

Neighborhood Name

Updates & Next Steps

Council Vote - January 2020 ANC Meeting

"There is a strong consensus in the neighborhood council in support of a name change, to be discussed in forums over the coming months with an opportunity to educate neighbors about the relevant issues, with the objective to come up with a recommended name from the neighborhood."

City Council Policy Order - February 10, 2020

"That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to work with the residents of the Agassiz neighborhood in furthering this important neighborhood conversation and in helping make a determination as to how to arrive at an appropriate, official name change for this neighborhood,"

Tensions

Throughout this discussion, there have been a number of tensions which may continue even after a name is chosen. (Not an exhaustive list)

- For some residents, changing the name has been a “long-time coming,” for others the current name holds meaning
- Desire to honor Louis Agassiz’s scientific legacy
- Desire to uplift Maria L. Baldwin, especially during this cultural moment
- Acknowledgement and redress of the harms resulting from racism and white supremacy espoused by Louis Agassiz
- Coordination, education, outreach and timing - during a pandemic

Timeline

- Today: Updates & what to expect next
- January & February 2021: Letters sent to universities, AMCAD, & religious institutions, Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Simmons (Council Order originators) were invited to share our outreach with their networks, residents can submit names until Feb 22
- March 2021: Flyer / survey neighborhood with help from Cambridge Community Development (CDD)
- March 18: Survey closes
- Mar-Apr: Tabulate survey, report back to ANC & City Council

Get Involved!

- Submit to the context library & share this resource with your friends and neighbors
- Take the survey in **early March**
- Anything else to consider?



Search agassizcontextlibrary

Neighborhood Name Change Context Library

While working on a class project on her neighborhood's namesake, Maya Counter (who was a CRLS student at the time and is now a freshman at Harvard) discovered that Louis Agassiz's theories on polygenism are rooted in white supremacy. With knowledge, Maya proposed renaming the neighborhood, first posting on the social media app NextDoor then bringing the issue to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council in January of 2020. After Maya presented this proposal to Cambridge City Council, and ANC representatives have worked with the City to form a process that now includes a survey to collect responses on how to rename the neighborhood as well as a digital library of statements and resources.

Before you participate in the survey, please review the library for context and understanding. Use the guide linked below to help you navigate.

[POSTS](#) [SUGGEST A NAME](#) [GUIDE TO USING THE LIBRARY](#) [ARCHIVE](#)



Video statement by Kate Frank
(Note: this may redirect you away from this site to vimeo.com)

What matters to you when you think about changing the neighborhood name?

Fill in the answer to the "How?" question. Respond to a Cambridge or Agassiz Neighborhood Council survey. Share your response on social media. Contact your neighbors to get their input. Share your response on social media. Contact your neighbors to get their input.

[Share a story or video](#) [Share an image](#)

Meeting Summary

Read the meeting summary and share it with your neighbors. Respond to a Cambridge or Agassiz Neighborhood Council survey. Share your response on social media. Contact your neighbors to get their input.

Submission Guidelines

Submit your name to the survey. Share your response on social media. Contact your neighbors to get their input.

Discussion of Neighborhood Name Change from 12/8/20 Meeting

As discussed at the November 12th meeting, the neighborhood name change process reached the stage of wider distribution of information via a flyer and survey to the entire neighborhood, supported by the staff team and interns at Cambridge

Written statement by Kate Frank

The heart of the matter for me is identifying what I can do as a white woman to disrupt all expressions of racism that are so deeply imbedded in our culture and, by extension, even in our beloved neighborhood. My focus is less on individual biases and more on the insidious ways racist assumptions influence so many aspects of everyday life.



Women's History Month: The Baldwin you never

Thank You from the Planning Team

Community partners: Maya Counter & Kate Frank

ABC Staff: Jess Leach, Maria LaPage, Phoebe Sinclair

CDD Team: Iram Farooq & Daniel Wolf