



The Tragedy of Black Wall Street: A Historical Reflection and Modern Lessons



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The Rise of Black Wall Street

At the turn of the 20th century, African Americans founded and developed the Greenwood district in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This area, known as “**Black Wall Street**,” became a beacon of Black economic prosperity and cultural richness. The community thrived with a variety of businesses, including barber shops, clothing stores, restaurants, and even a hospital. Greenwood was a self-sustaining community where money circulated within the neighborhood, fostering economic growth and stability.

The Tulsa Race Massacre

On May 31, 1921, a white mob began a violent rampage through Greenwood, decimating the community. Over the course of two days, the mob looted and burned down businesses, homes, schools, and churches. The massacre left as many as 300 people dead and 10,000 homeless. This horrific event stands as one of the most devastating acts of racial violence in American history.

The Aftermath and Resilience

Despite the destruction, the residents of Greenwood showed remarkable resilience. By the end of 1922, 80 businesses had reopened, and the community began to rebuild without significant help from the greater Tulsa community. However, the long-term impact of the massacre was profound, and the area never fully recovered to its former glory.

Modern Lessons: Disparity in Funding for Black Nonprofit Businesses

The tragedy of Black Wall Street highlights the systemic challenges that Black communities have faced and continue to face. One such challenge is the disparity in funding for Black-led nonprofit organizations. Research shows that Black-led nonprofits receive significantly less funding than their white-led counterparts. For example, **as of 2023, Black-led nonprofits receive 24% less revenue and 76% less access to unrestricted net assets.**

This disparity in funding means that Black-led organizations often lack the resources needed to serve their communities effectively. The systemic nature of this problem is rooted in racial bias, both personal and institutional, which affects the philanthropic and grantmaking processes.

A Call to Action: YOURpath for Adult Learners

At YOURpath for Adult Learners, we are dedicated to providing adult basic education services across the nation. Our mission is to equip students with the necessary content knowledge and literacy/numeracy skills to secure their high school equivalency diploma via alternative state testing. We also offer "Next Step" and employment training services to assist students in various post-diploma pursuits, whether it be applying for college, enlisting in the military, seeking employment, advancing in their current job, or even starting their own business.

Many of our students are particularly interested in entrepreneurship and starting their own businesses. However, the funding disparities faced by minority entrepreneurs can significantly impact their ability to succeed. Studies have shown that minority business owners are more likely to be denied credit and, when they do receive loans, they often come with higher interest rates. Additionally, Black-owned businesses received less than 1% of venture capital dollars in 2022. These barriers make it challenging for aspiring minority entrepreneurs to access the capital and resources needed to launch and grow their businesses.

The story of Black Wall Street serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience and strength of Black communities. It also underscores the importance of addressing systemic inequities in funding. Philanthropic organizations and grantmakers must recognize and actively work to overcome these disparities. By doing so, they can help ensure that Black-led nonprofits, like YOURpath for Adult Learners, have the resources they need to thrive and continue their vital work in their communities.

Invitation to Partner with YOURpath for Adult Learners

We are excited to introduce our new initiative, "**Equity in Philanthropy Initiative,**" aimed at addressing the disparities in grant funding for Black-led nonprofit organizations. We believe that by partnering with visionary grantors and philanthropists, we can bridge this funding gap and create a more equitable and just society.

Your support would enable us to provide essential resources and opportunities for Black-led nonprofits and aspiring minority entrepreneurs. In recognition of your partnership, we would be honored to feature your organization in our newsletters, social media platforms, and events.

We invite you to join us in this important endeavor. Please contact us at **yourpathforadultlearners@gmail.com** to discuss how we can collaborate to achieve our shared goals.

Let us honor the legacy of Black Wall Street by committing to equity and justice in all aspects of our society, including the support and funding of Black-led nonprofit organizations and aspiring minority entrepreneurs.

A Historical Lesson on Race & Racism in America



Mini Worksheet: The Tragedy of Black Wall Street

Fill in the Blanks

The Greenwood district in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was known as “_____.”

The Tulsa Race Massacre occurred on May 31, _____.

Over the course of two days, the mob looted and burned down businesses, homes, schools, and _____.

By the end of 1922, _____ businesses had reopened in Greenwood.

Black-led nonprofits receive _____% less revenue than their white-led counterparts.

Multiple Choice

What was the primary cause of the Tulsa Race Massacre?

- a) Economic competition
- b) Racial violence
- c) Political differences
- d) Natural disaster

How many people were left homeless after the Tulsa Race Massacre?

- a) 1,000
- b) 5,000
- c) 10,000
- d) 20,000

What percentage less access to unrestricted net assets do Black-led nonprofits have compared to white-led nonprofits?

- a) 24%
- b) 50%
- c) 76%
- d) 90%

YOURpath: Championing Economic Success, Diversity & Equality



YOURpath's Graduates (2018-2024)

YOURpath's 2024 Mid-Year Outcome Measures

Mid-Year Success Summary

As we reach the midpoint of 2024, it's an opportune time to reflect on the progress and achievements of YOURpath. This year has been marked by significant strides in our commitment to providing quality education and supporting student success.

Student Success: YOURpath proudly celebrated the mid-year graduation of two students, both of whom received acceptance into community colleges. In total, eight students completed their programs in the 2023-24 academic year.

High Enrollment and Retention Rates: YOURpath saw its enrollment and retention rates soar between 85-100%, reflecting the unwavering commitment of its learners.

High Student Satisfaction: Student satisfaction with YOURpath's tutors reached an impressive 95%, indicating the high quality and engagement of its instructional staff.

College Readiness: A remarkable 88% of YOURpath graduates scored at the College Readiness Level, particularly in reading, language arts, and mathematics, demonstrating the effectiveness of our academic programs.

Career Coaching and Resources: YOURpath provided essential career coaching and resources to 70% of its students who are working adults with families, ensuring they can balance life's demands while pursuing their educational goals.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, we remain committed to our mission of empowering students and transforming lives through education.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Staff and Volunteers

YOURpath extends our deepest gratitude to all our dedicated staff and volunteers. Your hard work and unwavering commitment to our adult learners and YOURpath's mission are truly inspiring.

Thank you for making a difference every day and for championing economic success, diversity, and equality. Together, we are transforming lives and building a brighter future.

Support YOURpath for Adult Learners!

On behalf of our students, alumni, and the entire YOURpath organization, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters for their generous support and unwavering belief in the transformative power of adult education. Since 2018, YOURpath has been dedicated to providing personalized online preparation courses for adult basic education, GED, and HiSET, empowering adults nationwide to achieve their high school equivalency diplomas and pursue their dreams.



Your contribution makes a significant difference in people's lives. The achievements of our students are a testament to the positive impact your support helps create. As we continue our mission to empower adult learners and transform communities, **we invite you to further support our cause.**

Why Donate?

Expand Access: Your donations help us provide 24/7 access to essential educational resources, ensuring that more adults can benefit from our programs.

Enhance Programs: Contributions allow us to continuously improve and expand our course offerings, providing students with the best possible preparation for their exams and future careers.

Support Success: Every dollar helps us offer additional services like career coaching, employment training, and post-diploma support, guiding our graduates towards successful futures.

Join Us in Making a Difference

Your support is crucial in helping us reach even more adults in need of education and resources. Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal of making education accessible to all. Together, we can create lasting change and build a brighter future for adult learners across the nation.

Thank you for being a vital part of our mission. To donate, please click on the button below.

Donate Now

Published by Dr. Audrey Artis, Ed.D. July 2024

Resources:

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