In honor of Black History Month the Racial Justice Study Group will host a movie and discussion on Shola Lynch’s “Chisholm ‘72 - Unbought and Unbossed.”

**Base Readings/Videos:**

**(1 of 4):** [**Film Trailer (~2 minutes)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKWq42-NIt0)

**(2 of 4):** [**Letter from the Filmmaker - Shola Lynch**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1St3ZaePreWnE5MBFPg6W_nSSErIrysQZ/view?usp=sharing)

**(3 of 4): Read the excerpt below from P.O.V. - Chisholm ‘72**

“In 1968, Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman elected to Congress. Just four years later, she would be the first black woman to run for president. Chisholm ’72 —Unbought & Unbossed [...] chronicles Chisholm’s remarkable campaign.

An unapologetic advocate for economic justice, civil rights, and women’s equality, Chisholm was shunned by the political establishment. But her progressive, populist approach attracted many people who had never before been involved in politics, including blacks, feminists, and young voters, some of whom saw this outspoken politician as the literal embodiment of their cause. “

**(4 of 4):** [**Historical Context**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tmaxMISr1o9-lNCq5KPXBvS5Tezp5ecj/view?usp=sharing)

**Questions to Consider:**

* Ronald Dellums [seen in the trailer at the 1:27 mark was a California Congressional Representative from 1971-1998] observed, “Shirley’s candidacy said ‘I’m not demanding to get in; I’m asserting my right to be here.’ That’s powerful no matter what percentage of the national vote she got.” What is the difference between asking for inclusion and asserting a right to be included? Why did people like Dellums experience Chisholm’s assertion of rights as empowering?
* Chisholm often quoted from a Frederick Douglass speech originally delivered in Canandaigua, New York, in 1857: “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never will.” The full context of that quote is:

*"This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress. In the light of these ideas, Negroes will be hunted at the North, and held and flogged at the South so long as they submit to those devilish outrages, and make no resistance, either moral or physical. Men may not get all they pay for in this world; but they must certainly pay for all they get. If we ever get free from the oppressions and wrongs heaped upon us, we must pay for their removal. We must do this by labor, by suffering, by sacrifice, and if needs be, by our lives and the lives of others."*

Why might Chisholm have chosen to cite this particular quote? Do you agree with her congressional staffer Victor Robles’s assessment that Chisholm’s motive was as much to engage people in the struggle as it was to actually win the presidency?

**Optional Readings/ Videos/Activities:** If you have the time and/or interest, you can explore some or all of the materials below related to our monthly topic.

* [The Root: In Nod to Shirley Chisholm, Cincinnati Councilwoman (Tamaya Dennard) Brings Own Seat to the Table at Swearing-In](https://www.theroot.com/in-nod-to-shirley-chisholm-cincinnati-councilwoman-bri-1821734470)
* [MentalFloss: 12 Facts About Shirley Chisholm, The First African-American to Run for President](http://mentalfloss.com/article/87244/12-facts-about-shirley-chisholm-first-african-american-run-president)
* [BBC: Before Hillary Clinton, there was Shirley Chisholm](http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35057641)
* [Biography.com: Carol Moseley Braun](https://www.biography.com/people/carol-moseley-braun-205626)