

THE  
LOS ANGELES  
ARCHIVISTS COLLECTIVE

# HANDBOOK

FOR THE

ACTIVIST  
ARCHIVIST



This handbook is a call to action. As archivists and LIS professionals, we have an ethical imperative to get involved with the communities we document and serve, to commit to them, and stand with them. There are many ways to do this, some of which are found in this handbook. Whether you try an idea in this zine, or take a different approach, the important thing is to take action!

This handbook was created through a collaboration of the LAAC Subcommittee for Community Outreach & Advocacy, and a network of our peers. We hope you'll look up the resources inside, use the ideas, and share it with your friends!

December 2016

## VOLUNTEER AT YOUR LOCAL ARCHIVE!

Los Angeles has many institutions documenting, working with, and working in support of marginalized communities. These institutions may need your volunteer time - here are a few to ask!

**The Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum**  
[claytonmuseum.org](http://claytonmuseum.org)

**Center for the Study of Political Graphics**  
[politicalgraphics.org](http://politicalgraphics.org)

**Southern California Library**  
[socallib.org](http://socallib.org)

**ONE Archives**  
<http://one.usc.edu/>

**Pacifica Radio Archives**  
[pacificaradioarchives.org](http://pacificaradioarchives.org)

**June Mazer Lesbian Archives**  
[mazerlesbianarchives.org](http://mazerlesbianarchives.org)

**Tom of Finland Foundation Library**  
[tomoffinlandfoundation.org/foundation/Library/Library.html](http://tomoffinlandfoundation.org/foundation/Library/Library.html)

## LOCAL/NATIONAL LIS SOCIAL JUSTICE ORIENTED GROUPS

LIS/Archives and the New Administration  
[facebook.com/groups/341282516236431/](https://facebook.com/groups/341282516236431/)

Level Up Information Literacy  
[facebook.com/groups/1190447421049667/](https://facebook.com/groups/1190447421049667/)

SAA Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable  
<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/archivists-and-archives-of-color-roundtable>

SAA Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable  
<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar>

Critlib  
[critlib.org/](http://critlib.org/)



## LOCAL NON-LIS ORGANIZATIONS WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE ORIENTATIONS

Women's Center for Creative Work (WCCW)

[womenscenterforcreativework.com/](http://womenscenterforcreativework.com/)

Feminist Library on Wheels (F.L.O.W.)

[feministlibraryonwheels.com/](http://feministlibraryonwheels.com/)

California Calls

[cacalls.org/](http://cacalls.org/)

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment

[acceaction.org/](http://acceaction.org/)

Strategic Concepts in Organizing and  
Policy Education (SCOPE)

[scopela.org/](http://scopela.org/)

Black Lives Matter- Los Angeles

[facebook.com/blmla/](https://facebook.com/blmla/)

Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural & Bookstore

[tiachucha.org/about](http://tiachucha.org/about)

Community Coalition

[cocosouthla.org/](http://cocosouthla.org/)

InnerCity Struggle

[innercitystruggle.org/](http://innercitystruggle.org/)

The Watts Labor Community Action Center (WLCAC)

[wlcac.org/home.htm](http://wlcac.org/home.htm)

The William Grant Still Art Center

[wgsac.wordpress.com/](http://wgsac.wordpress.com/)

Million Voters Project (MVP)

[millionvotersproject.org/](http://millionvotersproject.org/)

The Garment Worker Center (GWC)

[garmentworkercenter.org/](http://garmentworkercenter.org/)

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of  
Los Angeles (CHIRLA)

[chirla.org/](http://chirla.org/)

Central American Resource Center (CARECEN-LA)

[carecen-la.org/](http://carecen-la.org/)

Self Help Graphics & Art

[selfhelpgraphics.com/](http://selfhelpgraphics.com/)

Homeboy Industries

[homeboyindustries.org/](http://homeboyindustries.org/)

Youth Justice Coalition

[facebook.com/YouthJusticeLA/about/](https://facebook.com/YouthJusticeLA/about/)

Museum of Social Justice

[museumofsocialjustice.org](http://museumofsocialjustice.org)



# DO SOME RESEARCH WITH COLLECTIONS IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA ABOUT ACTIVISM AND/OR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES!

Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles,  
Community Relations Committee Collection  
CSUN Urban Archives

Ernesto Chavez Collection of  
Chicano Movement FBI Records  
UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

Gilbert G. Benjamin, Jr. Subversive Activities Collection  
CSUN Urban Archives

Women Against Violence Against Women  
(WAVAW) Collection  
UCLA Library Special Collections

Jack and Aiko Herzig Papers  
on Japanese Internment  
UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Frances R. Eisenberg Los Angeles City Schools  
Loyalty Oath Collection  
UCLA Library Special Collections

Campus Unrest and Related  
Campus Activities Collection  
CSUN Urban Archives

The Church of the Epiphany  
Chicano Civil Rights Archive  
UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

California March on Sacramento  
for Lesbian and Gay Rights Records  
ONE Archives

American Civil Liberties Union of  
Southern California Records  
UCLA Library Special Collections

ACT UP / Los Angeles records  
ONE Archives

Elena Popp Papers  
UCLA Chicano Studies  
Research Center

InnerCity Struggle Collection  
Cal State LA East LA Archives

Carlos Montes Papers  
Cal State LA East LA Archives



## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES!

Be specific!

Call state or district offices first,  
national offices if you can't get through!

Letters are great too, and postcards  
are just short letters!

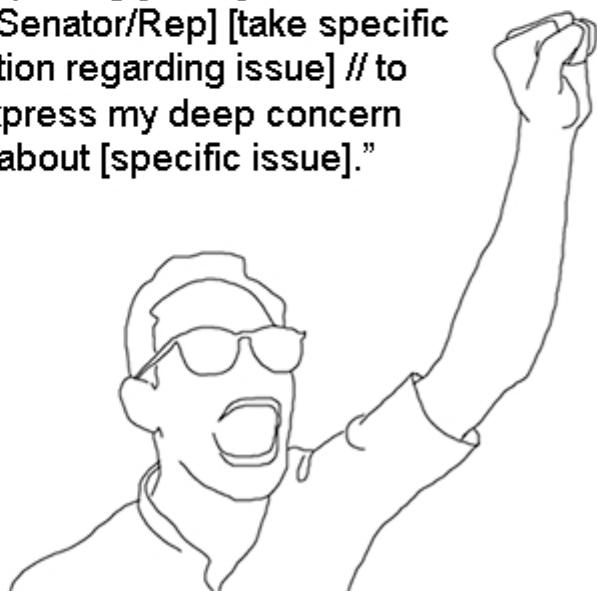
Check out [gumroad.com/callthehallsguide](http://gumroad.com/callthehallsguide)  
for more information on how to  
effectively contact your reps!

Find the "We're His Problem Now" Calling Sheet  
online for more tips and scripts!



Here's a starter script to try.  
It's not fancy, but if you're nervous  
it'll help you get the gist across!

**"I'm [name], a constituent from  
[city], [state], [zipcode] calling  
to express my emphatic support  
for [issue] // to thank [Senator/Rep]  
for supporting [issue] // to demand  
that [Senator/Rep] [take specific  
action regarding issue] // to  
express my deep concern  
about [specific issue]."**

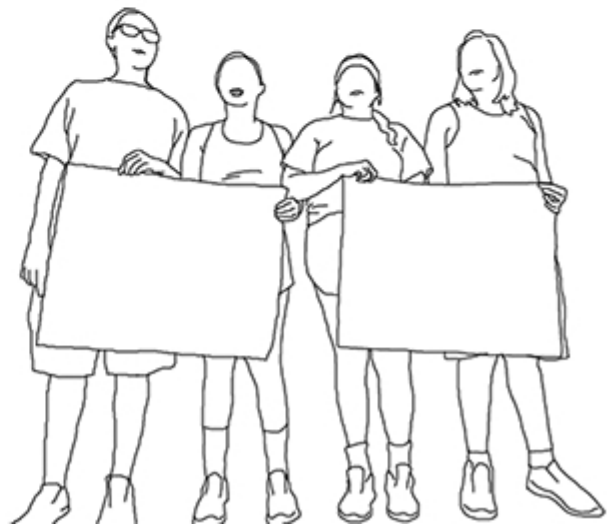


MY US SENATOR IS \_\_\_\_\_  
AND CAN BE REACHED AT  
( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

MY STATE SENATOR  
IS \_\_\_\_\_  
AND CAN BE REACHED AT  
( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

MY US HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE  
IS \_\_\_\_\_  
AND CAN BE REACHED AT  
( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

MY STATE ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE  
IS \_\_\_\_\_  
AND CAN BE REACHED AT  
( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_



## READ UP!

Flinn, Andrew. "**Archival Activism: Independent and Community-led Archives, Radical Public History and the Heritage Professions**. *InterActions: UCLA Journal of Education and Information Studies* 7, no. 2 (2011).

Caswell, Michelle. "**Toward a Survivor-Centered Approach to Records Documenting Human Rights Abuse: Lessons from Community Archives**" *Archival Science* 14 (2014): 307-322.

Drake, Jarrett, "**Liberatory Archives: Towards Belonging and Believing (Part 1)**"  
On Archivy (blog), October 22, 2016.

Wood, Stacy, Marika Cifor, Anne Gilliland, Kathy Carbone, and Ricardo Punzalan, "**Mobilizing Records: Re-Framing Archival Description to Support Human Rights**" *Archival Science* 14 (2014): 397-419.

Caswell, Michelle and Marika Cifor. "**From Human Rights to Feminist Ethics: Radical Empathy in Archives**" *Archivaria* 81 (Spring 2016): 23-43.

Hensen, Steven L. "**The President's Papers are the People's Business**" editorial from the *Washington Post*, 2001.

Duff, Wendy, Andrew Flinn, Karen Suurtammn, David Wallace, "**Social Justice Impact of Archives: A Preliminary Investigation**" *Archival Science* 13 (2013): 317-348.

## MORE RESOURCES

Activists' Guide to Archiving Video (written in part by Yvonne Ng, Senior Archivist for Witness):  
[archiveguide.witness.org/](http://archiveguide.witness.org/)

Utilize eyewitness footage in investigations, reports and human rights documentation ethically:  
[library.witness.org/product/video-as-evidence-ethical-guidelines/](http://library.witness.org/product/video-as-evidence-ethical-guidelines/)

Protect your communications online:  
[ssd.eff.org/en/playlist/activist-or-protester](http://ssd.eff.org/en/playlist/activist-or-protester)

Work for intellectual freedom in libraries:  
[libraryfreedomproject.org/](http://libraryfreedomproject.org/)

Call out fake news:  
[factcheck.org/2016/11/how-to-spot-fake-news/](http://factcheck.org/2016/11/how-to-spot-fake-news/)

Receive weekly action suggestions:  
[wall-of-us.org](http://wall-of-us.org)





# A FEW TIPS

Schedule a reoccurring appointment  
with activism on your calendar!

Get active with friends!

Be sustainable - keep at it!

