

DELUXE PRE-SALE BOX SET OFFER Your pre-payment will expedite the printing and distribution of this important historical box set.

This Box Set archives the movement culture of the California teachers strikes and the #RedforEd movement. It is more than a visual archive of the UTLA and the OEA teachers strikes and the cultural organizing by artists, designers, and photographers. It is a teaching tool. It teaches labor history and how to fight back during a time of mass inequality.

Publisher: Booklyn, Inc. Origin: Milwaukee, WI

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Binding: box set Dimensions: variable

Items: 93

3 DELUXE PRE-SALE COPIES (standard edition of 22)

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CONTRIBUTORS

Melanie Cervantes, Jesus Barraza, Ernesto Yerena, Nisha Sembi, Aise Born, Erin Yoshi, Judy Baca, Joe Brusky, Favianna Rodriguez, Miriam Stahl, Micah Bazant, David Solnit, Mara Gerson, Jennifer White Johnson, Vy Vu, Josh MacPhee, Claudio Martinez, Paul Kjelland, Daniel Martinez, Kim Cosier, Dewey Tafoya, Nicolas Lampert, Jeanette Arellano, Carolyn Knight, Carlos Rogel, SPARC. (Plus additional art in the subscribers Box Set by Jesse Purcell, Pete Railand, Susan Simensky Bietilla, and Kyle McKinley.)



BOX SET CONTENTS

Screen printed picket signs on muslin fabric, screen printed patches on muslin fabric, screenprints, offset posters, ephemera, offset placards, 30-40 photographs from Joe Brusky, digital prints, catalog book with essays and text.

Organized by the Art Build Workers (Nicolas Lampert, Paul Kjelland, Kim Cosier, Joe Brusky, Claudio Martinez, Josie Osborne) and Booklyn, Inc. www.artbuildworkers.com

www.booklyn.org



DELUXE PRE-SALE BOX SET MATERIALS

- 1. UTLA "United Teacher" newspaper, Volume XLVII, Number 3, December 18, 2018
- 2. California Educator Magazine, February-March 2019, Volume 23-Issue 4
- 3. Carlos Rogel / SPARC, "UTLA Contract Victory", digital print, 11" x 17", 2019
- 4. Micah Bazant, "OEA", digital print,

11" x 17", 2019

- 5. Jesse Purcell, "Immigrants and Refugees Welcome", risograph print, 11" x 17", 2017
- 6. Pete Railand, "Protect Students, Not Guns", silkscreen, 12"x 18"
- 7. Susan Simensky Bietilla, "Fighting for the Schools Students Deserve", risograph print, 11" x 17", 2017
- 8. Kyle McKinley, "Public Schools: The Heart of Our Community", risograph print, 11" x 17", 2017
- 9. NEA, "Todays Lesson Plan: Classrooms Not Cages", offset, 12" x 18", 2019
- 10. Ten additional photos by Joe Brusky

Standard Box Sets (22 copies):

74 items: 30 photographs by Joe Brusky (15 photographs from the UTLA strike / 15 photographs from the OEA strike), 8 screen printed picket signs, 10 screen printed patches, 1 screen print, 9 offset posters, 4 placards/items of ephemera, 12 digital prints of parachute designs.

DESCRIPTION

When We Fight We Win Box Set: The 2019 UTLA (United Teachers Los Angeles) and OEA (Oakland Education Association) teacher strikes

This Box Set contains material culture (picket signs, placards, patches, offsets, ephemera, and photo documentation) from the January 2019 Los Angeles teachers strike led by United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) and the February 2019 Oakland teachers strike led by the Oakland Education Association (OEA.) Both strikes were historic and both were part of the larger framework of the #RedforEd movement.

The Box Set features art by over thirty artists and designers, including Booklyn Artists, **Josh Macphee and Nicolas Lampert, Ernesto Yerena, Nisha Sethi, Favianna Rodriguez, Judy Baca, Melanie Cervantes, Jesus Barazza, Erin Yoshi, Micah Bazant, and David Solnit**; who lent their talents to the struggle for education justice.

Over the last decade K-12 public school teachers have become the vanguard of the labor movement. They have gone on strike in red states (West Virginia, Oklahoma, Arizona, and Indiana), as well as in Blue states in cities such as Denver, Chicago, Los Angeles and Oakland.

The California strikes mirrored the root causes of all of these actions: teachers striking for the schools their students deserve and organizing against the negative impact that charter schools and funding cuts have had on public education. These teachers have fought back and they have won significant victories. As Arlene Inouye notes (the Secretary of UTLA), "People have seen that we have real power, that we can win. Now's our day."







In January of 2019 over 30,000 teachers, staff, and members of UTLA went on strike in Los Angeles for the first time in thirty years demanding more resources for their classrooms, nurses and librarians in every school, smaller class sizes, higher wages, and a cap on charter schools. This action essentially shut down the city. LAUSD (the Los Angeles Unified School District) represents the nation's second-largest school system with over 70,000 students.

The Oakland teachers strike in February 2019 followed a month later and echoed many of the same calls for education justice as their counterparts on Los Angeles. OEA called for smaller class sizes, more resources for their students in a district with 36,000 students and 87 schools and pay increases to allow teachers and staff to live in a city that has become unaffordable to most people.

This Box Set archives the movement culture of the California teachers strikes and the #RedforEd movement. But it is more than a visual archive of the UTLA and the OEA teachers strikes and the cultural organizing by artists, designers, and photographers. It is a teaching tool. It teaches labor history and how to fight back during a time of mass inequality.





From the UTLA Art Build/Teachers Strike

Offsets:

- 1. Nisha Sembi: "Maestros: Trabajamos por el Pueblo", Spanish language version (ESP), 12" x 18", 2018
- 2. Nisha Sembi: "Teachers We Work for the People", English language version (ENG), 12" x 18", 2018
- 3. Ernesto Yerena, "Stand with LA Teachers" (ENG), 12" x 18", 2018
- 4. Ernesto Yerena, "Estamos Con Los Maestros de Los Angeles" (ESP), 12" x 18", 2018

Ephemera:

- 1. UTLA offset, We Stand with LA Educators", 12" x 18", 2018
- 2. Nicolas Lampert, "When We Fight, We Win", screenprint, 19" x 25", 2019

Pickets Signs Printed on Muslin Fabric:

- 1. Nisha Sembi, "Teachers We Work for the People", (ENG), 23" x 42", 2018
- 2. Nisha Sembi, "Maestros: Trabajamos por el Pueblo" (ESP) 23" x 42", 2018
- 3. Aise Born, "Stop Starving Our Schools", 23" x 42", 2018

Patches:

- 1. Judy Baca, "Cesar E. Chavez quote", 10" x 10", 2018
- 2. Nisha Sembi, "Teachers: We Work for the People" (ENG), 10" x 10", 2018
- 3. Kim Cosier, "Safe Schools for Everyone", 10" x 10", 2018
- 4. Daniel Martinez, "Austin Beutner dollar bill", 5" x 10", 2018
- 5. artist unknown, "Teachers fight for Student Rights", 10" x 10", 2018

Digital Prints of Parachute Designs:

- 1. Ernesto Yerena, "Stand with LA Teachers", 16" x 16", 2018
- 2. Erin Yoshi, "Fight for the Schools Students Deserve", 16" x 16", 2018
- 3. Claudio Martinez, "Teachers We Work for the People", 16" x 16", 2018
- 4. Claudio Martinez, "Fight for the Schools LA Students Deserve", 16" x 16", 2018
- 5. Carolyn Knight, "Schools We Need, Not Wall Street Greed", 16" x 16", 2018
- 6. Nicolas Lampert, "Fund Our Schools", 16" x 16", 2018
- 7. SPARC / Carlos Rogel, "Community Schools Build Democracy", 16" x 16", 2018



From the OEA Art Build/Teachers Strike

Ephemera:

- 1. We Stand with Oakland Teachers, offset, 12" x 18", 2019
- 2. Oakland Teachers Are Fighting for the Schools Our Students Deserve", offset, 8.5"x11", 2019

Pickets Signs: Printed on Muslin Fabric:

- 1. Favianna Rodriguez, "Keep Teachers in Oakland", 23" x 42", 2019
- 2. Melanie Cervantes /Jesus Barraza, "Keep Teachers in Oakland", 23" x 42", 2019
- 3. Miriam Stahl, "Fight for the Schools Students Deserve", 23" x 42", 2019
- 4. Micah Bazant, "Public Schools Are the Heart of the Community", 23" x 42", 2019
- 5. David Solnit, "Ready to Strike for the Schools that Students Deserve", 23" x 42", 2019

Patches:

- 1. Miriam Stahl, "Fight for the Schools Students Deserve", 10" x 10", 2019
- 2. Melanie Cervantes /Jesus Barraza, "Keep Teachers in Oakland", 10" x 10", 2019
- 3. Micah Bazant, "Public Schools Are the Heart of the Community", 10" x 10", 2019
- 5. Favianna Rodriguez, "Keep Teachers in Oakland", 10" x 10", 2019
- 6. Mara Gerson, "Public Schools Build Democracy", 10" x 10", 2019

Digital Prints of Parachute Designs:

- 1. Micah Bazant, "Public Schools are the Heart of the Community", 16" x 16", 2019
- 2. Kim Cosier (based on an Emory Douglas image), "Education Justice Now", 16" x 16", 2019
- 3. Favianna Rodriguez, "Keep Teachers in Oakland", 16" x 16", 2019
- 4. Claudio Martinez, "Fight for the Schools Students Deserve", 16" x 16", 2019
- 5. Jeanette Arellano / Paul Kjelland, "Ready to Strike", 16" x 16", 2019

From the National Education Association Representative Assembly

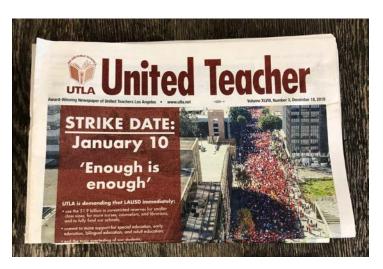
NEA Houston RA Offsets:

- 1. Josh MacPhee, "Red for Ed", 12" x 18", 2019
- 2. Melanie Cervantes/Jesus Barraza, "Fight for the Schools All Students Deserve", 12" x 18", 2019
- 3. Claudio Martinez/Paul Kjelland, "Educators" Serving the Needs of All Students", 12" x 18", 2019
- 4. Ernesto Yerena, "Teachers We Work for the People", 12" x 18", 2019
- 5. Nisha Sethi, "Build Schools Not Walls", 12" x 18", 2019
- 6. Jennifer White Johnson /Vy Vu, "Our Democracy, Our Responsibility, Our Time", 12" x 18", 2019
- 7. Favianna Rodriguez, "Education Justice is Racial Justice", 12" x 18", 2019
- 8. Art Build Workers print out description, 8.5"x11", 2019

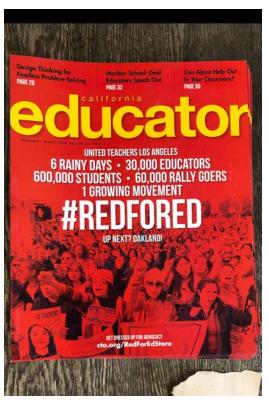
Photographs by Joe Brusky:

30 photographs of various demonstrations, events led by UTLA or OEA / examples of the art in action. Printed on archival HP Premium Photo Paper with archival inks. Each photograph is around 10" x 13" 2018-2019.

Exclusive Material for 3 Subscriber Boxsets



1. UTLA "United Teacher" newspaper, Volume XLVII, Number 3, December 18, 2018



2. California Educator Magazine, February-March 2019, Volume 23-Issue 4



3. Carlos Rogel / SPARC, "UTLA Contract Victory", digital print, 11" x 17", 2019

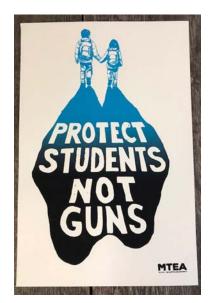


4. Micah Bazant, "OEA", digital print, 11" x 17", 2019

Exclusive Material for 3 Subscriber Boxsets Cont.



5. Jesse Purcell, "Immigrants and Refugees Welcome", risograph print, 11" x 17", 2017



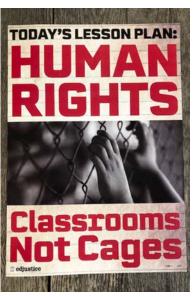
6. Pete Railand, "Protect Students, Not Guns", silkscreen, 12"x 18"



7. Susan Simensky Bietilla, "Fighting for the Schools Students Deserve", risograph print, 11" x 17", 2017



8. Kyle McKinley, "Public Schools: The Heart of Our Community", risograph print, 11" x 17", 2017



9. NEA, "Todays Lesson Plan: Classrooms Not Cages", offset, 12" x 18", 2019

Additional Photos for 3 Exclusive Boxsets by Joe Brusky

















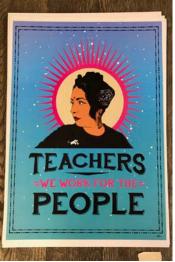




UTLA Art Build/Teachers Strike: Offset Posters



1. Nisha Sembi: "Maestros: Trabajamos por el Pueblo", Spanish language version (ESP), 12" x 18", 2018



2. Nisha Sembi: "Teachers We Work for the People", English language version (ENG), 12" x 18", 2018



3. Ernesto Yerena, "Stand with LA Teachers" (ENG), 12" x 18", 2018



4. Ernesto Yerena, "Estamos Con Los Maestros de Los Angeles" (ESP), 12" x 18", 2018

UTLA Art Build/Teachers Strike- Ephemera

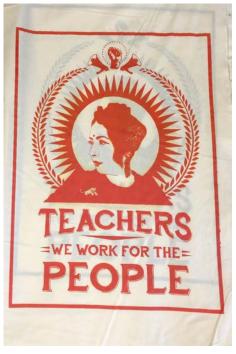


1. UTLA offset, We Stand with LA Educators", 12" x 18", 2018



. Nicolas Lampert, "When We Fight, We Win", screenprint, 19"x25", 2019

<u>UTLA Art Build/Teachers Strike:</u> <u>Pickets Signs: Printed on Muslin Fabric</u>



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UTLA Art Build/Teachers Strike: Patches



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3. Kim Cosier, "Safe Schools for Everyone", 10" x 10", 2018



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UTLA Art Build/Teachers Strike: Digital prints of Parachute Designs



1. Ernesto Yerena, "Stand with LA Teachers", 16" x 16", 2018



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3. Claudio Martinez, "Teachers We Work for the People", 16" x 16", 2018



4. Claudio Martinez, "Fight for the Schools LA Students Deserve", 16" x 16", 2018



5. Carolyn Knight, "Schools We Need, Not Wall Street Greed", 16" x 16", 2018



6. Nicolas Lampert, "Fund Our Schools", 16" x 16", 2018



7. SPARC / Carlos Rogel, "Community Schools Build Democracy", 16" x 16", 2018

UTLA Art Build/Teachers Strike: Photos by Joe Brusky



























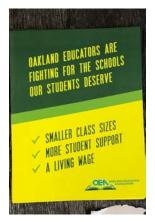




OEA Art Build/Teachers Strike Ephemera



1. We Stand with Oakland Teachers, offset, 12" x 18", 2019



2. Oakland Teachers Are Fighting for the Schools Our Students Deserve", offset, 8.5"x11", 2019

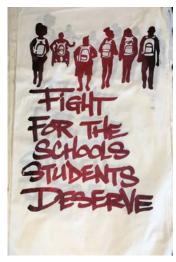
OEA Art Build/Teachers Strike-Picket Signs Printed on Muslin Fabric



1. Favianna Rodriguez, "Keep Teachers in Oakland", 23" x 42", 2019



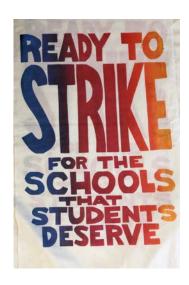
2. Melanie Cervantes / Jesus Barraza, "Keep Teachers in Oakland", 23" x 42", 2019



3. Miriam Stahl, "Fight for the Schools Students Deserve", 23" x 42", 2019



4. Micah Bazant, "Public Schools Are the Heart of the Community", 23" x 42", 2019



5. David Solnit, "Ready to Strike for the Schools that Students Deserve", 23" x 42", 2019

OEA Art Build/Teachers Strike: Patches



1. Miriam Stahl, "Fight for the Schools Students Deserve", 10" x 10", 2019



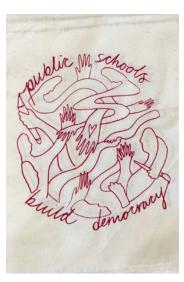
2. Melanie Cervantes / Jesus Barraza, "Keep Teachers in Oakland", 10" x 10", 2019



3. Micah Bazant, "Public Schools Are the Heart of the Community", 10" x 10", 2019



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OEA Art Build/Teachers Strike: Digital Prints of Parachute Designs



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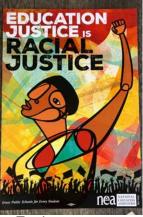
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8. Art Build Workers print out description, 8.5"x11", 2019

OEA Art Build/Teachers Strike: Photos by Joe Brusky

































When We Fight, We Win by Nicolas Lampert

"People have seen that we have real power, that we can win. Now's our day"
- Arlene Inouye, Secretary, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA)

Inouye's words summarized not just the impact of the Los Angeles teachers strike in January 2019, but the impact of the #RedforEd Movement and the results that occur when teachers' unions harness their collective power and the power of a strike to fight for the schools that their students deserve. In 2012, the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) lit a fire across the country with their historic strike. Other teacher strikes followed largely in red states: West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona. These strikes achieved significant improvements, not only in pay and benefits, but in directing much needed resources to their schools and classrooms to hire the positions that had been cut - nurses, aids, and librarians. In 2019 teachers rose up in cities and blue states with teachers in Los Angeles, Oakland, Denver, and Chicago going out on strike. In the span of ten months teachers in two-out-of-three largest school districts (Los Angeles and Chicago) went out on strike, essentially shutting down their cities until the school board and the Mayor's office came to negotiation table.

These actions have shifted the narrative. Teachers have used the power of the strike to improve their schools and communities that have been devastated by decades of funding cuts, corporate privatization schemes (charter schools), and systemic racism. They have called for caps on charter schools that have drained public schools of their funds. Teachers have fought for smaller class sizes, more teaching aids, librarians, and nurses. They have demanded a pay scale that allows them to not have a second or third job or to live an hour away from their work when the cost of living in rapidly gentrifying urban areas has pushed teachers and staff out of their own communities.

This Box Set highlights the 2019 teachers strikes in California: the January 2019 Los Angeles teachers strike led by United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) when teachers took on the billionaires and won. It also highlights the Oakland teachers strike led by the Oakland Education Association (OEA) that followed a month later in February 2019. Both strikes were historic and both inspired other teachers to organize and take collective action in school districts across Maryland, Virginia, and Indiana, as well as in cities like Little Rock, Arkansas and Chicago, among others.

All of these organizing efforts used the power of art in their tactics. Photographers captured the action in the streets and visual artists and designers organized the art builds prior to the strikes to help supply the banners and signs that visualized the demands of the movement. This Box Set archives this movement culture. It documents the art build process where upwards of 700 to 1,000 people in the community would come together to paint the banners and screen print the picket signs and patches that would later be seen in the marches. It documents the solidarity that took place when some of the more renowned activist artists in Los Angeles, Oakland, and beyond (Ernesto Yerena, Nisha Sethi, Favianna Rodriguez, Judy Baca, Melanie Cervantes, Jesus Barazza, Erin Yoshi, Micah Bazant, David Solnit, to name a few) lent their talents to the struggle. This Box Set includes photographs from Joe Brusky who was ever present photographing the pre-strike organizing (the art builds) and then strike itself: the marches and the picket lines. The Box Set also includes essays and interviews from the union leaders, teachers and staff, and many of the artists involved. This Box Set is more than a visual archive of the UTLA and the OEA teachers strikes, the #RedforED movement, and the cultural organizing



by artists, designers, and photographers. It is a teaching tool. It teaches labor history and how to fight back during a time of mass inequality.

In January of 2019 over 30,000 teachers, staff, and members of the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) union, went on strike for the first time in thirty years. The LAUSD (the Los Angeles Unified School District) is the nation's second-largest school system with over 70,000 students. UTLA demanded more resources for their classrooms, nurses and librarians in every school, smaller class sizes, higher wages, and a cap on charter schools. Los Angeles teacher Marianne O'Brien summed up the fight as one that was ultimately against the uncontrolled expansion of charter schools – schools that are publicly funded, but privately run. "Superintendent Austin Beutner is pushing to privatize schools," noted O'Brien, "Our students would be disproportionately hurt by that and not have access to a quality education, if all the funding for public school is pulled into charter schools." UTLA had good reason to be critical of Los Angeles school superintendent Austin Beutner, a former investment banker with ties to the charter school movement. LAUSD has more charter schools than any other school district in the nation, and charter advocates and operators control the city school board.

Beutner represents how money and corporate interests has distorted the mission of public schools. The charter school industry and its supporters have dumped huge sums of money into elections in California in a bid to expand its presence in public school districts throughout the state. In 2018, a record \$50 million was spent in the race for state superintendent of public instruction with over \$30 million being spent on the pro-charter candidate. In 2017, the Los Angeles school board race became the most expensive in U.S. history with \$15 million spent on the candidates with close to \$10 million of it coming from the charter side. These high stakes elections and conditions have led to teachers having to take on corporations, the billionaire class and Wall Street, and they have been successful because they are organized into a union.

The week-long UTLA strike (January 14th to the 22nd) captured national attention and resulted in a historic victory for public education. The agreement included a 6% pay raise for teachers and smaller class sizes - a reduction in class size by four students per class for grades four through twelve over the course of three years and the removal of a provision that had previously allowed larger class sizes during times of economic hardship. The agreement provided the steps for hiring a full-time nurse and librarian for every middle and high school in the district. It also included the establishment of thirty community schools around the district - modeled after similar programs in Austin, Texas that aim to provide students with social services and learning experiences in the arts. Other gains included assigning a lawyer to help students and families with immigration-related concerns, ending random searches, and creating green spaces at the schools.

The deal contained no binding agreements on charter schools, but it did include a non-binding resolution calling on the state to establish a cap on charter schools. Nine months later this was realized when Governor Gavin Newson signed a law in early October 2019 that reformed the states charter school system. The first draft of the bill – supported by the teacher unions – would have crippled the charter school system, but the revised bill that was signed was meant to appease both sides. Public school districts were given more authority to choose which charter schools are approved – allowing districts to deny charter school applications if the district is struggling financially, as determined by the county superintendent of schools. Charter schools will now also have to operate within the boundaries of their authorizing districts and charter school teachers will have to meet new credentialing requirements. Yet the new law allows charter school applicants to appeal



districts' decisions to the county boards of education and, in some cases, the state board of education. Thus, the struggle continues.

The Oakland teachers strike in February 2019 mirrored many of the same calls as their counterparts on Los Angeles. The Oakland Education Association (OEA) called for smaller class sizes and more resources for their students in a district with 36,000 students and 87 schools. Keith Brown, President of OEA, noted "Our students do not have adequate support – one nurse for every 750 students, one counselor for every 600 kids. OUSD schools are not failing. OUSD is failing our schools. OUSD is failing Oakland students."

OEA also demanded better pay for teachers and staff in a city where tech money and gentrification has made it difficult for the vast majority of teachers to live in the city in which they work. A starting teaching salary of \$46,500 forces many teachers to live paycheck to paycheck. One-in-five teachers leave the district annually, compared to just over one-in-ten statewide.

Oakland schools are also dealing with the negative impacts of charter school expansion. Much like Los Angeles, Oakland school board elections are flooded with money from pro-charter billionaires. In 2018, Michael Bloomberg donated \$120,000 to an independent expenditure committee connected with GO Public Schools, a nonprofit organization that advocates on behalf of charter school expansion, which spent more than \$150,000 on a single 2018 Oakland school board race. In Oakland twenty-four schools are slated to be closed down and none of the schools on the closure list are charters.

Journalist Leighton Akio Woodhouse writes that the proliferation of charter schools in Oakland costs the school district \$57.3 million per year, "Charter schools directly compete with traditional public schools; they fill their classrooms by drawing students away from district-run schools. In California, schools are funded on a per-pupil basis. That means that when a student leaves a school, her apportionment of funding goes with her, costing the school district money."

In short, the charter schools are designed to defund public schools and a part of the larger neo liberal playbook to privatize as much of the public sphere as possible. Defund public institutions until they are broken beyond repair and then replace those institutions with private, for-profit models, albeit ones paid for by public dollars.

The seven-day strike resulted in a 11% pay raise, gains in class size reductions, the hiring of more support staff, and a five-month moratorium on school closures. The agreement fell short of expectations for some union members (with 58% of the members voting in favor of the agreement), yet the strike won significant demands and was powerful in uniting teachers, students, and parents. Oakland teachers had far less time to prepare for an action of this scale (six months) compared to their counterparts in Los Angeles who had been building momentum towards a strike for upwards of three-to-four years. In both cases - Los Angeles and Oakland - the strikes demonstrated that the teacher's unions are the vanguard of the labor movement. Their actions created new partnerships and allies for years to come, including with local and national artists who stood in solidarity with the teachers and their call for education justice. Keith Brown noted that "We are in a struggle for the soul of public education in Oakland." OEA, UTLA, and the teacher unions across the country are also in a struggle for the soul of their communities and the nation itself. They are teaching us all an important lesson: When we fight, we win.