

**Reclaiming the Commons**  
**Peoples Movement Assembly**  
**Facilitator: Dorteia E. Thomas**

Water, Food, Housing  
Week 2

**Challenges in the movement:**

- No personal experience but operate in perspective (student)
- Having good intentions doesn't always yield (+) results
- Losing hope without the ability to organize with a clear vision (what's ahead)
- Looking at scope of the work around water/food/housing is discouraging
- The ability to create a sense of urgency and that change is possible (inspiring hope)
- Having the patience in talking about and educating others about important issues from their own perspective
  - Trying to "meet people where they are"
- Becoming better at communicating the importance of issues
  - having more knowledge and being prepared to present the facts on issues
- Self-education + Personal lack of experience = challenging situation as students
- Learning how to identify personal stake in issue
- Managing expectations and outcomes of actions in the movement (own vs. collective group/ body)

**Strengths**

- Educating oneself + others to spread the message (movement-building)
- Being plugged into radical organizing spaces by association
- Connection to institutions, networks and financial power to accomplish goals (students)
- Ability in developing ways to facilitate for voices to be heard at the decision making tables
- Privilege of level of education and facilitation of acknowledge programs to introduce to others.
- Commitment to seeking knowledge and growth
- Position of patience
- Discipline and follow-through as an engineer
- Communicating clearly in writing
- Visualizing data and creating new data (technologically advanced)
- Positive attitude on possibilities - the ability to be optimistic in tough times.

**What can we do/ build together: Action Steps**

- create generational home ownership/ communal living spaces
  - Detroit has a history of co/ops
- Create a public narrative that would push community-focused living and co/ops as a model for housing
- Find structures and systems that hold space to unify people

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- Promote community ownership
  - apply to business models such as D-town farms
- Empower community organizations

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

- Combat institutionalized oppression through policy
  - demand true democratic representation by electing our own people
- Educate on available resources- make connection tangible
- Expand the division of wealth and research history
- Have communities involved in decisions/ conversations that affect them
- Combat the fabrication of scarcity narrative
  - work in spaces that informs the public, educate and spread information
- Educate youth on interconnectedness of issues (intersectionality)
  - Urban vs suburban - “How does Detroit affects us all?”
  - Grassroots focused narrative