Danny Hendricks

Artist Statement

As a senior at Rollins College, I have become quite accustomed to the city of Winter Park and the amazing culture, neighborhoods, and restaurants that make the city such an appealing place to live in. Before beginning this final photo portfolio, I had thought that I basically knew everything there is to know about the place I call home; but I was very wrong. As I walked through the neighborhoods that compromise Hannibal Square on the west side of the city, I realized that I was in unfamiliar territory. I had never taken the time to realize how new houses, apartment complexes, restaurants, and storefronts were awkwardly intertwined with the historic homes that once were a symbol of the African American culture that predominated the area. Even worse, I had never been aware that Hannibal Square was established after whites had segregated blacks “across the tracks” in the pre-civil rights era. So much history and struggle had been so close to me, yet I had never even known.

As I set out to discover and capture the gentrification that is currently threatening the diversity and culture of Hannibal Square, I strived to first fully learn its history over the years. The best way I could do this was to visit the Hannibal Square Heritage Center and the Rollins College Department of Archives. By visiting these places, I was exposed to countless photos and newspaper articles about the events that have transpired in Hannibal Square and felt a sense of history that I previously was ignorant to. I captured pictures of headlines from the beginning of the neighborhood to present day that show the evolution of the culture and treatment of African Americans. My series of photographs contrasts archival materials with contemporary images of the neighborhood in an effort to show the drastic differences between the new and old, and the transition that accompanies change. I hope that my project will inspire others to get a deeper understanding of their surroundings and to stand up for others who rightfully feel that their culture is threatened.