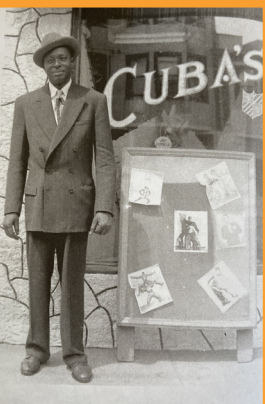




MEETING THE MOMENT

The Campaign for Interfaith Neighbors

THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF A NEIGHBORHOOD IS ITS HEART AND SOUL, WITH THE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS DRIVING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY, PURPOSE, HISTORY AND FUTURE AT THE SAME TIME IT SPURS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. THE WEST SIDE OF ASBURY PARK IS HOME TO A UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE THAT HAS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL TO THRIVE ONCE AGAIN.



1940's

Many people, asked about the cultural scene in Asbury Park, will automatically mention Springsteen and the Stone Pony. But decades before the "Springsteen Era", the West Side, especially its main Springwood Avenue thoroughfare, was home to a vibrant, multicultural arts community that created a sense of place and pride.

Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Lionel Hampton, and Fats Waller were just some of the stars who graced the stages and clubs of Asbury Park. The location, near New York, Philadelphia and Atlantic City, meant big names stopped to play gigs in smaller places in the West Side.

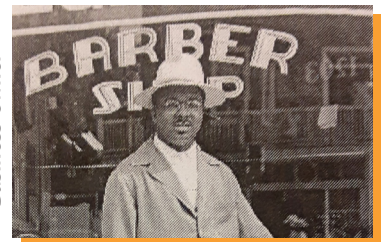
Sammy Pugh Quartet
1940's



1950's

The cultural offerings brought diversity and created opportunities for minority business owners, especially Black and Jewish proprietors. Up and down Springwood Avenue, stores and shops fostered civic engagement and were visible symbols of possibilities.

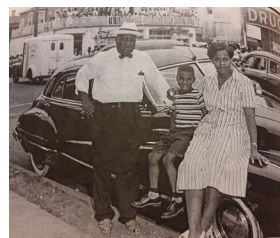
Asbury Park
Business Owner



The social and economic opportunities that stretched back to the Roaring 20's were torn apart by the riots of July 1970, that changed Asbury Park forever, and destroyed in days what had taken decades to build.



1960's



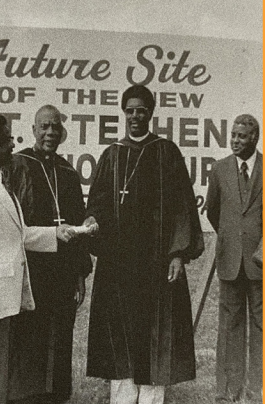
Asbury Park family, 1950's



Springwood Ave after 1970 Riots



A group protesting Jim Crow laws in Asbury Park schools



1970's

A half century after the riots, Interfaith Neighbors is committed to supporting a community that is not just surviving, but thriving, helping the community, its artists and business owners not just get by, but get ahead.

As we help build a stronger foundation for the next generations, we are working to bring back what had been lost. Through fostering the arts and artists, forging partnerships, creating economic opportunity and promoting social justice and equity, a focus on cultural heritage will once again make Asbury Park and its West Side a vibrant place bursting with pride and potential.

(Photo Credit: Joseph A. Carter, Sr., Asbury Park: A West Side Story - First and Second Editions by Madonna Carter Jackson)