

RISING CONCERNS ABOUT INEQUALITY

- Partly motivated by traditional concerns about "justice"
- Partly motivated by worries about impacts on polity
- But, most important:
 - Potential negative effects on growth
 - Looking forward: persistent inequality, particularly by race, will create reduced capacity



THINKING OLD: EQUITY VS. EFFICIENCY

- Conventional wisdom in economics
 - Need for large-scale investment
 - Shift from low to high productivity
 - Incentives and motivation
- But are there new equity and growth synergies?



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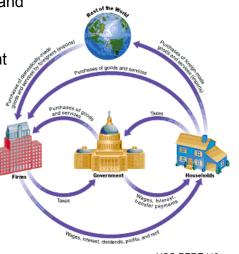
NATIONAL-LEVEL MACROECONOMIC STORY

Inadequate consumer demand

Excessive financialization

Rent-seeking in government

Inadequate work incentives



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U.S. METROPOLITAN AREAS

 Borrowing from international techniques and making use of concept that the new economic unit is the metropolitan area, we and others find that:

Metro per capita income is a function of:

- (+) regional education
- (-) manufacturing concentration
- (+) central city presence
- (-) previous income
- (?) region of U.S.
- (-) measure of inequity, including ratio of city to suburb poverty, concentration of poverty, income distribution (80-20 ratio), black-white segregation



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EVIDENCE: EQUITY IS GOOD FOR GROWTH

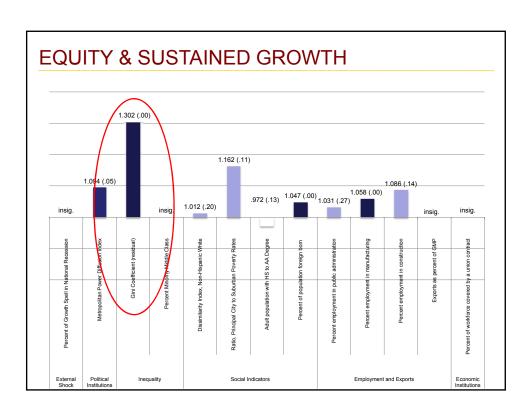


Even the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland found that that racial inclusion and income equality matter for growth.



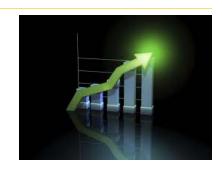
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PUNCHLINES FROM REGRESSION WORK

 Largest and most significant factor associated with shortened growth spells is levels of inequality



- Residential segregation and metropolitan fragmentation also associated with shortened growth spells
- Other factors include education levels and economic structures

IT'S A BROADER STORY



 Underinvestment in each other makes us less competitive as a nation



 Social tensions over who will gain and who will lose make us less likely to cohere on what we need to do to thrive

LEADING THROUGH THE DIVIDE



 So it's a challenge for all of us: economic development folks and business leaders need to rethink the role of equity



But equity proponents need to consider economic realities and constraints and propose feasible, growth-enhancing approaches



 And we need the concrete community development, housing, and land use policies to make this real

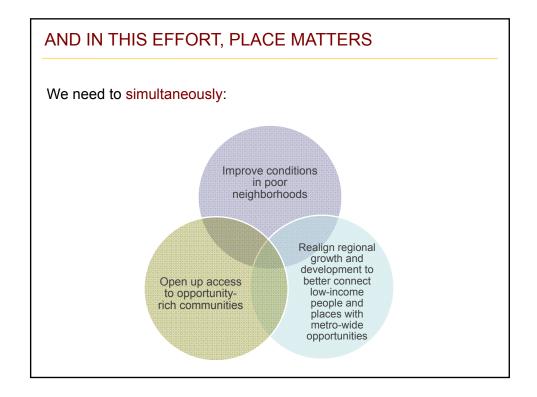
AND IN THIS EFFORT, PLACE MATTERS

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

At the same ti,e, the familiar dichotomy of "place-based" versus "people-based" anti-poverty policy has outlived its usefulness









LEADING THROUGH THE DIVIDE







- Understand that this is an aspirational not an angry constituency
- Stress that equity and inclusion are fundamental not add-on's
- Frame around bridging generations and geographies
- See smart growth as not just a strategy but a conversation about our shared future

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LEADING THROUGH THE DIVIDE







The USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) conducts research and facilitates discussions on issues of environmental justice, regional inclusion, and social movement building.

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