Social change

RULES
no illegal drugs
no more pets
no soap in stream
no picnickers
visitors welcome
no sleepovers without parents OK
use trench
Unity in struggle. Unity of struggle.
Social change

Social justice, as W.E.B. Du Bois argued, cannot easily be compartmentalized. The struggles for racial, gender, and economic equality, for example, are so deeply intertwined that to make progress in one requires attention to all.

With this in mind, Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) focuses its collecting not on individual social movements, but on the process of social change itself: the myriad ways in which people seek to better the world around them. Our goal is to document the links between and among movements and the ebb and flow of ideas, individuals, and organizations that make up the larger stories of how lasting social change is created and experienced.
Main collecting areas

- Alternative energy
- Antifluoridation
- Antinuclear
- Antiracism
- Civil rights
- Communism and Socialism
- Counterculture
- Disability rights
- Drug policy reform
- Economic justice
- Environment & conservation
- Intentional communities
- Labor movement
- LGBT rights
- Mass incarceration
- Organic & sustainable agriculture
- Peace and antiwar
- Political radicalism
- Racial justice
- Spiritual renewal
- Social equality
Collaborate with SCUA to preserve your part in the history of social change. We offer excellent long-term care for collections, a robust digitization program, and superior service for scholars, students, and communities who wish to learn from their own pasts. Online or in person, we are open to all, free of charge.

Your contributions are the key.

To inquire about our collections or contribute, please contact any of the archivists at SCUA (scua@library.umass.edu). Your donations may be eligible for a tax deduction.
SCUA documents the whole lives of people who create social change and whole communities who work together, all with an eye toward providing a rich context for future research. For individuals and organizations alike, unpublished materials have a particular value for revealing what goes on behind the scenes. We place a priority on preserving letters and diaries, minutes of meetings, ephemera, photographs, sound and video recordings — anything that helps inform how we understand our past and how we can commemorate it for generations to come.
Johnson Pasture Commune, 1969 (Roy Finestone Collection)
Infant and dog on porch, ca.1910 (Burt V. Brooks Collection)
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party protest at Democratic convention, Aug. 1964
   (Gloria Xifaras Clark Collection)
Civil rights demonstration, Cairo, Ill., 1962 (Stephen Saltonstall Collection)
Beholders Puppet Theatre at Seabrook, 1976 (Lionel Delevigne Collection)
March for Sacco and Vanzetti, 1927 (Alton H. Blackington Collection)
   (Jeff Albertson Collection)
Bruce Geisler and Brian McCue, ca.1971 (Daniel Brown Collection)
Rail station and ice cream parlor, Lake Pleasant, ca.1900 (Lake Pleasant Collection)
Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights march, Mar. 25, 1965 (Herman Nash Papers)