From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 1/2/2019 11:25:53 PM
To: Gwen Wisler <gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Tourism and Gentrification

Thanks for taking time to look at it.
I think, often, of a moment we had at a candidates forum back in '13. Don't remember which one, but it was a random question to each candidate and the question of "How to attract more black people to Downtown " was asked to someone. You leaned to me and whispered "I'm glad I didn't get that question. What do I know as a white person?"
At the time, I was glad that you didn't have an answer, as I didn't either, and it was nice to know that I wasn't the only one who didn't know (or at least have an answer to) everything, and I was surprised that you divulged your lack of wisdom on that to me. Later though, I understood that my own lack of wisdom required me to explore the question, and look for answers. I still don't have an answer to that specific question, and I don't think that finding cool things to do downtown is the most important issue for the African-American community, but I did check out the staff of BCTDA and then thought "Well no fucking wonder!" to that forum question and many other problems associated with tourism in Asheville.
I hope that you look for answers to the questions that may have stumped you. Thanks for listening.

On Wed, Jan 2, 2019 at 5:15 PM Gwen Wisler <gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

> thank you, Jonathan. I appreciate the chapter.
> Happy Holidays to you too.
> Best,
> Gwen
>
> On 12/28/18 11:52 AM, Jonathan Wainscott wrote:
>
> > Howdy and Happy Holidays to everyone. I came across this chapter in what I guess is the new textbook on issues of gentrification. It seems that the economic principles that involve gentrification and tourism are pretty universal. I know I usually chuckle when Asheville is compared to much bigger cities, like Patton Avenue being transformed into our Champs-Elysee, but this essay/article/chapter really does provide a laundry list of conditions here in Asheville. I don't think there is much that can be done at this point, in terms of reversing the efforts to make Asheville a tourist destination that began back in the 1920's with the Biltmore Estate trading access to the public for exemption from annexation, but maybe we can demonstrate how tourism should be avoided as an economic development plan for other cities that might care about gentrification.
> >
> > This really is a great read, you should check it out.
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