This activity is one exercise from the SEED Facilitator Guide, designed for community members to host open conversations about economic justice.

You can find the entire guide at stocktondemonstration.org/community-engagement.
Facing the Past

This activity highlights some policies and actions taken in Stockton's history that targeted minority communities and/or exacerbated issues of poverty and inequality. **Not teaching in Stockton? Don't turn away.** Many of these policies affect your city in very similar ways. We challenge you to dig into your own city's history of redlining, segregation, and other policies that contributed to systems of oppression. Before beginning, we recommend that you establish the space as a **safe** environment free of judgement and a **brave** space to encourage participants to share their own stories.

1) Using the placards below, place printouts of policies around your gathering space.

2) In partners, ask your participants to walk around the space, taking time at each policy placard to reflect on how they have been or could be affected.

3) In the large group, discuss.
   - What sticks out from what you've reviewed?
   - How might these policies increase inequalities between class, race, and gender?
   - What other policies would you name that create inequality in the city?

**Optional Talking Points**

- **Today's economy is a reflection of rules and policies that have been designed to benefit some people at the cost of others.** These policies are responsible for the growing gap between the greedy few and the rest of us. They demonstrate how women and people of color have and continue to be robbed a equal opportunity and economic security.
- **Here's the good news.** If the system was built this way, it can be unbuilt. Guaranteed income is one important piece of how we begin to build an economy for all of us, not just the rich and powerful.
Facilitation Tips

You don't have to be an expert to lead these activities. As a facilitator, your role is to support the group in their process of learning, community building, and transformation. Like any skill, great facilitation comes with practice. Here are 10 important tips to help you hone your craft:

1. **Provide clear instructions** -- Review and visualize the activities before you facilitate them. This will save time and help you keep participants engaged.

2. **Ask open-ended questions** -- There are many questions in this guide, use them! This encourages dialogue and empowers participants to take charge of their own learning.

3. **Let the people speak!** -- Wait for people to comment, leaving silence if necessary. If they do not, ask the question again. Many people will participate if given the right opportunity.

4. **Read the group** -- Listen closely to people’s responses. Regularly scan the room and read people’s body language. This will tell you a lot about how people are receiving the workshop.

5. **Make a plan; adapt as necessary** -- Start late? Participants low on energy? Maybe you need an energizer or you need to change from large to small group discussion. Whatever the change, anticipate how it will impact the rest of your agenda.

6. **Challenge unequal power relationships** -- Allowing people to speak will sometimes reveal oppressive attitudes and behaviors. Find ways to address those behaviors directly without discouraging constructive participation.

7. **Know your own story** -- Our stories are one of our most important tools we have in our work for social justice. Reflect on why you are working to end racial and economic inequality and practice telling it out loud.

8. **Contribute to the discussion** -- Consider beforehand some of the points you think are essential based on the goals you have for your workshop. If they don’t emerge from the group, offer them yourself as part of the discussion.

9. **Work as a team** -- We highly recommend working with a co-facilitator, particularly someone from a different race & class background. Meet before and after the workshop to plan and reflect.

10. **Be yourself!** -- There are many ways to be a great facilitator. Find your own voice. Try new things and reflect afterwards on what went well and what you might do differently.
The disparities faced by Native Americans in Stockton result from a long history of colonization and violence.

The median household income for American Indians in Stockton is more than $30,000 less than what it is for the median white family. Nationally, Native Americans make up 1.5% of the population yet they are more than twice as likely to be represented in the homeless population.

When California came under Mexican rule in 1834, an epidemic took roughly 75 percent of the native population. When gold was discovered shortly after, white settlers flooded into the San Joaquin Valley and carried out a ruthless campaign to drive the Yokuts off their land.

Stockton is home to the Central Valley Miwok Tribe, which is working to preserve the Miwok language and shares its traditions and culture.
Redlining

Stockton’s neighborhoods still reflect generations of racial segregation and inequality. Passing under the crosstown freeway you can see the contrast between North and South Stockton. The freeway itself came at a high cost to low-income neighborhoods, largely people of color, who were displaced when the freeway was built.

The freeway was mapped onto an already segregated Stockton, thanks to practices like redlining. **Redlining** refers to practices of denying mortgages and other housing opportunities to people of color regardless of income. Like in other major U.S. cities, the red lines were drawn around minority neighborhoods in Stockton designating where people would be either denied mortgages or the price would be raised beyond reach. Additionally, until 1976, many single women were prevented from accessing credit and mortgages without a man’s signature.

Though redlining was banned 50 years ago, its effects are still seen today. For example, neighborhoods affected by redlining, racism, and sexism experienced the highest rates of mortgage foreclosure during the Great Recession.
2008 Economic Crisis

Following the Economic Crisis of 2008, California’s Central Valley had the highest concentration of foreclosures in the state.

Latinx and African-American borrowers in California have experienced foreclosure rates at twice the rates of non-Hispanic white borrowers. Given the high foreclosure rates for loans made in recent years and the large number of Latinx loans in those years, almost half (48%) of all California foreclosures have been of Latinx residents.

In 2012, Stockton became the largest U.S. city to declare bankruptcy. For decades, tax breaks were gifted to large corporations and developers, leaving working families to pick up the tab for necessary public services such as transportation and infrastructure. When the crisis hit, rather than having large corporations and developers pay their fair share, they cut pensions and medical benefits to public employees and retirees.
Tech Boom of Silicon Valley

As tech giants in Silicon Valley rapidly expanded from the 1990s to the present day, inequality in California has expanded along with it.

The cost of living has increased, pushing working people further and further from their jobs, lengthening commute times and squeezing working families.

This has meant more people moving to Stockton from the Bay area, increasing the cost of living for Central Valley residents. And while the cost of living rises, many Stocktonians are finding it more difficult to pay rent, utilities, and auto expenses, and some are even being forced out of Stockton.
Stockton was a center of the fight for better working conditions for immigrants and farmworkers. The United Farm Workers (UFW) was co-founded by Stocktonian Dolores Huerta, which organized a base of largely Mexican farmworkers. They coordinated with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) – led by Larry Itliong, also of Stockton – which organized a largely Filipino base. Much of the AWOC’s activities were coordinated in Stockton, which was home to Little Manila, at the time the largest Filipino community in the U.S.

While UFW and AWOC successfully improved the working conditions for immigrants, many immigrants continue to work in substandard conditions and face cruel policies of family separation such as raids, detention, and deportation.

The Bracero Program, which lasted from 1942-1964, encouraged Mexican agricultural workers to come to the United States to work only temporarily, after which they were required to return to Mexico.

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Japanese Internment Camps

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor during the Second World War, the U.S. government began to persecute and imprison people of Japanese descent. From 1942-1946, the government removed an estimated 120,000 people of Japanese descent – most born and raised in the U.S. – from their homes and placed them in prison camps.

One of these centers was The Stockton Assembly Center at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds site, just a few blocks southeast of the Stockton City Center. This Center alone housed over 4,000 people of Japanese descent.