

## **Reclaiming the Commons** **Peoples Movement Assembly**

Work & Labor Group  
Week 2

### **Opening Conversation**

#### \*\*\*Challenges

Intellectual:

10 Million places to start → knowing where to start → how and where to make impact

Learning a lot of issues and context at once in the Speaker Series

Movement:

Finding/ making the courage to ask for just compensation

How do overworked/ underpaid people create capacity to put (more) work into movement spaces?

What is the balance between compensated and volunteer work?

Systemic:

How to incentivize corporations to not maximize profits at the expense of people

Having enough work for everyone

What would paying fairly mean to consumers (in the USA)

Will we have jobs for too much longer?

What is the future of Detroit's identity as a "working"/ "Jobs" city

#### \*\*Strengths

Asking questions

Learning about power of institutions

Open mind & New perspectives

Conceptualizing others' perspectives

Making connections between ideas

Capable

Working when feeling valued

### **What can we Do: Action Steps**

#### \*\*\*Self-reflection

What are you really interested in?

Participate in education in both community and educational/institutional spaces

#### \*\*\*Talking to your friends and co-workers

What are just wages

Are you overworked  
What can we do together as workers

**\*\*Addressing burnout on the campus and in the movement**

Stop glamorizing being overworked

Understand and recognize the messages coming from capitalist culture

- “Play the Game or You’re Out”
- Pressure
- Mechanisms of Elite Institutions
- Baby Burnout and pressure placed upon children at early stages of life

**\*\*What is non-capitalist pressure?**

Familial, neighborhood obligations

Respecting elders

Spiritual practice, taboos, and obligations

### **Resolutions—How do we impact college/ capitalist/ movement culture?**

1. Don’t ridicule self-care/ stop glamorizing being overworked
2. Take care of your friends and comrades to help them survive and thrive; taking the time to be an active support; don’t only value them for their “work”
3. Disinvest/ Reinvest  
This means disengaging your life from existing systems while creating new systems. At the same time educating people who are on the fence so they understand what is at stake, how they are being harmed, and how new possibilities are available.
4. Find a group or collective to work & learn with
5. Political study  
This includes talking to elders. This can include researching movements of the past and their leaders for example Cesar Chavez & Delores Huerta (education, boycotting, cultural connections, multi-racial organizing) and the Afrikan Blood Brotherhood (Pan-African movement of early 20<sup>th</sup> century, internationalist perspectives, looking for economic alternatives to oppressions)