

The Churches of Harlem

Gian Paul Cadillo



Mother A.M.E. Zion Church



Church of St. Thomas the Apostle



Salem United Methodist Church



St. James Presbyterian Church



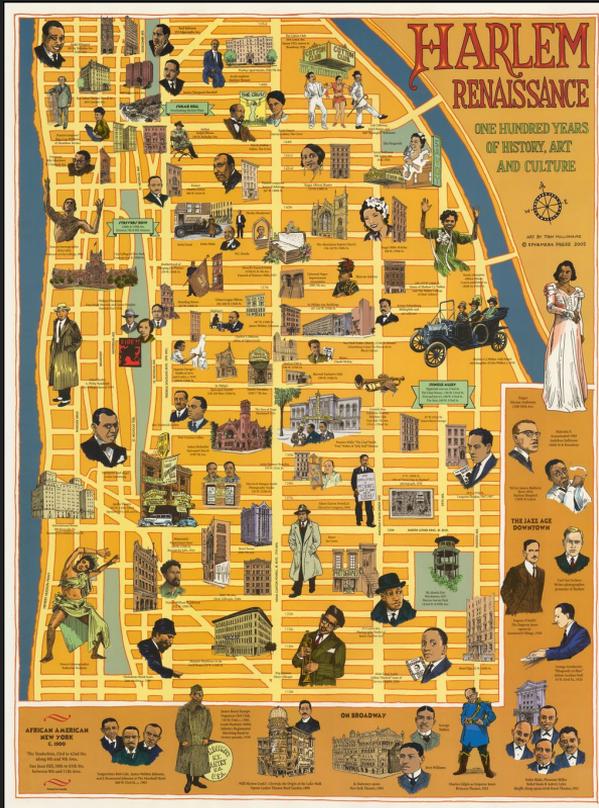
Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church

What is at stake?



- Churches have continued to hold various purposes throughout time
- Losing one of these spaces means losing...
 - A place for voices to be heard
 - A place for multi-use cultural events
 - Galleries
 - Performances
 - Venues
 - A place for discussion
 - A place for all communities
- Harlem's identity and partial support system is at stake

Radically Preserving



Blackness/Otherness

- The Church can broaden to connect more communities (Harlem is a melting pot of its own)
- Maintaining an essence of historical culture while connecting diverse crowds in one space

Erasure, Futurity, and Fabulation

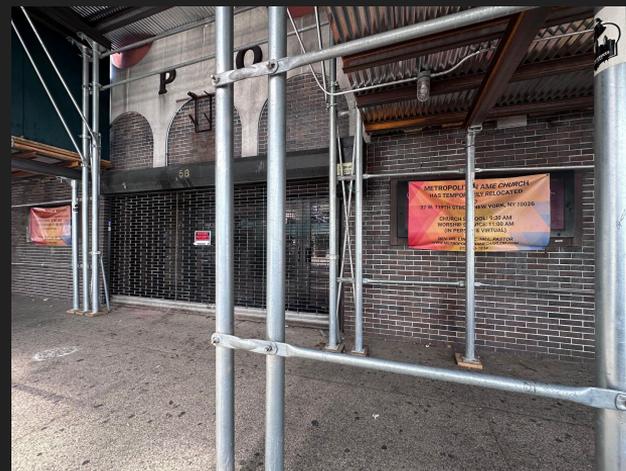
- Demolition of Grace Congregational Church and Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church
- Reactivation of abandoned sacred spaces?
- Carrying the story throughout planned modern residential spaces

Preservation vs. Heritage

- Preserving -> Landmarking = Freezing in time
 - Congregations are shrinking throughout time
- How do we utilize heritage to actively preserve
 - Community Power, Storytelling, etc.



Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church



HARLEM, NY — Senior religious leaders conspired with a developer to sell seven churches in Harlem and Brooklyn in exchange for secret payments — only for the developer to waver from his promise to build new homes for the churches, in some cases demolishing them and letting the sites sit empty for years, according to state prosecutors.



Emanuel AME Church