

The requested funds will be used for primary documents to begin the research for my dissertation project on radicalism and the arts in Detroit during the twentieth century. My dissertation will position Detroit as a crucial site of radical politics throughout the twentieth century, a place where radicals and dissidents of every race, nationality, and ideology flocked to put their ideas into practice. This political activity both fostered and was influenced by dynamic arts movements in the city. My dissertation will situate Detroit as an international city that cultivated interracial collaboration between radical activists and artists from all over the country and world.

From labor militancy to Black nationalism, to the New Left to the counterculture, to punk rock to urban rebellion, Detroit has been a site of radical activity since the nineteenth century. The industrial city's factories attracted labor activists associated with various Left-leaning ideologies who sought to organize Detroit's workers. In the 1960s, Detroit was considered one of the most radical cities in the country as dissidents of all stripes flocked to a place they thought was "ripe for revolution," according to historian Heather Ann Thompson.¹ I will argue that the city has retained this revolutionary potential and radical activity in decades following the 1960s. In my dissertation I plan to explore anarchism, Black Power, the New Left, punk rock, hip-hop, outdoor art environments and street art, and extralegal tools of protest, such as urban rebellion and arson. My work is interdisciplinary, drawing from the fields of cultural studies, Black studies, and gender studies.

Detroit's radical history is alive in the city today. Some contemporary dissidents get radicalized in spaces like the Trumbullplex, an anarchist housing collective and performing arts space that has been in operation since 1993. The space and inexpensive housing resulting from urban decline has created opportunities for radicals to pursue imaginative ideas. In both popular narrative and urban history, Detroit is often portrayed as a symbol of moral decay and political failure. Historians have used Detroit to study the failures of the U.S. real estate market, labor unions, and Black capitalism. My work will counter these narratives by examining what has succeeded in Detroit. In the wake of the city's 2013 bankruptcy, the city remains home to vibrant radical movements that hide in plain sight. From the Black Lives Matter-supporting protest organization Detroit Will Breathe to the Trumbullplex to a growing urban farming movement, contemporary Detroit is a site of radical success and radical hope.

I am requesting a total of \$690.44 to purchase primary documents. I am requesting \$240.44 to purchase primary source books, mostly memoirs written by various figures who participated in radical political and artistic movements in Detroit. The list of books I would like to purchase is below. I am additionally requesting \$150 for a yearlong membership to Newspapers.com in order to access the archives of the Detroit Free Press. I am asking for an additional \$300 to be used for scanned documents from the Bentley Library and the Labadie Archive of Radical Ephemera at the University of Michigan. The library charges \$.25/page and \$12/hour for scanning materials. I would like to get scans from the papers of Harvey Ovshinsky, John and Leni Sinclair, Fredy Perlman, Rev. Albert B. Cleage, the anarchist zine "Babyfish Lost Its Mama," and Jerry Vile. These are archives I plan to use extensively in my dissertation research and these initial scans will allow me to write my prospectus and plan future visits.

These funds will allow me to begin doing the research needed to write my dissertation prospectus and achieve candidacy this coming year. The archives I need to visit are currently only open to students and faculty of the University of Michigan, so these funds will help me

¹ Heather Ann Thompson, *Whose Detroit? Politics, Labor, and Race in a Modern American City* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2001).

make up for an archive trip that I would have made during this winter break. With these materials I will be able to do the research necessary to write my dissertation prospectus in the coming year and stay on track with my program's expectations despite the current difficulties we are all facing as researchers amid the pandemic.

Primary Source books:

Grace Lee Boggs memoirs *Living for Change* \$17.40 and *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century* \$19.69

James Boggs collection *Pages from a Black Radicals' Notebook* \$32.99

Harvey Ovshinsky memoir *Scratching the Surface: Adventures in Storytelling* \$27.99

John Sinclair memoir, *Guitar Army: Rock and Revolution with the MC5 and the White Panther Party* \$22.95

Wayne Kramer memoir, *The Hard Stuff: Dope, Crime, the MC5, and My Life of Impossibilities* \$15.49

Iggy Pop memoir, *Total Chaos: The Story of the Stooges as told by Iggy Pop* \$33.99

The anthologized hardcore punk zine *Touch and Go* \$34.95

The anthologized punk zine *White Noise* \$34.99