Power of Place: Building a Field

The people, strategies, and tools to create communities of opportunity, mobility, and un-limited power

William Julius Wilson Institute Summit
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Despite our rhetoric and efforts...

Today in America, who your parents are and where you grow up are still the most determinative factors of your life *chances*

Source: Opportunity Atlas, Dr. Raj Chetty. WAMU: The Affordability Desk
Inequity has been built into our laws and way of life since our beginnings and the impacts manifest today.

Redlining maps from 1930's Chicago, which directed investment to white communities and disinvested in communities of color.

Chicago's levels of economic mobility and poverty today, as per the Opportunity Atlas.

Source: Opportunity Insights, Manhattan Institute
Leading to a *Bell Curve and Bias Culture* that asserts “*some people(s) have it and some don’t*”

Despite the evidence that talent is equally distributed. Opportunity is not.

*Source: “Bloom’s Two-Sigma Problem”*
The American Dream is fading exacerbated by the increased cost of “thriving” And, deliberate choices made it this way
The changing economy, regressive policies, and skills mismatch are combining to make things worse - concentrating opportunity and wealth in fewer places and hands.

Source: Economic Innovation Group, Brookings Institute
“The pressures of ‘working class’ life kill Americans...”

Deaths of despair have been climbing rapidly among White Americans with limited opportunity for the last 30 years

Source: Brookings Institute
Part of the solution is clear... enable millions more Americans to achieve the milestones that lead to thriving adulthood

And, avoid or mitigate the impediments that knock them off course
Comprehensive needs require a comprehensive approach

This demands a systemic place-based approach addressing the individual and environmental factors impacting mobility.
This approach is being demonstrated by a growing field of place-based partnerships devoted to producing sustained economic mobility nationally... one neighborhood and region at a time
Prior place-based efforts have revealed what the field will need to achieve population-level impacts nationally:

- **Public sector engagement and leadership**
- **Adequate and aligned public and private capital**
- **Powerful tools and supports**
- **Shared principles of practice**
- **Shifts in power and authority**
Power is the ability to create, limit, or make choices for oneself or others.

It is in many ways indistinguishable from freedom.