

## ***Riverside "Master Narrative" High School, gentrification, and White River's transformation***

We can't forget that one of the major purposes of Indy schools like the Riverside "Master Narrative" High School is gentrification. Note the Herron "Master Narrative" High School and the development of "Tinker St": East 16th St. from Pennsylvania to Roosevelt Ave with Oaks Academy in the old IPS No. 26. <http://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/columnists/erika-smith/2015/01/24/smith-move-fountain-square-make-way-tinker-street/22228299/>

Now, in a similar scenario, get ready for the presence of the Riverside "Master Narrative" High School and the ongoing gentrification of Riverside. Just think: why live north of 38th St. or Marion Co. when you can live, work, and play in the greater Riverside area: 3 fine public golf courses, historic Riverside Park and its Family Recreation Center (gym & "fun pool"/waterslide), the beautiful White River, romantic old homes to refurbish, scenic Burdsal Pkwy—and minutes from the IUPUI/Eskenazi & VA hospitals/Marian U. campuses...let alone downtown Indy and Long's Bakery!

But wait...there's more: the area will be developed through the \$75M from the City-County Council for the planned 16 Tech Innovation Community—a 50-acre technology park along Indiana Ave., north of Eskenazi/Fall Creek and south of W. 16th St. *Now*, add \$25M!! more from Uncle Eli.

- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/11/09/city-county-council-oks-75m-indianapolis-tech-park/75475124>
- [http://www.therepublic.com/2017/07/23/lilly\\_endowment\\_gives\\_millions\\_for\\_life\\_sciences\\_initiative](http://www.therepublic.com/2017/07/23/lilly_endowment_gives_millions_for_life_sciences_initiative)

These families of 16 Tech professionals, likely to gentrify Riverside, will have boutique elementary schools\* all to feed a Riverside college-prep high school with its Classical "Master Narrative" curriculum based on the Western canon and its white middle-class epistemologies. Read this commentary by Indy *Star* associate editor Russ Pulliam: "Classical education is on the rise." <http://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2017/08/02/pulliam-classical-education-rise/527002001/>

\*The new neo-liberal Mind Trust enabled Global Prep Academy (in the old IPS/Riverside school #44), the Vision Academy @ Riverside, and Ignite Academy at the Elder Diggs Elementary.



What's worrisome is this gentrification is all being done in spite of warnings from books like *The New Urban Crisis* showing gentrification can increase inequality, deepen segregation, and fail the blue collar service workers--who live along their river. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kheo\\_6Woovk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kheo_6Woovk)

### **The new White River: Connecting the dots to gentrification and attracting millennials**

If we connect the dots and look at the bigger picture, the news about the revitalization of White River fits right in. Read <http://www.wthr.com/article/white-river-revitalization-effort-kicks-off-wednesday>.

Suddenly our city wants a new White River. See the *Indy Star* editorial, "Time to be bold about White River's future." A letter to the editor, "Let's transform the White River" shows us who'll be in charge.

- [www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2017/08/05/editorial-time-bold-white-rivers-future/534184001/](http://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2017/08/05/editorial-time-bold-white-rivers-future/534184001/)

- <http://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/readers/2017/08/02/letters-lets-transform-white-river/532519001/>

*The move to clean up/revitalize White River would not have happened until the gentrification of downtown.* Indy's power structure did not have to care about a clean and livable waterway, much less a "leisurely" White River for a deserving working-class who have lived along the river for a century.

Just imagine a beautified and cosmopolitan White River with intermittent promenades for the newly urbanized walkers and bike riders stretching south from 30<sup>th</sup> St to the awaited gentrification of our Haughville and Stringtown neighborhoods. Now doctors/nurses/technicians, professors/students, and other professionals can live, work, study, and play right across the river from IUPUI and the greater university campus-hospital complex. Yet, this does not stop here.

Making green spaces goes south of Washington St. Ambrose Property Group will acquire the former General Motors stamping plant site in the Valley. The Indy firm wants to redevelop the 103-acre site into a \$550 million project including apartments, offices, retail, a hotel...and of course a promenade.



<http://www.indystar.com/story/money/2017/05/02/550m-gm-stamping-plant-site-project-create-new-district-indianapolis/101193674/> For more images, see <https://goo.gl/images/gdqy7c>

Just think: now the Colts/Pacer stadiums are convenient to the gentry class. The Convention Center, Circle Center Mall, and the South St. Y are also convenient. Indy's museums and Indiana's government cluster are nearby. Eli Lilly's downtown and Kentucky Ave plants are close. Again, why live in Hamilton or Johnson counties with the long drives amidst rush hour gridlock?

"It will embellish the neighborhood surrounding the property and be an extension of the Downtown," said Bruce Rasher, redevelopment manager for site owner RACER Trust. "It'll ultimately, I think, become a new district for the city of Indianapolis." <http://fox59.com/2017/01/09/indianapolis-names-the-valley-as-neighborhood-of-the-month-for-january-2017/>

Of course this neighborhood "embellish"-ment, this "new district" will mean the displacement of the original residents and their cultures in the name of progress. This is especially true for the long-time Appalachian communities who arrived here during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Migrations. We can't forget the working classes living in the Valley (and Stringtown) did the hard lifting needed build our city; and, their labor has been essential to maintaining it for over a century. Soon these southern-white cultures, which helped give Indianapolis our distinctive "country" flavor and identity, will be gone.

**Connecting even more dots: A commentary** The gentrification of Riverside, Haughville, Stringtown, and the Valley; 16 Tech/GM plant; IPS selling its high schools while supporting Herron; The Mind Trust/Stand for Children privatizing what schools are left; and, the "new" White River all enable central Indiana's business elites (the 1%) to compete with other cities for the millennials and other professionals whom they need to work for them in their companies and corporations.