

Now Available

A much-needed guide to nourish the grassroots by someone who's been doing this for quite a long time. Susie Erenrich has given us a gift that will help build the next generation of leaders and activists. She understands that we must begin with art and culture if we want to stand a chance at changing hearts and minds.

— **Andy Shallal**, CEO and Founder Busboys and Poets

As a longtime artist and activist, I'm delighted to welcome this more than timely book that puts it all together. There's a lifetime of wisdom in its pages.

— **John McCutcheon**, Folk Musician, Activist, and Author

What Susie Erenrich and Debra DeRuyver have done in creating this anthology is give the world a most precious gift. For those of us who have and who continue to fight the good fight towards a more just and humane world, they offer us a dance, a song, a visual journey down memory lane inclusive of all its joy and heartache for all the successes and setbacks. They offer new and emerging organizers and rabble rousers a guide to what has come before so that they may learn what has worked and what some of the pitfalls are to avoid. This anthology reminds us to never forget to sing our song, dance our love, paint our struggles and dreams, and write and play our story.

— **Susan McKeivitt, PhD**, Author of *What Keeps Them Going: Factors that Sustain US Women's Life-Long Peace and Social Justice Activism*

A pathfinder and profound work of great heart and hope, paving the way in social change.

— **Carolyn Hester**, 60s Folksinger Songwriter

A GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP AND ARTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE PRIMER

for Educators, Organizers, Activists & Rabble-Rousers

Edited by Susan J. Erenrich and Debra DeRuyver

For grassroots organizers, this book is a collection of the works of masters, works to turn to and learn from so that people can go out and lead social change, show us a different world, and help us enact that different world.

— **Steven S. Taylor**, Playwright and Professor of Leadership and Creativity, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Business School

I am thrilled by the range of contributors to this volume, both those whose work I know and those who I have yet to meet. Hailing from theater, song, visual arts, poetry, and other mediums, from across the globe, they are important sources for all of us who embrace both art and social justice.

— **Jan Cohen-Cruz**, Freelance Writer/Researcher and Faculty Member, Performance Creation MA, Touchstone Theater/Moravian University

Whether you're involved in community theatre, socially conscious music, cultural organizing, grassroots leadership development, community building, direct action organizing, politics, resistance movements, or any of the many ways in which we use the arts to work towards a gentler, kinder, more just world, this book will be a valued lifetime friend.

— **Si Kahn**, Singer-Songwriter, Founder of Grassroots Leadership, and Cofounder of folkVote

A fearless exploration into what it means to be a leader of social change through the arts. Passionate and unapologetic – exactly the way art should be!

— **Professor Jenna Ward**, Coventry University

If anyone thinks the arts – or culture, broadly defined – are peripheral to social activism and change, this collection of essays is the antidote. The emphasis is on leadership and direct action, aimed at working artists, activists, and educators. The focus is grassroots because all politics, including the politics of struggle, is local. The sensibility is rabble rousing, as today it should be. A combination of Saul Alinsky meets Paulo Freire, this book is timely and essential.

— **Kevin Avruch**, Henry Hart Rice Professor of Conflict Resolution Emeritus, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University

As a life-long educator, organizer, activist, and rabble-rouser, I was delighted to see this guide to the work we do appear in an era where these tasks are more imperative than ever before. It's an inspiring and heartening read, just the thing to sum up long years of hard work and propel new activists along their own paths of action and reflection.

— **Ken Hammond**, New Mexico State University; Answer Coalition

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