Beginning in the 1930s, African American, Mexican American, and white union and community organizers slowly came together across racial lines in a common struggle for civil rights, economic justice, and real political power. They did so quietly and tentatively at first, and only gradually did mutual suspicion give way to mutual trust.

By the mid-1960s, what had begun as inchoate collaboration at the local level had expanded from its origins in the barrios, ghettos, union halls, and shop floors to become a broad-based, state-wide alliance in support of liberal politicians and an expansive civil rights agenda. This talk will focus on the final years of this story, when the activists finally broke away from their conservative co-ethnics, found one another, and marched together in the streets and to the polls.