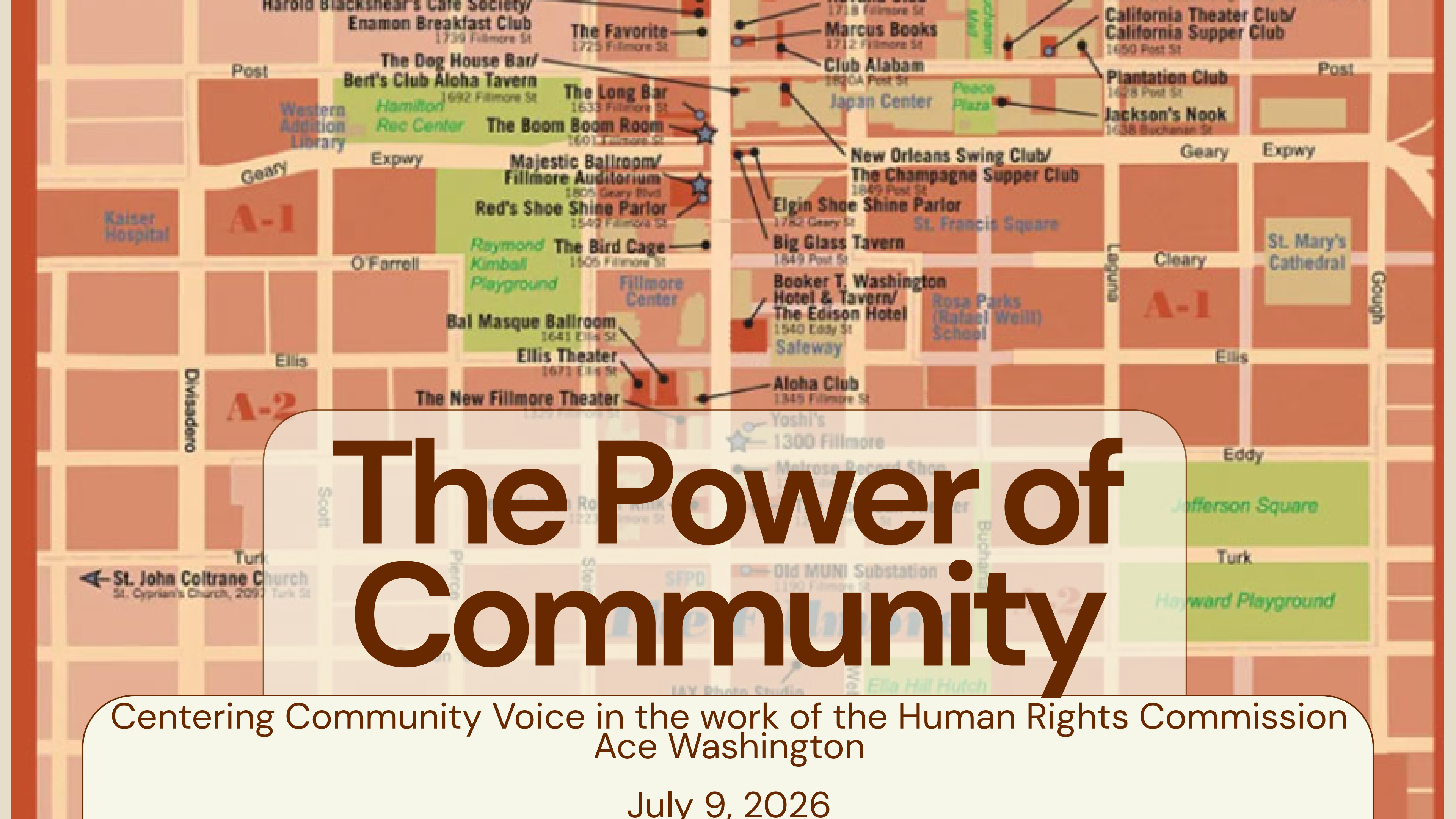




The Power of Community

Centering Community Voice in the work of the Human Rights Commission
Ace Washington

July 9, 2026

Why I speak for my community

The Heart Behind the Action

The history of the Human Rights Commission begins in 1964. This body was created in response to Black people being uprooted from the Fillmore through Urban Renewal and because Black people could not get jobs at the Cadillac dealership on Van Ness.





It's a new era, no time for error!
No more misguided leadership, failed efforts
or undermining the community!

Fillmore Jazz Festival Stage Coordinator
White Horse Awards
Black Youth Breakfast

The Unfinished Agenda

**The Economic Status
of
African Americans
in
San Francisco
1964-1990**

History of reports but lack of action

- The Unfinished Agenda: The Economic Status of African Americans in San Francisco 1964–1990 (1993)
- Violence In Our City: Research and Recommendations to Empower Our Community (2001)
- Environmental Racism: A Status Report and Recommendations (2003)
- Outmigration Report (2009)
- Equity Advisory Committee & HRC African American Quality of Life Report Comparison (2011)
- Progress Report on the African American Community Empowerment Initiative (2012)
- Human Rights Impact of the War on Drugs: Community Voices (2014)
- Reparations Report (2024)



Recommendations

Dream Keeper Initiative is the closest we have come!

- There were a lot of good things that came from DKI: homes, businesses, cultural pride pride
- We want to see **bold** actions today
- When DKI went away, it wasn't just punishment of past leadership, it was punishment of the entire community
- This work is ongoing – the community needs to know the history of the HRC and where the Commission stands today

I've worked with every HRC leader since Ed Lee and I'm still working!

HRC Directors:

Ed Lee
Virginia Harmon
Chris Iglesias
Theresa Sparks
Sheryl Davis
Mawuli Tugbenyoh

Mayors:

Art Agnos
Frank Jordan
Willie Brown
Gavin Newsom
Ed Lee
Mark Farrell
London Breed
Daniel Lurie



Thank you!