

Calvin Pena Interview by Jack Portman

📅 Thu, 7/2 10:28AM ⌚ 45:08

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

protest, people, pandemic, activism, winston salem, folks, absolutely, evictions, community, downtown, winston, work, movement, job, racism, restaurant, speak, home, industry, day

SPEAKERS

Calvin Pena, Jack Portman



Calvin Pena 02:42

Man I'm sorry about that.



Jack Portman 02:43

Oh, all good. All good. Not a big deal.



Calvin Pena 02:48

Obviously, as you can imagine a lot of a lot of stuff going on.



Jack Portman 02:51

Oh yeah, I'm sure you're busy. I appreciate you taking time out your day to Help us with the oral history project that shouldn't take too along. I don't think this is the first interview I've done. So, you know, we'll see how it goes still learning. Um, so first of all, did you get a chance to look through the informed consent doument?



Calvin Pena 03:16

I've actually I've got it pulled up. Is there anything I should any part I should focus on. I'll be honest, I didn't read through the whole thing, but, um,



Jack Portman 03:24

I think that's fine. I don't think it's like super crazy or anything. I can give you a minute or two. If you want to look through that real quick. I'll just ask like a verbal confirmation that you can do an interview.



Calvin Pena 03:42

Yeah, let me see here. Believe it or not, I'm not too concerned about owning the rights to this interview. So I think this sounds gotcha. And ya, um Yeah, man. I mean, it looks. It looks pretty standard. I'm good to go. If you are



Jack Portman 04:21

Yeah. Awesome. Great. Sounds good. Um, so I think more or less this interview will kind of have like two components to it. I guess first we can focus on like, oh, and also Do you mind if I record the interview, obviously.



Calvin Pena 04:39

Yeah, I was actually gonna ask. I saw it up there if it was being recorded. Okay



Jack Portman 04:43

Cool. Yeah. Okay, great. Um, because I think we're going to try to use this in a sort of podcast form that the yes our library at Wake will keep it in archives, you know, for researchers down the road in the future who you know are going to obviously be doing research on the Coronavirus and its implications in Winston Salem. So they'll have this resource to use. Um, so basically we'll kind of have two parts, one of which will just focus on like your experience with the Coronavirus and with quarantine, how that's affected you. And then we can sort of focus specifically on protesting organizing in the context of a pandemic, and what that looks like. And so while you're talking, I'll just like mute my mic on my end so that none of the background noise messes with the audio. So, yes, just off the bat how Has the pandemic impacted your life? You know, how is it like impacted your social life, your work, that kind of stuff.



Calvin Pena 06:09

So the impacts of social life I think are fairly, fairly common with most people, you know, just the, the phase, the refacing the phasing and refacing of opening things up. Obviously,

those first couple weeks, everybody was rushing to the stores to get their survival supplies. I didn't really get into much of that. But um, I mean, you know, the basics for my social life for work, though I work in the service industry, you know, so, and I know there's there's many facets of the serve. So food and beverage is right where hospitality and you know, bars and restaurants are taking a massive, massive, massive hit, and that kind of actually that opens up Not a new canon forms but it it's its own can of worms with how racial inequality and racial injustice are very present and even perpetuated in the service industry. You know, historically speaking, all the way to now, I mean, who's in the back cooking the food? Who's cleaning? Who's cleaning the restaurant before it's opened or when it's closed? You know what I mean? The porters who's running from their job, you know, cooking it, cooking brunch, at one restaurant to cooking dinner at another restaurant in the same day, you know what I mean? all at the same time. And historically, these are black and brown, you know? Men, women, the LGBT community, I mean, everybody works. You know, the restaurant industry is it takes everybody you know, and the interesting thing is not interesting, but the saddening thing is is a lot of these folks, especially especially, you know, the Latin x community, they turn to restaurant work because it's one of the places they can go work safely, you know what I mean? Like a lot of restaurants don't have these crazy high standards or hurdles for you to jump through to get get in there and be aligned cook, you know, being a cook, you just got to be able to work the hours, you got to be efficient, you've got to be, you know, you've got to be a worker to work in the kitchen, you really, really do. And, you know, I know, I'll speak on behalf of you know, Mexicans, and when we take a lot of pride in our work ethic, and that work ethic and same, you know, so I'm not gonna I'm not gonna speak for the communities, but I mean, there's an incredible work ethic across all communities. It's just, it's no it's no big surprise that the same industry that provides work and in honestly, in in, in most cases on a minimum wage basis, but still, for, you know, whether it be undocumented individuals, whether it be you know, Mexican citizens who just, you know, have not overcome the language barrier, and so there's still stuff subject to the systems that aren't built for them. Whether it be you know, anybody black white Mexican, who has a little bit of a rap sheet, you know, who maybe can't get hired at a normal normal job but say a full time job with benefits because of a felony 10 years ago, like you can all come work in the bar and restaurant. It's a very social industry. And those people who are at the lower end of the totem pole who are already dealing with, you know, housing injustice, who are already dealing with food scarcity, you know, food insecurity, who are already dealing with, you know, lack of childcare, lack of access to childcare, lack of access to proper health care, all these things are day to day struggles for them, and then the industry that accepts them and pays bills is shut down with 112 hundred dollar check and you know, you have to go through the process of filing for unemployment, which a lot of folks can't do or won't do, because that'll prompt Some additional checking into their background into their status. So they're essentially I mean, I know it's being recorded but they're fucked

and it's not a surprise didn't come out of nowhere. That's the big we circle back to Coronavirus. That's that's one of the really big issues that reveals how much race isn't like how little to no safety net there is for the most vulnerable and oftentimes the hardest working members of our society and all these people who can afford to go to these restaurants every night when downtown is open for street trade Street. You know what, wherever it is or driving in downtown from Pune Vista or a quarter these people go home after they cook your food and clean your shit. And some of them drive not Martin not more than a quarter mile outside of town to the food desert that they live in to the other side of 52 you know what I mean? To drive drive south of 40 minutes You know, even drive further further south of 40. And it's like it's sort of the perfect storm because the rest of us who are, you know, myself, I've been fortunate, you know, I'm not, you know, I wish I was wealthy enough to make a change like that, you know, but I mean, I didn't get caught up in that I have a nice safety net with my unemployment, I worked my way into some good jobs that, you know, now the taxes i paid are paying me back, which is fine. But without a job, I've had the time to sit back and watch and really look at all this. And being in that same boat where you know, I'm not a single parent or I'm not, you know, I mean, it's just me and my partner, you know, and we've got some dogs but like, being in that same boat, of generally speaking, you know, working in the service industry, juggling two or three jobs, not having health insurance or you know, life insurance or anything like that. Like those little things. dresses, they kept me who has way more opportunity than you know, a single mother of three, you know, living on food stamps, they kept me distracted enough to where I couldn't really look and peel back the curtain as much as I'm able to now without a job with just time to sit at home and see how people are doing. And then Police are still killing people that you know, ISIS still, I still got families detained all across our borders. We've I mean, so it's like, it's the perfect storm. Because no one has anything to do right now. We're all suffering and even people who fail to see it. Now it hit home right now you don't have a job. Now your business is being affected. And it's crazy because some of those folks still see themselves as separate to this movement. They're like, they're, you know, they're all lives matter, folks. So they're whatever. And that's the crazy thing about racism, man is that like, they are not just as many but I know there's a large population why folks who are in the same exact maybe for different reasons, we're in the same shitty situations as your Mexican brothers and sisters as your black brothers and sisters, your Asian brothers and sisters, you know, but racism has them thinking that they're not that Trump, you know that that Donald Trump or whoever that that's gonna save them, you know what I mean? That as long as America stays America, they're there, you know, an it's like it's, it's, it's a lot when you dig into it.



Jack Portman 13:30

Yeah, absolutely. I'd read I think in the, the Winston Salem journal a couple days ago,

that's if you break down all the COVID cases in Forsyth County, that I think it was like 60% upwards of that is the cases that are affecting the Latin x community. When I think that like that community makes up maybe 13% of Forsyth County. So you see, that me being just way, way, way more effective. And part like, it seems like when you have frontline workers being disproportionately minority workers, it seems like that is, you know, heavily related, would you say?



Calvin Pena 14:15

I mean, at this point, man it and you know, this is it's not just related like it's that's the plan. That's what the plan has been. And not maybe not necessarily, you know, by omitting us by Oh, it's kind of like a lie of omission it's by omitting us from the safety net from, you know, the, the keeping us out or at least having these barriers in between us and accessing aid or having the aid available at all. I mean, it's it's it's not it's not a joke. I mean, it's an It's not like I said, it's not a surprise, you know, we had that quick petition or that call to action. To get a Kobe testing site out in East Winston, I don't know if you saw that, you know, and the county health commissioner received like 500 emails in an afternoon. And, you know, they addressed it. But I mean, you know, look at the demographic of East Winston, why wasn't there a site plan to be out there in the first place? Yeah, absolutely.



Jack Portman 15:22

Absolutely. So like, I mean, that brings us to protesting organizing the context of, excuse me, the pandemic. Um, obviously, you've seen tons of protests in Winston the past couple of weeks in response to the George Floyd killing and you know, the entire history of systemic racism that you know, underlies that on police brutality as well. Do you think I guess Firstly, can you speak to whether like anxiety intentions surrounding this lack of equity in terms of the Coronavirus and You know, access to aid access to work. Do you think that anxiety plays into this moment? If that makes sense?



Calvin Pena 16:10

Yeah, I'm just to get your so what influence do I think the just the panic the the anxiety around COVID-19? Like how I think it's affected the movement? Absolutely. Um, I think it's affected the movement in a couple ways. The first one, first and foremost, and some people are trying to flip this on its head and saying like, Oh, well, you're out there protesting. You're the ones who don't care about people's safety. But I mean Coronavirus, has been here for six months. systemic racism, white supremacy, it's been around for how long, right? So these are the same people who were and I'm not, you know, this has been

made a meme since for weeks now, but these are the same people. Who they got out to protest to get a to get a haircut, they got out to protest, so they could sit down and have a steak dinner, they got out to protest so they can continue the the to they can continue living lives of leisure. Because it was too much for them to be cooped up in a house when they didn't even know if it was real, right. And so I mean, for me, it's shown me that people really are tired, because these people who are coming out these people who are protesting these people who, you know, have taken the time out of their day, they could be at home, resting, you know, maybe taking some solace in the fact that I don't have anything to do today. I can you know, I mean, I don't I don't you know, people are handling it different ways, but they're out in the streets. They're putting themselves at risk. And yes, maybe they're putting other people at risk, but this is where you weigh, you know, the lesser of two evils. Crota virus, there'll be a vaccine for that, you know that science science can deal with that, you know what I mean? science can't deal with racism. You know, you could be I mean, they're raised like, you know that. So I think it's proven a lot of what people are willing to do and what people are willing to sacrifice for the greater good. I also think that on the other end, it has not on the other end, but just another facet of it is that people are scared, right? And now is the time where you can you can really express that fear which often becomes which often is rooted in anger and frustration, you know, I mean, at the system's and why, why are we all in this position? Why are we you know, why, and then you got people who, who don't understand our problem. with, say, the Fourth of July, or the American flag, or the national anthem, or Confederate statues being put up or not, or, you know, being being revered and honored for, you know, a damn piece of history that only lasted about five years. No, you are you already know, I'm not going to give you a lesson on it, but it's like, you know, it's the type of thing that the people who have needed to speak up have been held down and have been, you know, oppressed by the systems that we have to live in, that aren't built for. It's built for white people. And it's not not and not even to put that blank said it is built for white people with money. You know what I mean? Um, and so, at the end of the day, not the end of the day, but Coronavirus, it's an interesting catch 22 because it sucks, but it has given everybody The Freedom the free time to look at what's really happening. And when you talk about, you know, I don't know if you said this, but when I when I think about the protests, the movement itself, um, you know, we got to think durability we got to think sustainability. And it's granted the Montgomery sittings lasted 381 days. But, you know, with the power that we have now with technology to share information, I'm not saying that we can get it done quicker. It's not it's not a race. But the thing that's going to ensure durability and sustainability of the movement is to continue to arm people with information with knowledge with simple things that the city does not do and has not addressed like the city is one of the things that they could do is they could do a complete it overhaul of all their digital platforms. So it's just as easy to participate in city government in city happenings in you know, very And Council, it should be just as easy to participate in those things as it is to participate in

Twitter, and Facebook and Instagram. And that's a huge barrier for some people who don't know where to go on and go on city links. Look how easy it Look, tell me how easy it is to navigate that website. You know what I mean? Go to any I mean, it's just, it's these little inconsiderate things like they, they won't do it. Because transparency is not a priority. to federal government, to local government to state government transparency is not a priority. And the reason it's not a priority is because the people who matter who call the shots, they already know everything. These people, you know what I mean? It's not so like, you know, I've been very vocal about, you know, all these like, it's frustration that I think people don't have the luxury of time to explain, but like when I say fuck the police, when I say fuck the flag, when I say fuck the national anthem, it's not it's not me. Same like, I hate our soldiers and I hate Americans and I don't like it's like bro look at it. Look at what look at look at what the look at what it says all men are created equal land of the free. Like Come on bro at this point with all the information that we had with the access to history and like the timelines, the real timelines of American history all that shit is just bathed in blood man blood of my people, but of black people but I mean honestly, you know poor European immigrants back in the day that were treated horrifically you I mean Italian immigrants Irish immigrants for different reasons but i mean it's it's it's not just black lives matter it's not just a movement for black people and they'll tell I mean anybody who's really in it will tell you that you know, but this disappears people off and I'm gonna say it publicly one day but like When the Twin Towers fell, were people saying all buildings matter? No, no, because the planes hit the Twin Towers. And the same thing is the plane the system, you know, is not hitting everybody equally. All lives do matter. But if that's the case, then these people over here that whose buildings are collapsing, there's priority.



Jack Portman 23:30

Yeah, absolutely, absolutely. Um, so what have I've done a lot of protesting in, I'm in Atlanta right now obviously, I got sent home from wake. Um, so and obviously this project now is focusing on Winston Salem. So what are the protests look like in Winston that you've been to? Um, so they've been very, Winston is in a place where you need to have these protests, unfortunately, you need to have some accessibility to the folks who aren't 100% behind the movement right away. There are a lot of folks on the fringe there are a lot of you know what, what Martin Luther King referred to, in his letter from Birmingham Jail as white moderates who, and they're the most dangerous, not because they're going to actively because they're going to be like, this is the status, I don't want to mess with it, bla bla bla, and they will continue to contribute to the status quo by not disagreeing with it, right. From a tactical standpoint, for building up a following for for gaining support. In a perfect world, this wouldn't be happening because everybody would be on the right side of history. But unfortunately, there are some people on the wrong side. There's some

people who are straddling for those rattlers a peaceful protest an organized protest a not so disruptive protest is an access point for them. Because a lot of them in their heart, they really feel like this is the right side of it, this movement is it has to happen. It has to continue. But for whatever reasons, you know, human nature, a part of their human nature, they can't jump right behind it right away. And I guarantee you that as much as I will not tell anybody, there are many, many members of the community who have had experiences that have led them to the place where they're like burning this motherfucker down, like Winston Salem, you know, just the police department. I'm not going to tell them that they're wrong in that, but what I am going to tell them or might not even tell him cuz it's not my place, but I'm going to operate from a place of call it you know, it's hard to straight. It's hard to not get political, but I'm gonna operate from a place of Look, there are People that we need to appeal to that aren't as radical that aren't there are people who really, really, really want to address and get involved in, say, the unfair and unjust eviction practices that happen all over our city, Winston Salem, North Carolina, Winston Salem, the city is number 16 in the nation predictions. It's bananas. We'd only have 250,000 300,000 people in Winston Salem, the population, right and yet we're in top 20 in the nation for our eviction rates. So there are people who can really pour like a ton of time and energy into that right. And the protests, while they they have been disruptive, I think the peaceful nature of them. Some folks have been skeptical because they're like, this is a lot of Kumbaya. You know, there's a lot of stuff that's not really being a lot of stones that aren't being turned for the sake of peace. And that that can be true. And I won't discredit that, but at the same time, there have been a lot of folks. And maybe they won't last long, but I hope they do. But there have been a lot of folks who have been like, wow, I'm really proud of my city, for, for being tactical for coming together and for focusing on community and not destruction you know, I would be a part of it, regardless of which way it's going. I personally have worked downtown in the service industry for a very long time. And so I've accumulated a lot of social capital, that has proven to be good leverage in this movement, just for making things happen around the community for helping organization for helping logistics of certain large events. And, and that's, you know, for me, I've said this and I'll say it On the record here, too, but I'm not the boss or leader of anything other than how and when and where I spend my social capital, how we use my relationships. And, you know, there is a group of people in the unity coalition is maybe a name you've heard, but that's sort of that's the point of that platform is to be a resource pool and a networking tool for community leaders who maybe don't have downtown relationships, but they have an organization that they're working with, because they want to address food scarcity in their neighborhood, you know, and they need to access some of those channels that I'm not the only one but like, that I have access to and then I will, I will share and I will make sure I get you in front of the right people, if I can, you know, whatever I can do. Um, but yeah, and so I kind of went on a little tangent there, but I mean, Yeah, that's that's Let's eep going. Yeah, absolutely. Um, I mean, what you were

talking about earlier earlier with evictions I did. I was working on research throughout the spring that was obviously supposed to continue into the summer but it got cut short on evictions in Winston Salem. And there's a group at Winston Salem states research group that found that Latin x census tracts in Winston and Forsyth County, were something like, I think three or four times more likely to experience eviction than probably black currently white census tracts in the area. And, you know, one of the big downstream impacts of Coronavirus that we're thinking about right now is the I think like rents do today, right? I think the today tomorrow yesterday is when the city's You know ban on evictions ended. And you know a lot of people are talking about that that's the huge downstream impact is gonna see a giant wave of evictions. So do you think do you see that as being obviously related to the Coronavirus? Yeah. I mean the Coronavirus is in you know, definitely. For me, it's what makes these things all the more disgusting. All these evictions is. And you know, that's not to say, I mean, there, there are a good number of predatory landlords out there, you know, and they're in the class of their own. But there's also the system puts the people against each other, because some of these landlords and I'm not saying that, you know, they should be standing in solidarity with their tenants. So that's another story, but some of these landlords are also being bound to pay mortgages and to pay, you know, to pay their, to their taxes and their, you know, their whatever companies that they're using to, you know, service their buildings or whatever it is. Right. And that's not to say obviously, if you own a building versus if you rent, you know, a one bedroom apartment, you're in a different space, but I mean, at the end of the day, it's the government should be taken care of is to be taken care of us. Everybody. Coronavirus when I said it makes it more despicable is because where are these people going to go? And even if they were going to go to a shelter or a home, I mean, so you're gonna take them out of their individual residences to put them all together to put them in which which, by the way, they don't have, there is no place for them to go. But hypothetically speaking, if that's where they're gonna go, and we're talking about, you know, we're still not allowing bars and restaurants to open or we're rebasing, we're drawn back. We're having spikes and Coronavirus cases, we still can't get testing for everybody across the board. There's weird regulations and rules around testing where it's like, if you get tested, and I was told this if you get tested, regardless, you have to quarantine yourself until you get the results back. And then some places take you know, three days sometimes it takes seven days, but it's like you can't even I mean, there's barriers to getting tested because there are people who, for instance, like you can't quarantine you can't, even for two days if you've got kids, if you've got you know if you've got stuff you're trying to do, I mean it's just the Coronavirus. Again, it highlights a larger issue with the lack of security, the lack of a safety net that we have for the most vulnerable people out there. Yeah, yeah, absolutely. Um, so how do you see Do you think that the quarantine has changed or affected how advocacy and how protest looks and how it works? And maybe do you think that like the protests that occurred during the Coronavirus pandemic are maybe like elevated, in a sense because of

the pandemic? Is there like a increased? You know, is there any more attention paid to them because they occurred during a pandemic, do you think?



Calvin Pena 33:49

Um, that's tough to say, because I think that people participate. I think that participation is definitely much more than it would be if folks still had to go to work. You know, Had, but at the very same time when it comes to visibility, you know, if there's no one working downtown, and you're protesting downtown, it just Now, that's not to say that people aren't still living downtown. What I mean, you know, when it comes to just general activity, when it comes to just foot traffic when it comes to do whatever it is, that's not there right now. So it's kind of, again, a catch 22 because the more people out of work, the more people can participate. But, you know, also the more people out of work, the less people that are out and about shopping or eating or dining or whatever it is. Um, so, I mean, it has had pretty significant effects. It's I mean, there are some people who are really you know, both from just being small businesses to folks who just whose jobs are pretty much dissolved, but I mean, they're it's a lot man because this whole thing is going on. And then there's still the pandemic. And then they're both interconnected. But but they're also not. Because, you know, I mean, at the end of the day, we could say that racism and capitalism are kind of won in this country, you know, I mean, so not to say they're completely not connected, but for a lot of us, it's like, I work in the restaurant industry. So as active as I'm trying to be in this movement, I still come home and I'm like, Alright, well, you know, hopefully the industry kicks because, you know, that's long term. I mean, I'm not getting paid to protest you know. So it, it is an interesting, interesting time, man. I mean, largest civil rights movement in world history, a worldwide pandemic. We have the current administration that we have right now, which has not done any favors for anybody. You know, we have the E the star market just our economic health of our country is fluctuating. You know what I mean? More than ever, not more than ever, but I mean, it's it's the type of thing that you know, and then obviously there's the climate crisis, you know, I mean, which is gonna, you know, I mean, it's not slowing down. It's, it's wild. And it really is. It really is like, like a graphic novel. Like, uh, you know, I mean, the concepts of dealing with all this at once. They're not new necessarily, but I mean, it's, I don't know what to say.



Jack Portman 36:35

Yeah, absolutely. So I guess as we, you know, fingers crossed, look into the future. Post COVID. Hopefully, when things return to some semblance of normalcy, what does activism look like after that? How do we like Take the momentum that exists presently. And, you know, make sure that this is like a lasting thing and not something that's kind of like a flash in the pan.



Calvin Pena 37:13

Um, honestly, I mean, kind of getting back to what we talked about, we touched on earlier, is just being an active member of your society, you know, being an active member of local government. It is, and this is not, I didn't make this, you know, this is something I had to convince myself of and learn eventually. But that is where real change does happen on the local level. And it's really easy to get disheartened with the government in general. But I think encouraging activism in other ways activism isn't just protesting in the streets. Activism isn't just making signs and you know, chanting, but activism is getting active for the in, you know, in the ways that you can actually affect real change whether that be, you know, voting, which everybody, everybody should vote every you know, but before that it's got to be who and what are we voting for? And why, you know, and all that is really rooted in information, you know? And it's why, you know, I mean, there's always been since since the inception of the media, you know, it's always been a big point of contention, because information is valuable. Or, you know, that information is powerful. Now, I'm gonna say valuable because some information, you know, obviously, misinformation, you know, leads to this whole other splintering of society where it's like, you got these people who believe what Fox News says, You got these people who believe what cnn says, You got these people who say, fuck all the news. I don't want to listen to anybody because it's all allies. So to draw it back, and it's just information is key, and letting people know that activism, the real real activism comes afterwards when you take it home with you, when you have discussions with your family and your friends who are racist, or who are, you know who or colorist or transphobic, or homophobic or whatever it is, you know what I mean? Um, activism is, you know, kind of like what they say about anti racism, right? It doesn't mean that you have to be totally free of racism in yourself, you know, because, unfortunately, there's a lot of systems in place that that instill racist thought processes or tendencies or unfortunately, even outward behaviors. And being anti racist just means that you're willing to recognize and fight against racism in all its forms even in yourself. And the same thing with being an activist. It doesn't just mean that you're out there in the streets, Yellin blocking off traffic, but it means activism means that you are committing to doing what you can to be an active part of the change that we need, you know, and a lot of that can be done from home. A lot of that can be done voting, a lot of that can be, you know, done. You know, signing, creating petitions, just you know, there's a lot of administration administrative work that comes with that.



Jack Portman 40:24

So yeah, absolutely. Um, so I think I mean, that pretty much satisfies a lot of the questions I had. Is there anything that you feel like it's just really pressing that we haven't touched on?



Calvin Pena 40:42

Um, I mean, this is this is not anything new. But I just, I really, I really hope people understand The basic and this you know, you can find this parable and in every religious book out there and every you know, in in every creed in every walk of life, you know, the the moral sort of high ground is always to, to feel your brother or sister or family beyond the binary to feel their pain and their struggle as if it were your own. You know, and that's when they say like, and it's hard to do, man but that's when they you know, when you say like, yo, you don't if George Floyd can breathe, I can't breathe. You know, if you're getting if you don't have a safe place to stay, I don't have a safe place to stay. You know, because who's to say that they're not going to come for for me next right and that or for my family Next, you know what I mean? It really is. It really really really is. Everybody's fight. Every every single person, you know, every single person below that 1% you know what I mean? So yeah, I mean that, you know, there's no one thing I can pick out to be important to leave with except for that's, that's it right there.



Jack Portman 42:18

Yeah, absolutely. I think that's a, that's a good note, sort of end on so all try to keep you in the loop in terms of like how this podcast gets produced. And so you know, you can see the finished product. There's a team that I guess supposedly has, you know, more tech experience than myself who's actually going to work on you know, producing the audio. And so I guess once they have a, you know, a solid vision of, you know, where that's gonna be, what its gonna look like, and try to be back in so you can you know, it's just As well, I mean, there should be, you know, tons more resources to look through. So I think it's gonna be a good thing. Yeah, I really appreciate you sitting down, and I'm sure you're busy. So I'm gonna let you go. But uh, this is a super, super informative interview. I really appreciate it.



Calvin Pena 43:18

Awesome, man. Hey, it was good to talk to you and meet you through the screen here. Absolutely, absolutely. But yeah, man, just keepme posted. And if there's anyone else, or if you're looking for any other perspectives, I can definitely, you know, just for the future. If you if you need some people to reach out to her to add to this project. I'm more than happy. There's a lot of good folks that will give you a lot more insight than I could.



Jack Portman 43:43

Actually yeah, that would be great. We're sort of looking for, for more people to talk to. So

if you have any, any names, you get in contact with me. That'd be that'd be really fantastic, actually. And then I really appreciate that. All right. Again, you know, I'd really, the I just stumbled on your Instagram the other day. And I think seeing all the effort you put into advocacy, it's going to change how I relate to the Winston Salem community when I return hopefully in the fall, I think I'm going to try to be more involved in you know, effecting practical change. Rather, like I feel like in school I'm theorize about social justice and like I want to be, you know, I want to go into anthropology and work on social, social justice stuff from a theoretical standpoint, but seeing all the work that you know, other advocates, advocates in the community do there's a disconnect, I think between you know, the theory and the application. So I'm really thankful for that. And I think we try to be more involved in that in Winston Salem in the fall.



Calvin Pena 44:49

Awesome, dude. Well, I appreciate you doing this as well. And I'll, I'll see if I can't get some names or you and pass along this project. absolutely great. Well, yeah, thanks so much. I really appreciate it. T