

## Struggles in Cincinnati

The City of Cincinnati is facing widespread homelessness, high rents, and gentrification.

**This is a housing crisis.**

**People are on the streets.**

We believe that the City Council's lack of efforts to fix these issues are unacceptable. Rather than a bolstered police force, we need addiction centers, shelters & housing, eviction prevention, and much more.

New developments are presented as improving the neighborhood, and while these may bring some nice short-term changes, their ultimate purpose is to make the neighborhood a more profitable investment for real estate developers.

A large part of this process is displacing those that already live in the neighborhood; these are often people in poverty and/or minority ethnic groups.

Those in power want us to blame our neighbors for "not trying hard enough". **This is a trick.** They are distracting you from the fact that they have more than enough wealth to ensure everyone has shelter, a stable job, and more.

**Why is it fair for new bars to be built, when what the community really needs is a grocery store? Does it have to be this way?**

## Learning from Past Movements

We strongly believe there is a better way. A way to offer communities the basic necessities of human life, where governments have failed.

There are many examples of groups building power from the ground up to get real improvements to their lives. One local example is the **Over-The-Rhine Peoples' Movement** as described by Dan La Botz in "*Who Rules Cincinnati?*":

"Led from 1973 to 1996 by buddy gray, the 1970s and 1980s witnessed the creation of several institutions and local organizations, such as the Drop Inn Center, ReSTOC, the Over-the-Rhine Housing Network, and Peaslee Neighborhood Center, that assisted and organized the city's poorest community in housing, social service, education, arts, and culture."

La Botz also explores the historical mis-investment of the City government's funding, revealing that they have funnelled at least \$60 million into corporations during recent history - including \$15 million spent on a downtown garage for Kroger in 2003.

| 2023 Cincinnati Budget Item | Enterprise Services | Public Services |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Funding (non-personnel)     | \$16.5 million      | \$8.1 million   |

These same issues are continuing today, with Camp Washington and other Cincinnati neighborhoods experiencing the negative influence of capital every day.



### Issue 2:

## GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING AND LEARNING FROM PAST STRUGGLES

# Who We Are

We are a grassroots socialist organization aspiring to organize among communities to fight against issues like poverty, homelessness, and the housing crisis. We work not only to get peoples' basic needs met, but to create a community that can help bring lasting change.

Cincinnati Community Aid and Praxis (CCAP) takes inspiration from two revolutionary groups: *The Young Lords* and *The Black Panthers*.



**The Black Panther Party**, founded in 1966 by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, was a revolutionary organization built to fight against white supremacy and build power for the people. A key slogan was, and is: **"All Power to the People."**

Founded in 1968, **The Young Lords of NYC** didn't just settle for voting for politicians, symbolic gestures or murals. They took power into their own hands; conducting tests for lead poisoning through door-to-door surveys and barricading the streets using litter the city had failed to clean up in their neighborhoods. In other words, the Young Lords **forced the city to act**.



**Movements for radical change start with coming together and learning the history of past struggles.**

**This is why CCAP is starting a local study session.**



## CCAP Study Sessions

We'll be studying the history of gentrification of Over-the-Rhine, as well as the "artwashing" of Boyle Heights, LA, and the revolutionary theory used by those which fought against it. These topics are likely to shift as we progress.

The point of studying these readings is that Cincinnati faces many of the same issues. We need to learn how the neighborhoods and communities of Cincinnati can get the resources they deserve, without contributing to gentrification efforts.

These study sessions will be similar to our book club, where we'll read the content aloud in person and then collectively discuss, either as a whole or as smaller groups. We hope to build a fulfilling communal space; a chance to get to know each other and share our experiences.

Most importantly, we don't want to just talk about these issues, but we're inviting you to join us in researching and studying these issues in order to build a solution from the ground up; We want you to join us so we can accomplish change together.

This means organizing for better air and water, more power to tenants for secure housing, and more.

We know that we are asking a lot by asking you to take time out of your day for us, so we want to make sure it's worth your while. For this reason, we will also be providing food and drinks.

Any level of participation is fine; we want to do everything we can to make organizing accessible to the community.

CCAP does not, and will never, work with landlords and we will never give away information to social service agencies. All we want is to know the needs of the people, in order to better serve the community and build connections with its people.

If you are interested,  
please reach out to us  
on Instagram at  
**@cincycap**

Alternatively, you can email us at  
**cincycap@protonmail.com**