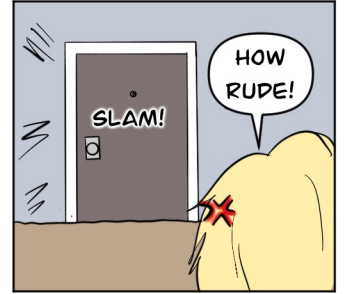


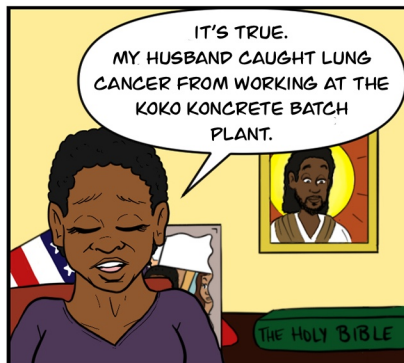


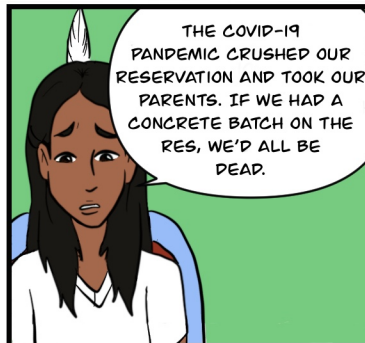
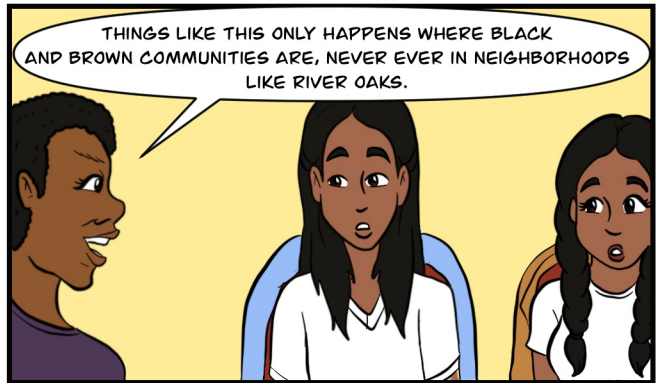
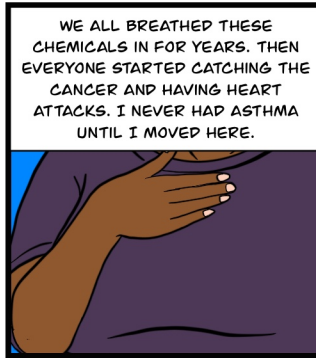
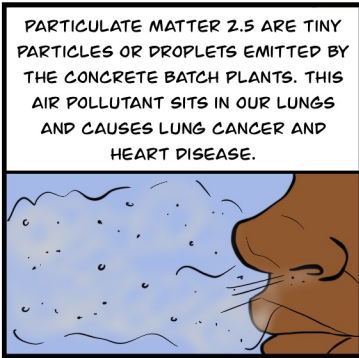
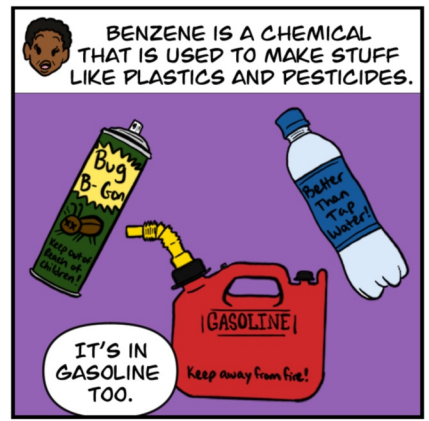


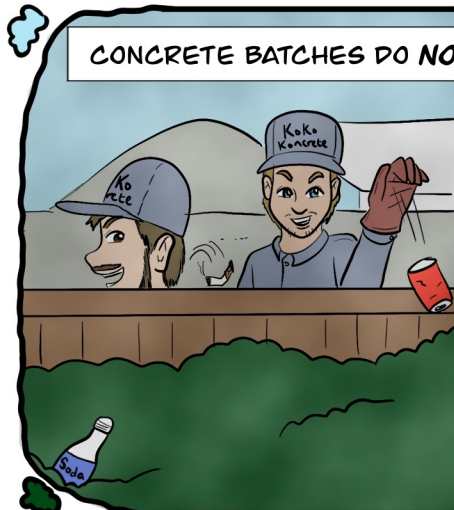
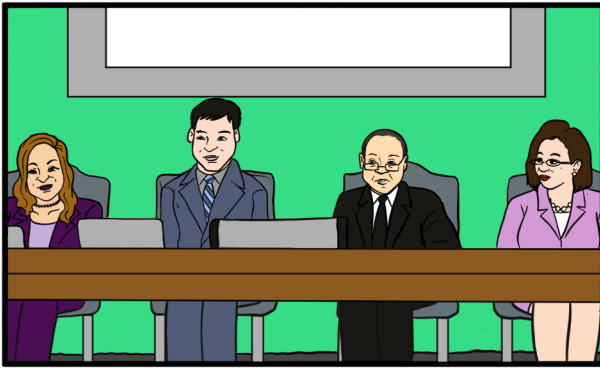
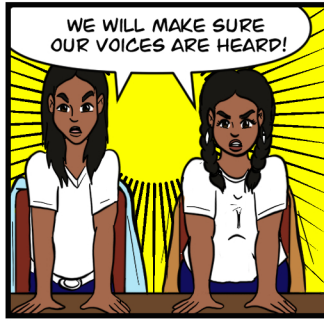
SHILAH AND SHENANDOAH HAVE JUST EXPERIENCED HOUSING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF FAMILIAL STATUS. THE FAIR HOUSING ACT OF 1968 PROHIBITS HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD, PREGNANT WOMEN, KIDS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ADOPTED, OR KIDS WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, LIKE TASHA. LEARN MORE ABOUT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN HERE!



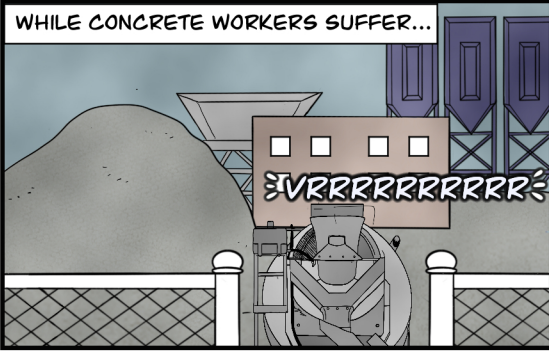






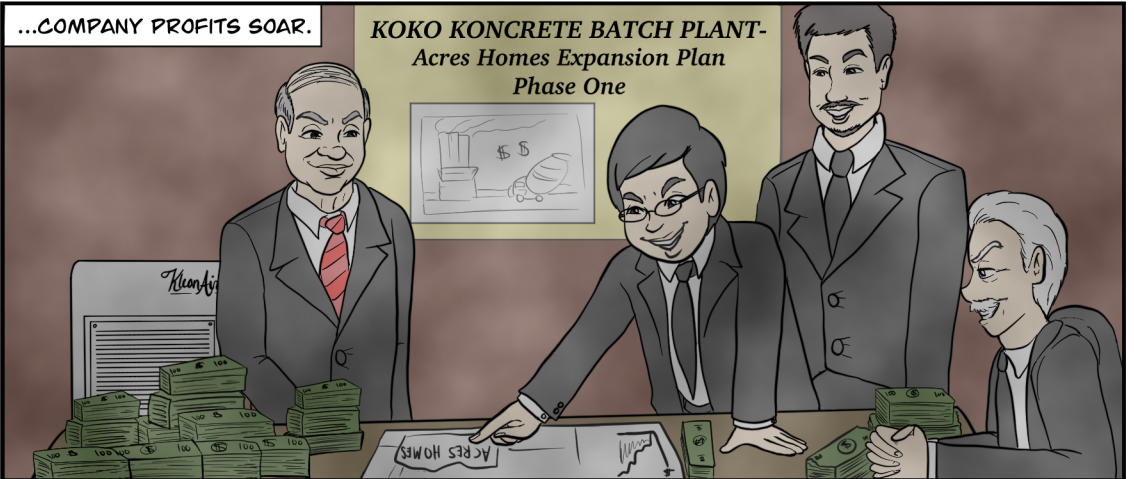


WHILE CONCRETE WORKERS SUFFER...



...COMPANY PROFITS SOAR.

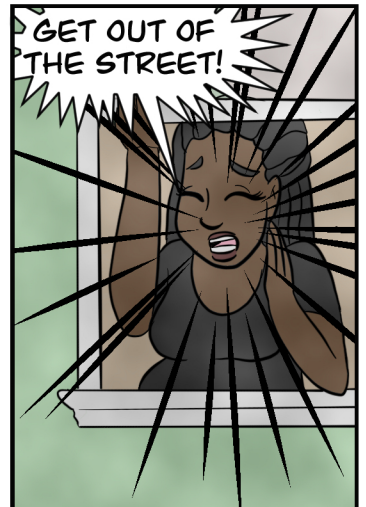
KOKO CONCRETE BATCH PLANT - Acres Homes Expansion Plan Phase One



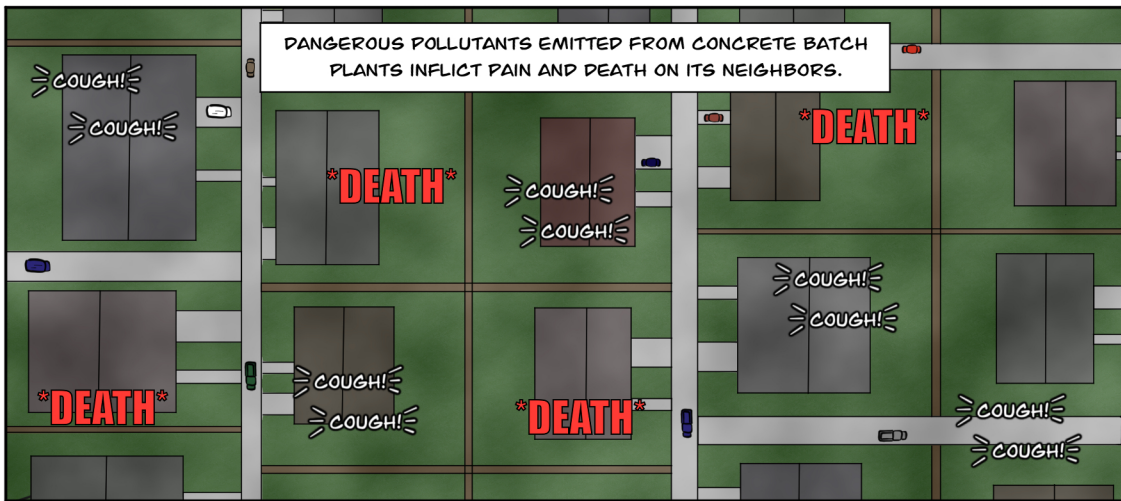
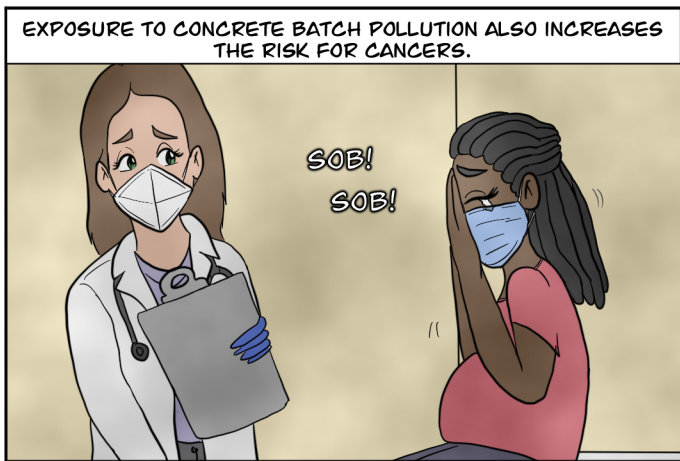
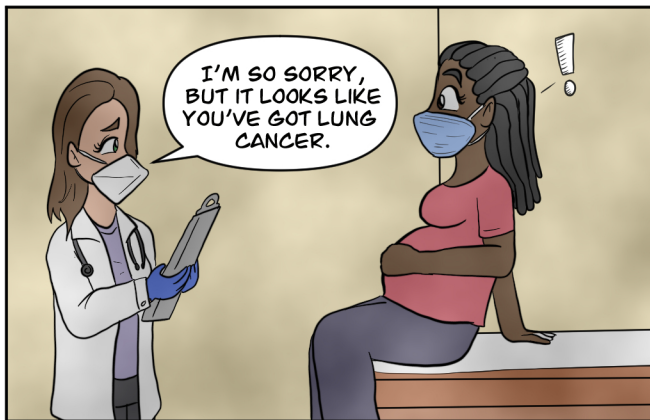
HEAVY TRUCKS DETERIORATE RESIDENTIAL STREETS FASTER THAN PASSENGER VEHICLES.

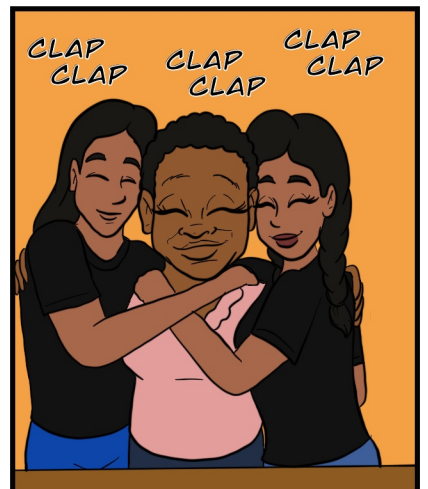
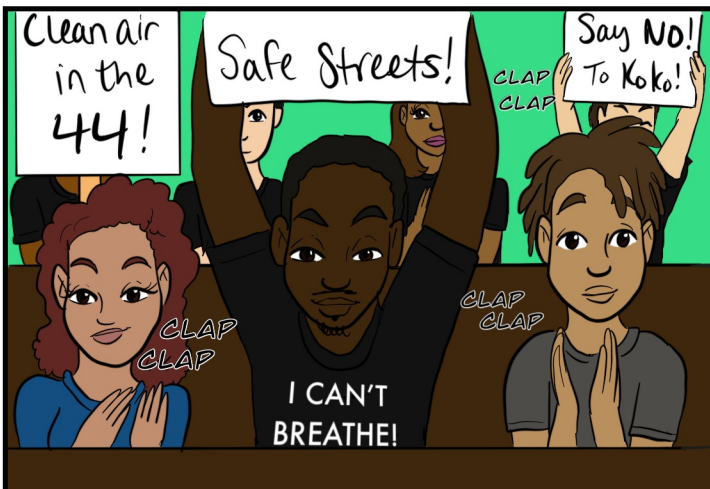
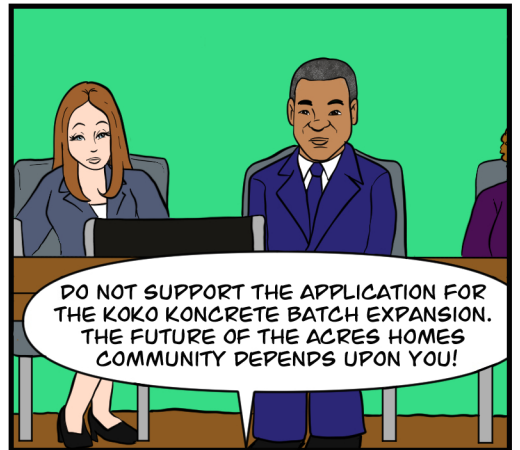
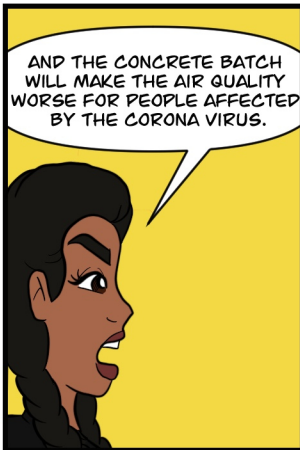
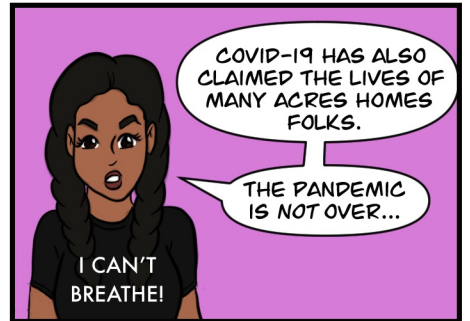
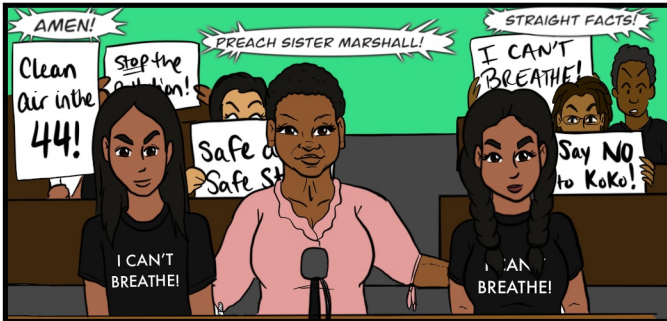
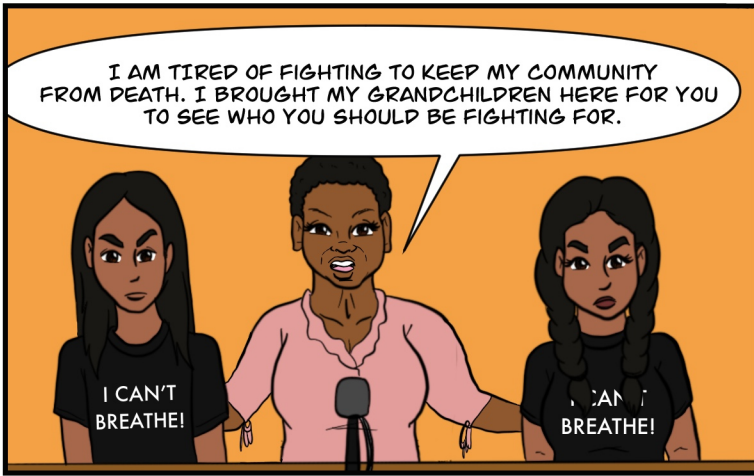


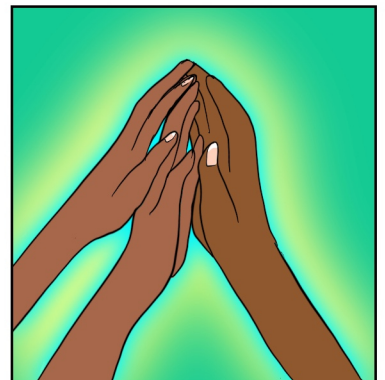
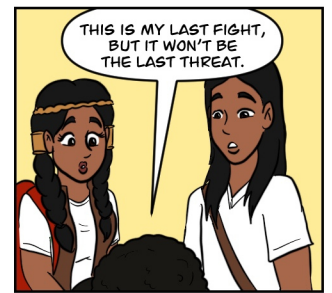
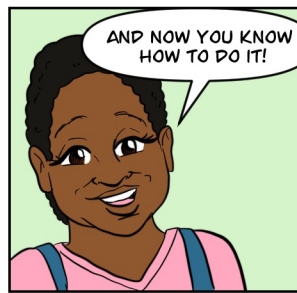
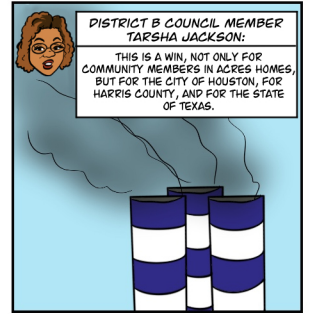
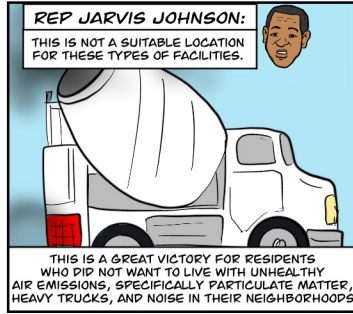
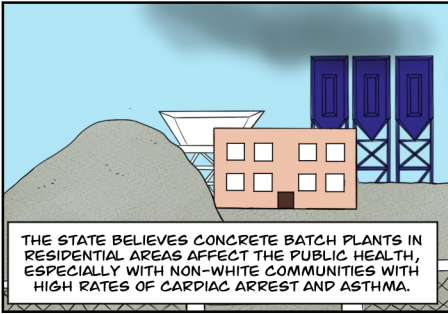
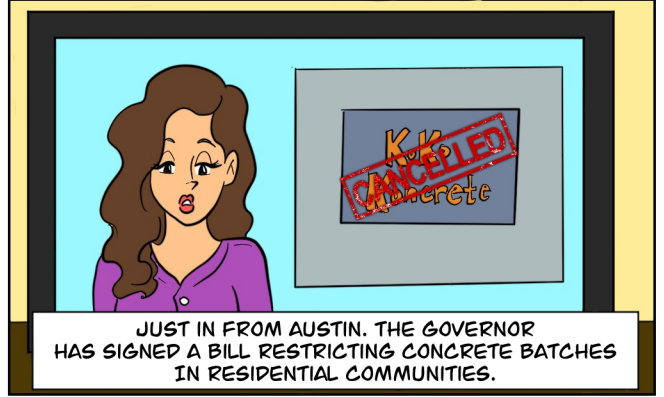
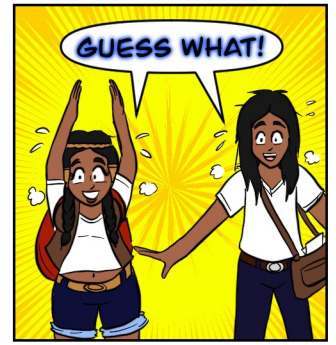
CONCRETE TRUCKS ARE VERY NOSY!











# THE FAIR HOUSING DEFENDERS CO-CREATOR/PROGRAM DIRECTORS

## MELISSA DIAZ CO-CREATOR/PROGRAM DIRECTOR

MELISSA DIAZ IS THE CO-CREATOR/PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE FAIR HOUSING DEFENDERS PROGRAM. SHE MANAGES ALL FINANCE AND LEGAL FUNCTIONS FOR THE FHD PROGRAM. MELISSA DEVELOPS STRATEGIES AND ESTABLISHES FUNCTIONAL OBJECTIVES ALIGNED WITH THE PROGRAMMATIC GOALS. SHE CULTIVATES RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS, AND VENDORS TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT ACCESS TO SERVICES AND RESOURCES. MELISSA ALSO CREATES THE CONTENT FOR THE FAIR HOUSING DEFENDERS COMIC BOOKS, WORKSHOPS, AND SPEAKING EVENTS.

MELISSA GRADUATED WITH HONORS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON WITH A MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE. SHE ALSO HOLDS A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY.

HER EXPERTISE INCLUDES FINANCE, LEGAL, MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, GRANT WRITING, COMPLIANCE, COMMUNICATIONS, CONTENT DEVELOPMENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER RECOVERY.

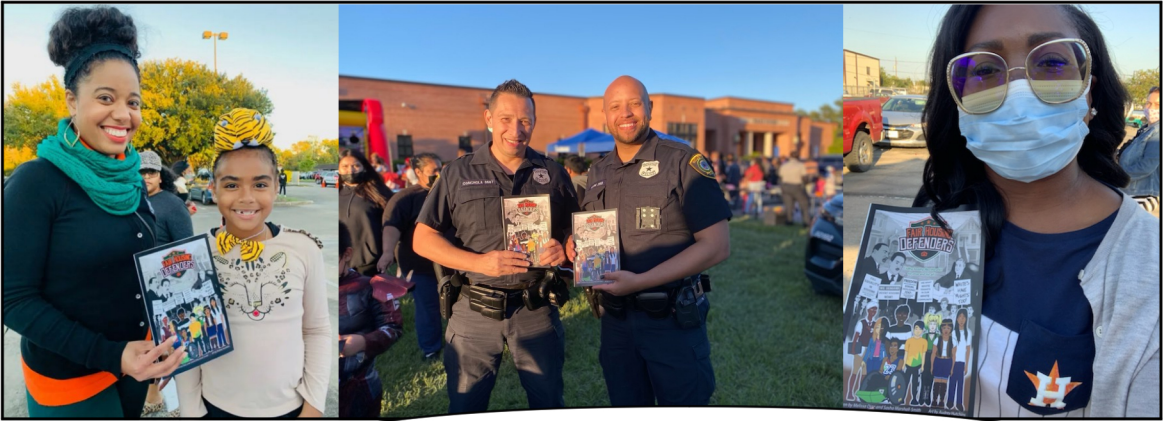


## SASHA MARSHALL SMITH CO-CREATOR/PROGRAM DIRECTOR

SASHA MARSHALL-SMITH IS THE CO-CREATOR/PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE FAIR HOUSING DEFENDERS PROGRAM. SHE MANAGES NEW INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE FHD PROGRAM. SASHA OVERSEES FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PROGRAM TO ENSURE THE CONTINUOUS DELIVERY OF SERVICES AND COMIC BOOK PRODUCTION. SHE ALSO CREATES THE CONTENT FOR THE FAIR HOUSING DEFENDERS COMIC BOOKS, WORKSHOPS, AND SPEAKING EVENTS. SASHA IS A NATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKER AND HAS EDUCATED OVER TWO MILLION PEOPLE ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOME DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING DISCRIMINATION, AND FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS.

SASHA GRADUATED WITH HONORS FROM LANGSTON UNIVERSITY WITH A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BROADCAST JOURNALISM WITH AN EMPHASIS IN PUBLIC RELATIONS AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN REGIONAL AND CITY PLANNING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA.

HER EXPERTISE INCLUDES AFFORDABLE HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, PUBLIC OUTREACH, PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS, PUBLIC SPEAKING, CONTENT DEVELOPMENT, GRANT WRITING, COMMUNICATIONS, AND MANAGEMENT.



MELISSA AND SASHA ARE HAPPY TO PROVIDE IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL FAIR HOUSING EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND FACILITATE BOOTHS AT PUBLIC EVENTS.



TO SCHEDULE THESE OPPORTUNITIES OR TO REQUEST COPIES OF THE FAIR HOUSING DEFENDERS COMIC BOOKS, PLEASE EMAIL [FAIRHOUSINGDEFENDERS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:FAIRHOUSINGDEFENDERS@YAHOO.COM).

# RESOURCE PAGE

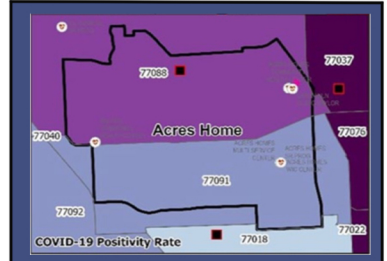
THE COMMUNITY MAPS OUTLINE CONCRETE BATCH PLANTS; HEALTH RISKS FROM BENZENE AND PM2.5 EXPOSURE, TCEQ BENZENE AND PM2.5 AIR QUALITY MONITORS, COVID-19 POSITIVITY RATE AS OF 1/27/22



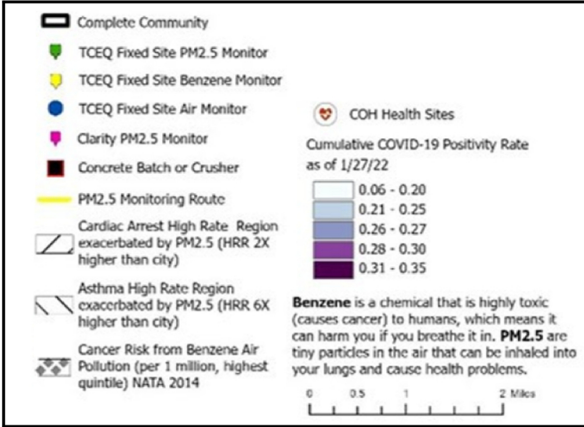
RESIDENTS WITHIN THE ACRES HOMES COMPLETE COMMUNITY BOUNDARY (AREA CODES 77088 AND 77091) EXPERIENCED CARDIAC ARREST AND ASTHMA TWO TO SIX TIMES HIGHER THAN THE CITY OF HOUSTON.



WHILE THE ACRES HOME COMMUNITY HAS HEALTH SITES AND P.M. 2.5 AIR MONITORS, THIS NEIGHBORHOOD HAS EXPERIENCED INCREASED BENZENE CANCER RISK DUE TO THE LOCATIONS OF THE CONCRETE BATCHES.



THE ACRES HOMES COMMUNITY HAS STRUGGLED TO RECOVER FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC DUE TO INCREASED POSITIVITY RATES IN THE 77088 AND 77091 AREA CODES.



ACRES HOMES RESIDENTS ARE 60% NON-HISPANIC BLACK, 31% HISPANIC, AND 9% NON-HISPANIC WHITE AND OTHER RACES. OF THE THREE HEALTH EFFECTS BEING TRACKED AS POSING AN INCREASED RISK DUE TO EXPOSURE TO POLLUTION (I.E., CARDIAC ARREST, ASTHMA ATTACKS, AND CANCER), ANALYSIS OF THE CITY'S EMS AMBULANCE DATA INDICATES INCREASED RISK FOR CARDIAC ARREST AND ASTHMA ATTACKS IN ACRES HOMES COMPARED TO THE REST OF THE CITY. THE DATA SHOWS A 33% INCREASE IN CASES OF CARDIAC ARREST, A 165% INCREASE IN CASES OF ADULT ASTHMA ATTACKS, AND A 184% INCREASE IN CASES OF CHILDHOOD ASTHMA ATTACKS. ADDITIONALLY, THE EPA INDICATES A RISK OF 2.6 ADDITIONAL CANCER CASES IN 1 MILLION PEOPLE FROM EXPOSURE TO BENZENE IN ACRES HOMES.



**JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BY SPEAKING OUT AGAINST HARMFUL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS! TO REPORT AIR QUALITY COMPLAINTS, CONTACT:**

**HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

CALL: 713.837.0311 (DURING BUSINESS HOURS)  
OR 832.393.5730 (AFTER BUSINESS HOURS)

CALL: (888) 777.3186  
EMAIL: COMPLAINT@TCEQ.TEXAS.GOV  
SUBMIT COMPLAINT FORM ONLINE:  
WWW.TCEQ.TEXAS.GOV/COMPLIANCE/COMPLAINTS

CALL: NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER 1.800.424.8802  
SUBMIT COMPLAINT FORM ONLINE:  
WWW.ECHO.EPA.GOV/REPORT-ENVIRONMENTAL-VIOLATIONS





**WE'RE YOUR PARTNER IN REAL ESTATE**

2500 E TC Jester Blvd  
Suite 262  
Houston TX 77008  
713-929-5411 office

[www.tasrealtygroup.com](http://www.tasrealtygroup.com)




HEY EVERYBODY! THESE REALTORS OBSERVE THE FAIR HOUSING ACT OF 1968 AND ARE COMMITTED TO OFFERING EQUAL SERVICES IN ALL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.



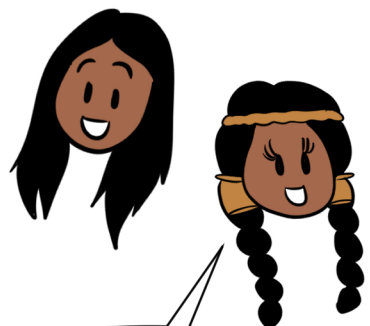
THE WATKINS GROUP REALTY  
THE PROPERTY SOLUTION PEOPLE



BUY OR SELL YOUR HOME WITH US!

*Ann Watkins*  
ann@thewatkinsgroup-tx.com  
www.thewatkinsgroup-tx.com  
(832) 492-3333 Cell  
(281) 501-2972 Office





BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN ACRES HOMES!

JOIN THESE COMMUNITY GROUPS TODAY!



**Acres Homes**  
Community Advocacy Group  
*"We Are Acres Homes"*

Join us as we work to serve the Acres Homes community through empowering our neighbors!

*Ways to Support:*



Volunteer



Donate



Connect

 [www.acreshomescag.org](http://www.acreshomescag.org)

 409.247.0909

 [info.ahcag@gmail.com](mailto:info.ahcag@gmail.com)

 @AcresHomesCAG





**ACRES HOMES SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL #6**

*"Building a stronger community"*

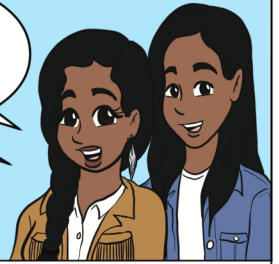
**LEARN MORE**

[acreshomessnc@gmail.com](mailto:acreshomessnc@gmail.com)





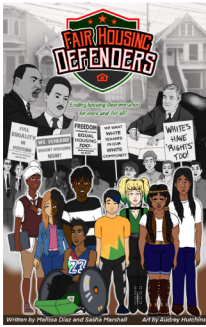

SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO THE CITY OF HOUSTON  
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND THE  
ACRES HOME COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORTING THIS  
COMIC BOOK!



THE FAIR HOUSING DEFENDERS ARE HONORED TO BE STORYTELLERS FOR THE HOUSTON INSPIRA INITIATIVE, A COLLABORATION BETWEEN HOUSTON COMPLETE COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL ARTISTS TO AMPLIFY STORIES IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES WHILE BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL RESIDENTS TO SUCCEED AND BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE. VISIT [WWW.HOUSTONTX.GOV/INSPIRA/](http://WWW.HOUSTONTX.GOV/INSPIRA/) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT.

FOLLOW JUSTICE, AYA, TARANJIT, LIBERTY, ABEL, SANG, SHILAH, AND SHENANDOAH AS THEY EXPERIENCE CHALLENGES WITH HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AND EMBODY THEIR PROTECTED CLASS. WATCH THESE YOUNG FIGHTERS IN THEIR QUEST TO END HOUSING DISCRIMINATION FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL IN THE FAIR HOUSING DEFENDERS COMIC BOOK SERIES:

INTRODUCING THE  
FAIR HOUSING  
DEFENDERS!



LIBERTY AND JUSTICE  
FOR ALL!



SHILAH AND SHENANDOAH,  
DO YOU HAVE A  
RESERVATION?



COMING SOON TO THE FAIR  
HOUSING DEFENDERS COMIC  
BOOK SERIES!

JUSTICE, THIS IS AMERIKKKA  
AYA IN THE EYE OF THE STORM  
TARANJIT, YOU'RE THE BOMB!  
SANG, YOU MAKE ME SICK!  
ABEL, THE POWERFUL

