



Anatomy of a Crisis: Impact of Racism on Public Health in America

Episode 1: COVID the Revealer

Join Denesha Snell and Councilwoman Melissa Robinson as they discuss how COVID-19 revealed systems of disparities built on top of constructed racism negatively affect the lives of communities of color and, ultimately, us all and how to impact change in those systems.

Produced by Kansas City Public Library in partnership with the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department and University Health Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Host: [Denesha Snell](#), Member, Library Board of Trustees and Program Director, American Public Square

Denesha Snell, a Kansas City native, is program director for American Public Square. Denesha has devoted her career to address community issues including parent advocacy, cultural diversity, causes of health disparities, violence prevention and improving relationships with community and civic partners. She holds a BS from Tennessee State University and a Master of Education from Rockhurst University.

Guest: [Third District Councilwoman Melissa Robinson](#), Kansas City, MO and President, Black Health Care Coalition

Melissa Robinson is a current Kansas City, Missouri City Council-member representing the 3rd District. She is also the former chair of the Kansas City Public School Board of Directors and president of the Black Health Care Coalition, a nonprofit organization focused on health equity in underserved communities. She represented the 3rd District on the Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC). There, her coalition-building skills were instrumental in securing \$23 million in federal funding for redevelopment along the Brush Creek corridor.

References:

[Black Health Care Coalition](#)

[How the Pandemic Defeated America](#) by Ed Yong, The Atlantic, September 2020

[Social Determinants of Health](#)

[Mentoring in the Kansas City Public Schools](#)

[Kansas City Public Library Reading and Resource List](#)

Production/Credits

Editing: Denesha Snell, David LaCrone

Podcast Artwork: Jennifer Su



Original Artwork: [Lizbeth Alvarez](#) is an art studio major at UMKC. She chose this career because it's important for her to do what she loves and show others about art. She's an aspiring teacher because and loves to see the creativity of others and how we can use art to communicate and express ourselves. She is working on completing her portfolio and looks forward to new experiences and opportunities.

Development Committee: Kamera Meaney (co-chair), Jeni Starr (co-chair), Russell Anderson, Quint Hall, Cheryl Hampton, Amelia McDaniel, Monica Miller, Rita Strickland