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Afatasi The Artist: ‘In our case f

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The legendary community worker, Miss Adrian from Fillmore, was keeping the people focused at the umbrella declaring the real message: Reparations. In spite of so-called Black leaders flip-flopping what the focus should be.

by Afatasi The Artist

Good afternoon. My name is Mo McNealy; I am an artist, a futurist and believe that dreaming and creating a New World consists of honoring our past, confronting our present, and visualizing and imagining a new future.

I am deeply concerned about the continued population decline of generations of Black Americans in San Francisco, including myself. According to a San Francisco Human Rights Commission Report, Black Americans are the only demographic which has consistently declined since its height of 13% in 1960. It is my fervent belief that we need – now more than ever – to irrevocably change the narrative of Black Americans in San Francisco; enabling us to view our current reality in this city as something that can be a benefit of all communities. With so many wealth-less people in our community, we need to take action for our collective brighter future – only reparations can do this.

There are a lot of misconceptions about reparations. It is not only atone for past wrongs; it was promised during the time of my great-grandparents. Had the government honored that promise, my grandmother would have had a different outcome; instead she was one of the thousands of Black Americans who were displaced from Mississippi on the 1900 census. My father, who grew up during the heyday of Jim Crow South. He was drafted into WWII to fight Nazis, moved to California by Wells Fargo bank to the Lakeview district of SF and paid less in wages and less for education.

My siblings, myself and many of you, lived through the ongoing War on Housing, which led to the renewal rip the last remaining families and businesses out of the Fillmore neighborhood. I was displaced before I even reached adulthood. Our community has faced ongoing systemic racism in San Francisco in the areas of banking, education, housing, politics, policing, and more. We need to receive real justice for these harms.

Black Americans, in San Francisco and across the country, were legally excluded from many programs like The Homestead act, the GI Bill, The New Deal and Federal Housing Administration to name a few. These were racist public policies that created the racial wealth gap.

In addition to these exclusions, Black Americans, historically and still are subjected to practices like Sharecropping, convict leasing, white domestic terrorism, eminent domain, redlining, the War on Drugs, mass incarceration, medical experimentation, and more. These badges of slavery still exist and follow us until this day. These harms are

Harmful false stereotypes that Black-Americans are lazy, unintelligent, and

foundation of the public policies that created the conditions that we are reparations that must be implemented to correct these harms. There is no amount of saving, no amount of small business savvy nor educational effects of the racist public policies that are keeping us in poverty in San Francisco; you must be brave and courageous enough to stand up for us

Reparations is not charity nor a pittance, it is a debt that is owed. It is a righteous justice claim for the of lineage, Black American community. In William Sanders Darity states, "... the failure to pay a debt in a timely fashion particularly since the consequences of past injustices continue to be visible victims. A national act of procrastination does not eliminate the debt."

Whether it is through this San Francisco Reparations task force, the California Federal Reparations Task Force forming on the horizon – in the words of mischaracterized leader of the Civil Rights Movement Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "check!!!"

Afatasi is a native, activist and artist from San Francisco.



