



☆ ☆ ☆ DC ☆ ☆ ☆
**HISTORY
CONFERENCE**

MARCH 23 - 25, 2023



KEYWORDS: ICON GUIDE

DISCIPLINES
Anthropology



COMMUNITIES
Indigenous History



DISCIPLINES
Archaeology



COMMUNITIES
Women's History



DISCIPLINES
Genealogy



COMMUNITIES
LGBTQ+



DISCIPLINES
Sociology



COMMUNITIES
Dis/ability History



DISCIPLINES
Social History



ENVIRONMENT
Built Environment



DISCIPLINES
Cultural History



ENVIRONMENT
Neighborhood History



DISCIPLINES
Arts & Culture



ENVIRONMENT
Environmental History



POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT
Political/Government



PRACTICE/APPROACHES
Public History



POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT
Economic History



PRACTICE/APPROACHES
Oral History



POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT
Military History



PRACTICE/APPROACHES
Memory



POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT
Immigration



PRACTICE/APPROACHES
Education



COMMUNITIES
Activism/Advocacy



CENTURIES
18th



COMMUNITIES
Black History



CENTURIES
19th



COMMUNITIES
Latinx/Hispanic History



CENTURIES
20th



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 ABOUT THE DC HISTORY CONFERENCE**
- 3 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY LAYOUT**
- 4 GUIDE TO THE CONFERENCE AND PROGRAM**
- 6 ACCESSIBILITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA**
- 8 FOR EDUCATORS**
- 10 THURSDAY SESSION: LETITIA WOODS BROWN MEMORIAL LECTURE**
- 13 FRIDAY SESSIONS**
- 26 SATURDAY SESSIONS**
- 42 HISTORY NETWORK**
- 43 POSTER SESSION**
- 44 CONFERENCE PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**
- 46 SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE**



ABOUT THE DC HISTORY CONFERENCE

The DC History Conference is an interdisciplinary, community conference considering the District's past, present, and future. Since 1973, the conference organizers aim to provide a welcoming, educational, and stimulating forum for original research on and engagement with the history of the Washington, DC metropolitan area (including Maryland, Virginia, and the federal government).

The DC History Conference is co-presented by the **DC History Center**, **DC Public Library**, and **HumanitiesDC**; sponsored by **American University**; and organized by a volunteer planning committee.

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University Museum and the Textile Museum

Sajel Swartz, DC History Center

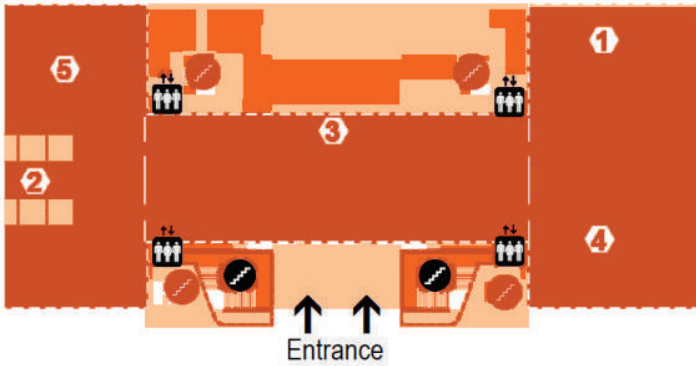
PROGRAM

Rebecca Kaliff, Editor

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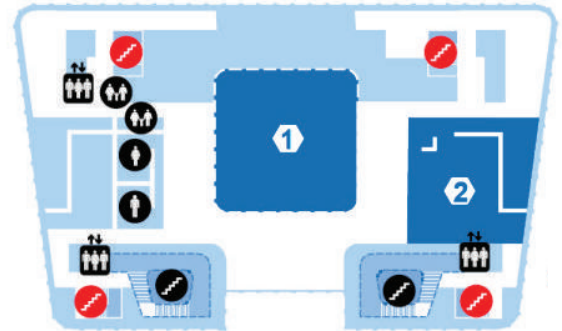
Shedrick Pelt, Photographer

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY LAYOUT



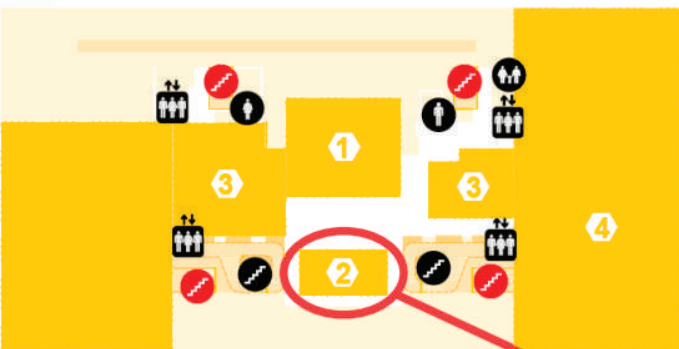
GREAT HALL 1ST FLOOR

- 1. Marianne's Café
- 2. Co-Working
- 3. History Network/Poster Session
- 4. New Books
- 5. Public Computers



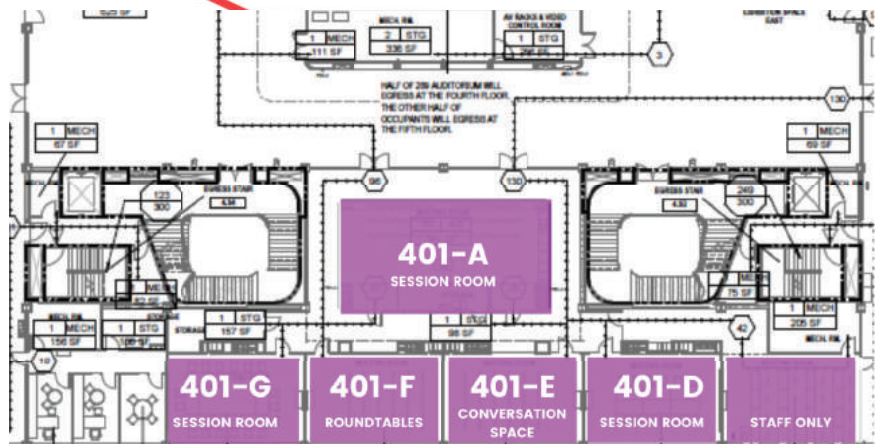
RECEPTION AREA 5TH FLOOR

- 1. Auditorium
- 2. Reception
- 3. Roof
- 4. Coffee Hour
- 5. Oral History Listening Lounge



CONFERENCE CENTER 4TH FLOOR

- 1. Auditorium
- 2. Conference Center
- 3. Exhibits
- 4. Local History



GUIDE TO THE CONFERENCE

The 2023 DC History Conference is held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. The majority of the conference sessions are located in the Conference Center on the fourth floor. Keynotes, including the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture on Thursday night, are in the auditorium.

IS THERE A CONFERENCE THEME?

The program committee cast a wide net to DC history researchers, educators, and enthusiasts to propose sessions unrelated to a theme. This resulted in a conference lineup dedicated to a wide variety of topics, time periods, and approaches. The interdisciplinary nature of this year's conference truly reflects the rich, diverse history of Washington, DC, and inspired the playful program design that uses representative icons to indicate each session's content.

Which sessions have similar themes? What questions appear again and again across panels? We encourage you to think about why these subjects resonate with Washingtonians this year, and every year.

WHAT'S IN THE PROGRAM?

The program is laid out chronologically. The schedule at-a-glance provides a brief preview of the conference. Sessions are categorized as one of the following: Panel, Combined Panel, Roundtable, or Creative Expression. Panels are presentations fully dedicated to one

topic. Combined Panels feature multiple presentations grouped under a common theme. You can identify this distinction in the program where 2-3 presentation titles are listed underneath the session name. Roundtables provide a forum for audience members to actively participate in a dialogue. Creative Expressions are designed to encourage creativity, arts, and unique program formats.

The Saturday Keynote honors the 50th anniversary of DC Home Rule and invites all attendees to collectively reflect on its importance. Special features throughout the conference, including the History Network, Poster Session, and Reception, are community-building social opportunities that provide space for attendees to connect with organizations, research projects, scholars, students, and other history enthusiasts about their work. Keep an eye out for new additions to the conference, including the Oral History Listening Lounge.

WHAT ARE THE ICONS?

When presenters submitted to present at the 2023 conference, they identified keywords relevant to their presentations. This year we used those keywords to inspire the program design. Each icon corresponds to a keyword. You can look at the guide at the front of the program and find the icons throughout the pages of the program to help you pick sessions based on your interests.

HOW DO I DECIDE WHICH PANELS TO ATTEND?

Each panel on the main program includes a title, description, and presenter names to help you quickly find a session of interest. Icons correspond to a keyword to help you identify the session's theme or approach. Moderators are responsible for introducing panels, keeping time, and encouraging conversation between presenters. They also guide the Q&A at the end of the session. The "For Educators" page highlights education-focused sessions and features teacher professional development opportunities!

We are very excited to welcome you to the 2023 DC History Conference, to celebrate our work, and to meet conference presenters and attendees!



ACCESSIBILITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Conference registration is free! Keynotes are recorded and will be available on YouTube with closed captioning after the conference.

ASL interpretation will be provided at keynotes and at one panel per session based on attendee requests. To request a reasonable accommodation, including ASL interpretation, please contact the DC Public Library's Center for Accessibility seven (7) days in advance at **202-727-2142** or by emailing **DCPLaccess@dc.gov**.



The Center for Accessibility will have a table next to the registration table to provide assistance and answer your accessibility questions. These services were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

SOCIAL MEDIA

Join the fun! Share your unique conference experience with your followers and networks on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Include our handle **@dchistcon** and the conference hashtag, **#DCHistCon**, to join the conversation.





Welcome

We are honored to host the 49th Annual DC History Conference at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library.

The DC Public Library Foundation partners with the DC Public Library to enhance Washington, D.C.'s public libraries, bringing private philanthropy together with government support to ensure that our libraries deliver the highest quality of service to the District's residents. The DC Public Library Foundation is a proud sponsor of the fourth floor exhibit, *Up from the People*, one of the many features we hope you will explore during your visit.



DC Public Library

dcplfoundation.org | dclibrary.org

FOR EDUCATORS

EDUCATION-FOCUSED PANELS:

Friday, March 24th

Session A | 10:15 - 11:30 AM

Uncovering DC History at
the Library of Congress

Saturday, March 25th

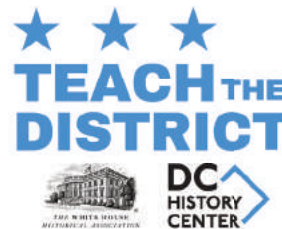
Session D | 10:15 - 11:30 AM

Teaching Local History

Session E | 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Roundtable: Black Education
Exhibitions and Related Programming

Poster Session | 1:15 - 3:15 PM



SUMMER TEACHER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Looking for (paid) summer opportunities? If you're a 3rd-12th grade educator in Washington, DC, the Teach the District program might be just the right fit!

Join the White House Historical Association and the DC History Center to explore local history and classroom connections through the Teach the District (TTD) program. TTD is an immersive, five-day teacher professional development program that brings history to life through exploration of local stories and civic engagement. Teach the District connects you with collections representatives and museum educators to help you develop classroom resources to implement with your students.

The in-person program will be hosted July 24-28, 2023. Participants receive a \$600 stipend at the completion of the workshop and deliverables. Applications are open and will be reviewed on a rolling basis until June 30, 2023 at 11:59 pm. Please note, Teach the District will reach max capacity with 20 participants. Once 20 participants are accepted, applications will close.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The DC History Center and other museums, nonprofits, and cultural institutions in Washington, DC offer various educational resources to assist educators with incorporating local history into the classroom. Below are just a few examples of the vast amount of resources and subject matter that organizations in DC offer to educators.

The **DC History Center** offers lesson plans to support DC history topics found in the DC Public Schools curriculum for grades 3-12; resources such as materials to support Black Lives Matter at School; a timeline that tracks DC's history from the time when members of the Nacostine tribe occupied the land until 2019; and standalone downloadable activities relating to DC history topics.

dchistory.libguides.com/educator-resources

DC Public Library has a wide variety of services and resources to support educators and their students, including the **People's Archive** which connects users to resources that illuminate DC's local history and culture.

dclibrary.org/thepeoplesarchive

Anacostia Community Museum

provides online teaching resources in history, art, and culture available via the Smithsonian's Learning Lab, an online learning platform.

learninglab.si.edu

Teaching for Change's D.C. Area

Educators for Social Justice compiles resources for educators to teach local history, lists of books for the classroom in Washington, DC, and strategies for teaching DC history, among many other resources.

dcareaeducators4socialjustice.org/local-history





THURSDAY MARCH 23RD

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY
AUDITORIUM
6:00 - 8:00 PM

LETITIA WOODS BROWN MEMORIAL LECTURE

The DC History Conference celebrates historian and educator Letitia Woods Brown with this lecture featuring a distinguished scholar of DC history. With the support of the Murray family, we honor Letitia Woods Brown for her contribution to the study of DC history.



TAMIKA NUNLEY, PHD

Tamika Nunley is Associate Professor of history and the Sandler Family Faculty Fellow of American Studies at Cornell University. In addition to her many articles, essays, and reviews, she is the author of *At the Threshold of Liberty: Women, Slavery, and Shifting Identities in Washington, DC*, which received the 2021 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Award. This year, Dr. Nunley will release her new book,

The Demands of Justice: Enslaved Women, Capital Crime, and Clemency in Early Virginia.

BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY AS AMERICAN HISTORY AND THE EVERYDAY STRUGGLES OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE

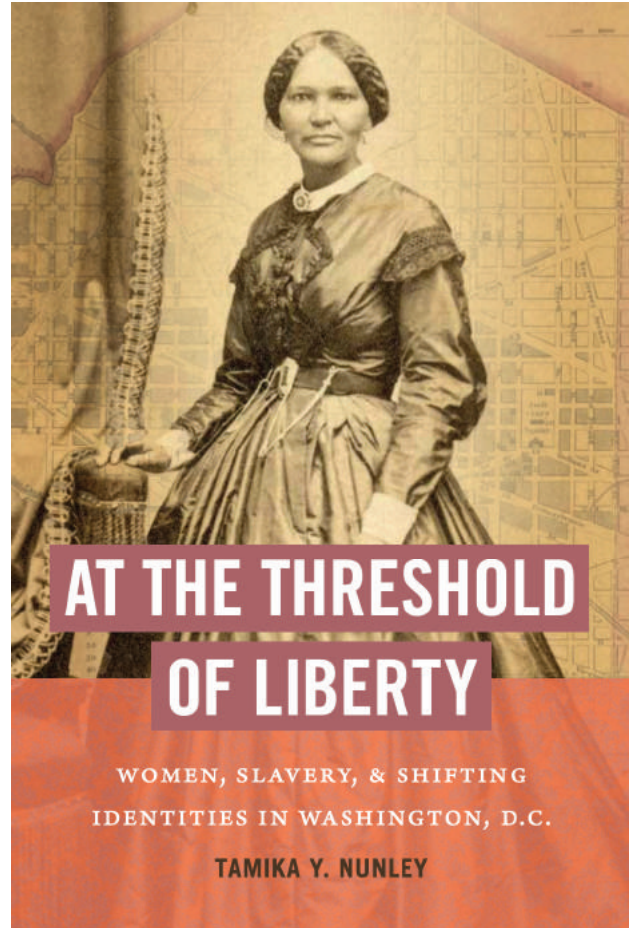
Black women—enslaved, fugitive, and free—imagined new identities and lives for themselves in 19th-century Washington, DC. The capital city was founded on the premise of liberty, and yet it was a center of urban slavery and an abolitionist target. Nunley reveals how Black women navigated the growing slave trade, strict Black codes, and rigid social restrictions intended to prevent them from ever experiencing liberty, self-respect, and power. She traces how Black women developed their own ideas about liberty as they navigated the city, escaped from slavery, initiated lawsuits for their freedom, created economic opportunities, pursued education, and participated in political work. In telling these stories, Nunley places Black women at the center of DC history in a momentous era.



ABOUT LETITIA WOODS BROWN

Letitia Woods Brown was born on October 24, 1915, in Tuskegee, Alabama, to a family with strong ties to the Tuskegee Institute—known today as Tuskegee University. She received her BS from Tuskegee Institute and taught elementary school in Alabama before pursuing her graduate studies at Ohio State University and Harvard University. In 1966, Dr. Brown received her PhD in history from Harvard University after completing a dissertation centered on free and enslaved African Americans in Washington, DC. She went on to

teach at Howard University and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship. Dr. Brown joined the faculty of George Washington University in 1971 and taught there until her untimely passing in 1976.



The DC History Center will sell books after the program. Dr. Nunley will be available to sign.



FRIDAY
MARCH 24TH

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY

COFFEE & TEA 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Come early to register (4th floor) and enjoy a free cup of coffee on the 5th floor, courtesy of Georgetown University Press!

LISTENING LOUNGE: ORAL HISTORY COLLABORATIVE 5TH FLOOR



Immerse yourself in impactful stories in the Listening Lounge, where you'll find a curated loop of oral history interview clips. This Special Feature provides a different way to engage with history: hearing eye-witness and firsthand accounts of events. Learn about the past through these individual stories. Practice deep listening. Take a break from sessions. Learn how you can get started on your own oral history work.



HumanitiesDC



DC Public Library

DC ORAL HISTORY COLLABORATIVE

Since 2017, the Collaborative has supported DC residents as they record oral history interviews with members of their communities. In that time, over 400 narrators have generously contributed their invaluable stories and memories on topics including: music, the arts, work, play, activism, and connection to place. Many of these interviews are available in the digital collections of the DC Public Library's People's Archive. We hope listening to these stories will encourage you to consider an oral history project of your own!

FRIDAY 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

SATURDAY 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM



THE GREAT MIGRATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: AN INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

In the Real World History program, DC high school students read *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson, which chronicles the Great Migration of Black Americans from the Jim Crow South to cities in the North and West (1915–1970). Listen to oral history interviews the students conducted with people who came to DC as part of the Migration.

SATURDAY 1:00 - 5:00 PM

THE DC MUSEUM OF SIDEWALK STUFF: POP-UP MUSEUM FRIDAY & SATURDAY 1:15 - 3:15 PM

ALLISON PRESS, XENA NI

Free sidewalk stuff is a cultural symbol of DC city life, inspired by centuries-old mutual aid traditions that reemerged during the COVID era. Whether it's an old pair of shoes, wooden clothes hangers, or an extension cord left curbside, free sidewalk stuff is an informal way of sharing resources with each other. The DC Museum of Sidewalk Stuff is a pop-up museum that shares the real stories behind these everyday objects. The museum connects a city of strangers through the stories behind the stuff they give away, elevating this everyday act of care by celebrating the objects themselves.

SESSION A 10:15 - 11:30 AM

THE DEAF PRINTERS PAGES: PRESERVING STORIES OF DEAF PRINTERS AT THE WASHINGTON POST



Keywords: 20th Century, Cultural History, Dis/ability History

Printing *The Washington Post* in the mid-20th century required a skilled labor force—nearly a quarter of whom were Deaf. In the composing room, ad department, and mail room, Deaf printers developed language strategies and social networks with their hearing co-workers to navigate their work. As technology transformed printing at *The Post*, the number of Deaf printers dwindled and their unique linguistic forms were lost to time. This panel is inspired by Gallaudet University's online exhibit, *Deaf Printers Pages*, and includes the perspectives of retired printers who reflect on their experiences of this unique community in Washington, DC.

PRESENTERS:

Jan DeLap, Retired Deaf Printer, *The Washington Post*

Janie Golightly, Retired Deaf Printer, *The Washington Post*

Dick Moore, Retired Deaf Printer, *The Washington Post*

MODERATORS:

Brian H. Greenwald, PhD, Professor of History and Director of the Drs. John S. & Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center, Gallaudet University

Jannelle Legg, Assistant Professor of History and Project Manager of the Deaf Printers Pages at the Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center, Gallaudet University

SWANN QUEEN: REMEMBERING DC'S FIRST BLACK QUEER ICON, WILLIAM DORSEY SWANN



Keywords: 19th Century, 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Arts & Culture

Know the name: William Dorsey Swann. Swann, the first documented, self-described drag queen was the host of iconic underground drag balls in 19th-century DC. Born into slavery in Maryland in 1858, Swann created authentic, joyful, safe queer spaces in the nation's capital. In doing so, their chosen-family faced persecution and attacks on their lives, including by local police, marking some of the first documented instances of queer resistance in the United States. The producers of SWANN QUEEN, an upcoming historical fiction film, highlight Swann's contributions to Black, queer, DC history while evaluating film as a way to honor historical memory.

PRESENTERS:

L Cedeño Miller (they/them), *Writer/Director/Producer*, SWANN QUEEN

Lee Livingston Perine (he/him), *Producer*, SWANN QUEEN

Pussy Noir (she/they), *Producer/Actor*, SWANN QUEEN

UNCOVERING DC HISTORY AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Keywords: 19th Century, 20th Century, Black History, Politics and Government

You might not think “local” when you hear “Library of Congress” (LOC), but the institution’s Manuscript Division team wants you to know you’re wrong! Learn from LOC specialists why you should be researching local, 20th-century Washington, DC at the world’s largest library. Whether you’re a historian, student, educator, researcher, or interested community member, learn how to access these resources to uncover the city’s history, particularly on topics related to race and class in the city. Attendees will walk away with an understanding of what LOC holds in its collection, search tips, and suggested research topics.

PRESENTERS:

Loretta Deaver, *Reference Librarian*, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division

Ahmed Johnson, *African American Genealogy Specialist*, Library of Congress

Ryan Reft, *Historian*, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division

Lara Szypszak, *Reference Librarian*, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division

SESSION B 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

DR. EDWIN BANCROFT HENDERSON: THE GRANDFATHER OF BLACK BASKETBALL IN WASHINGTON, DC



Keywords: 20th Century, Black History, Education, Arts and Culture

Dr. Edwin Bancroft (E.B.) Henderson spent the summers between 1904 and 1907 studying at Harvard University's Dudley Sargent School of Physical Training. He returned home to Washington, DC and introduced basketball to African American youth on a wide-scale basis for the first time. He established the first Black athletic leagues, an organization to train officials, and created opportunities for young people to participate in organized sports. Dr. Bancroft's 1910 *Spalding Official Handbook* and 1939 *The Negro in Sports* were the first books to document Black participation in athletics. This panel celebrates Dr. Henderson's life and legacy while encouraging DC to reclaim a place in the history of basketball.

PRESENTERS:

Edwin B. Henderson II, *Public Historian*, Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation

Keith Irby, *Archivist*, Eastern Board of Officials

Barrington Scott, *Trustee*, University of the District of Columbia

HISTORY BEHIND THE SCENES

Looking for inspiration and creative ways to examine the past? This panel provides three case studies using interdisciplinary approaches and unique types of evidence for historical research: compensation petitions, archaeological records, and photo collages.

COLD ACCOUNTING: COLORISM IN THE 1862 VALUATIONS OF EMANCIPATED PERSONS IN WASHINGTON, DC



Keywords: 19th Century, Black History, Economic History, Social History

The Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862 freed enslaved individuals in Washington, DC. The ugly truth? Emancipation resulted in payment to enslavers for their "losses." Deirdre Collier explains how she used the 1862 Compensation Petitions database to answer the question: Did the color of a freed person's skin inform the price paid to their enslavers? Most existing research focuses on age, gender, and skill set. This is the first accounting research project to investigate the role of colorism.

CURATION CRISIS: REINTERPRETING THE DISTRICT'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS



Keywords: 19th Century, Archaeology, Built Environment, Neighborhood History

Enormous 1980s and 1990s construction projects, including the Convention Center and what is now Capital One Arena at Gallery Place, replaced entire DC neighborhood blocks. In the process, District archaeologists preserved objects from these sites, which then suffered neglect from a lack of safe storage. Now, the collections are being rehoused at the renovated Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. Ruth Trocolli describes why this is an opportunity for gaining new insights from old collections and how archaeology reveals past Washingtonians' stories that could otherwise disappear from the historical record.

PHOTO COLLAGE/PUBLIC ART: DOCUMENTING CHANGES TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Arts & Culture, Black History, Cultural History, Public History

Time passes, and cities change—new layers built upon old ones. Gail Rebhan mirrors this dynamic through photo collages. Incorporating current photographs with research, ephemera, and historic photographs, she creates a single, layered image to explore the history of a site. She uses collage as public art to make neighborhood history accessible as residents, passersby, and workers live their daily lives. Rebhan is currently creating art that pushes back on the erasure of Bethesda River Road's Black history and community.

PRESENTERS:

Deirdre Collier, PhD, Associate Professor, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Ruth Trocolli, District Archaeologist, DC Historic Preservation Office/Office of Planning

Gail Rebhan, Photographer/Professor Emerita, Northern Virginia Community College

MODERATOR:

Stan Veuger, Senior Fellow, Economic Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute

TURNING POINTS

Learn how glass bottles, the Potomac River Flood of 1936, and the founding of the Washington Canoe Club each uniquely signaled moments of change in the nation's capital. Connecting these three presentations offers commentary on questions of belonging, exclusion, and environmental justice.

UNEASY WATERS: A HISTORY OF FLOODING AND FLOOD CONTROL IN WASHINGTON, DC, 1870-1942



Keywords: 20th Century, Black History, Built Environment, Environmental History, Politics and Government

As sea levels rise and extreme weather rocks our communities, Carmen Bolt leads a discussion on a historic and current environmental issue: flooding. In 1936, a catastrophic flood on the Potomac sparked government action for flood-control measures across the country. In DC, those initiatives failed local communities. Instead, they protected the federal city and its financial standing. Facing climate change today, environmental justice calls on us to learn from the past to protect lives and livelihoods over economic gain.

DRINKING DEMOCRACY: GLASS BOTTLES AND CITIZENSHIP IN LATE 19TH-CENTURY WASHINGTON, DC



Keywords: 19th Century, Archaeology, Cultural History, Immigration, Social History

After the Civil War, the newly reunified government needed to rebrand the city. While DC's German immigrants oriented the drinking culture towards beer, Temperance Movement advocates classified Black and immigrant Washingtonians unfit for citizenship. These competing purposes collided over the regulation of glass bottles—from branding to recycling and policing. Nikki Grigg follows the circulation of bottles through living rooms, saloons, cellars, middens, washing facilities, and breweries to analyze how Washingtonians contended with citizenship in the nation's capital.

INDUSTRIAL WATERFRONT TO RECREATIONAL DESTINATION: THE WASHINGTON CANOE CLUB



Keywords: Built Environment, Environmental History

Walking along Georgetown's waterfront, it's difficult to imagine the site as an agricultural hub or industrial port. Angelina Ribeiro Jones describes how boating clubs, such as the Washington Canoe Club (WCC), ushered in change on the Potomac River with the creation of a boathouse row centered around the Alexandria Aqueduct's northern abutment. With WCC's 1904 founding, industrial and recreational land uses co-existed on the waterfront before eventually yielding to today's solely recreational uses. The story of riverfront land use lends historical context to current debates about water quality and access to recreational space.

PRESENTERS:

Carmen Bolt, *Doctoral Candidate*, American University

Nikki Grigg, *Archaeologist/Doctoral Student*, University of Chicago

Angelina Ribeiro Jones, *Cultural Landscape Architect*, National Park Service, National Capital Region

MODERATOR:

Lina Mann, *Historian*, White House Historical Association

HISTORY NETWORK 1:15 - 3:15 PM

RECLAIMING BLACK JOY: PLACING PLAY IN OUR LIBERATION (A PLAY) 2:00 - 2:45 PM

Location: *New Books, 1st Floor*

From the artist, Sisi Reid: Play is essential to our development as humans. This presentation illuminates that need by weaving together the past and present to imagine future liberation. It includes the perspective of two marginalized groups in the Black community (children and LGBTQ+ folks). My play allows audiences to witness with me while I perform and play as a child at Rosedale Park and as a member of The Clubhouse during Children's Hour. By recreating these historical DC sites I will embody how important play is for cognitive development, creating community relationships, and personal joy in the face of the realities of segregation and persecution. My presentation will be a form of activism and part of the ongoing conversation about the structural oppressions and state violence that harms Black children and LGBTQ+ people's ability to be safe and free.

SESSION C 3:30 - 4:45 PM

COMMUNITY MEMORY AND EMPOWERMENT: MOUNT ZION-FEMALE UNION BAND SOCIETY CEMETERY



Keywords: 19th Century, 20th Century, Anthropology, Black History, Memory Studies

The oldest African American burial ground in Washington, DC was nearly redeveloped in the late 1950s, but thanks to the work of dedicated community activists, the Mount Zion–Female Union Band Society Cemetery in Georgetown has been preserved. Mount Zion is the resting place for over 8,000 individuals who lived, worshiped, and worked in the city from the 1700s to the 1950s. The cemetery is a vital archive of Black memory and a space of community empowerment, place-making, and creative inspiration. Presenters will discuss their work identifying, naming, and researching individuals and family histories of those interred at Mount Zion.

PRESENTERS:

Mark Auslander, PhD, *Historical Anthropologist*, Mount Holyoke College

Lisa Fager, *Executive Director*, Mount Zion–Female Union Band Society Historic Memorial Park

Patrick Tisdale, *Volunteer Database Manager*, Mount Zion–Female Union Band Society Historic Memorial Park

Neville Waters III, *President*, Board of Mt. Zion–Female Union Band Society Historic Memorial Park

FIGHT FOR ENFRANCHISEMENT

Voting rights—who can vote and who cannot—and what representation citizens have in their government is a fundamental question in the United States political system. The lack of enfranchisement in DC offers its own unique case study. This panel spotlights three distinct moments in DC’s long fight for enfranchisement.

A PROGRESSIVE LEGAL LEGACY: DC LEGAL REFORM DURING THE HOME RULE ERA



Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Politics and Government

For decades, Washingtonians fought for the right to control their local politics. With the passage of the Home Rule Act in 1973, DC finally achieved self-rule. Approaching the 50th anniversary, Christopher Anglim explores how this change in governance structure opened the door to progressive policies, including reproductive rights, criminal justice reform, racial equity, and LGBTQ+ rights. All the while, federal intervention in local politics curbed local reform and perpetuated disenfranchisement in DC.

MAPPING SUFFRAGE: THE PUSH FOR THE 19TH AMENDMENT IN WASHINGTON, DC



Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Education, Built Environment, Public History, Women's History

In the United States, women didn't gain the right to vote until 1920. This Women's History month, Kaitlin Calogera charts the suffrage movement's path across Washington, DC with an interactive map. Using images and videos to highlight monuments and historically significant locations, the project is an homage to the movement's use of maps as tools for advocacy and organizing. A Tour of Her Own, in partnership with the National Women's History Museum, developed these resources.

BLOODY MONDAY: IMMIGRATION, NATIVISM, AND THE ELECTION RIOT OF 1857



Keywords: 19th Century, Cultural History, Immigration, Politics and Government, Social History

Are we more politically polarized in 2023 than at any other point in history? Mark Herlong draws comparisons between today's political climate and 19th-century Washington, DC. Issues of the day—immigration, economic instability, election fraud, media bias—came down to this question: What does it mean to be American? The combustible political scene ignited during the 1857 local election, resulting in a riot at the city's Mount Vernon Square polling location.

PRESENTERS:

Christopher Anglim, *University Archivist/Reference Librarian*, University of the District of Columbia

Kaitlin Calogera, *Founder*, A Tour of Her Own

Mark Herlong, *Local Historian*

MODERATOR:

Mark Benbow, PhD, *Marymount University/Arlington Historical*

EVOKING MEMORY

This panel illuminates three lesser-known stories in Washington, DC history: an enslaved craftsman who built Tudor Place, the tuberculosis outbreak in the District, and the World War II Washington Plane Plotters. By bringing forth these once-lost memories, we are able to remember and honor the past.

SAMUEL COLLINS: UNCOVERING THE LIVES OF ENSLAVED ARTISANS IN WASHINGTON, DC



Keywords: 19th Century, Arts and Culture, Black History, Social History

Skilled craftsmen constructed buildings across the District—including the center block of Tudor Place in 1816. Typically, the names of craftsmen, especially enslaved craftsmen, were not recorded. At Tudor Place, however, one was: plasterer Samuel Collins. As part of an institutional project to tell enslaved craftsmen’s stories, Rob DeHart introduces us to Samuel Collins, including his later life as a freedman living in Georgetown with his family.

FORGOTTEN PLAGUE: GLENN DALE TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM, A FAMILY STORY



Keywords: 20th Century, Black History, Built Environment, Memory Studies

By the 1950s, DC residents had lived for more than half a century under the threat of a deadly, contagious infection. Like COVID-19, tuberculosis spread through the air most often by coughing, and DC recorded the second-highest rate of TB deaths in the nation. Leah Latimer’s research into this decades-long, largely overlooked era is inspired by her mother’s experience in quarantine at the District’s 400-bed Glenn Dale Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Latimer’s work reveals a time of widespread control and confinement, and considers how political and public health responses harshly impacted Black families like her own.

“ARMY FLASH”: FEMALE CIVIL DEFENSE WORKERS AT THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY COMMAND CENTER



Keywords: 20th Century, Cultural History, Military History, Women's History

During World War II, a group of volunteer, civilian women manually plotted aircraft traveling through DC air space. Anne Dobberteen discusses this select group of women, known as the “Washington Plane Plotters,” who performed top-secret, unpaid, skilled labor under the supervision of male military officers. Through their work, they learned to see their familiar city from above using a global grid. World War II homefront historians largely overlook their work, as well as the national volunteer effort that these Plane Plotters were affiliated with, known as the Aircraft Warning Service (AWS).

PRESENTERS:

Rob DeHart, Curator, Tudor Place Historic House and Gardens

Leah Y. Latimer, Retired Reporter/Editor, *The Washington Post*; Founding Editorial Director, “Voices of Civil Rights” Collection, Library of Congress

Anne Dobberteen, Doctoral Candidate, George Mason University

MODERATOR:

Ashley Preston, PhD, Howard University



THE FIGHT TO DECRIMINALIZE: STREET VENDING IN THE DISTRICT



Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Economic History, Latinx/Hispanic History, Politics and Government

Street vending has long been a path for survival, economic independence, and freedom for poor and working-class residents of Washington, DC—especially Black, Latino, and Indigenous Washingtonians. In fact, well-known figures Alethia Browning Tanner and Sophia Browning Bell sold produce downtown in the early 1800s to purchase freedom for themselves and their families. Historically, regulatory authorities in the District not only denied support to street vendors but criminalized their work. This panel of vendors and organizers from Vendedores Unidos/Vendors United and Beloved Community Incubator explore this history, as well as vendor activists' organizing efforts fighting restrictions and the public demonization of their work.

PRESENTERS:

Organizers with Beloved Community Incubator

Vendors with Vendedores Unidos/Vendors United

DC HISTORY CONFERENCE: AFTER HOURS

5:00 – 7:30 PM

Location: Rooftop, 5th Floor

Join us after Friday's final session for an evening of food, drink, music, and dancing! The conference "after hours" will include a short address from the conference partners, appetizers, drinks, and live music. Come celebrate a weekend of DC history with us!



SATURDAY MARCH 25TH

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY

COFFEE & TEA 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Come early to enjoy a free cup of coffee on the 5th floor to start the final day of the conference.

SESSION D 10:15 - 11:30 AM

THE REPERSAISSANCE: HONORING DC'S FIRST AND LAST PROFESSIONAL BLACK THEATER COMPANY



Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Cultural History, Education

In the District today there is no major theater institution under Black ownership. But in the 1970s, Black theater had its heyday in DC. Members of the DC Black Repertory Company Alumni Association gather to discuss the city's first and last professional Black theater company. Founded by Robert Hooks in 1971, the DC Black Repertory Company provided free theater classes and presented productions about African American life. Forced to close its doors in the 1980s, this panel details the Black cultural movement in the second half of the 20th century, the legacy of the DC Black Repertory Company, and its role in shaping Washington, DC into a world-class city.

PRESENTERS:

Rev. Rhonda Akankè Mclean-Nu, *Griot Storyteller, Actress, President*, DC Black Repertory Company Alumni Association

Lyn Dyson, *Former Member*, DC Black Repertory Company, The Rep, Inc.

James Early, *Scholar*, Smithsonian Institution



SEEKING CHANGE:

The reality of justice-based work is that it takes time to make significant gains in a society turned against those asking for change. This panel explores national, neighborhood, and community efforts to gain autonomy and freedom in late 20th-century Washington, DC.

THE HISTORY OF DISABILITY RIGHTS IN WASHINGTON, DC



Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Dis/ability History, Public History, Social History

Disability history is woven into all aspects of American history. Key moments in disability history in Washington, DC range from protest to policy change. Some important African American figures in DC also experienced disability. This presentation will highlight some of the more influential events and people related to disability rights in DC. Patricia Chadwick writes on disability and media issues. She co-founded the Disability Social History Project with her late husband Stephen Dias, a disability activist and archivist, to provide resources on disability culture, media, and history.

“PEOPLE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN EVERY DECISION AFFECTING THEIR LIVES”: A FIGHT FOR NEIGHBORHOOD AUTONOMY IN THE 1970S



Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Neighborhood History

Prior to Home Rule in Washington, DC residents created powerful grassroots movements for self-governance. The Adams Morgan Organization (AMO) created its own assembly as a forum for democratic decision-making. Their conviction was that “the people of Adams Morgan can govern themselves.” Tim Kumfer revisits this radical experience 50 years later, charting how the collective voice of this multiracial and multilingual body held elections and organized committees. Without statehood, Washingtonians continue to turn to their power through grassroots action.

SIEMPRE ESPERANDO: THE POLITICS OF WAITING IN EL SALVADOR AND THE DMV



Keywords: Built Environment, Economic History, Immigration, Latinx/Hispanic History

Since the 1970s, Salvadoran migration has shaped the DMV’s ethnic and cultural dynamic. Edwin Rodriguez discusses the role of “waiting” in migrant culture—waiting to immigrate or for remittances, for immigration reform, for rental assistance, for phone calls from home, and for the bus. As the DMV deals with a backlog of eviction cases and rental assistance paperwork, these stories center the realities of individuals in the DMV, financially surviving in a quickly developing region and in El Salvador, waiting.

PRESENTERS:

Patricia Chadwick, *Co-Founder, Disability Social History Project*

Tim Kumfer, *Doctoral Candidate, University of Maryland*

Edwin Rodriguez, *Doctoral Candidate, Brown University*

MODERATOR:

Rebecca Lemos-Otero, *Executive Director, HumanitiesDC*

TEACHING LOCAL HISTORY

This panel features three educators sharing methods to incorporate DC history into the classroom, creating ways to engage students in DC history, connect with their community, and explore the city’s public history infrastructure.

USING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TECHNIQUES TO TEACH DC HISTORY



Keywords: Black History, Indigenous History

We learn better by doing. Educator Raphael Bonhomme encourages educators to bring DC history into the classroom by using experiential learning techniques. Photographs, interviews, and other methods can make learning about history more engaging for students.

THE HISTORY OF LATIN PEDAGOGY IN WASHINGTON, DC



Keywords: 19th Century, Arts and Culture, Built Environment

Schools across Washington, DC—and the country—are dropping Latin from their curriculum. Educator Garret Dome digs into how Latin was taught in the 19th century and makes a case for continuing to teach it today. By studying past curriculums, we better understand today's curriculum.

MAXIMIZING AND MAPPING THE DC LEARNING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE



Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Built Environment, Education, Neighborhood History

When given the opportunity, taking students out of the classroom to visit historic sites and monuments helps students and educators connect to their city and community. Inside the classroom, using object-based learning deepens student understanding. Educator Rosalyn Lake shares the tools she learned about and implemented in her classroom after participating in Teach the District, a local teacher professional development program (formerly called the DC Declaration of Learning).

PRESENTERS:

Raphael Bonhomme, *Elementary Educator*

Garrett Dome, *Latin and History Teacher, BASIS*

Rosalyn Damiana Lake Montero, *Youth Advocate, Entrepreneur, Educator*

MODERATOR:

Juan Samperio, *Librarian, McKinley Technology High School*

ROUNDTABLE: WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE DC ORAL HISTORY COLLABORATIVE?



Keywords: Memory Studies, Public History, Oral History

HumanitiesDC convenes a town hall-style discussion with facilitators who have experience with the DC Oral History Collaborative. As the Collaborative turns six years old, we want to envision its future together. While hearing from grantees about their projects, the focus will be a facilitated conversation with the audience that seeks to answer questions such as:

- What stories have been left untold?
- How do we encourage Washingtonians to listen to and learn from recorded stories?
- What should the DC Oral History Collaborative be doing differently?
- How can the Collaborative better serve you? How can it be more accessible?

Audience: Washingtonians interested in oral history

PRESENTERS:

Jasper Collier, Senior Manager, DC Oral History Collaborative, HumanitiesDC

Benji de la Piedra, Oral Historian, DC Oral History Collaborative

Dominique Hazzard, Doctoral Candidate, Johns Hopkins University

John A. Johnson, Founder and Creator, Verbal Gymnastics Theater Company

Sami Miranda, Visual artist, Poet, Teacher

Judy Waxman, Oral Historian



SESSION E 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

FEDERAL CITY

This panel considers Washington, DC's identity as a federal city. By reinterpreting its founding, revisiting key figures, and analyzing a single structure, this panel asks questions about land, jurisdiction, policing, and fundamentally how DC's identity as local and federal shapes the city.

THE DISTANT DUTCHMEN AND THE FOUNDING OF WASHINGTON, DC



Keywords: 18th Century, Neighborhood History, Politics and Government, Public History, Genealogy

Genealogy can play an important role in reinterpreting local history. Virginia Nuta researched her family genealogy—including her ancestor Jacob Funk, who founded Hamburg, now Foggy Bottom—to consider George Washington's 18th-century motivations to locate the federal city on the Potomac. Using land records and property transactions, she takes a closer look at local interests to offer new interpretations of the founding of the nation's capital.

TENCH RINGGOLD: WASHINGTON, DC'S CONTROVERSIAL MARSHAL, 1818-1831



Keywords: 19th Century, Black History, Cultural History, Politics and Government, Social History

Tench Ringgold is a controversial figure in the history of early Washington, DC and thus is important to understand. Serving as United States marshal for the District of Columbia between 1818 and 1831, he enforced unpopular laws and Black codes. He was also a friend of three presidents and many justices of the Supreme Court. Terence Walz examines Ringgold's role as a prominent, if notorious, Washingtonian.

QUEER RIGHTS, POLICING, AND PUBLIC ACTIVISM IN LAFAYETTE PARK AS TOLD THROUGH THE HISTORY OF THE LAFAYETTE PARK LODGE



Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, LGBTQ+, Politics and Government

It's possible you haven't noticed the National Park Service's Lafayette Park Lodge. Or maybe you noticed it when civil rights activists burned the building in protest of the police murder of George Floyd. An inconspicuous structure, the Lodge has a storied history as the backdrop for civil rights, especially queer rights, policing, and public activism in Washington. Kevin Wohlgemuth looks at the history of the Lodge as an example of the federal government's criminalization and policing of cruising in DC parks. The repressive crackdown, known as the "Sex Perversion Elimination Program," demonstrates the federal policing of local DC and how queer communities fought back to codify their civil rights.

PRESENTERS:

Virginia Nuta, *Historian, Attorney, Genealogist*

Terence Walz, PhD, *Independent Scholar*

Kevin Wohlgemuth, *Associate Conservator/Historic Preservationist, Building Conservation Associates, Inc.*

MODERATOR:

Cassandra Good, PhD, *Marymount University*



AFTERMATH: 1968 WASHINGTON, DC

The political uprisings and civil disturbances of 1968 left a mark on the city. This panel discusses their long-term effects.

DESTRUCTION, POLICY, AND THE EVOLVING CONSEQUENCES OF WASHINGTON, DC'S 1968 CIVIL DISTURBANCE



Keywords: 20th Century, Built Environment, Economic History, Neighborhood History, Politics and Government

What drives urban redevelopment? Using archival and administrative data, Stan Veuger studies the aftermath of the 1968 uprising in Washington, DC to track and explain the development of the 14th Street NW, 7th Street NW, and H Street NE corridors over the past half-century. He shows that the destroyed lots remained disproportionately vacant for over 30 years. Even if they were not vacant, the buildings' value remained below that of other lots on the same blocks until recently. As for-profit developers and owners are incentivized to leave lots vacant until "conditions improve," the city has purchased 90% of destroyed properties and half of all properties along the damaged corridors to accelerate redevelopment. This research can inform ongoing debates about the role of the public sector in real estate development and gentrification.

PLYWOOD DREAMS: AN URBAN-ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF RESURRECTION CITY, SUMMER 1968



Keywords: 20th Century, Black History, Built Environment, Environmental History, Politics and Government

The images from Resurrection City depict a grassy, manicured parkland turned into "rivers of mud" and a "warzone." Taking advantage of these images, press coverage drew visual connections to urban renewal and international warfare, clouding perceptions of the movement, which was, in reality, Black-led, intersectional activism for Civil Rights. Morgan Forde provides an environmental and urban historical reanalysis of Resurrection City to demonstrate the fraught relationship between the city's activist project and the physical environment in which it was situated.

“WE WANT TO REBUILD. . . WHAT DO YOU WANT?”: COMMUNITY CONTROL AND REBUILDING AFTER THE 1968 REBELLIONS



Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Anthropology, Public History, Social History, Sociology

After the 1968 rebellions, Washington, DC attempted to rebuild the Shaw neighborhood based on a community-centered model. DC officials and activists hoped that the process of rebuilding would generate jobs for Black Washingtonians, provide quality housing for low-income residents, and create a beautiful community out of the ruins. Although federal budget cuts created insurmountable hurdles to this community-based approach, Kyla Sommers aims to reframe our understanding of this period beyond violence and despair to see activism and awakening.

PRESENTERS:

Morgan Forde, *Doctoral Student, Harvard University*

Kyla Sommers, PhD, *Independent Historian*

Stan Veuger, *Senior Fellow, Economic Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute*

MODERATOR:

Dominique Hazzard, *Doctoral Candidate, Johns Hopkins University*

ROUNDTABLE: BLACK EDUCATION EXHIBITIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMMING



Keywords: 19th Century, 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Education, Arts & Culture

In 2024, two local institutions will launch complementary exhibitions about the distinct history of Black education in Washington, DC, with research and programming support by a third. Marking the 70th anniversary of the desegregation of the DC public school system, the exhibits explore education for DC Black students, including the Reconstruction era, the *Bolling v. Sharpe* decision, and the impact of local African American artist-educators on generations of students. Join this community roundtable with staff members of the DC History Center, the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, and the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives to contribute unknown stories, flag areas for research, workshop exhibit concepts, and propose programming ideas and K-12 engagement opportunities.

Audiences: Students of Lillian Thomas Burwell, Melvin Deal, Alma Thomas, Sam Gilliam, Bernice Hammond, and William N. Buckner, Jr., among many others; researchers of DC education history; K-12 educators

PRESENTERS:

Anne McDonough, Deputy Director, DC History Center

Crystal Hurd, Programs Coordinator/Marketing/Social Media Manager, Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives

Dr. Samir Meghelli, Senior Curator, Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, DC

POSTER SESSION 1:15 - 3:15 PM

**OPENING CHANNELS OF CULTURAL
COMMUNICATION: STORIES
FROM THE DC ART BANK 1:30 - 3:00 PM**



Location: *New Books, 1st Floor*

Keywords: 19th Century, 20th Century, Arts and Culture

The District's Art Bank Collection is a valuable resource unknown to many District residents. The Commission on the Arts and Humanities collects artworks to display in public areas and government buildings across the city. Works from the collection were recently installed at MLK Library, including the very first artwork to enter the Art Bank, Sam Gilliam's *Ship*, 1967, up to recent works, such as Julia Bloom's typewriter drawings, created out of the urgent need to communicate during the COVID-19 pandemic. This panel provides insight into how visual art opens us to new forms of understanding.

PRESENTERS:

Jonathan P. Binstock, *Vradenburg Director and CEO, The Phillips Collection*

Julia Bloom, *Artist*

Jean Lawlor Cohen, *Curator, Arts Writer, and Friend of Gene Davis*

Irene Kellogg, *Artist*

Marcel Taylor, *Artist*

MODERATOR:

Melanee Harvey, PhD, *Associate Professor of Art History, Howard University*

SESSION F 3:30 - 4:45 PM

THE POLITICS OF REMEMBRANCE: WOMEN IN DC HISTORY

This panel pays tribute to prominent women—and women’s groups—in Washington, DC history. The presenters analyze how we remember and memorialize their contributions.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BLACK MAMMY MONUMENT AND LOST CAUSE IDEOLOGIES



Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Cultural History, Memory Studies, Women’s History

In the early 1920s, the United Daughters of the Confederacy proposed the construction of a Black “mammy” monument in Washington, DC. This stereotype of Black women was common following the Antebellum era and is considered to be anti-Black. Alisa Hardy recounts the heated debate following United Daughters of the Confederacy’s proposition, which triggered the opposition campaign of the National Association of Colored Women and the NAACP. This presentation analyzes activists’ rhetorical strategies in the battle over the nation’s memory of enslaved women.

LYDIA HAMILTON SMITH: A REMARKABLE BLACK BUSINESSWOMAN IN A TALE OF TWO CITIES



Keywords: 19th Century, Black History, Built Environment, Women’s History

Lydia Hamilton Smith was a remarkable Black businesswoman who navigated the complexities of 19th-century America with few civil or legal rights. Born free in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Smith became the property manager and confidant of radical Republican Congressman Thaddeus Stevens for the last 20 years of his life—both in Lancaster and Washington, DC. Randolph Harris argues that Stevens and Smith, individually and as a pair, demonstrated a commitment to equality of races and genders, and rejected ideals that relegated women to a lesser status.

THE LGBTQ SIGNIFICANCE OF LUCY DIGGS SLOWE: AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL LEADER



Keywords: 20th Century, Black History, Built Environment, LGBTQ+, Public History

Combing historical records for queer individuals proves to be a tricky task. Susan Ferentinos digs into the “burden of proof” faced by historians identifying the LGBTQ+ associations and identities of historical figures. She presents Lucy Diggs Slowe (1885–1937) as an example. The first Dean of Women at Howard University, Slowe was partnered for 20 years with Mary Burrill, a playwright and teacher in DC’s segregated school system. With the call for cultural heritage sites to tell inclusive histories, how does the challenge of “proof” foil their efforts?

PRESENTERS:

Alisa Hardy, *Doctoral Student, University of Maryland*

Randolph Harris, *LancasterHistory*

Susan Ferentinos, PhD, *Public History Researcher, Writer, and Consultant*

MODERATOR:

Aungelic Nelson, *Founder, Majani Project*

UNICORN TIMES: 50TH ANNIVERSARY PANEL COMMEMORATION



Keywords: 20th Century, Arts and Culture, Cultural History, Social History

This panel commemorates the 50th anniversary of *Unicorn Times*, a monthly newspaper published in Washington, DC from 1973 to 1985. Started by the late Elliot Ryan, the beloved newspaper covered music, art, film, and theater and left a lasting cultural impression on the DC community. Former *Unicorn Times* editor, Richard Harrington, and several former staffers join together to discuss and celebrate the newspaper’s entire run. This independent paper is digitized and available on the DC Public Library’s site DigDC.

PRESENTERS:

Ken Coughlin, *Editor (1980–81), Unicorn Times*

Roger Glass, *Writer and Journalist*

Richard Harrington, *Music Journalist and Former Editor (1975–1980), Unicorn Times*

Mark Jenkins, *Staff Paste-Up Artist, Critic and Arts Journalist*

Judy Willard, *Staff Design and Executor, Estate of Elliot Ryan*

MODERATOR:

Jeff Krulik, *Filmmaker*

BEAUTY VS. JUSTICE

How does the city bridge its role as the nation's capital with its role as a home for its residents? This panel of three case studies highlights Washington, DC's history of displacement.

THE RIGHT TO OCCUPY PUBLIC SPACE: HOBO JUNGLES, HOOVERVILLES, AND HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS IN WASHINGTON, DC



Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Anthropology, Public History, Social History, Sociology

It is, unfortunately, always a timely moment to discuss the long history of Washington, DC's criminalization of self-made homeless camps. From 19th-century hobo jungles to the Hoovervilles of the Great Depression to today's contemporary encampments, Aaron Howe and Shannon Clark make an argument for the right of people experiencing homelessness to occupy public space when no humane alternatives exist. To do so, they center the daily lives of human beings navigating the District's anti-homeless laws and institutions.

"PUBLIC USE" AND THE FATE OF THE COMMUNITY DISPLACED FOR THE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING: WHOSE USE, WHICH PUBLIC?



Keywords: 20th Century, Black History, Politics and Government, Social History

When the Federal Government constructed the first Senate Office Building in the early 1900s, they displaced local residents. While the stories of communities destroyed for government buildings are rarely told, they raise pressing questions about justice and democracy. Carolyn Swope tells the stories of the neighbors displaced by this structure. She asks how Black residents were inequitably impacted by the building project and how segregation developed and intensified on a larger scale.

EXPANDING RACIAL SEGREGATION ON CAPITOL HILL: EVIDENCE FROM THE 1930, 1940, AND 1950 CENSUS



Keywords: 20th Century, Black History, Built Environment, Sociology

By looking at an incredibly narrow section of the city, you can learn about racial segregation in DC. Johanna Bockman does just that with the G to I Streets SE, and 6th to 7th Streets SE—blocks that were destroyed in 1939 to build a white, segregated public housing project. Looking at Census data from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, she charts how racial segregation expanded in DC during the mid-20th century. The presentation illuminates the long-term effects of displacement on the city's residents.

PRESENTERS:

Aaron Howe, *Doctoral Candidate, American University*

Shannon Clark, *Doctoral Candidate, American University*

Carolyn Swope, *Doctoral Candidate, Columbia University*

Johanna Bockman, *Associate Professor, George Mason University*

MODERATOR:

Khaleelah I.L. Harris, *Public Historian and Art Curator*

ROUNDTABLE: SIN BARRERAS: DISMANTLING BARRIERS TO DOCUMENTING AND COLLECTING LATINO/A/X HISTORIES



Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Immigration, Latinx/Hispanic History, Social History

Excluding Latino/a/x histories and narratives has been a persistent issue for DC's memory-keeping institutions. The newly created Latino/a/x Advisory Group at the DC History Center works toward understanding and forming strategies to address this gap in the historical record. This community roundtable will address the group's findings over the last year and discuss the next steps to address the root causes of these exclusions—known as archival silences. How do we best empower communities to tell their stories in a way that is impactful and represents their lived experiences?

PRESENTERS:

Mariana Barros-Titus, *Community Outreach Fellow, DC History Center*

José Centeno-Meléndez, *Pre-Doctoral Fellow & Oral Historian*

Rosalyn Damiana Lake Montero, *Youth Advocate, Entrepreneur, Advocate*

Jose Gutierrez, *Founder, Jose Gutierrez Archives, the Latino LGBT History Project, the DC Latino Pride and co-founder of the Rainbow History Project*

Kristy Li Puma, *Doctoral Candidate, Columbia University*

Manuel Mendez, *Founder, DC Afro Latino Caucus*

SATURDAY KEYNOTE 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Location: Auditorium, 5th Floor

THE DC HOME RULE ACT OF 1973: A 50TH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE



Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Built Environment, Politics and Government

The passage of the DC Home Rule Act of 1973 led to DC's first local election for the DC Council since Reconstruction. After a century of federal rule, DC residents would go to the polls in 1974 to elect a Mayor, members of the Council of the District of Columbia, the Board of Education (first elected in 1968), and Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, which were created to ensure that every District resident had a voice in decisions impacting their own lives. A city that was more than 70% Black could finally elect its own leadership and more fully participate in shaping the city's future. This panel discussion commemorates the 50th anniversary of the DC Home Rule Act through the voices of some of the surviving elected members of DC's first Home Rule government.

PRESENTERS:

Arrington Dixon, *Member of first Home Rule Council (later Council Chair)*

Carol Schwartz, *Member of first Home Rule Board of Education (later At-Large Councilmember)*

Frank Smith, *First Home Rule Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (later Board of Education and Council Member)*

MODERATOR:

Denise Rolark Barnes, *Publisher/Owner of The Washington Informer*

HISTORY NETWORK

FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH 1:15 - 3:15 PM GREAT HALL, 1ST FLOOR

The History Network provides conference attendees with the opportunity to meet representatives from organizations doing humanities-based work across the DMV. Learn about an organization, project, or initiative you'd like to follow, volunteer with, or join and pick up information and swag from participating organizations and individuals.

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society-James Dent Walker Chapter
 Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
 Albert H. Small Center for National Capital Area Studies
 Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington
 Arlington Historical Society
 Bethel Dukes Branch of Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)
 Black Broad Branch Project
 Capital Jewish Museum
 Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives
 Chevy Chase Historical Society
 Cleveland Park Historical Society
 Council of the District of Columbia Archives Advisory Group
 DACOR and DACOR Bacon House Foundation
 DC Alliance for Response
 DC Archives Advocates
 DC Collaborative
 DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities
 DC Cultural Narratives Collaborative
 DC Historic Districts Coalition
 DC Historic Preservation Office
 DC History Center
 DC Legacy Project
 DC Office of Public Records
 DC Preservation League
 DC Public Library / People's Archive
 DMV Filipino History (Community Project)
 EHT Traceries
 Excavating Washington, DC
 FDR Memorial Legacy Committee
 Female RE-Enactors of Distinction (FREED)
 Foggy Bottom Association History Project

Friday Morning Music Club (FMMC)
 Friends of Peirce Mill: Peirce Mill (Art) History
 Friends of the DC Archives
 From Lives Apart to Lives Together Project
 Georgetown University Press
 German American Heritage Society of Greater Washington
 Heurich House Museum
 HumanitiesDC
 Humanities Truck
 La Union DC
 Majani Project
 Marigold Productions, LLC and The Last Battlefield film team
 METRO Anthology
 Prince George's County Genealogical Society Inc.
 Psychogeographies Projects by Rorschach Theatre
 "Shaw, LeDroit Park and Bloomingdale in Washington, D.C.: An Oral History"
 Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum
 Tropy: Explore Your Research Photos
 Trust for the National Mall
 Veterans Curation Program
 Washington DC Hall of Fame Society, Inc.
 Washington Walks
 White House Historical Association
 Women's History and Resource Center, General Federation of Women's Clubs
 Women in Film and Video

POSTER SESSION

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH 1:15 - 3:15 PM GREAT HALL, 1ST FLOOR

At the DC History Conference Poster Session, presenters share their research visually with attendees in small groups. Visit poster presenters to learn about their work and ask questions! Continue the conversation on social media, sharing your favorites and connecting with presenters.

40 Years and Still Running: A Preview Screening & Space of Reflection

Jose Centeno-Melendez, Quique (Enrique) Avilés, Delia Beristain Noriega, Hilary Binder, Carolina Fuentes

After the War: New Research on the Civil War Defenses of Washington as Part of the Modern City

Emily Button Kambic

Bringing DC's Music History to the Stage

John Ralls

Celebrating BIPOC Voices: Bringing Indigenous and Anti-Racist History into the Middle School and High School Classroom

Kyra Zemanick

"Dap Is a Love Language"

Rhonda Henderson

DC African American Housing Affordability through Modularity

Jaqueline Carmichael

Development of DC Chinatown: Beyond Gentrification

Emily Brignand

The DONtee Project

Hakim Tate

Easy Access: Queer Personal Ads, Digital Archives, and You

Haley Steinhilber

Francis Lewis Cardozo Sr.

Dinah M. Reese, Pamela Reese Smith

"Hurrah, We'll Retrocede!"

Paula Whitacre

The Lasting Legacy of Fountain No. 4 and Associated Designed Landscape in West Potomac Park

Cortney Gjesfjeld

Lives Apart Project

Phyllis Holton, Ricardo and Donna Thornton, Bob Williams

The "Stuff" of Queer Black and Latinx DC Spaces: 1970-1990

José Gutiérrez, Kristy Li Puma

Oral History Processes: Collaboratively Collecting Transgender Histories of DC

Darby Hickey

Philippine-American Heritage in Washington, DC

Erwin R. Tiongson

Rebuilding Chocolate City: The History and Future of Black Political Power

Abiola Agoro

The Strange Case of Earl McFarland/The Lonely Life of Dorothy Berrum

Vina Hutchinson

Teaching Intersectional LGBTQ* Activist Histories in the Washington Metropolitan Area

Jamie Myre

Unity Park History

Nancy Shia

The Washington DC Chapter of the Black Panther Party: Community Activists

Natasha Isler

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS AND DONORS

The DC History Conference is co-presented by the DC History Center, the DC Public Library, and Humanities DC; sponsored by the Public History Program at American University; and organized by a volunteer planning committee. We gratefully acknowledge support from the DC Public Library Foundation, the DC Office of the Secretary, Georgetown University Press, AARP, DC Preservation League, the Family of Letitia Woods Brown, and the White House Historical Association, as well as Events DC and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

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HumanitiesDC

EXPERIENCE DC THROUGH PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY GRANTS

HumanitiesDC aims to illuminate the rich communities that make up the District using the tools of the humanities.

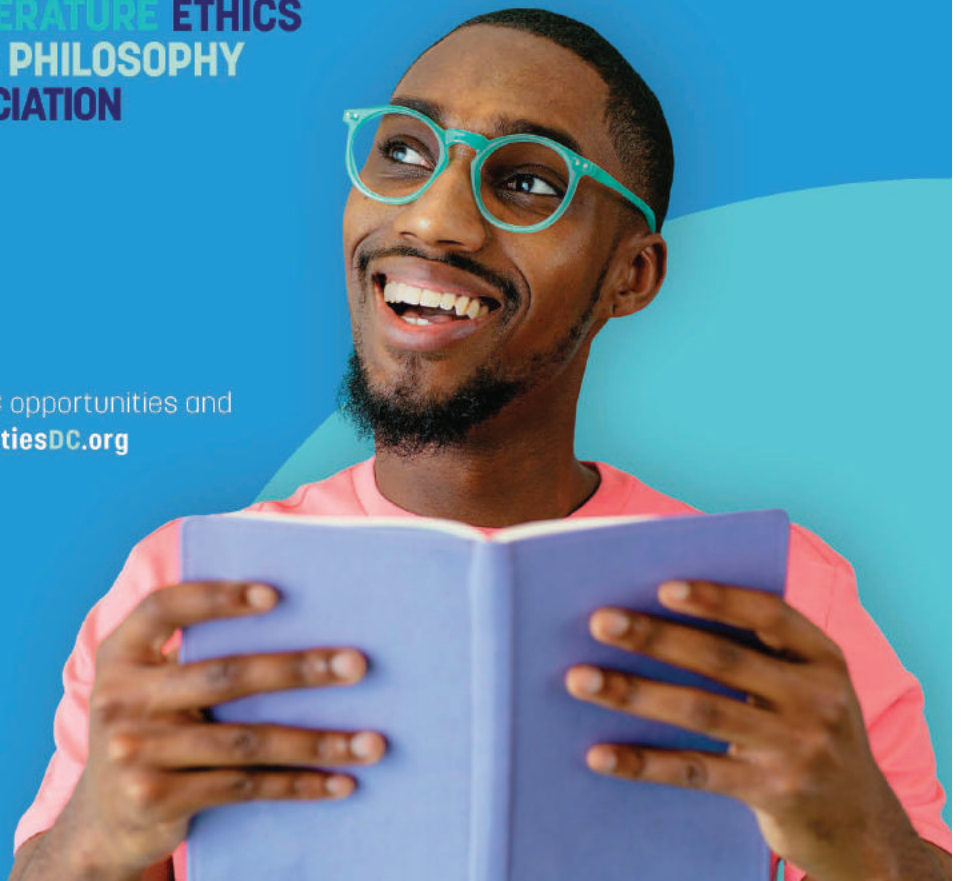
Through our community grantmaking we support Washingtonians and local organizations interested in helping build a vibrant city where all can engage in intellectual exchange, reflect on our connected stories and celebrate our various cultures.

With our public programs we partner with local experts, scholars and creatives to design and host unique initiatives, workshops, discussions, performances, storytelling gatherings and more that explore the culture of our nation's capital.



HISTORY LITERATURE ETHICS
LANGUAGES PHILOSOPHY
ARTS APPRECIATION

To learn more about our work, 2023 opportunities and upcoming events visit us at [HumanitiesDC.org](https://www.humanitiesdc.org)



**SCHEDULE
AT-A-GLANCE**

☆ ☆ ☆ DC ☆ ☆ ☆
**HISTORY
CONFERENCE**

**49TH ANNUAL
@DCHISTCON**

THURSDAY, MARCH 23RD 6:00 - 8:00 PM

**LETITIA WOODS BROWN
MEMORIAL LECTURE:**

DR. TAMIKA NUNLEY

Black Women's History as American History and
the Everyday Struggles of Liberty and Justice

FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH

REGISTRATION ALL DAY

COFFEE 9:30 - 10:30 AM

SESSION A 10:15 - 11:30 AM

The Deaf Printers Pages: Preserving Stories of Deaf
Printers at *The Washington Post*

SWANN QUEEN: Remembering DC's First Black Queer
Icon, William Dorsey Swann

Uncovering DC History at the Library of Congress

SESSION B 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Dr. Edwin Bancroft Henderson: The Grandfather of Black
Basketball in Washington, DC

History Behind the Scenes

Turning Points

HISTORY NETWORK 1:15 - 3:15 PM

**RECLAIMING BLACK JOY:
PLACING PLAY IN OUR LIBERATION**

(A PLAY) 2:00 - 2:45 PM

SESSION C 3:30 - 4:45 PM

Community Memory and Empowerment: Mount
Zion-Female Union Band Society Cemetery

Fight for Enfranchisement

Evoking Memory

The Fight to Decriminalize: Street Vending in the District

RECEPTION

5:00 - 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH

REGISTRATION ALL DAY

COFFEE 9:30 - 10:30 AM

SESSION D 10:15 - 11:30 AM

The Reperassaance: Honoring DC's First and Last
Professional Black Theater Company

Seeking Change

Teaching Local History

Roundtable: What's Next for the DC Oral History
Collaborative?

SESSION E 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Federal City

Aftermath: 1968 Washington, DC

Roundtable: Black Education Exhibitions and Related
Programming

POSTER SESSION 1:15 - 3:15 PM

**OPENING CHANNELS OF
CULTURAL COMMUNICATION:
STORIES FROM THE DC
ART BANK 1:30 - 3:00 PM**

SESSION F 3:30 - 4:45 PM

The Politics of Remembrance: Women in DC History

The Unicorn Times: 50th Anniversary Panel Commemoration

Beauty vs. Justice

Roundtable: Sin Barreras: Dismantling Barriers to
Documenting and Collecting Latino/a/x Histories

**THE DC HOME
RULE ACT OF 1973:**

**A 50TH ANNIVERSARY
REMEMBRANCE**

5:00 - 6:00 PM

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL LIBRARY | 901 G ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC, 20001