



FirstRepair

Informing Local Reparations, Nationally

Hello Reparations Family,

We recognize Juneteenth as the commemoration of our true independence, a day that honors the unwavering spirit of our ancestors who fought for freedom against all odds. At FirstRepair, we carry that legacy forward by continuing the fight for communities harmed by injustice. In remembrance of those who came before us, we push the reparations movement forward with purpose and power. This country was built on the labor, sacrifice, and brilliance of Black people and it's time to cut the check.

Through resilience, joy, and unity, our communities continue to rise. On this Juneteenth, we celebrate the strength of our people and our ongoing resistance in the face of injustice. Happy Juneteenth and onward in the fight.

FirstRepair is proud to share the work we've done in recent months to advance the reparations movement.

Black in Bloom

This spring, the First Repair National Resource Center for State and Local Reparations welcomed Evanston youth and families to engage in a day centered around Black futures and creativity, becoming a space for learning through play. Partnered with [Brown Books and](#)

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community care. Families had the opportunity to learn about leaders who are working toward reparations for Black communities, many of who lead with compassion, love, and a long-term vision for justice that prioritizes the youth. This event emphasized joy in creating an inclusive and welcoming environment where children and adults could connect, create, and reflect. Through storytelling, participants were encouraged to imagine a future grounded in equity and care. Free and open to all, the day served not only as a celebration but also as a reminder of the importance of involving our youngest community members in the ongoing work of repair.

In addition to our ongoing programming, we're proud to share that the **FirstRepair Resource Center Library** is now open to the public. We invite community members to explore [our collection](#), which includes books written by leaders in the reparations movement, children's books that introduce themes of justice and repair, harm reports, and works that explore critical issues within the Black community. Whether you're seeking to deepen your knowledge or share these resources with others, we welcome you to stop by and engage with the materials that support learning, healing, and action.



Map Release

Despite growing national challenges to equity and inclusion, the U.S. Reparations Movement continues to build strength and momentum. To support this progress, FirstRepair and [Decolonizing Wealth Project](#) have launched a new interactive mapping tool that identifies and connects nearly 50 state and local reparations initiatives. Available at www.reparationsresources.com, the tool is designed to strengthen grassroots power,

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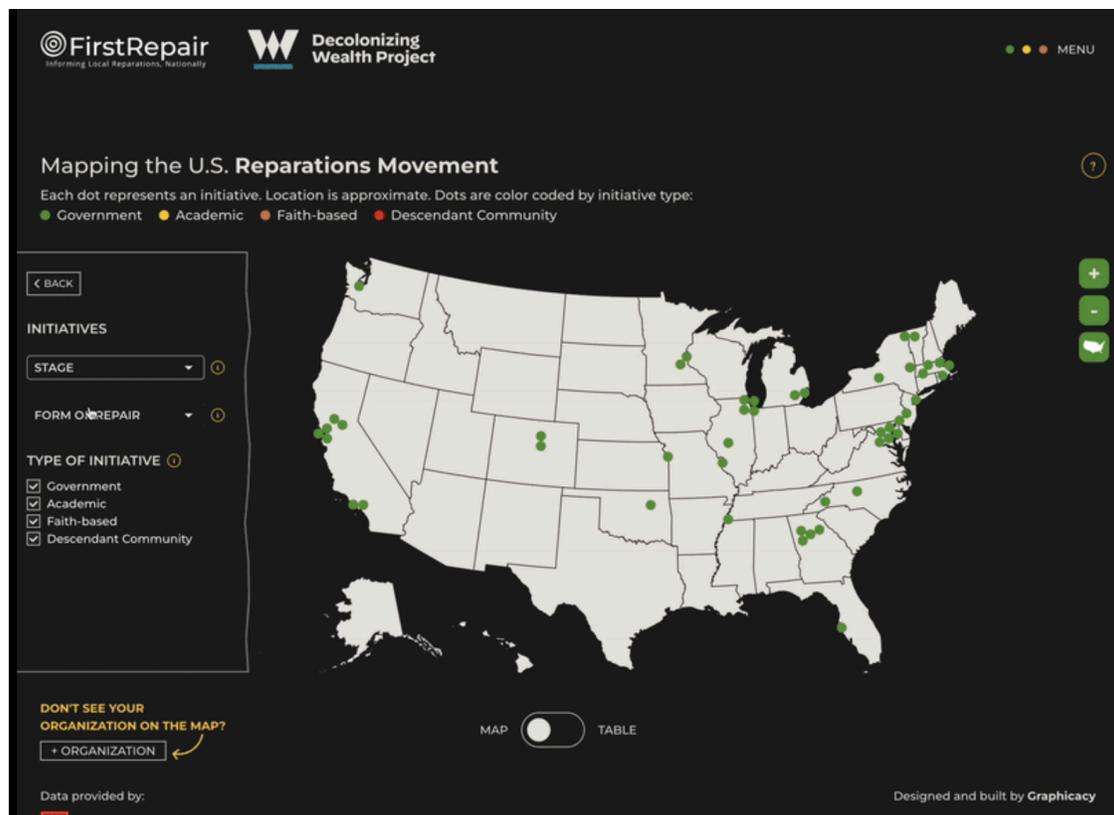
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accessible overview of the national reparations landscape.

The map highlights diverse initiatives across the U.S. that share a common goal: advancing reparations for Black communities. Leaders across the movement praised the map's potential to transform how communities organize repair. U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley called the tool "invaluable" for building grassroots power and knowledge exchange. The project, co-created by Decolonizing Wealth Project and supported by research from the [Economic Policy Institute](#), underscores the importance of solidarity and coordination in the fight for reparative justice. As Tulsa City Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper noted, the tool offers "instant connection and real-time information," making it a game changer for local leaders working on the front lines of repair.

We invite reparations movement partners and local initiatives to [submit their information for inclusion on the map](#). For questions, please contact us at map@firstrepair.org.



United Nations

FirstRepair attended and presented at [The Fourth Permanent Forum on People of African Descent \(PFPAD\)](#), a United Nations-led platform dedicated to advancing the rights and well-being of people of African descent worldwide, at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. PFPAD brings together representatives from governments, civil society, and the

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develop global strategies for justice, reparations, and sustainable development, aligning with the [Second International Decade for People of African Descent \(2025-2034\)](#). This forum featured expert discussions, policy recommendations, and advocacy, working globally to amplify Black voices, promote racial equity, and drive meaningful change. Our Executive Director, [Robin Rue Simmons](#), and Communications Associate, [Elisa Walker](#), both delivered interventions on the General Assembly floor. Other local reparations leaders such as [Nkechi Taifa](#) and [Robin Proudie](#) also shared powerful interventions during the session.

As part of our participation, FirstRepair was proud to bring an intergenerational delegation of six Evanston residents to the forum. Thank you to [Evanston Cradle to Career](#) for sponsoring their participation and helping us empower the next generation of local leaders.



National Reparations Rally

The [National Reparations Network Rally 2025](#) took place May 17 in Washington, D.C., bringing together advocates, community leaders, and supporters to demand reparative justice for Black communities. Organized by the [National Reparations Network](#) in close collaboration with the [Reparation Education Project](#). This powerful gathering highlighted the urgent call for financial, social, and political redress, featuring impactful addresses on reparations policy, historical accountability, and community empowerment even in the face of uncertainty. The

Congressional Conversations

In the week leading up to the National Reparations rally, reparations leaders from across the country, including Executive Director Robin Rue Simmons, gathered in support of Congresswoman Summer Lee's reintroduction of the [Reparations NOW Resolution](#), calling on Congress to recognize and address the lasting harms of slavery and systemic racism. Backed by fellow lawmakers and advocates, the resolution pushes for concrete action and builds momentum for efforts like H.R. 40. The Reparations NOW Resolution frames reparations as a moral and legal obligation owed to Black Americans, and highlights government's role in centuries of harm including slavery, segregation, and discriminatory policies, calling for restitution and justice. [Supported by a coalition of lawmakers and advocates](#), it reinforces the urgent need for federal action on reparations. Read the official press release [here](#).

Additionally, Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) joined national partners and community leaders for a congressional briefing, "**Why We Can't Wait: Advancing Reparative Justice in Our Lifetime**," held at the Capitol Visitor's Center. Hosted in collaboration with [N'COBRA](#), [NJISJ](#), [United by Equity](#), [TRHT](#), [NBJC](#), [BMAC](#), the WWCW Coalition, and [the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation](#), the event highlighted the urgent need for federal action on reparations. This briefing discussed key legislation including H.R. 40 and the Reparations Now Resolution, while emphasizing the importance of truth, accountability, and ongoing progress at the local, state, and institutional levels.



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The Global Circle for Repair and Healing Accra Summit II, held in Accra, Ghana, brought together leaders from across the African continent and diaspora including Executive Director Robin Rue Simmons, to address the lasting impacts of enslavement. Building on the 2022 Accra Declaration, the summit focused on understanding historical harm, its ongoing effects on African communities worldwide, and actionable strategies for healing. Discussions were organized around three key themes: what happened to Africa, how those events continue to affect Africans globally, and how healing can take place. The Summit aimed to support the development of healing infrastructures, promote collaboration across continents, and advance the reparations movement during the African Union's Year of Reparations. For more information on the Global Circle for Repair and Healing Circle please visit <https://gcrh.org/>

Continuing the conversation, FirstRepair hosted the Global Circle for a Retreat

Of the Circle's Steering Committee at the [National Resource Center for State and Local Reparations](#) to reflect, strategize, and build alignment across continents. The Circle Steering Committee serves as an advisory body for each working group and leads resource development and philanthropic efforts that support both the collective work and the unique goals of each group. This retreat reaffirmed the Circle's shared commitment to healing, solidarity, and sustained collaboration in the global movement for reparative justice.



Liberation Ventures Cohort Gathering

In celebration of Liberation Ventures' 5-year anniversary, reparations leaders including Executive Director Robin Rue Simmons, gathered in community to build authentic connections. Rooted in the wisdom of James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*, the theme, "Achieving our country, humanity, and love," guided participants through intentional moments of reflection, collaboration, and restoration. Together, they uncovered ways to support and uplift one another, celebrated the work and presence of movement colleagues, and engaged in honest dialogue to strengthen the relationships that sustain our collective efforts. The gathering created space to tend to both individual and shared wellbeing, reaffirming a long-term commitment to justice and liberation.

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Updates from Local Initiatives

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum has announced [a historic \\$105 million reparations package in response to the lasting impact of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre](#). This plan calls for direct investments in housing, economic development, and educational opportunities for descendants and residents of the Greenwood community. As one of the largest municipal commitments to reparative justice in the U.S., this marks a major step forward in addressing the harm caused by racial violence and systemic neglect.

Decatur, Georgia

The City of Decatur has taken an important step toward local reparative justice by [issuing a formal apology to Black residents and establishing an 11-member Reparations Task Force](#). Over the next three years, the task force will examine the city's role in historical harms like redlining, segregation, and displacement and develop actionable recommendations for repair. This marks a meaningful move toward truth, accountability, and community-led solutions.

Our [regional reparations leaders](#) continue to lead the movement across the country. Each leader remains committed to showing up for their local communities as a consistent presence and a resource for advancing reparations in their respective regions.

Midwest Regional Leader Jeffrey Trask traveled to Tulsa to represent FirstRepair during the historic announcement of the city's \$105 million reparations package. His presence affirmed our continued commitment to supporting local leadership in advancing reparative justice.

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justice and collaborative movement work. As part of the Solidarity and Action Hub, he contributes alongside artists, researchers, and organizers to shape bold narratives, foster cross-movement solidarity, and advance cultural strategies that challenge oppression and build toward collective liberation.

West Regional Leader Davida Ingram continues to work with [SAARC](#) is working with Washington advocates to secure funding for a statewide reparations study in the 2025–2027 budget. They’re also launching an engagement campaign to build a multi-year strategy with model bills, convenings, and a leadership lab.

East Regional Leader Jean Pierre will be a featured panelist at [*The Nowness of Reparations for Black People in New Jersey: A Timely Conversation*](#), hosted by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. The event will highlight the release of the New Jersey Reparations Council’s report, *For Such a Time as This*, which outlines the state’s ties to slavery and offers bold policy solutions for repair.

Upcoming Events

Evanston’s 6th Annual Juneteenth Parade

The City of Evanston, in partnership with Evanston Present and Future, will host the **6th Annual Juneteenth Parade and Celebrations** on **Saturday, June 21**. This event brings the community together to honor Black freedom, reflect on progress, and continue the fight for racial equity. Join us in the streets as we celebrate and call attention to the ongoing work toward true justice.

DNA Testing Opportunity

In addition, the **City of Evanston Reparations Committee** is collaborating with the **State of Illinois Family Roots Pilot Program** to provide **no-cost DNA testing kits** at the parade. This initiative allows individuals to explore their ancestral background and reconnect with African kin, a powerful offering aligned with the broader vision of reparations.

The program is led by **Dr. LaKisha David**, whose pioneering work in genetic anthropology is helping Black communities recover connection and lineage. Learn more about her work [here](#) and the program at takir.org.

Stop by the parade to celebrate Juneteenth and pick up your free DNA kit two powerful ways to engage with history, identity, and healing.

FirstRepair National Reparations Strategy Sessions Please join us for FirstRepair’s monthly National Reparations Strategy Sessions, where people from across the country come together to support local and municipal reparations work. Each session features a guest speaker who shares knowledge in their area of focus. These sessions offer space to

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Save the Date: 2025 National Symposium for State and Local Reparations

December 3–5, 2025 | Evanston, IL

We're excited to announce FirstRepair's 5th National Symposium for State and Local Reparations, taking place December 3–5, 2025, in Evanston, Illinois. Building on the success of last year's gathering, which brought together 226 leaders from 76 communities, this year's convening will continue to strengthen the national network of local and state reparations initiatives. Centered around the theme *ACT: Acknowledge, Commit, Transform*, the 2025 Symposium will offer a powerful space for strategy-building, relationship development, and collective learning among organizers, scholars, artists, youth, and advocates working to advance reparative justice. **Stay tuned for registration and program details, coming soon at <https://firstrepair.org/evanston-national-reparations-symposium-2025/>.**

Call for Symposium Workshop Proposals

To ensure the Symposium reflects the interests and innovation of the movement, we are now accepting proposals for 60-minute workshops. Topics may include but are not limited to; policy development, local program showcases, new research, healing practices, narrative and truth-telling, youth engagement, and arts and culture. Submit your **Proposal by September 5, 2025 – more information and the full proposal guidelines can be found [here](#).**

Call for Artists: Black Art Gallery at the National Symposium

We are also curating our first-ever *Black Art Gallery*, open during the Symposium on December 3–4. We invite visionary Black artists to submit work that reflects the Symposium's theme and brings powerful creative expression into this transformative space. Artist can submit for consideration of their work by August 15, 2025; **more information and the full artist submission guidelines can be found [here](#).**



As we commemorate Juneteenth and reflect on the work of the past several months, we are reminded that the reparations movement is not only growing, it is thriving. From Tulsa to Decatur, Ghana to D.C., and across every region we serve, FirstRepair continues to stand alongside communities, advocates, and local leaders who are driving this work forward with vision, love, and determination. Whether through policy, education, organizing, or global collaboration, we remain committed to honoring our ancestors, uplifting our youth, and building a future rooted in repair, justice, and truth. Onward in the movement!

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