



# BEING A LEADER WHEN HOMELESSNESS IS POLITICIZED- SNAPSHOTS OF PROGRESS FROM ILLINOIS



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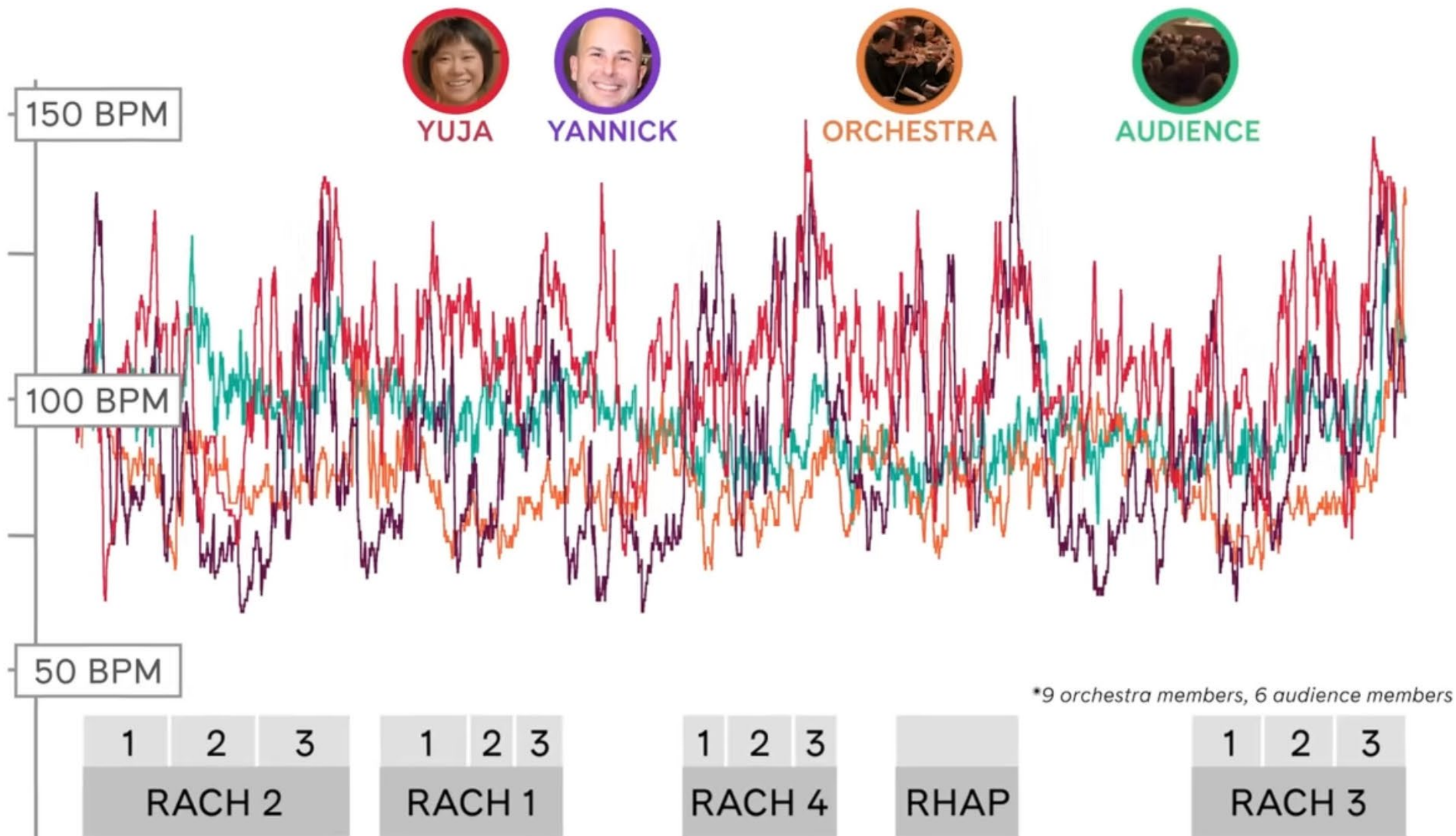
# PIANIST YUJA WANG AND CONDUCTOR YANNICK NÉZET-SEGUIN



# RACHMANINOFF MARATHON



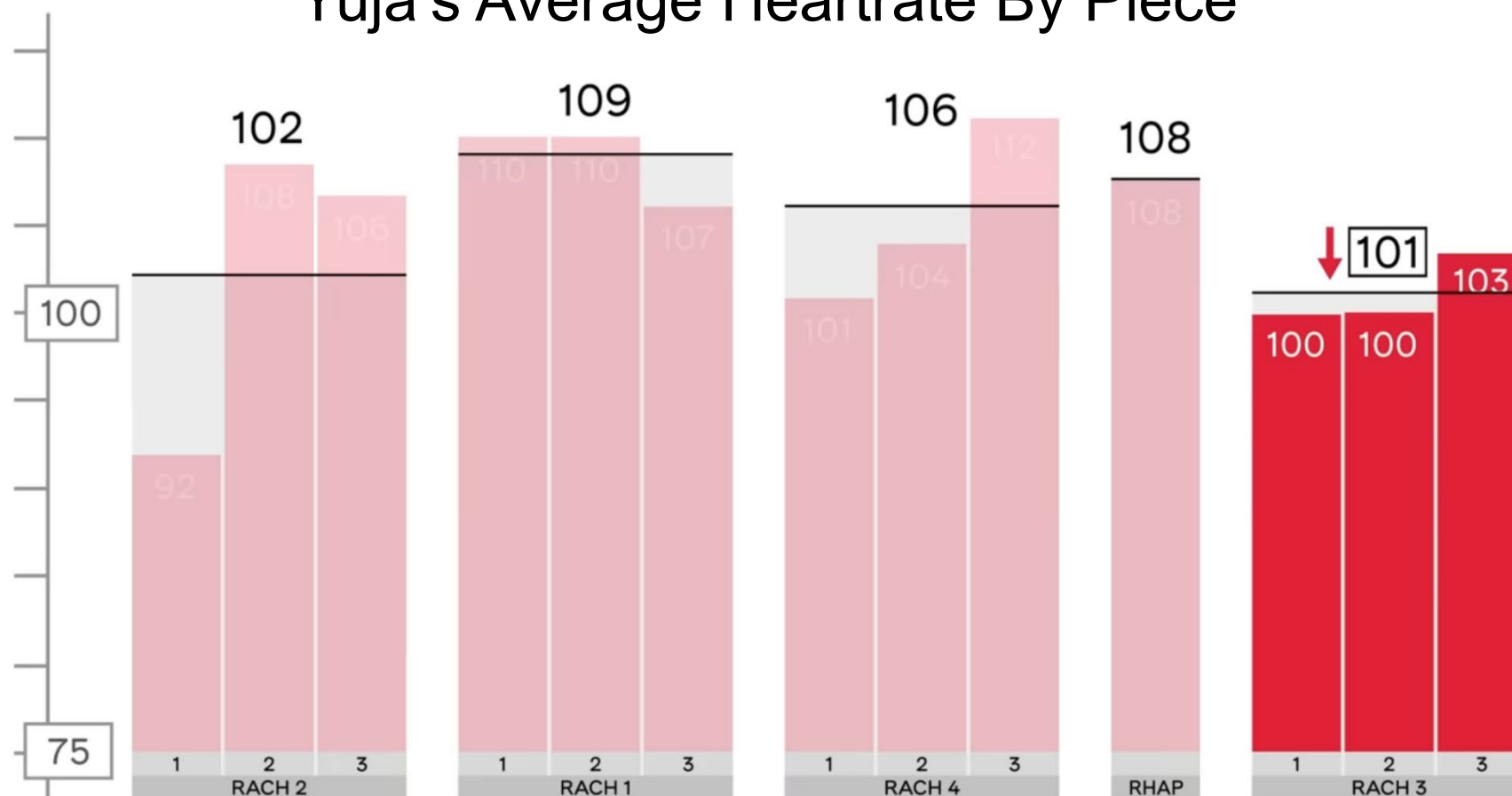
CARNEGIE HALL



# PREPARATION MATTERS



## Yuja's Average Heartrate By Piece

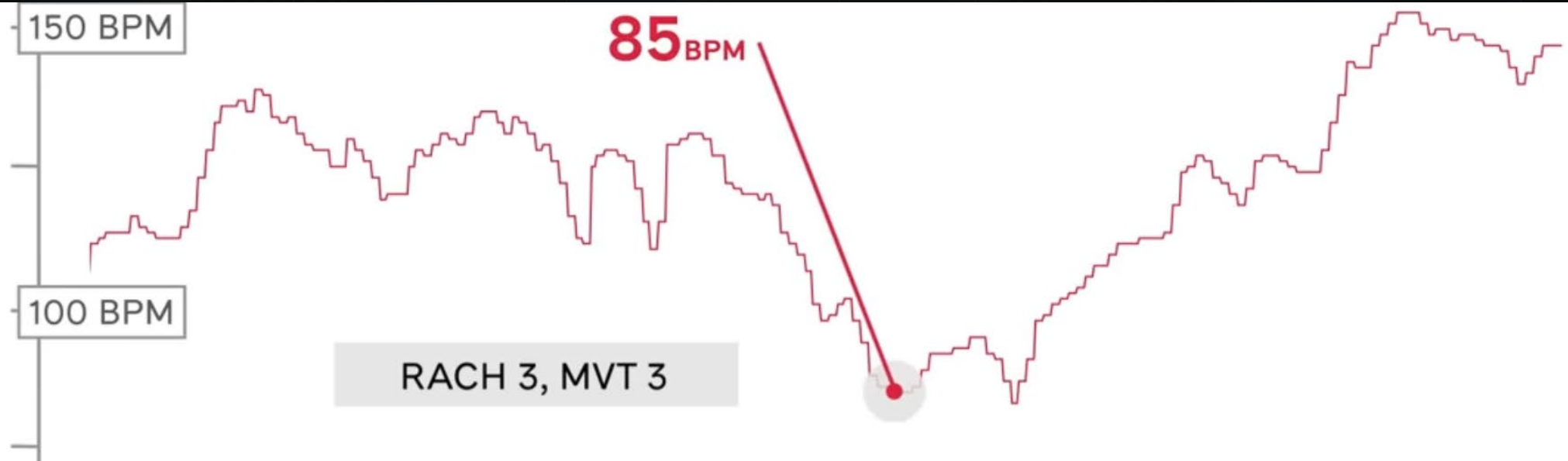


Yuja's average heartrate was lower in the pieces she had performed the most.



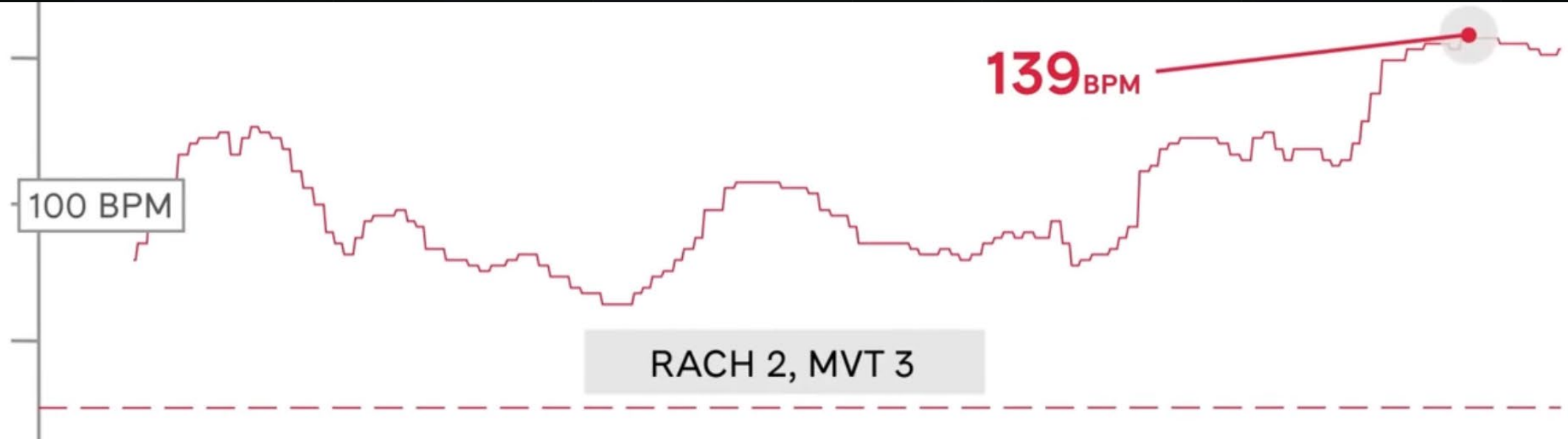


# NUMBER OF NOTES DOES NOT RAISE RATES

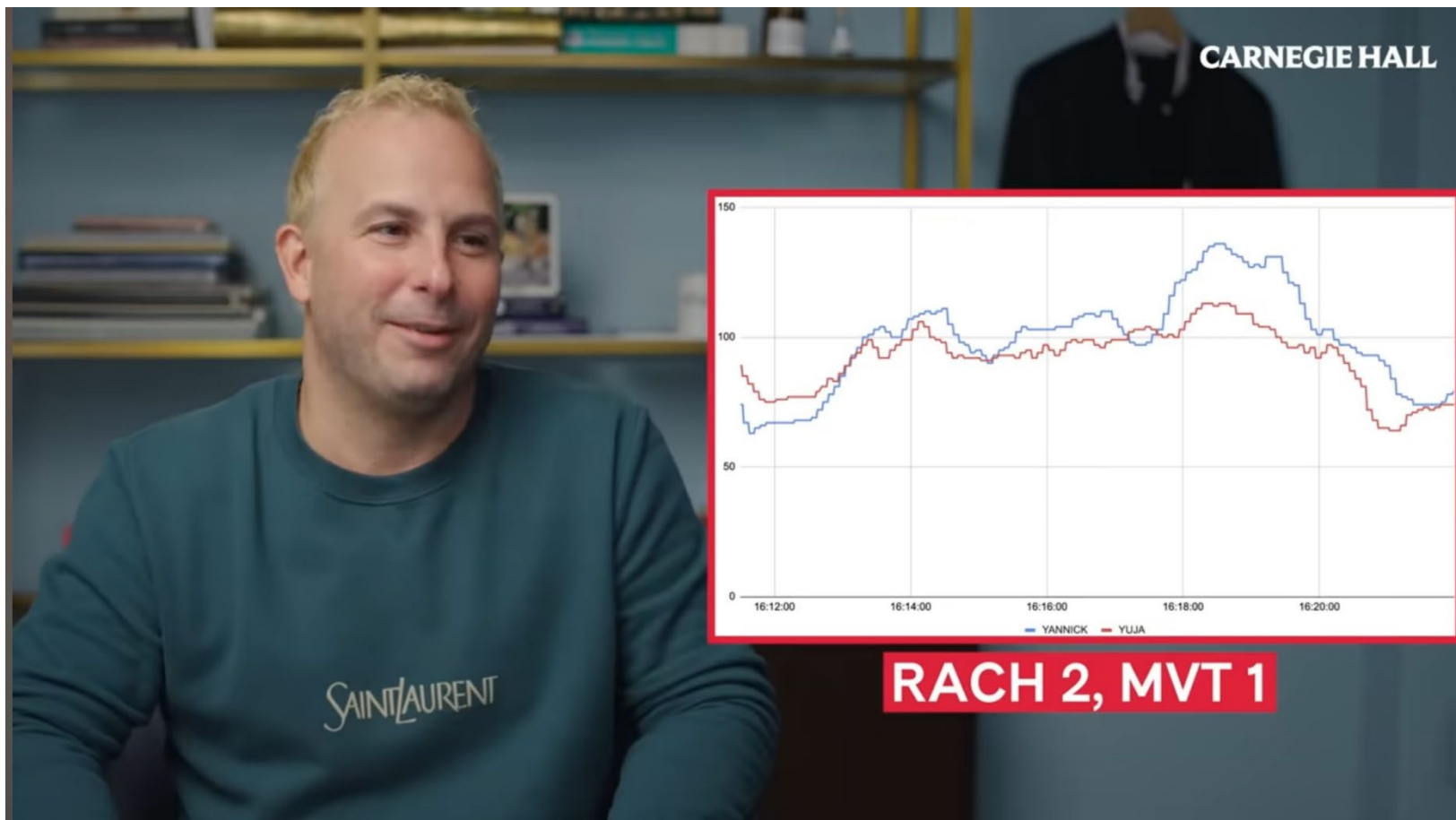




# HEARTRATE HIGHER WHEN ORCHESTRA FULL



# HEARTRATES IN SYNCH



*“My whole life as a conductor is to bring people in synch. That is why I am a musician and why I am a conductor.”*



# WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH “BEING A LEADER WHEN HOMELESSNESS IS POLITICIZED?”



# UNPRECEDENTED WORK



## WHO WE ARE

### VISION

No resident in the State of Illinois lives on the street, in a shelter, or in overcrowded housing. Illinoisians earn a living wage that allows them to afford housing in their community, without fear of eviction. When a housing crisis occurs, safety net supports allow quick resolution to stabilize housing.

### MISSION

Coordinating State of Illinois agency strategies and investments and partnering with the community to build a strong safety net and permanent housing for Illinoisans facing homelessness and housing insecurity.





# ILLINOIS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE



Housing  
Development  
Authority

Human Services

Public Health

Healthcare and  
Family Services

Children & Family  
Services

Veterans Affairs

Corrections

State Police

Juvenile Justice

Criminal Justice  
Information  
Authority

Aging

Commerce &  
Economic  
Opportunity

Economic  
Security

State Board of  
Education

Board of Higher  
Education

Community  
College Board

Governor's Office  
of Management  
& Budget

Illinois General  
Assembly (4)

Chief  
Homelessness  
Officer (Chair)



# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS



Lived Experience of  
Homelessness (3)

Living with a  
disability

Philanthropy (2)

Statewide  
Behavioral Health  
Advocacy  
Organization

Statewide Housing  
Advocacy  
Organization

CoCs (3)

Local Units of  
Government (3)

Domestic Violence

At-large: Housing  
Developer

At-large: Youth  
service provider

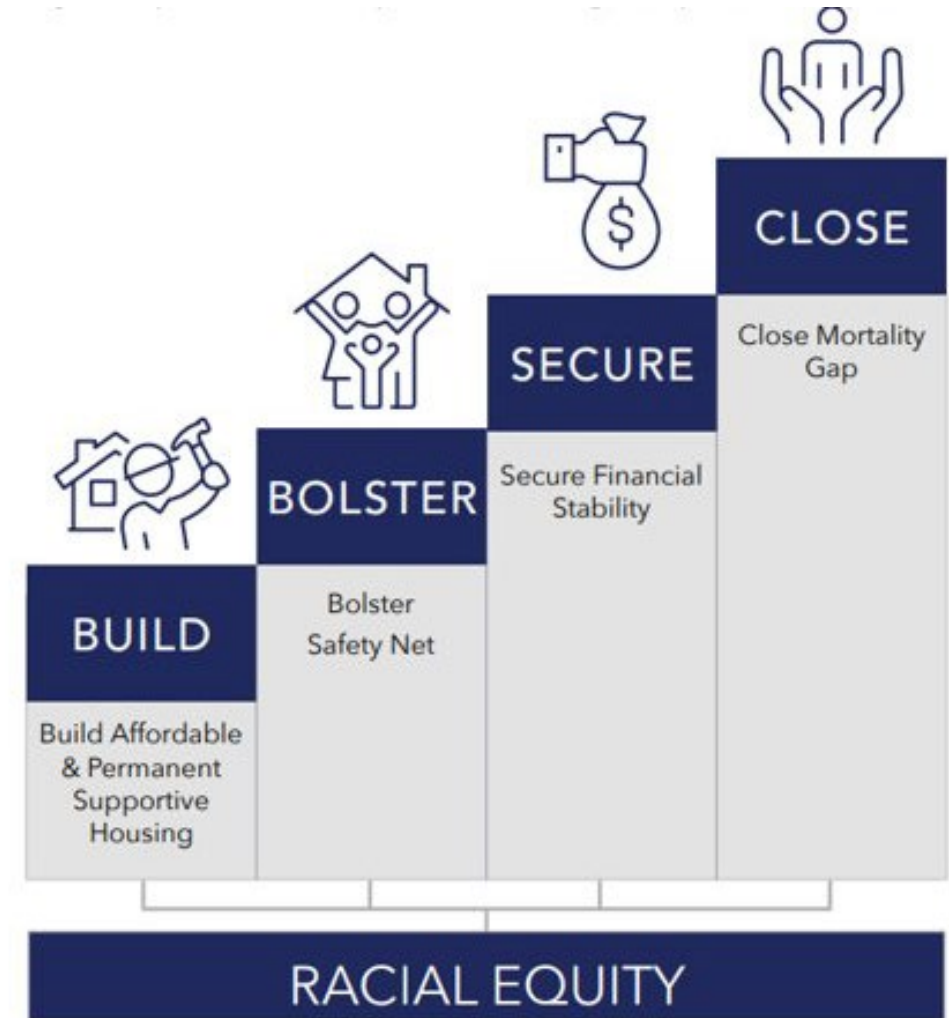
New: Service  
Providers (4)

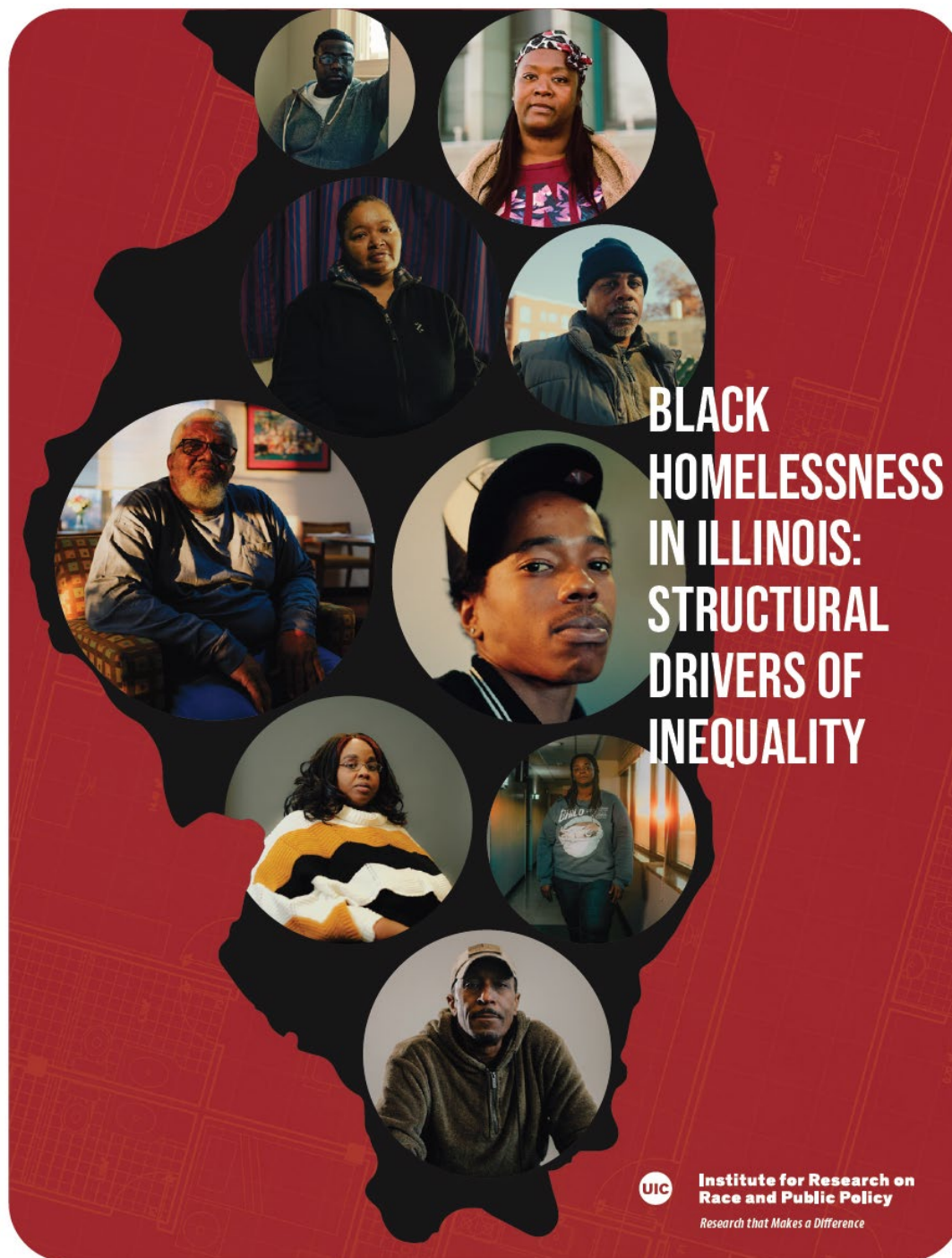
Chief  
Homelessness  
Officer (Co-Chair)

# HOME ILLINOIS PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS



- ❑ Inventory of 100+ policy, program or process activities across 17 State agencies
- ❑ Foundational goal: ending the racial disparity that exists in homelessness





**Institute for Research on  
Race and Public Policy**  
*Research that Makes a Difference*



## Racial Equity Roundtable on Black Homelessness

- Research partnership with UIC's Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy
- [Report](#) is the result of roundtable meetings and statewide focus groups over the course of 2023
- 23 Black Homelessness Roundtable participants:
  - Chair: Christine Haley
  - State Government: DG Sol Flores, Gov Chief Equity Officer Dr. Sekile Nzinga, Caronina Grimble
  - Illinois General Assembly: Leader Elgie Sims and Leader Jehan Gordon-Booth (staff)
  - Additional representatives including:
    - **Persons with Lived Expertise of Homelessness**
    - **Public Sector Stakeholders:** Cook County Community Development, Springfield Public Housing Authority, Chicago Public Libraries, City of Peoria
    - **Provider/Advocate Stakeholders:** Social services, housing advocacy, disability rights, re-entry, community development, faith institutions
    - **National Organizations:** Center for Budget & Policy Priorities, National Healthcare for the Homeless Council



# SETTING THE FRAME



“Our approach understands that homelessness is not an issue of personal failing but of historical discrimination and structural barriers that have driven inequality for Black families across the nation and, of course, right here in Illinois. Confronting these legacies of inequality will require us to collaborate across issue areas, from public health to commerce to criminal justice.”

- Governor Pritzker, April 25, 2024

# RURAL HOMELESSNESS REPORT



- ❑ [Report](#) written by Housing Assistance Council in partnership with Supportive Housing Providers Association, funded by OPEH
- ❑ Report Inputs:
  - ❑ Statewide listening session
  - ❑ Individual stakeholder interviews
  - ❑ Data analysis
- ❑ Completed June 2023; Presentation to Interagency Task Force on Homelessness at September meeting

## REPORT



Photo: Shawn Poynter. There is More Work to Be Done

**Preventing and Eliminating  
Homelessness in Rural Illinois**

# RURAL 100-DAY CHALLENGE



- ❑ Partnership with Re!nstitute, Supportive Housing Providers Association – IL Training & Technical Assistance Center (SHPA); Funded by OPEH
- ❑ Four CoCs participated, representing 45 Counties
- ❑ Goals set included:
  - ❑ In 100 days, we will connect 29 people to safe and stable housing and connect 20 more people to behavioral health services in the eastern region of the South Central CoC.
  - ❑ In 100 days, we will work with 100 people experiencing homelessness in Mercer County, 75 of whom live outside of Aledo and 5 of whom identify as BIPOC.



35 **RACH 2**  
TIMES PLAYED

14 **RACH 1**  
TIMES PLAYED

21 **RACH 4**  
TIMES PLAYED

31 **RHAP**  
TIMES PLAYED

72 **RACH 3**  
TIMES PLAYED

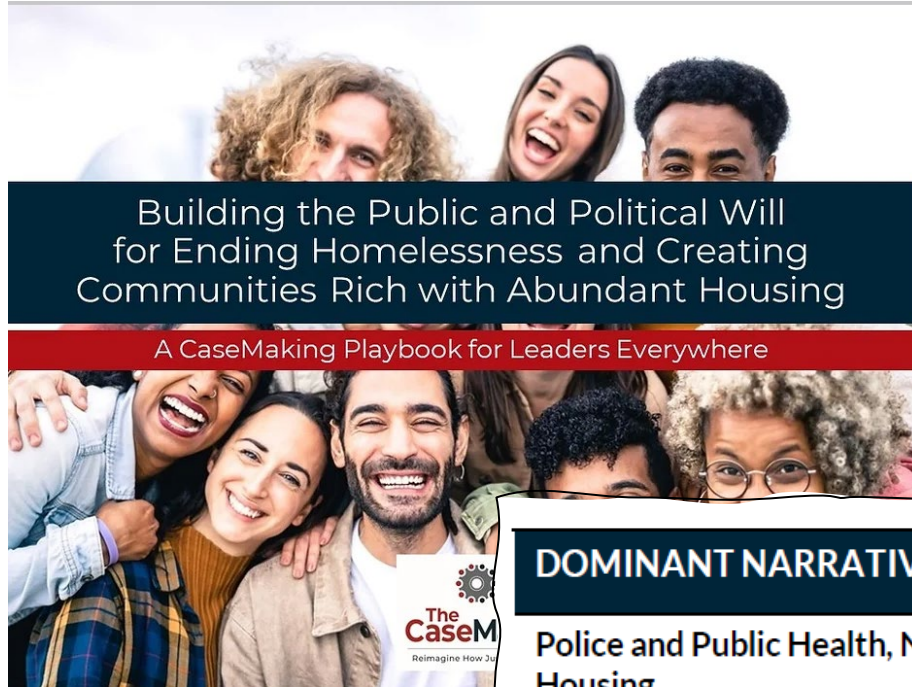
# BEING A LEADER REQUIRES PREPARATION

# PREPARATION FOR HOMELESS LEADERSHIP



- ❑ Being able to gather data about your successes and failures is critical
- ❑ If you want to build a vision, political and/or public will, you have to improve your communication skills.
- ❑ Step 1: Never a conversation about homelessness without talking about housing.
- ❑ Effective communication is about centering the needs of your audience.

# PLAYBOOK FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS



- [Resource](#) from the Case Made and NAEH.

DOMINANT NARRATIVE	WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE
Police and Public Health, Not Housing	<i>"These folks are either on drugs or have mental health issues if they're living on the street! The compassionate thing is to force them into shelters and treatment so they don't die on the streets."</i>
Individual Responsibility	<i>"I worked hard to put myself through college, save money, and buy my house. If I did it, you should do it."</i>
Deservedness and Choices	<i>"Some people just don't make good choices. They should prove that they can get clean and hold down a job before we help them. Otherwise, they'll just waste the help we give them."</i>
Mobility	<i>"Not everyone can afford to live here. If you can't make it here, then you should just move somewhere else. There's plenty of housing in other parts of the country."</i>



# PREPARE YOUR PIVOT



## •Principle #3:

Carefully prepare for the dominant narratives and negative disruptors that we know come up in every conversation about homelessness

CONCERN	SAMPLE RESPONSE
Property values will go down.	The value of my home is important to me, too. What I've learned is that communities with a diversity of housing are more innovative, entrepreneurial and productive, and ultimately more desirable to home buyers and employers.
Schools will be overcrowded. Learning will be affected.	I've got kids in our schools, too, and I totally agree that giving them strong preparation to succeed in the world is important. I'm worried about how much harder it will be to recruit quality teachers as they get priced out of our community.

