

Integration, Segregation, & Gentrification

in our Houston Neighborhoods

A Community Discussion on
Philosophy and Politics

Oct. 19th, 2017
7:00 PM

The Historic
Eldorado Ballroom
2310 Elgin St.



Free and open to the public. All are welcome.

Panelists:



Representative Garnet Coleman

Texas State Representative for District 147

Representative Coleman has served the people of District 147 in the Texas House of Representatives continuously since 1991. District 147 is home to both the University of Houston, and its neighborhood, the historic Third Ward. Representative Coleman has spearheaded initiatives to resist gentrification in the Third Ward. He believes, "It is imperative that we maintain the character of these unique communities.... Today, we are seeing the reverse of white flight. An increasing number of suburban-dwellers want to move closer to the city and experience the diversity and convenience that city living offers; this is great. However, we must be careful that we don't allow historic and traditional communities to be streamrolled and displaced in the process." While he promotes and encourages development, Coleman has committed himself to ensuring that this development does not kick out the people and families that make up their current neighborhoods.



Dr. Ronald Sundstrom

Philosophy Department Chair, University of San Francisco

Author of *The Browning of America and the Evasion of Social Justice* (SUNY, 2008) Dr. Sundstrom's areas of research include political theory, critical social and race theory, and African American and Asian American Philosophy. In addition to philosophy, he teaches for USF's African American Studies program and the Master of Public Affairs program for the Leo T. McCarthy Center of Public Service and the Common Good. He was awarded the 2008 Sankofa Faculty Award from USF's Multicultural Student Services, USF's 2009 Ignatian Service Award, and was a co-winner of the 2010 USF Distinguished Teaching Award. His current project involves social research, and is on fair housing and the effects segregation and integration on democratic life and citizenship.



Dr. Assata Richards

Founding Director, Sankofa Research Institute and Emancipation Economic Development Council

Assata Richards is a native of Houston, TX who earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Houston, and her Master's and Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University in Sociology with a concentration on political and community participation, research methods and mass incarceration. After serving as a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, she returned to her community in Houston, TX, to work with Project Row Houses, a non-profit arts organization established by African-American artists and community activists in Houston's historic Third Ward. Most recently, Dr. Richards is the founding director of the Sankofa Research Institute, which she is a community-based nonprofit with the mission to create knowledge to build community. She worked with the Emancipation Economic Development Council (EEDC), a collaborative of organized, informed and engaged faith-based organizations, nonprofits, community development corporations, businesses, local government entities and other stakeholders from the community, whose mission is to inspire hope and contribute to the revitalization and preservation of the Third Ward, whose vision is a resilient, dynamic, and economically prosperous community where people live, work and thrive in a historically and culturally rich African-American neighborhood.