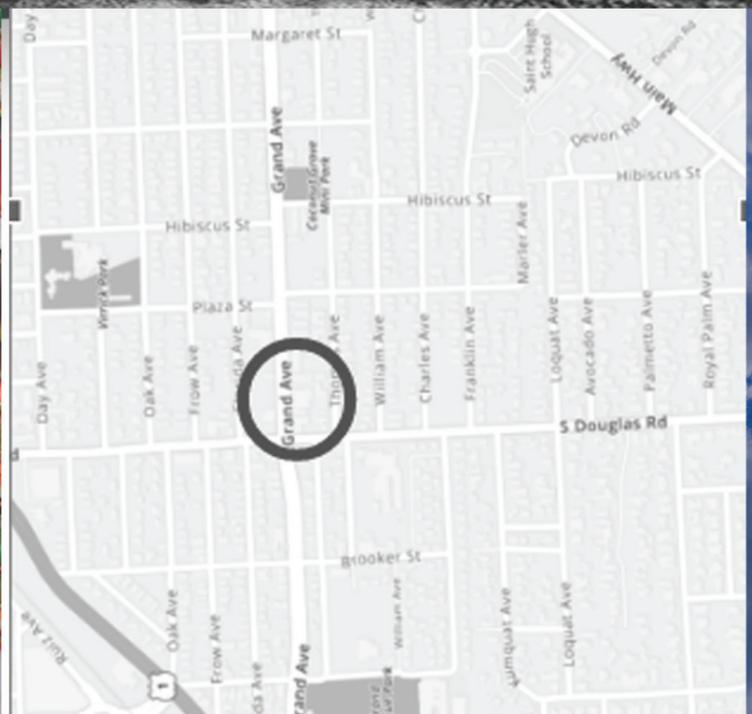


THRESHOLDS

STREETS THAT TELLS STORIES



GENTRIFICATION IN WEST COCONUT GROVE

Kherby Jean



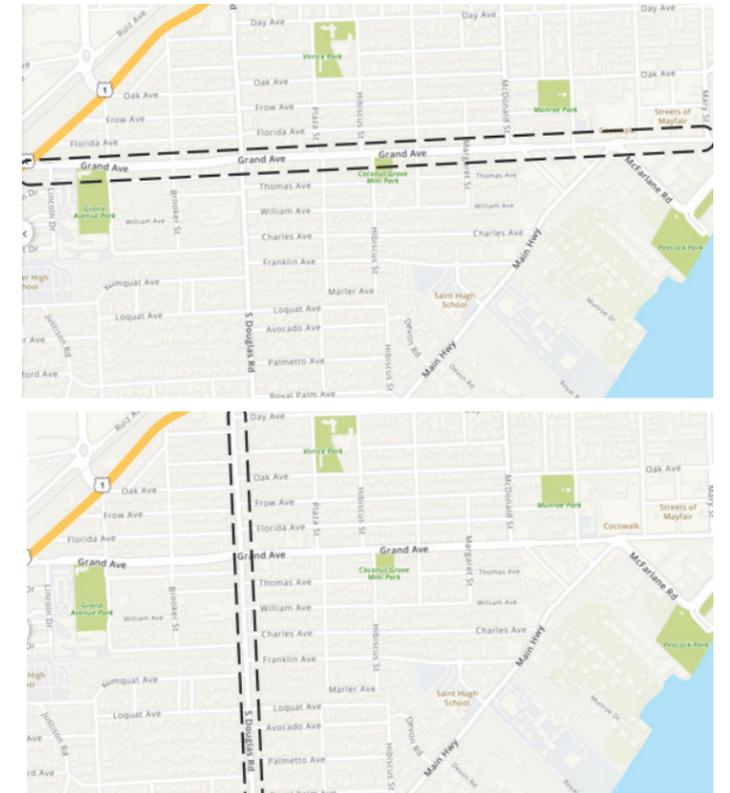
Early Bahamian settlers in Coconut Grove

INTRODUCTION

In the site analysis Coconut Grove is divided into sections. There is East Coconut Grove, west Coconut Grove and south Coconut Grove. All these locations are alike and different in many ways. The biggest difference is classism based on attention. This is referring to east Coconut Grove as the tourist area. West Coconut Grove is where the city started and that's where most people first built. This reason is because it was close to the water. This would allow expensive tourist areas that would generate revenue. South Coconut Grove is also well treated. It is where the higher class of Coconut Grove lives. This area includes all types of homes including mansions. West Coconut Grove is the opposite of both directions,

West Coconut Grove it is seen as the lesser of the two. In its history it was built the latest in comparison to the other two directions. West Coconut Grove is found of diverse cultures from the Caribbean. Additionally, one aspect that affects Coconut Grove is gentrification. Gentrification is more like invasion but in the term of building types. It is when people build buildings that are not of the cultural standard of the area. Many other cities such as little Haiti have faced gentrification and west Coconut Grove is next. Also, this is more likely to happen because it is by coral gables and owned by coral gables. This means as the population in coral gables increase the city will be forced to push the boundaries into Coconut Grove. The effects of this situation would be many of the historical structures such as the shotguns house would

have to be moved and the diverse cultures that are presented would also be removed. Classism is seen everywhere throughout Coconut Grove. From the figure ground plan, one can see the change in vegetation. This shows that in the high-class neighborhoods, the streets are more taken care of. My mental map is based on the threshold from poor to rich and rich to poor. As one can see in google street view the distance of the threshold can be one street. This means that one street shows the difference between the rich and poor and the popular and the unpopular. This example can be seen throughout the rest of Coconut Grove by seeing different types of houses right next to each other. An example of this maybe an old generic house right next to a modern and futuristic home. These are all examples of how classism is



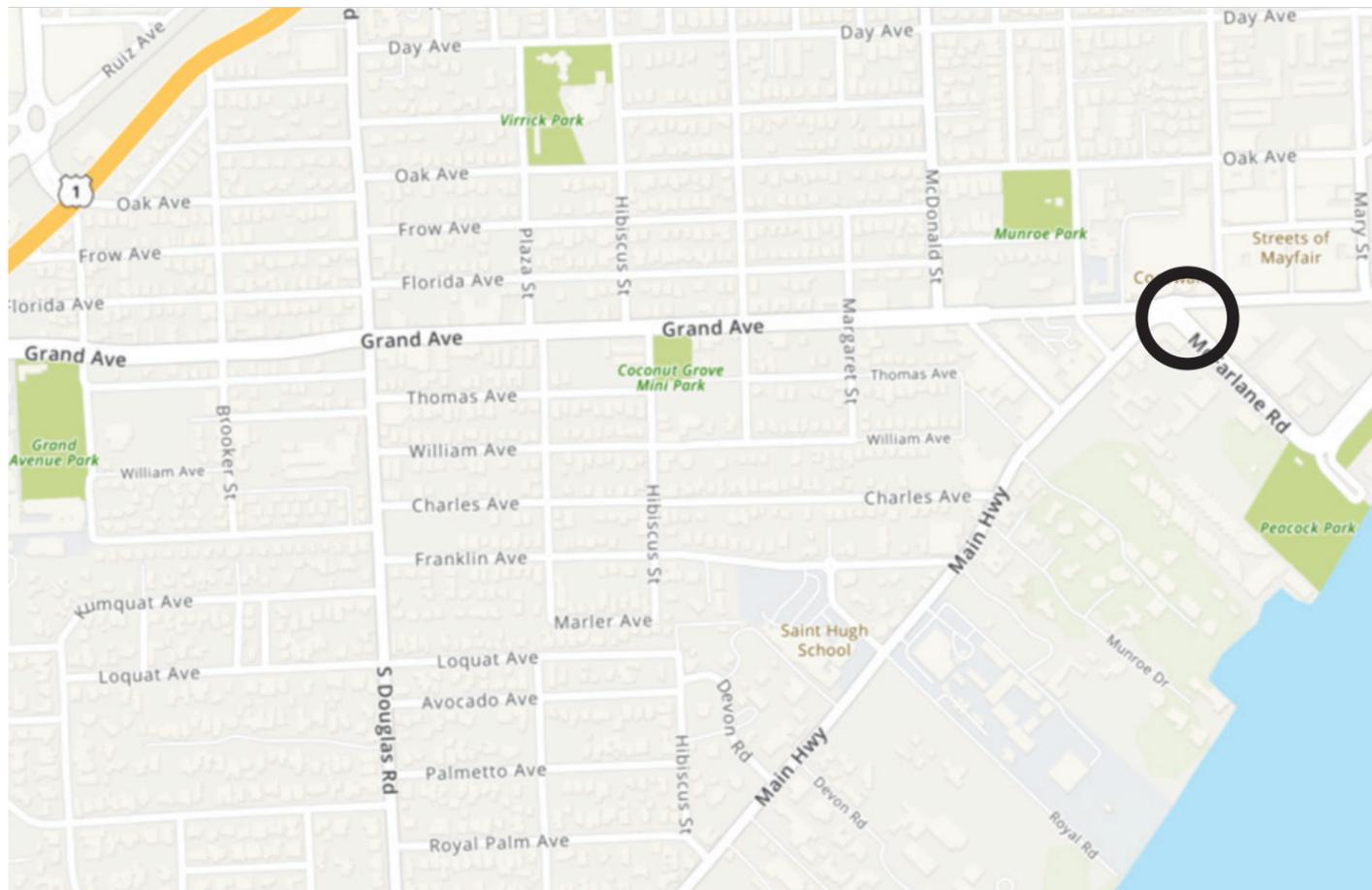
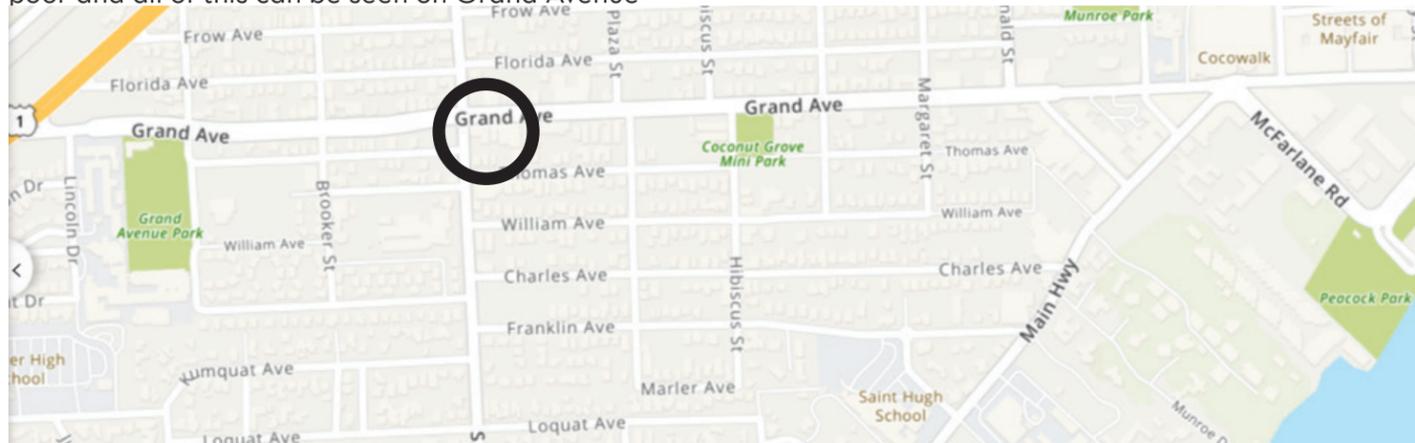
In this Counterstory, I will be analyzing gentrification in Coconut Grove. Through two streets, Grand Ave and South Douglas Rd, I will be looking at the different sides of Coconut grove and how the community is affected .



Row of shotgun houses in Coconut Grove

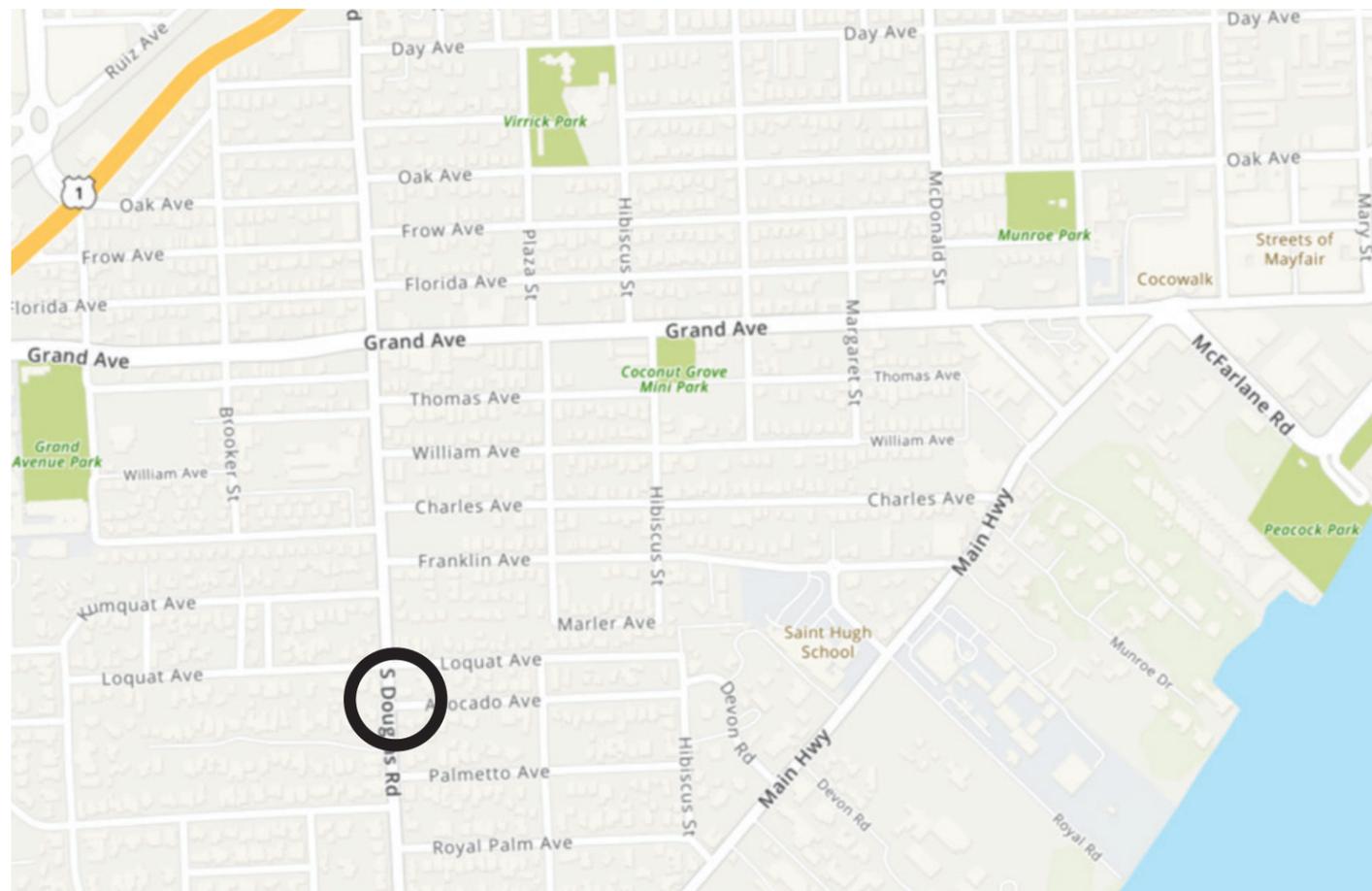
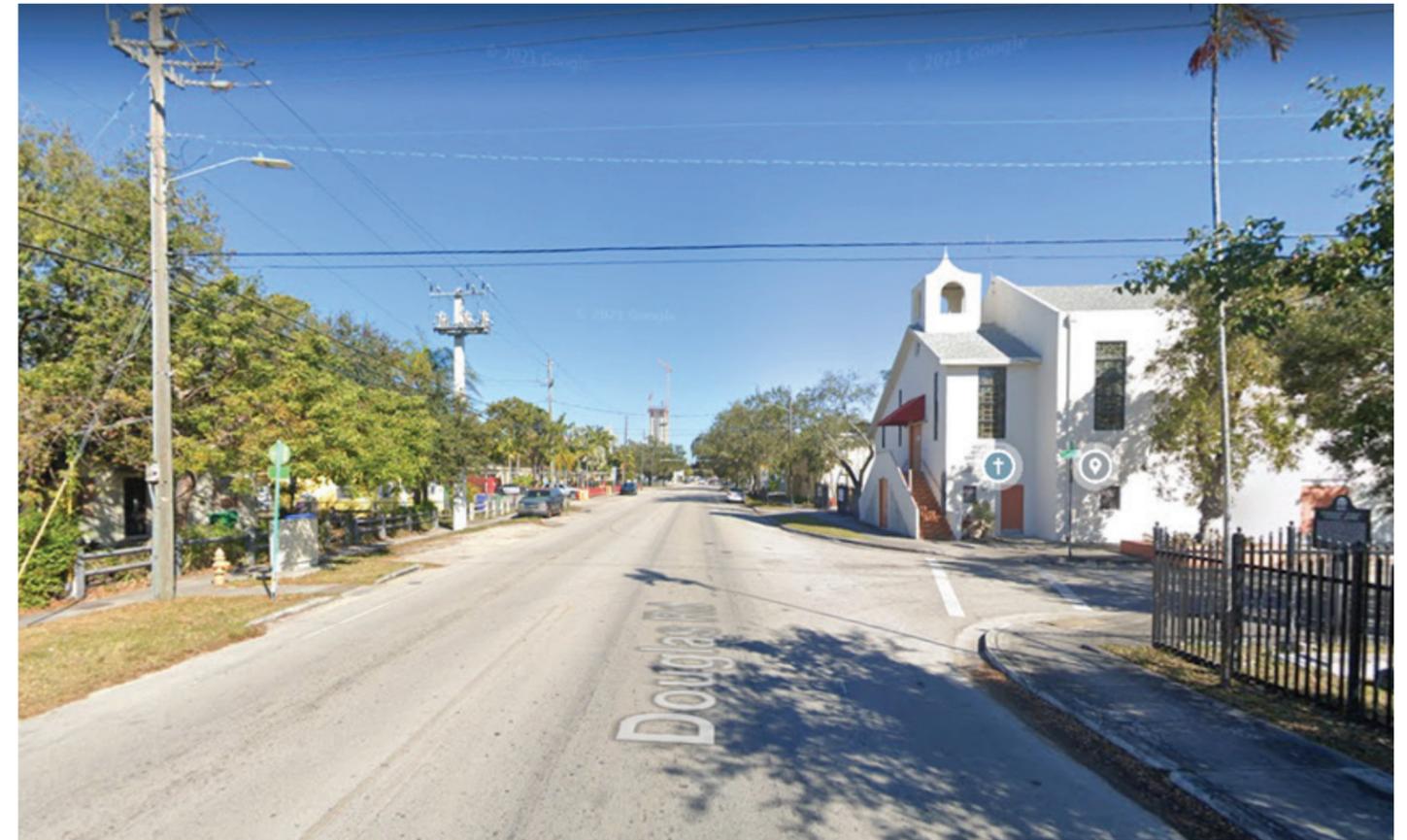
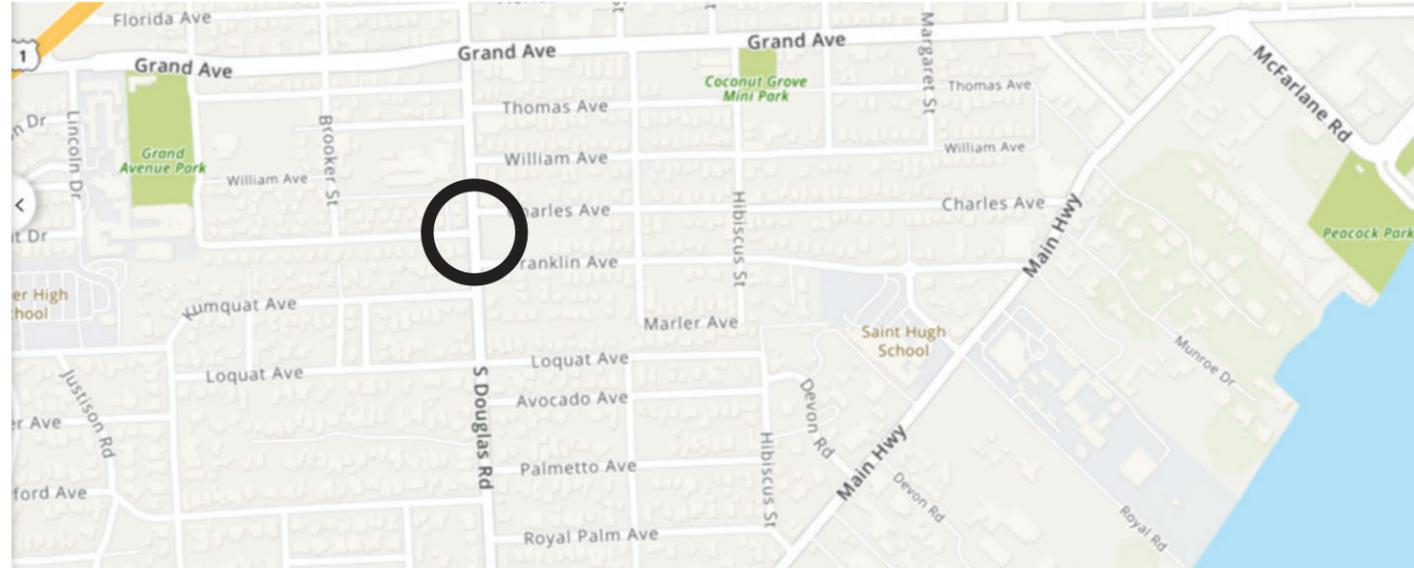
THRESHOLD 1 (Grand Ave) West vs East Coconut Grove

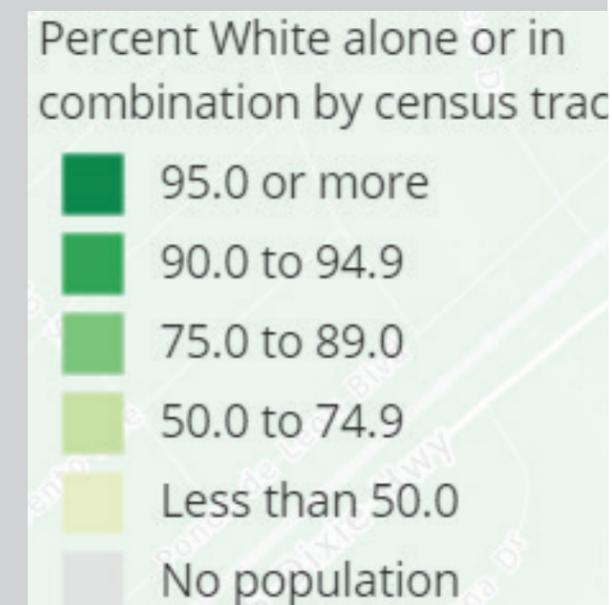
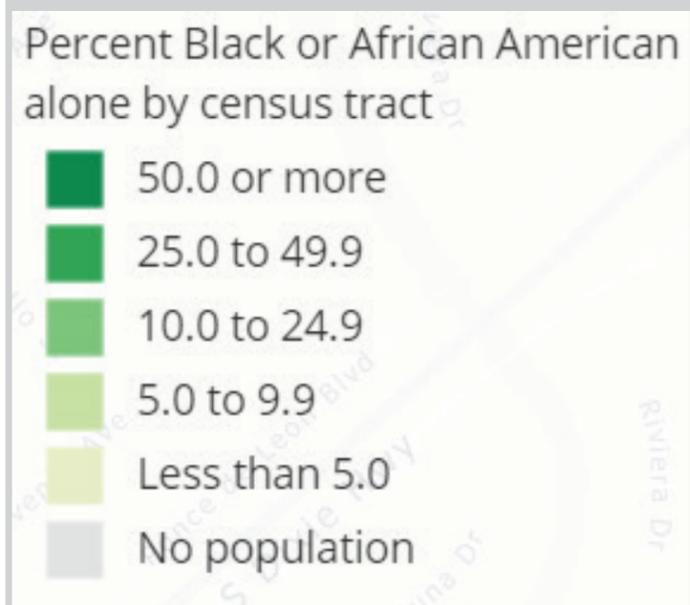
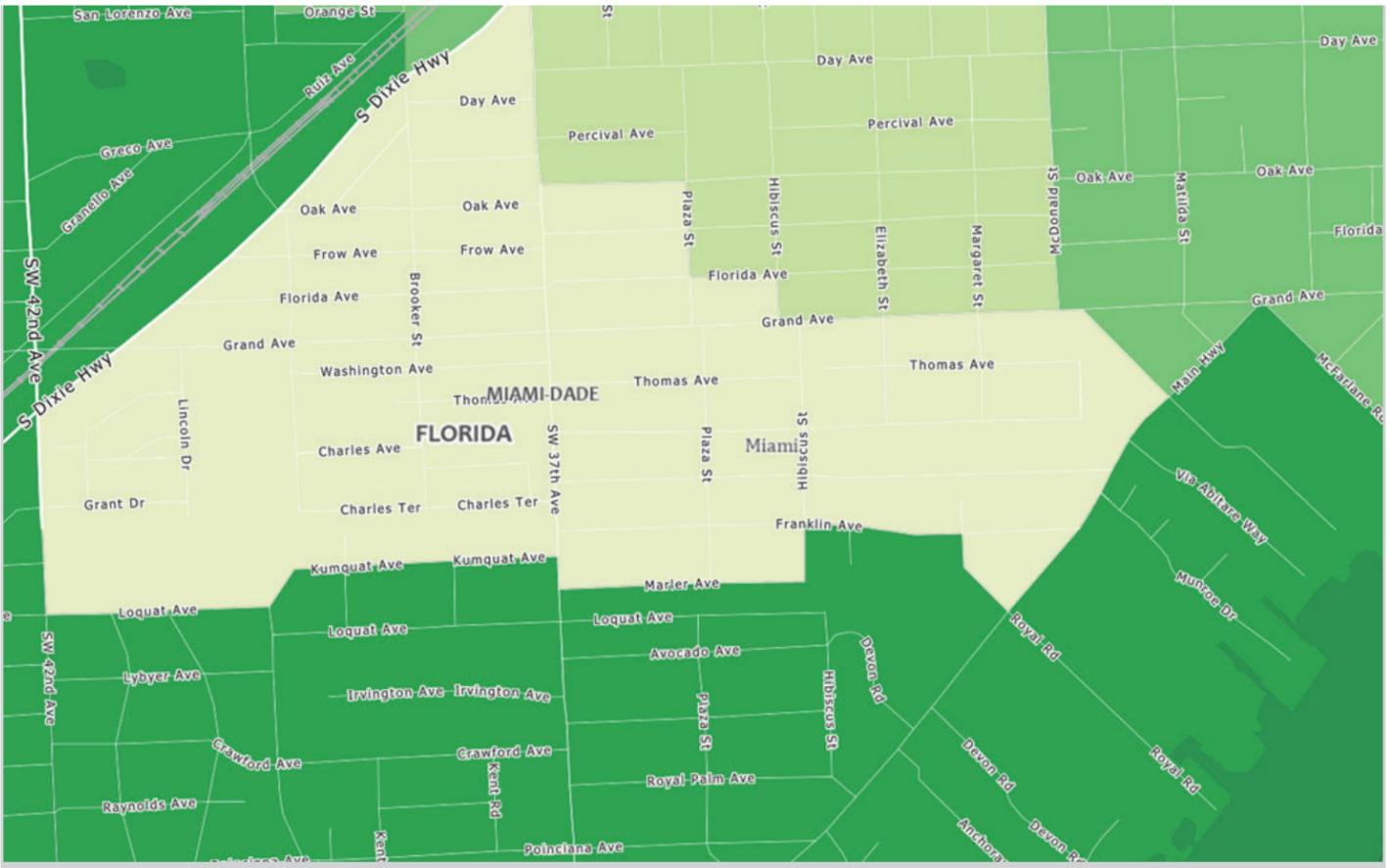
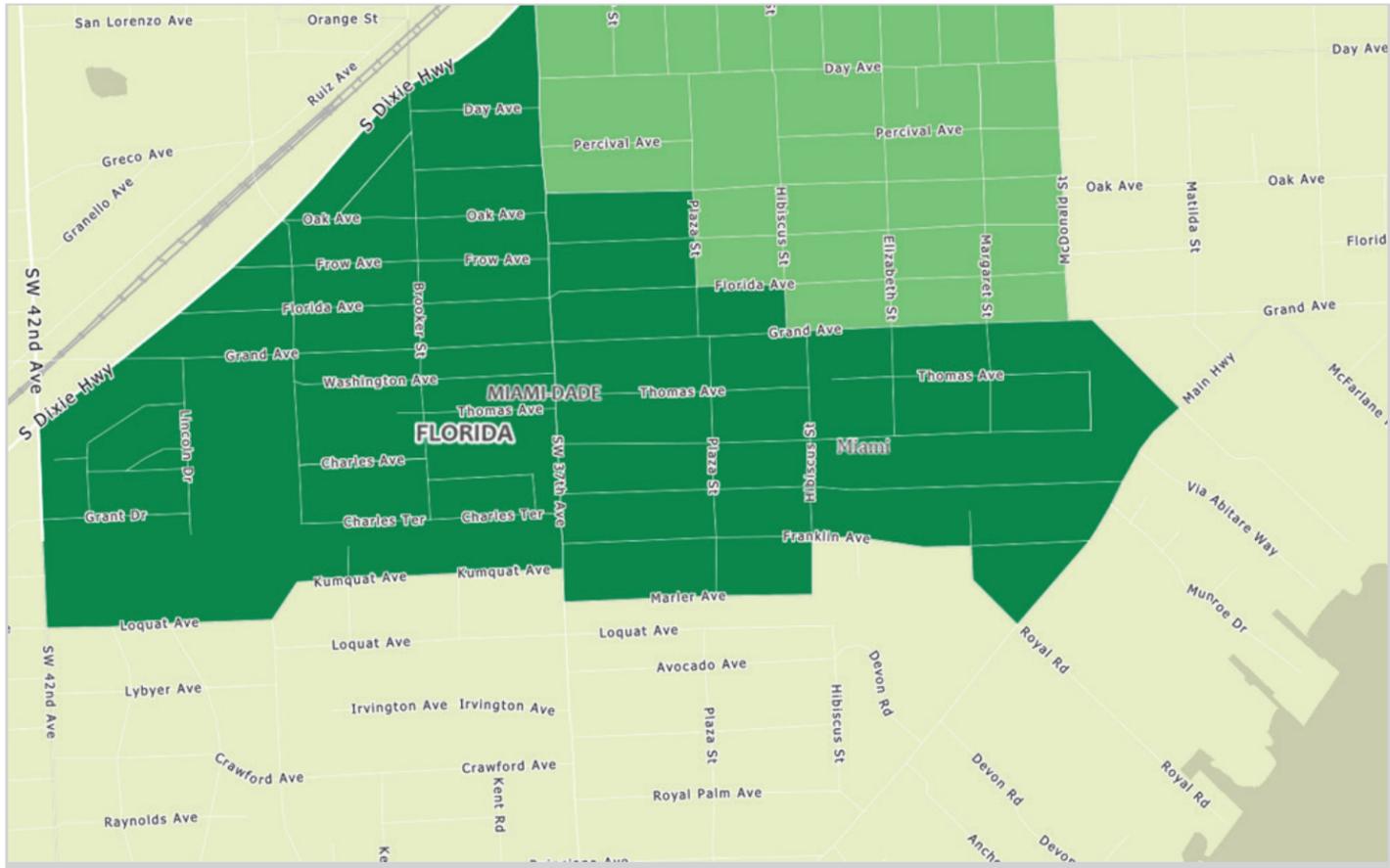
The first road that we will be looking at is Grand Avenue where we will analyze the difference between East vs West Coconut Grove. East Coconut Grove is where the big developments and new constructions are. In 2018 I visited the site and I spoke to the many incredible individuals in West coconut grove. While I was there I so many luxurious cars passing by going to East coconut grove. I then wondered how would I feel if I lived in a place where my side of the town is not taken care of and the other side was, and these cars were evidence. I also thought of another perspectives what if it also showed the anticipation of gentrification. At the time I was there, many individuals started leaving the area already and the prices were increasing. Gentrification was already upon the community, and I could see the residences saying those same people in those cars are the same people that will be taking our homes in the future. This is truly a great parallel, the parallel of the rich and the poor and all of this can be seen on Grand Avenue



THRESHOLD 2 (S DOUGLAS RD) NORTH vs SOUTH Coconut Grove

A similar story can be told on S Douglas Road, you won't see super expensive cars but you will see a big difference in environment. As you can see in the pictures there are more trees in South coconut grove in comparison to north coconut grove. This truly shows the comparison of a place being taken care more than the other. I am





Next, we move into on of the real reasons why this difference is happening. In these two diagrams we can see the percentage of whites and blacks in Coconut grove. We can see that majority of the black people in the area live in north coconut grove while the majority of the white people in the area live in Coconut Grove Through this information, we can draw the conclusion that the people that live in the white side of the town is more taken care then the people that live in the black side of the town.



Man in Goombay Festival



ACE Theatre

This affects the community in a powerful way, many of the lots are now vacant when the area used to be a thriving area, where there would be a lot of people walking and a lot of community gatherings. Things such as the goombay festival was stopped for a period of time because of the lack of funding of the organizations that funded the festival.

COCONUT GROVE (A MEMOIR)

This is the battle of Coconut Grove, In September 2018 I had visited the area to learn more about the people and their perspectives. I parked my car in the corner of Grand avenue and Douglas road, As I walked my first impression of the area was where are the people? It seems if the place was deserted. Although I saw a few people sitting in front of stores, still there weren't that many pedestrian circulations. I walked through Grand avenue from Douglas street to Elizabeth street, I saw a food truck selling what smelled roasted chicken. He was busy, so I didn't bother to talk to him. I then walked back and greeted one of the people who was sitting on the sidewalk. The old man seemed like he was in his mid-50s, at first, he was disinterested in what I was asking but later he took interest. I spoke to him for a while, but his answers weren't that inviting, he kept saying he doesn't know the answers to what I am asking and kept referring me to people I didn't know. As we spoke a man passed by and greeted the man I was talking to, I then came to realize that they were good friends and referred me to him about asking him questions. Before we even dealt deep into the conversation, we were interrupted by other people passing by, he greeted almost everyone who was walking and knew them by name, let's just say he was very popular in the neighborhood. Though I never found out about his real name, everyone referred to him as Gator. Our conversation took many turns, speaking about the education system, religion and much more but my focus was his reaction to what is happening in Coconut Grove. Gator was extremely passionate about this topic and he is of Bahamian descent. As our conversation went on, what I felt like he trying to make me see was that the people of Coconut Grove need to fight because Coconut Grove is their identity. He told me a brief history about how Coconut Grove became what it is today. He told me about how Coconut grove used to be a place of gathering, there was a club, theatre and many more places of entertainment but now all are closed. He mentioned how the city were cutting funds from their area, even cutting one of their most entertaining cultural gatherings, the goombay festival. Through the funding cuts of many of the facilitators of the event, the festival ceased to exist. Also ceased to exist was the wearing of colorful masks and cloths, the sound of Bahamian music and the gathering and enjoyment of the Bahamian people. What Gator was mainly emphasizing the most was for the people of Coconut Grove to stand and fight for the city. He mentioned how a lot of blacks sell everything that they have when they see white people money. They are not willing to stand for what they own because they don't see the value, but the people who are investing see the value. He also d. He then told me the reason why Coconut Grove is being targeted is because the ground level of Coconut Grove is higher than places like Miami beach who are closer to the water. The farther the city is from the water the better because of sea level rise. This makes a lot of sense, it is the same reason why Little Haiti is being gentrified as well.

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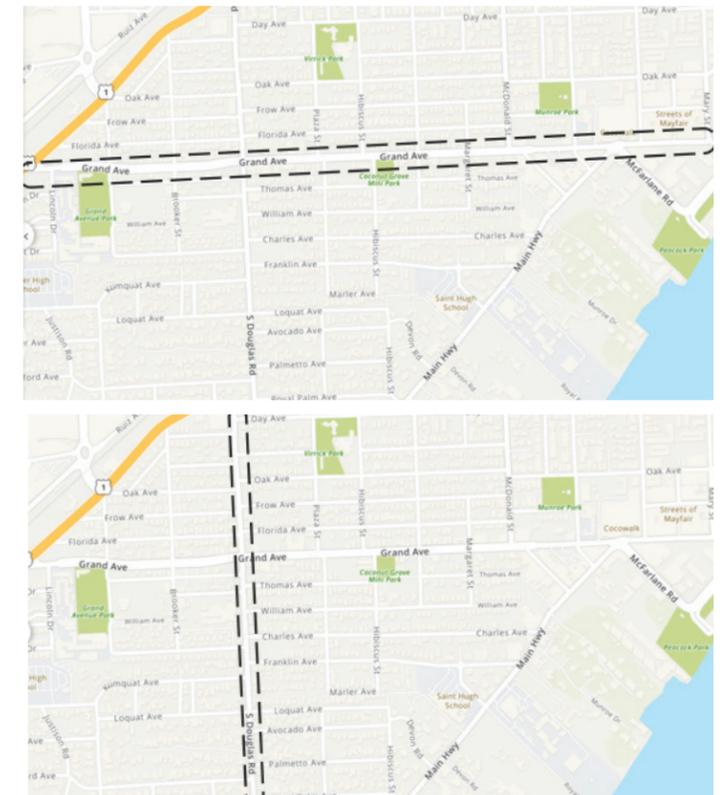
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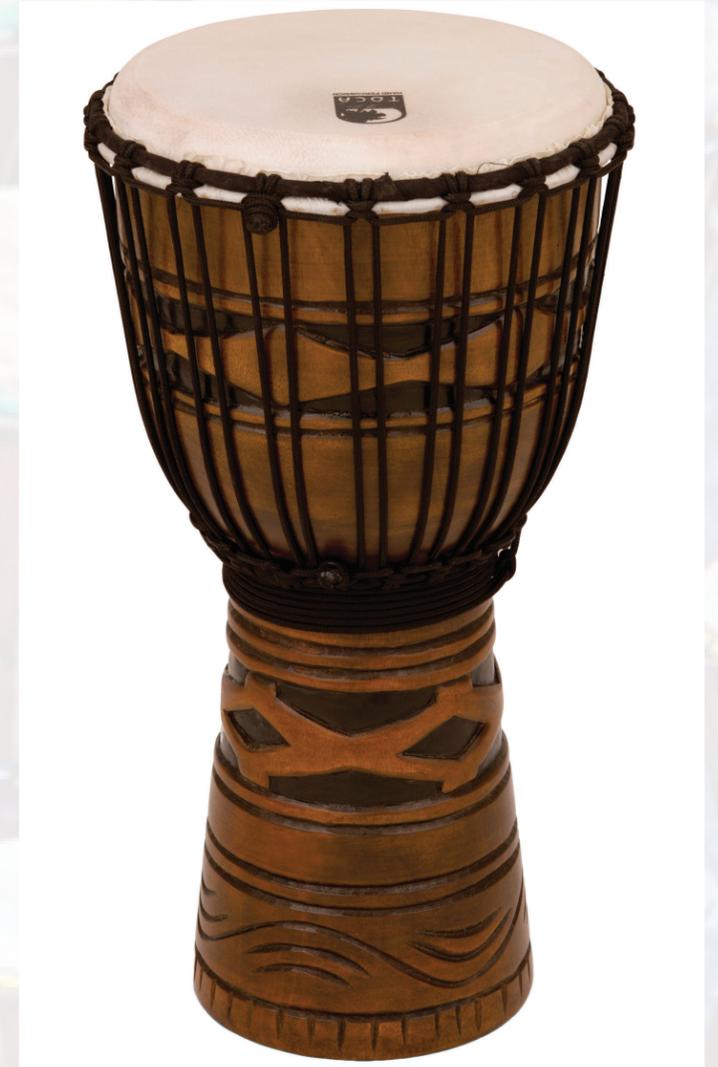
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GOOMBAY FESTIVAL HISTORY

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GOOMBAY INSTRUMENT

The goombay festival is an event that happens every year in Coconut Grove and has been around for about 37 years, one of the people who first contributed to it was Charles Major Jr, he was an even organizer. The essence of the goombay festival is that it is about the community, it is about the Bahamian culture, food, and music. I first started on a street called Whitehead Street then moved to Grand Avenue. The original founders included Charles's father Charles Major Sr, and Fred Scholl. Both were a part of the Neighborhood Improvement Association.



PRECEDENT STUDY

The FkZ quarter is located on Dajwor Street on an empty lot at the back of a synagogue designed by BudCud. It is for the 25th anniversary of the Jewish culture festival in Cracow in Poland. BudCud designed this temporary space for people participating on the festival. The purpose of the project was to bring social to the site. The quarter has a yellow floor which makes the space look brighter and it all has transparent corrugated plastic as the roof which brings in a lot of light. In addition, it is also wood framed and has thick plywood plates for the flooring. Some of the programs include a library, a café, a graphic studio, and a stage in the middle connecting all three spaces together.

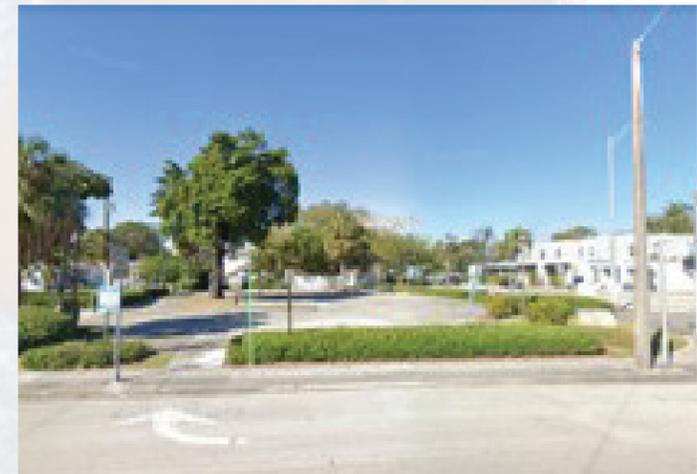
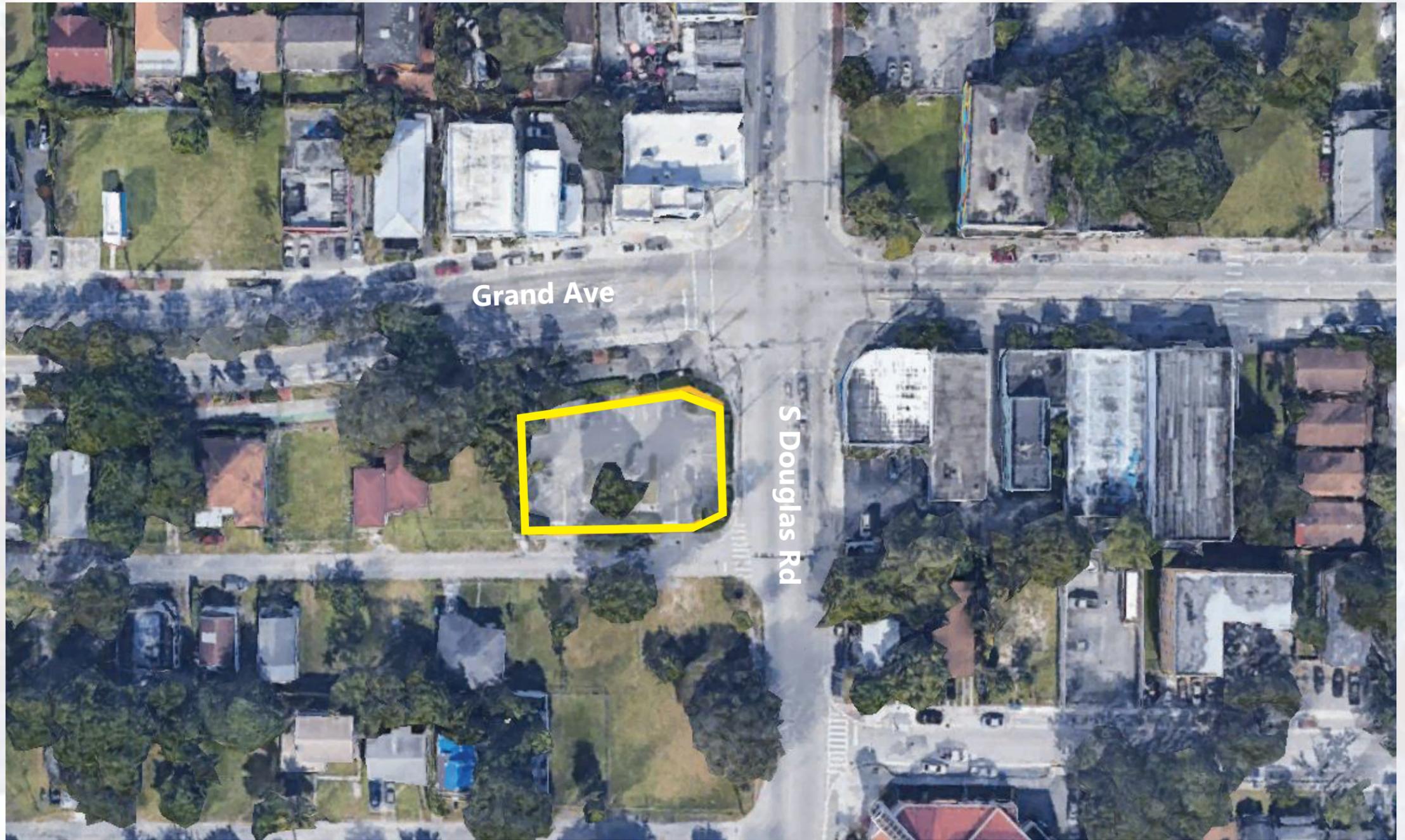
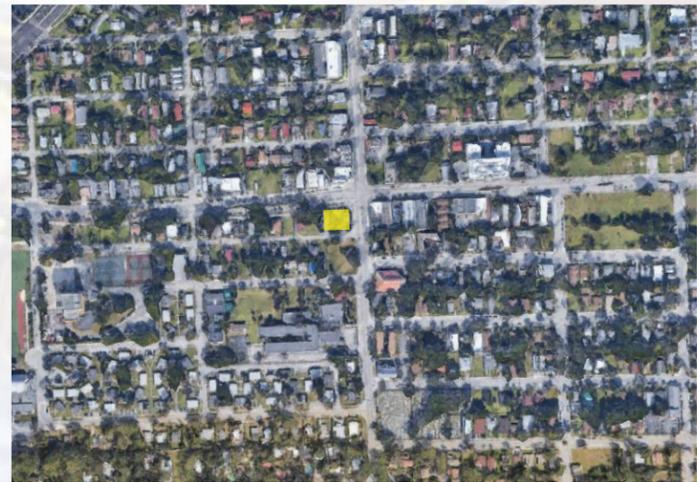


SITE MAP

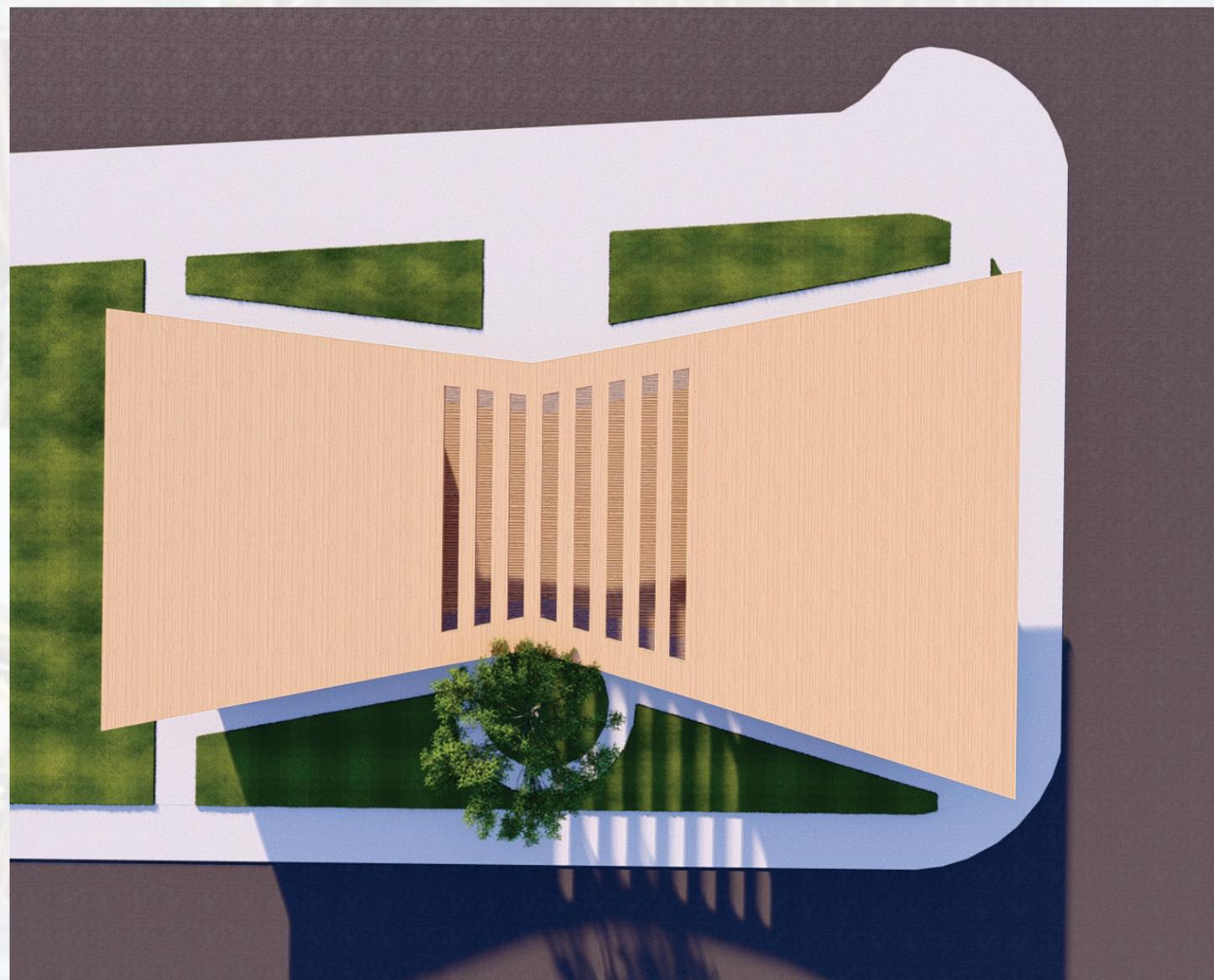
Grand Ave and S Douglas Rd

Area: 11,071

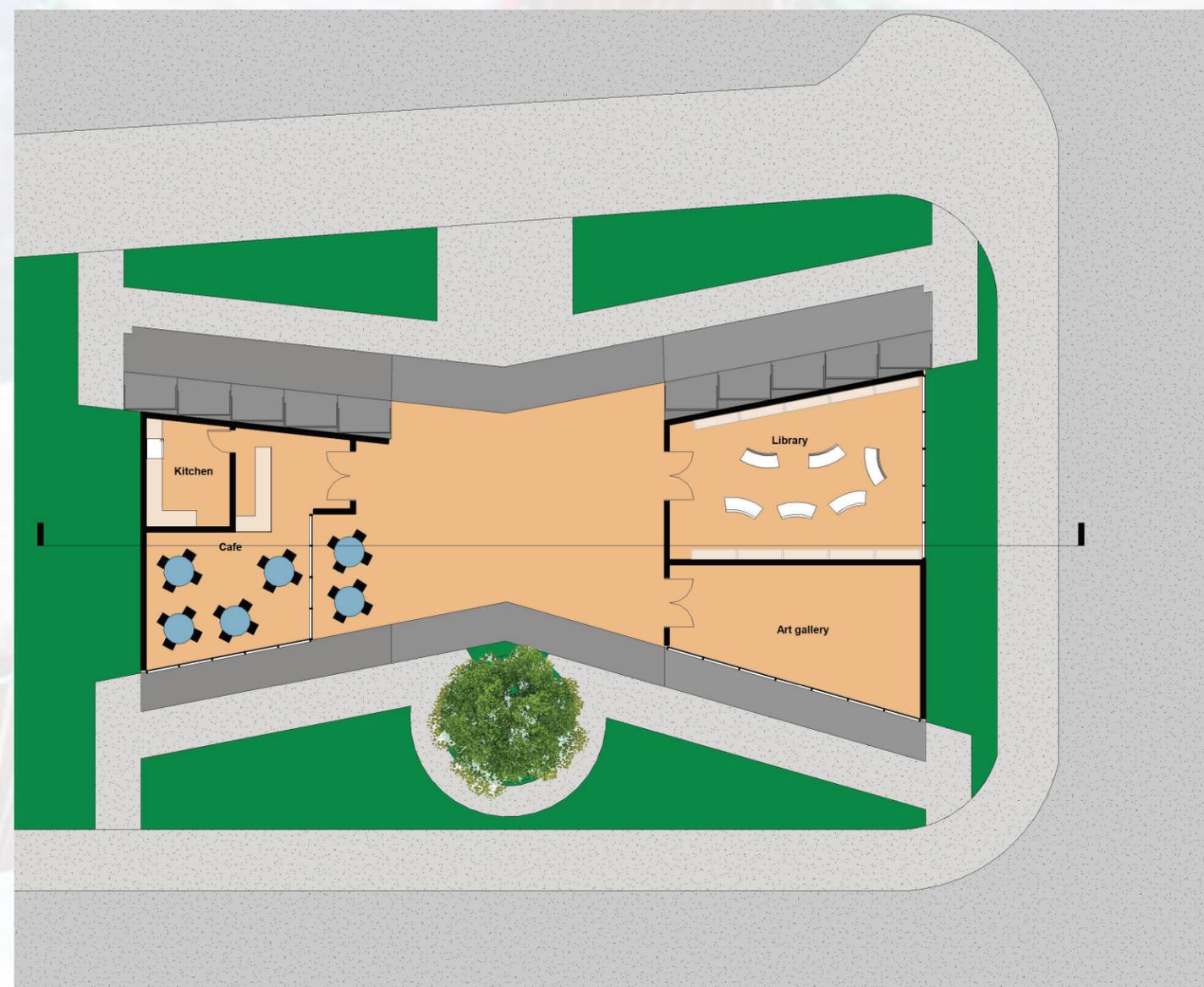
Site Detail: Vacant parking Lot with tree in the middle



DRAWINGS



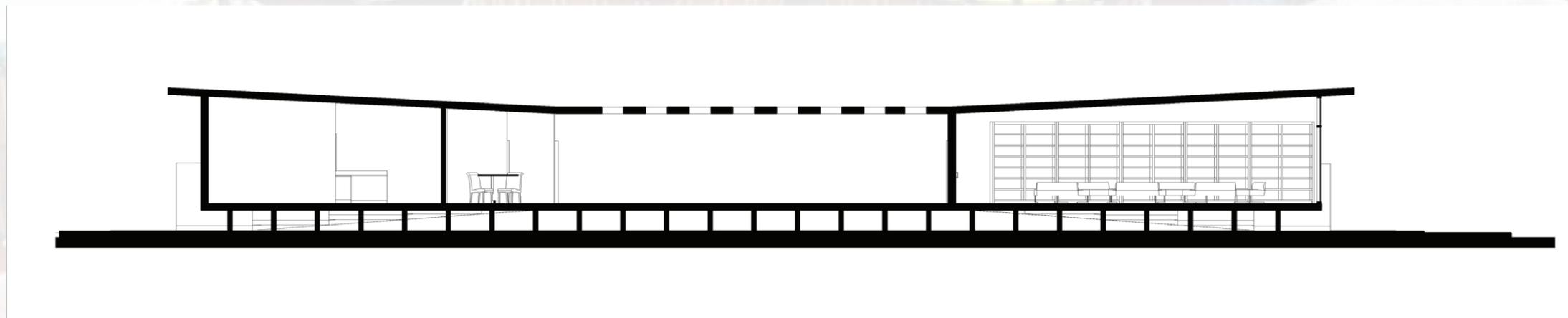
SITE PLAN



FLOOR PLAN

MATERIAL

WOOD





The Goombay Festival is a vehicle for showcasing the contributions of Bahamians to the city of Miami.



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