

THE RAINBOW COALITION



Chicago's Rainbow Coalition. Photo courtesy of Cha-Cha Jimenez.

Chairman Fred Hampton, Jr. was only 21-years-old when, under the guise of a “war on gangs,” the FBI and Chicago Police raided his home and sprayed more than 90 gunshots throughout his apartment. He was sleeping next to his nine-month pregnant girlfriend and was shot in his bed. Eight months earlier that year, the charismatic leader formed the Rainbow Coalition which was an anticlass, antiracist, multiracial, and socialist political movement that fought for poor people after decades of police brutality and substandard housing led disparate groups to find common ground and collectively combat these issues. Due to ongoing harassment from authorities, the Coalition eventually collapsed under pressure and nonetheless made its mark in creating a model for future activists and diverse politicians across America.

Redlining produced highly racially segregated neighborhoods that were enforced by gangs in street life. Hampton fought racism not with racism, but with solidarity with other races and ethnicities in Chicago, including Chicago’s major gangs, the Latino group the Young Lords Organization, and the working-class young southern whites of the Young Patriots. The Coalition was joined nationwide by the Students for a Democratic Society (“SDS”), the Brown Berets, the American Indian Movement and the Red Guard Party. The participating groups supported each other at protests, strikes, and demonstrations where they had a common cause.



Click the play button to listen to a custom playlist for Knowledge Point 7!



RELATED VIDEOS AND RESOURCES



The First Rainbow Coalition Documentary | PBS
Trailer (30 sec)



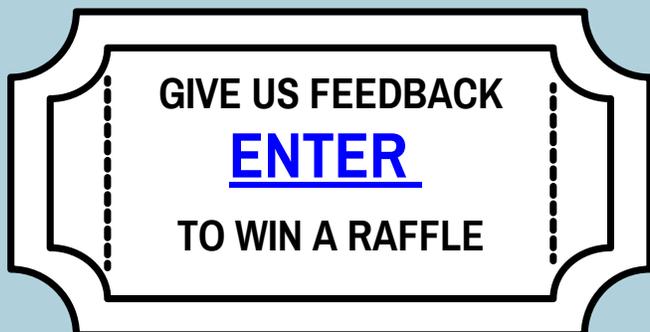
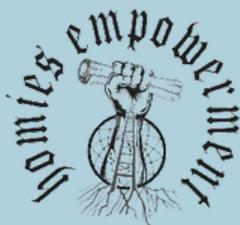
Young Lords Talk About Activism and Rainbow Coalition (4 min)



Fifty Years of Fred Hampton's Rainbow Coalition
| Southside Weekly

RELATED ACCOUNTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Below are links to programs that serve the Black community here in the bay! Check them out!



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SOURCES

“Former Young Lords Talk Latino Activism.” NBCNews.com, NBCUniversal News Group, 27 May 2021, www.nbcnews.com/video/former-young-lords-talk-latino-activism-569569859559.

PBS. “Official Trailer | the First Rainbow COALITION | Independent Lens | PBS.” YouTube, YouTube, 14 Jan. 2020, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCeQuRTbCgE.

Serrato, Jacqueline. “Fifty Years of Fred Hampton's Rainbow Coalition.” South Side Weekly, 14 Feb. 2021, southsideweekly.com/fifty-years-fred-hampton-rainbow-coalition-young-lords-black-panthers/.