

EVOAK! Harm Repair Research

Building a Community-Authored Framework for Repair, Restoration & Reinvestment in West Oakland

The EVOAK! Knowledge Bank and Harm Repair Initiative brought together a coordinated series of research campaigns that formed the backbone of a community-driven framework for restorative development in West Oakland. These projects combined data, storytelling, design, and policy to quantify harm, preserve cultural memory, and guide equitable reinvestment—each contributing to a unified strategy for comprehensive and creative community development centered on legacy Black residents.

Research Campaigns & Partners

California College of the Arts (CCA) – Architecture Division

Led by Associate Professor Janette Kim, CCA students created many of the interactive features showcased at the 980 Block Party/

Goldman School of Public Policy – UC Berkeley

Graduate researchers quantified harm across housing, health, education, economic opportunity, and criminalization

Institute for Transportation Studies (ITS) – UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Davis, UCLA and Just Cities Institute

Guided by Margaret Gordon, this regional mobility justice study examined community governance in transportation planning.

UCLA Civil & Environmental Engineering

Under the oversight of Dr. Regan Patterson, Ph.D. candidate Ivan Manan modeled traffic and design scenarios for community-informed boulevard alternatives to the I-980 Freeway.

Design Studio Collaborations – UC Berkeley & CCA

Professors Jane Lin and Yulia Grinkrug led studios exploring participatory design and speculative urban models.

Oral Histories & Media Documentation

Sophia Hawkins recorded lived experiences of legacy Black residents, integrating personal narratives into the harm repair framework.

Knowledge Bank Support Team

Rashida Chase, Yana Sadiq, and Silas Kirsch led asset documentation, database design, and historical freeway analysis.

Technology & Immersive Engagement Partners

Collaborations with Noah Friedman (Oakland 2100) and the Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment (MADE) advanced

Unified Vision

Together, these campaigns created an interconnected ecosystem of research, policy, design, and technology that operationalized harm repair as both a technical and cultural practice—aligning data with lived experience to shape a replicable, community-authored model for reparative development, cultural restoration, and self-determination in West Oakland.

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