Our mission is to nurture the transformational leadership capacities of individuals and organizations committed to creating productive, sustainable, ecologically responsible, and just communities. Through local, national and international networks of activists, artists and intellectuals we foster new ways of living, being and thinking to face the challenges of the 21st century.

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Biography

Dr. Grace Lee Boggs, born to Chinese immigrant parents in 1915, is an activist, writer and speaker whose 70 years of political involvement encompass the major U.S. social movements of the 20th century: labor, Civil Rights, Black power, Asian American, women’s and environmental justice.

In 1940 she received her Ph.D. in Philosophy from Bryn Mawr College. In the 1940s and early 1950s, she worked with West Indian Marxist historian C.L.R. James. In 1953 she came to Detroit where she married James Boggs, African-American auto worker, labor and community activist, writer and strategist.

Working together in grassroots groups and projects, they were partners for more than 40 years until James’ death in July 1993. Their 1974 book, Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century was re-issued by Monthly Review Press with Grace’s new 50-page introduction in 2008. Her autobiography, Living for Change published by University of Minnesota Press in 1998 is widely used in university classes on social movements and autobiography writing.

Grace has received many lifetime achievement awards and four honorary doctorates, including from the University of Michigan, which stated in 2009: “You have been dynamically transformative in a pivotal epoch of human history, which you have illuminated through bold activism and thoughtful writing, providing the world with inspiring reflection and vigorous calls to action. By nurturing Detroit as a city of Hope, you have brought optimism and inspiration to our state and country.”
Michigan Citizen, January 2, 2011 “Looking forward to 2011”
http://michigancitizen.com/looking-forward-to-p9362-77.htm

Common Dreams, August 23, 2010 “Living for Change: If Not Now, When?”

Yes! Magazine, May 12, 2010 “A Requiem for Detroit?”
http://www.yesmagazine.org/blogs/grace-lee-boggs/living-for-change-a-requiem-for-detroit

Al-Jazeera English, Fault Lines
May 14, 2009: “Despair and Revival in Detroit”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCo63ntCxA&feature=related

“The way I look at Detroit is that we have a space to begin anew. You can look at vacant lots in one way, you can look at it as abandoned, you can look at it as the end of civilization, or you can look at it as the beginning of the new.”

US Social Forum
June 2010, Detroit: “In Conversation with Immanuel Wallerstein”
http://vimeo.com/13407876

“There are very few times in history when the free will factor matters as much as it does today. Each of us must live by that conception—that the world of 2050 will be what we make it. We have the power within us to change the world.”

Bill Moyers Journal
June 15, 2007: www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/06152007/profile2.html

Democracy Now
2008: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzwAVihByqw&feature=related

North Dakota Study Group
February, 2010: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noHEzg8_ruw
Voices of the James and Grace Lee Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership

Shea Howell is a professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, where she teaches courses on communication theory and multicultural and political communication. Her most recent book is *Making Sense of Political Ideology*. She writes a weekly column for *The Michigan Citizen* and is a co-founder of Detroit Summer, a multicultural, inter-generational youth leadership program that engages the talents and energies of young people to rebuild and redefine Detroit from the ground up.

http://www.boggscenter.org/fi-shea-02-26-2011_sham_discussions.html

Ron Scott is a community and civil rights organizer, attorney and media maker from Detroit. He was a co-founder of the Detroit branch of the Black Panther Party in the 1960s, and later founded the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality (http://www.detroit-coalition.org/). He writes on the *Detroit News* political blog: http://apps.detnews.com/apps/blogs/politicsblog/index.php?bloggerid=75.

*Democracy Now*, May 19, 2010:  
www.democracynow.org/2010/5/19/family_of_slain_7_year_old  
Ron speaks on community response after the killing of 7-year-old Aiyana Stanley Jones by Detroit Police.

Richard Feldman was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and attended University of Michigan from 1967-1970. He moved to Detroit to work in an auto plant and organize for the next American Revolution. He worked on the assembly line for 20 years and, for ten years, was an elected union representative at the Ford Michigan Truck Plant. In 1988, he co-authored the book *End of the Line: Auto Workers and the American Dream*.  
He has been married to Janice Fialka (www.danceofpartnership.com) for 30 years and has two children, Emma and Micah. The family is active in the disability rights/pride and inclusive education movement (www.throughthethesamedoor.com). His email is RichardFeldman60@gmail.com.

Kim Sherobby is a retired school teacher and community activist. For 26 years, she taught physical education for the Detroit Public Schools. Her involvement in metro Detroit neighborhoods has span for over 20 years.  
Kim has volunteered for numerous government agencies, non-profit and community organizations such as the Boggs Center, Adams Butzel Recreation Center, Reggie McKenzie Foundation, Money Matters for Youth, Detroit Parent Network, Birwood Block Association, Healing Support Network and Detroit Impact. Presently, Kim is the Community Liaison for the East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC).