



**A MetroCommon 2050 publication  
by LJ-Baptiste for the  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council**



It's a  
beneficial  
cycle.

Chew  
cigs

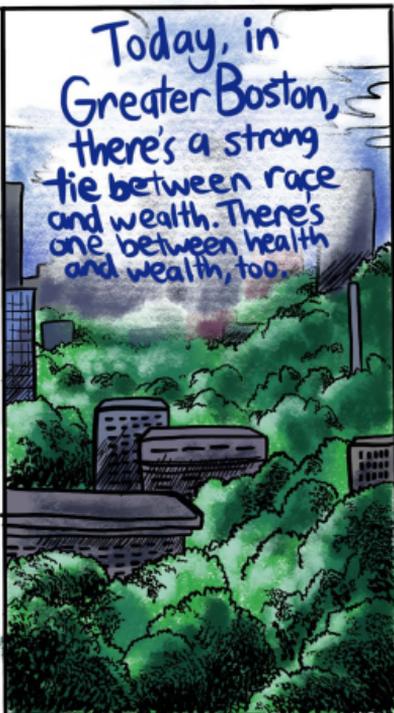


Today, our region suffers  
from deep inequity.

How can we make sure  
that everyone benefits from  
a healthy and economically  
inclusive environment?



Today, in  
Greater Boston,  
there's a strong  
tie between race  
and wealth. There's  
one between health  
and wealth, too.



Middle-income households are healthier  
than those living in or near poverty  
but they are less healthy than those  
with higher incomes.



This could be  
seen clearly  
in the  
COVID-19  
crisis.

But  
this  
was  
only  
one  
example.



The median net worth of African American households in Greater Boston is \$8 compared to \$247,500 for white households.

While only 6% of whites live in poverty in Greater Boston...

...nearly 25% of Latinx individuals... 20% of African Americans... and over 15% of Asians live in poverty across the region.



Black youth asthma hospitalization rates in Greater Boston are nearly 6x higher than white youth hospitalization rates...

Latinx are more than 3x higher.

Today's people of color carry the legacy of a long history of racial oppression.

This includes descending from families who were barred from opportunities to build wealth and stability over generations, and continuing racial inequalities.

The way we fund education means wealthier school districts are better funded than poorer districts — where there are often more people of color. This extends disadvantage into the future.

Low wages and minimal worker protection...



...make it hard for employees to achieve economic stability.

When jobs don't pay decent wages, workers can't afford healthy food and appropriate housing, and they suffer more stress.

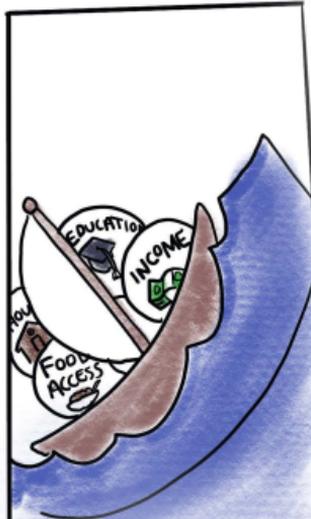




Improve neighborhoods: A community's built and natural environments affect the health of its residents. So do its social ties.



More than 60% of people's health can be traced to what their neighborhoods are like.



Fund preventative health.

Invest in public health infrastructure.



Center healthcare on patient outcomes.

Create more ways for those who have experienced economic inequities to build wealth and assets.



As the region recovers and rebuilds,  
we have opportunities to grow and  
create like never before.



**MetroCommon is Greater Boston's new  
policy and land use plan. For more information,  
please visit [MetroCommon.mapc.org](http://MetroCommon.mapc.org). For  
information about the Metropolitan Area  
Planning Council, please visit [MAPC.org](http://MAPC.org).**

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