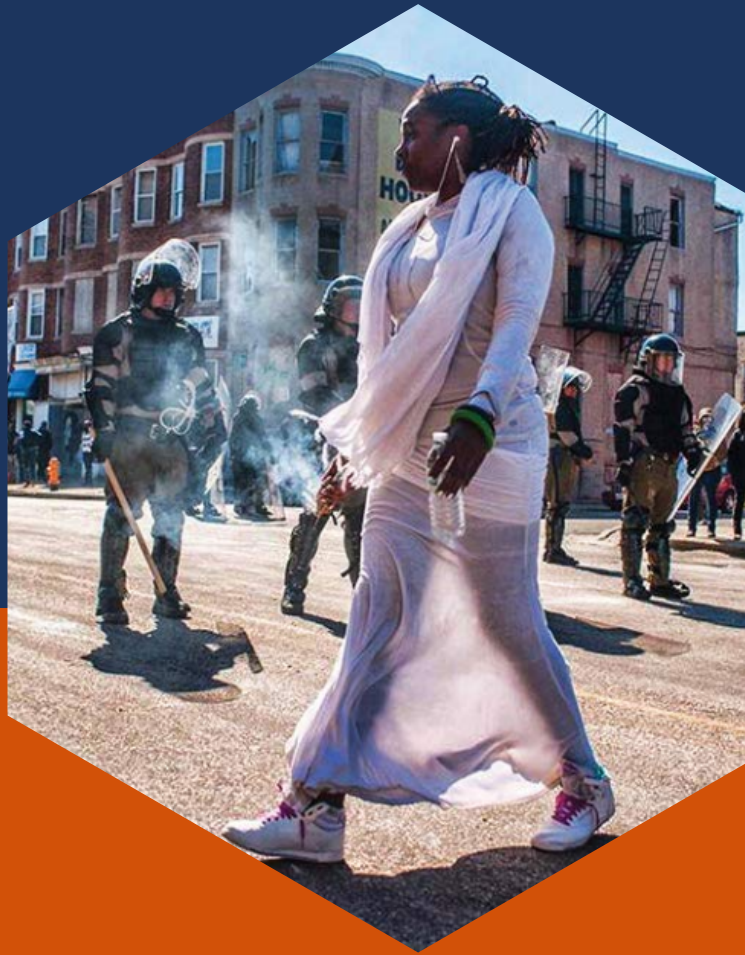


Healing our Divided Society

Resource Guide



[Alumni Testimonials](#)
[Recommendations](#)
[Common Themes](#)
[Link to Alumni Discussion Recording](#)

Where to learn more about this topic:

[Kerner Commission Report](#)

[Smithsonian Magazine Article](#)

Healing Our Divided Society: Investing in America Fifty Years after the Kerner Report
[Link to book summary](#)

"Normal has been the problem in America we need to redefine normal, seize the day, rewrite the rules, reframe the public discourse and renegotiate the social contract."

Dr. Alan Curtis



Why do you think it is important to have young people and their leadership at the table? Why do their voices matter?

"It's important to have young people that are impacted by the divide in these conversations. Their voices are important and powerful and they want to see change so they're going to be the risk-takers."

— Jazzman Anderson



Why do you think healing is important?

"Healing is a process ... Let's start the healing process in the education system."

— D'Marco Johnson



What is the common ground or shared agreements we need in this country to unite people?

"The United States is having an identity crisis ... there are two different America's. We need to get it together and figure out what America actually stands for. We need to come together and set values."

— Orlando Nava

Common themes of the divide from Alumni panelists

- Unbalanced community investment
- School to prison pipeline
- Gentrification
- Segregation

Recommendations for healing the divide from Alumni panelists

- Equal education opportunities
- Create educational career development opportunities early on
- Take law enforcement out of schools
- Eliminate youth probation
- Make college affordable to all
- Eliminate student debt
- Positive role models/trusting adults
- Affordable and accessible childcare
- Education about voting rights
- Increase vocational opportunities

Questions to ask your community to start this conversation

- When you were growing up and part of YouthBuild, how aware were you of the divide Dr. Curtis just talked about? What does the divide look like now in your community?
- Why do you think it is important to have young people and their leadership at the table? Why do their voices matter?
- How do you think the original members of the Kerner Commission would react to the progress, or lack thereof, over the last fifty years?
- Why do you think healing is important? How would you address trauma and mental health and wellness for communities and individuals? Or--what would you heal first and why?
- What is the common ground or shared agreements we need in this country to unite people? What are some solutions? Where would you invest funding and resources to unite communities? How would you level the playing field?
- What would you do to change the criminal justice system to reduce the barriers so many people face? What does success look like to you for people returning to society after experiencing incarceration?



[Click here](#) for a video recording of Healing our Digital Divide, an alumni discussion with Dr. Alan Curtis, President & CEO of the Eisenhower Foundation, John Valverde, CEO of YouthBuild USA, and YouthBuild alumni Jazzman Anderson, D'Marco Johnson and Orlando Nava.