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Quotes from Eartha Dengler:

1. “People [in Lawrence] didn’t think their stories were interesting or relevant. We had to not only overcome the reluctance of the researcher to focus on Lawrence, but to overcome the feeling of Lawrence people that whatever they had done in their lives was of any importance to history.”
2. “It is important not only to show what we have [at the archives] but to teach how it can be used. It is a dead collection if it isn’t ongoing.”
3. “Lawrence is very much in need of a memory that creates a feeling of stability as a community that has grown from the early Lawrence in 1845 to what it is today. It has grown in a very organic way and people can look back and see that they are part of an ongoing process; that Hispanics are not just like a mushroom springing out of the earth, but one group in a succession of immigrant groups coming in. They will spawn another group probably as they become middle class.”
4. “When I look at Lawrence I see it like turning over the earth in the spring and having new growth coming out. It isn’t a process we should feel sorry about. In the beginning Essex Street had English merchants. ... Before you knew it Essex Street had become Irish and German and Italian and French. Essex Street didn’t die and it won’t die this time around ... Lawrence will go on.”
5. “My civic activism is a result of growing up in Hitler’s Germany, where good people who were reluctant to vote and let their opinions be heard, shared some of the blame of Hitler having such an easy time to get into power.”
6. “I have supported efforts that were not always popular. One of them was [protesting] the war in Vietnam, which was a waste of human life. I came out of World War II with the feeling it was a tremendous waste, not just of human lives, but the destruction of our cities and towns, which was awful. ... In Germany protesting might have brought you one line in the newspaper as having been arrested.”

(END)