



Partnership for
Equitable & Resilient
Communities


Foot Soldiers Park and Education Center

Selma, Alabama

Foot Soldiers Park and Education Center was created to honor the giants and unsung heroes and sheroes of the Civil Rights Movement who lived, fought and made history in Selma and to inspire, educate and nurture the next generation of social justice activists. In doing so, we aim to improve the well-being of the city's underserved residents. The development of Foot Soldiers Park and Education Center will bring much-needed jobs and revenue to the city, instill civic pride and foster a connection between the city's history and its young residents.



The Partnership for Equitable and Resilient Communities (PERC) was created to reimagine public investment by supporting collaborative decision-making between philanthropy, government and community — ensuring those closest to the problem have a seat at the table and power to help direct resources to develop equitable solutions designed and implemented by community members. PERC is an innovative, national model for public investment that advances racial equity and justice by shifting decision-making power to Black, Indigenous and Latino/a/x people living in historically disinvested communities. This new process for managing community investments will actively interrupt cycles of inequitable investments, expand pathways to wealth-building opportunities and support community resilience.

 partnershipforequity.com/initiatives/selma

Some Key Strengths:

- Community leadership is strong, including local activist JoAnne Bland, a lifelong resident of Selma raised in the George Washington Carver Homes, who was a child foot soldier of the Civil Rights Movement and a participant in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery.
- Selma once had flourishing economy and currently has a large historic district.

Some Key Challenges:

- Many Selma residents are unable to find suitable employment and must travel to other areas for work, taking spending dollars out of the community.
- 14% of Alabama households received food assistance via SNAP in 2019, compared to 30.5% in Dallas County, where Selma is located.
- Racial divisions, lack of trust with formal leadership structures, and negative perceptions of other races are not uncommon.

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