

What happens time and time again with gentrification is that “hip” movements take over a city, taking advantage of low rent and displacing low-income residents, and then, as the rent gets too high for the artists, wealthy professionals and real estate developers move in and push them out too. People can be both victims and perpetrators of displacement because of the wave after wave way gentrification happens. We know it’s not just about *one* shiny new yuppie café or brewpub or luxury high-rise. Gentrification comes in waves because it is systemic. It is a direct effect of **capitalism**. The bourgeoisie *must* exploit workers and resources, including real estate, in order to stay ahead. It’s not just about individual choices but the way the system was made to function. City government is required to uphold capitalism and make conditions favorable for business. There’s no objective interest for them in protecting renters from displacement, and we see clearly how the city doesn’t give a damn about them. **Revolution is necessary, because this cycle will not break itself.**

The fight for Ypsilanti is far from over, and we must dare to struggle if we dare to win. Folks facing displacement and their allies can take all kinds of actions, like disrupting city council events, obstructing construction projects, staging demonstrations, repurposing properties for community use, and more to pressure the city government to provide affordable housing and to back down on its disgusting gentrifying campaigns. The people are powerful, and the people have the solutions. Those solutions will advance the struggle, and make lasting, revolutionary change possible.

Ypsilanti is not for sale! Join us and fight!



We are a group of revolutionary, trans feminist, anti-racist, anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist students and youth in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti

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GENTRIFICATION IN YPSILANTI

Or, Why Is The Rent So Damn High?



The proposed "International Village" at Water Street

Gentrification is the process of changing a working class (and often Black or Latinx) area into one that attracts a new, wealthy, and mostly white influx of entrepreneurs and residents. Rents go up, and the longtime residents get priced out. Low-income folks are routinely sacrificed for “progress.” Gentrification is a violent process that gets glossed over with images of “urban development.”

The **Ypsi Real** homepage boasts that the city “has a funky community vibe and a fresh arts scene.” Begun in 2015, the #YpsiReal campaign has been a gentrifying effort by the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau (CVB) to make Ypsi seem hip and quirky and ready to host a new population of (white) artists, writers, and entrepreneurs. This was followed by conflicts over new businesses like Cross Street Coffee, Ma Lou’s Fried Chicken, and Tiny Buddha. There is also the issue of “**Ann Arbor Spillover**,” by which Ann Arbor entrepreneurs, including recent UM graduates, move to Ypsi or start businesses there because of cheap real estate. Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) even encouraged UM grads to move to Ypsi in 2014.