In 1969, one of the longest student-led strikes in UC Berkeley history gave birth to a movement that has lasted for five decades. The strike was organized by the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF), a coalition of African American, Asian American, Chicano, and Native American student organizations. Inspired by liberation movements at home and abroad and the 1968 San Francisco State College TWLF strike, Berkeley’s TWLF demanded a Third World College and envisioned a radical and relevant education taught by and for people of color.

The TWLF strike marked a turning point in UC Berkeley history, leading to the establishment of the Departments of Ethnic Studies and African American Studies and reverberating at universities and schools across the country. The legacy of the TWLF has inspired generations of students. Fifty years later, the struggle for a liberatory education is as critical as ever.

This exhibit shows this history through archives from the Ethnic Studies Library and Bancroft Library and photographs by Stephen Shames and Ilka Hartmann.

Cosponsored by the Department of Ethnic Studies, Ethnic Studies Library, TWLF 50th Planning Committee, Media Resources Center, and the University Library

All locations wheelchair accessible.
For any questions, visit eslibrary.berkeley.edu/twlf50 or e-mail shj@berkeley.edu.