

***Fred Hampton's Rainbow Coalition: The History and Impact.***

*Introduction: This project is about the late Chicagoan and Deputy Chairman of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, Fred Hampton, and his involvement with the multiethnic and diverse alliance known as the Rainbow Coalition. These poems will cover the history of its partner organizations, their impact on the city of Chicago, and the fantastic leaders behind the coalition. This creative collective of poems is meant to illustrate how poor and working-class Chicagoans of all races joined together to fight the corrupt system.*

***Poem 1 - Fred was. (Fred Hampton as a revolutionary)***

***Poem 2 - Cha Cha and his kin (Jose Jiminez and the Young Lords origin)***

***Poem 3 - a king's fear (Poor people vs. Daley)***

***Poem 4 - Repaint (The Rainbow Coalition's True Mission)***

***All free write poems were written by Joshua Campbell.***



*Fred Hampton was the Deputy Chairman of the Black Panther Party and the Rainbow Coalition founder.*

*Image from the Chicago History Museum*

Poem 1: Fred was.

Fred's slogan was *I am a revolutionary*,

Fred was a panther growling BLACK LIVES MATTER before the organization

Fred was a prodigy, a leader before his 20s

naacp saw him as a captain

Fred was a lion amongst his kin yet down to earth

Never too far from the people he lead

Fred was a warrior, d. chairman of chief hoover's most wanted group but not afraid

Fred was black and proud of his color yet saw solidarity as a tool

chief hoover and king daley feared Fred like the Pharisees feared Jesus

Fred was powerful, so powerful that he started a revolution for all people

*ALL POWER TO ALL PEOPLE* he said

Forming alliances with confederate hillbillies and Puerto Rican gangsters for the same cause

Fred was all that

Fred was a revolutionary.



*Jose Cha Cha Jimenez is founder of the Young Lords organization, a street gang turned human rights movement.*

*Image from the Chicago Reader*

## Poem 2: Cha Cha and his kin

Puerto Rican immigrants lookin for better life

Cha Cha was lost in Lincoln Park

running from rival Italians and Latin folks

running from corrupt cops with bad intentions

Cha Cha's kin had no place

So they took Lincoln Park for themselves, for the Young Lords

But still livin in the slums

Until Fred came, Lincoln Park was king daley's junkyard

Until the Panthers came, Chicago is king daley's white town

So Cha Cha and his kin shifted as an organization

Cha Cha fought for his kins

Cha Cha fought for Lincoln Park, for the Young Lords

Joining Fred in the process, mixing colors to repaint the king daley's kingdom

To create that better place and make it their own.



*Richard J. Daley was the corrupt mayor of Chicago from 1955 to 1976. Daley ordered CPD to assassinate Fred Hampton.*

*Image from Reader Supported News*

### Poem 3: a king's fear

king daley ordered his pigs to shot

shot to kill anyway looting or breaking windows or being poor

king daley ruled Chicago with an iron fist and a steel boot

holding the police and government in this fist and crushing poor folks with this foot

king daley had eyes in the street, watching everyone questioning his throne

eyes that are scared of a people's resistance, like Fred's

king daley commanded out of fear, arresting panthers and poor people like dangerous criminals

criminals asking him to get yo boot off their backs, or else

king daley raided the Chairman's castle, rested Fred's soul

daley's fear killed Fred

yet Fred's revolution did not sleep

king daley was the last king standing, but his fear stained his throne



*This was the original symbol of the Rainbow Coalition, the multiethnic and multicultural human rights movement.*

*Image from the Circa 1969*

#### Poem 4: Repaint

Let us repaint this land the way it is supposed to be

Let's paint it red, for the bloodshed during the war of guns and arrows

For the Americans who are not Indian, but Native

For the people who worshipped the bald eagle before those colonizers

Let's paint it black, for the people who built it

Slaves carried from their native land to a foreign one

Forced to build a nation that will not love them

Let's paint it brown, for the foreigners looking for Lady Liberty

Who ran from the native towards refuge

Let's paint it white, for the poor and weak that were taken here,

American, but still human

Let's paint it yellow, for those who came free

Bring their culture and goodwill with them

Let's paint it for all Americans, all who came to this country for freedom and equality

Paint it the color of all people.

## Works Cited

Poem 1 image

(<https://www.chicagohistory.org/fredhampton50/>)

Poem 2 image

(<https://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/young-lords-50th-anniversary-symposium-young-lords-depaul-university/Content?oid=58254685>)

Poem 3 image

(<https://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/66379-rsn-chicagos-trial-of-the-century-and-its-many-heroes-cinematic-and-real>)

Poem 4 image

(<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-first-rainbow-coalition#/>)

PBS Documentary: First Rainbow Coalition

(<https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/videos/the-first-rainbow-coalition/>)

PBS Documentary: Black Panther Vanguard of the Revolution

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4N8NowzQ\\_s&has\\_verified=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4N8NowzQ_s&has_verified=1))