



Printed ephemera Collection
Library and Robert F. Wagner
Labor Archives
Formed in 1936 by residents of
Knickerbocker Village, the City
Wide Tenants Council was the
first citywide federation of tenant
associations in NYC (1938).

Interference Archive presents **We Won't Move: Tenants Organize in New York City**, an exploration of collective action by NYC tenants for decent and affordable housing from the 1940s to the present. The creation and subsequent dismantling of the rent regulation system forms the backdrop to a rich history of tenant struggle, including: neighborhood resistance to urban renewal in the South Bronx, integration struggles at Stuyvesant Town and in Brooklyn, rent strikes in Harlem and

Bedford-Stuyvesant, the coordinated takeover of vacant housing during Operation Move-In, and repeated campaigns to renew and strengthen the rent laws. In addition to highlighting the diverse array of tactics employed by tenant organizers, the exhibition situates the fight for affordable housing within racial and economic justice struggles. Through these campaigns New Yorkers have claimed the right to live in a city that is integrated and affordable. The exhibition brings together materials from tenant organizations, community archives and institutions to present flyers, posters, photographs, newspaper clippings and audio recordings from past and present tenant organizing.

The final section of the exhibition, developed in collaboration with tenant organizations from across the city, examines current campaigns against tenant harassment, predatory equity, luxury housing, the cluster site shelter program, and gentrification-driven policing. With New York's rent laws set to expire in June 2015, this exhibition showcases our city's continuous history of effective and militant tenant action for housing justice.

Above Rent Guidelines Board hearing (1984).
Private collection of the Metropolitan Council on Housing
Left Tenants demonstrate in support of the Emergency Tenant Protection Act, which extended rent stabilization to most of the apartments affected by vacancy decontrol (circa 1975).
Private collection of the Metropolitan Council on Housing



“There is no place to move -- so let's stay and fight to the finish.”

The **WE WON'T MOVE COMMITTEE** of the Metropolitan Council on Housing, circa 1970

This exhibition was developed in collaboration with:
Asian Americans for Equality
Banana Kelly CIA, Inc.
CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities
Community Action for Safe Apartments
Cooper Square Committee
Crown Heights Tenant Union
Equality for Flatbush
Flatbush Tenant Coalition
Metropolitan Council on Housing
Southside United HDFC – Los Sures®
St Nicks Alliance
Tenants & Neighbors
United Community Centers, Inc.
Urban Homesteading Assistance Board

Organized by Maggie Schreiner with Ash Bayer, Bonnie Gordon, Jen Hoyer, Karen Hwang and Greg Mihalko

Design by Partner & Partners

This project is sponsored, in part, by the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC).



Interference Archive explores the relationship between cultural production and social movements. This work manifests in public exhibitions, a study and social center, talks, screenings, publications, workshops, and an online presence. Through our programming, we use cultural ephemera to animate histories of people mobilizing for social transformation. We consider the use of our collection to be a way of preserving and honoring histories and material culture that is often marginalized in mainstream institutions. As an archive from below, we are a collectively run space that is people powered, with open stacks and accessibility for all. We work in collaboration with like-minded projects, and encourage critical as well as creative engagement with our own histories and current struggles.

The archive is all volunteer and relies on the help of many people. We welcome you to get involved. Visit www.interferencearchive.org for more information.

Interference Archive
131 8th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215
F/G/R trains to 4th & 9th

Hours
Thursday, 1—9pm
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 12—5pm

An exhibition at
Interference Archive

March 26th
Opening Reception

March 26 through
June 15, 2015



**TENANTS ORGANIZE
IN NEW YORK CITY**

Programs & Events

MARCH

March 26
Opening Party
7pm

RECEPTION at [Interference Archive](#)
Join us to celebrate the opening of *We Won't Move: Tenants Organize in New York City* an exhibition of collective action by NYC tenants for decent and affordable housing from the 1940s to the present.

APRIL

April 4
My Brooklyn
7pm

SCREENING & DISCUSSION at [Interference Archive](#) of issues raised in the film with Director **Kelly Anderson**

WON'T

May 16
Housing Justice in NYC: Tenant Organizers in Conversation
4pm

DISCUSSION at [Brooklyn Public Library](#) 10 Grand Army Plaza, Info Commons Lab Join us for an informal conversation between members from CAAAV: **Organizing Asian Communities**, **Community Action for Safe Apartments**, **Cooper Square Committee**, **Crown Heights Tenant Union**, **Equality for Flatbush**, **Flatbush Tenant Coalition**, **Met Council on Housing and Tenants & Neighbors** about current issues and organizing in different neighborhoods. Connect with the organizations and individuals fighting for housing justice in our city!

May 6
Know Your Rights Workshop for Tenants
7pm

WORKSHOP at [Interference Archive](#) with **Mario Mazzoni** of **Penn South Mutual Redevelopment Houses** Get an overview of basic NYC tenant rights, learn how to determine the type of housing you live in, and how to fight for your tenant rights!

WE

April 10
Strengthening Rent Regulation
3pm

WORKSHOP with [Tenants & Neighbors](#)
Explore the loopholes in the rent regulation system and how they cause gentrification in our communities. Learn about the current campaign for a stronger rent regulation system.

April 30
Policing and Gentrification
7pm

PANEL DISCUSSION at [Interference Archive](#)
Introduction by **Christina Hanhardt**, author of *Safe Space: Gay Neighborhoods History and the Politics of Violence* with panelists from **Equality for Flatbush**, **GOLES** and **Picture the Homeless**. This panel brings together organizers, residents and academics to discuss the intersections between policing and housing policy. Topics include policing in public housing, in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods, and of people experiencing marginal housing.

MAY

May 30
Open House and Curator Tour
1pm

GUIDED TOUR at [Interference Archive](#)
Join us for light refreshments.

MOVE!

March 26 through June 15, 2015

We Won't Move: Tenants Organize in New York City

WE WANT to build the power of new and old tenant organizers, and connect participants with current housing justice campaigns. Check [interferencearchive.org](#) for a complete and up-to-date list of related programming.

**INTERFERENCE
ARCHIVE**

131 8TH STREET -- NO. 4
BROOKLYN, NY 11215
[INTERFERENCEARCHIVE.ORG](#)