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### The Moorland, Oct. 2023

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# The Moorland

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MOORLAND-SPINGARN RESEARCH CENTER

## MSRC AT 50

NEXT MONTH WE ARE  
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
OF OPERATION AS A  
RESEARCH CENTER

## SUMMER RECAP

LET'S CATCH UP ON  
SOME OF OUR FAVORITE  
MOMENTS FROM  
THROUGHOUT THE  
SUMMER

## ASWAD CONFERENCE IN ACCRA, GHANA

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF  
THE WORLDWIDE AFRICAN  
DIASPORA HONORS MSRC  
DIRECTOR, DR. TALTON

## IBWF23: WHY WE GATHER

THE INTERNATIONAL  
BLACK WRITERS FESTIVAL 2023  
IS WHY WE GATHER- TOWARD  
BUILDING A BLACK UNIVERSITY



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We would like to welcome new and existing subscribers of *The Moorland* publication's fifth volume. In late January of this year we launched the revival of the periodical, in an effort to keep all informed on the exciting projects and endeavors taking place at The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

We have officially reached MSRC's 50th year as a research center. To properly celebrate this milestone, we have set our sights on development and progress. We continue to champion MSRC as an essential site responsible for preserving the global Black experience. These attempts at forward movement have been quite evident. This summer all research requests were suspended as many of our Library, Manuscripts, and University Archives were moved to our new state of the art archival facility. This summer also served as a time of great recognition of internal merit and accomplishments. Members of our team, including MSRC Director Benjamin Talton were presented awards for their exceptional work in their fields.

Returning for a second time since 1983 this year, in partnership with the Center for Journalism & Democracy, the International Black Writers Festival was a phenomenal success. The four day festival attracted writers from all over the Diaspora to engage the diversity, complexity, and beauty of writing the global Black Experience, centered on the theme of "Why We Gather".

With everything that has taken place since the start of the summer into the midpoint of the semester, we hope you enjoy this event filled recap in the return of *The Moorland*. We would like to especially thank our MSRC Creative Volunteers for assisting in creatively capturing and documenting the 2023 International Black Writers Festival. Please be on the lookout for our November edition.

*Signed by the Editor  
Rebecca D. Haynesworth*

# Message from MSRC Director

**DR. BENJAMIN TALTON**



The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center had an eventful Summer and busy start to the Fall semester. We now have four additional members of the archives team—MarQuis Bullock, Milaun Brown, Christiana McClain, and Maureen Jones—thanks to the generous support of the Mellon Foundation. Charice Thompson has been promoted to Curator of the Manuscript Division and soon we will hire a new Chief Librarian. Alexandra Wilson has joined the staff as the Business Manager. The Black Press Archive has five new members on its staff: Lovelace Boafó; Rachel Jones, Corey Kouakou, and Alexis Woolford. These are very exciting times at MSRC.

Speaking of exciting times, the 2023 International Black Writers Festival (IBWF) brought writers, activists, and scholars to campus for four days of intellectual fellowship, from September. It was great to witness students posing questions to and interacting with iconic figures such as Walter Mosely, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Jacqueline Woodson, and Howard's very own Ta-Nehisi Coates and Nikole Hannah-Jones. Plans are already underway for IBWF24. I am most excited to have the MSRC Scholars back in Moorland. There are more than twenty undergraduate and graduate students performing a variety of tasks throughout the Center's divisions. As we continue to celebrate 50 years of MSRC, we look forward to welcoming former staff back to Alma Mater, including Dr. Michael Winston, our founding director. They will be part of a roundtable discussion moderated by our own Teddy Abebe.

Happy Fall!

— LIBRARY DIVISION —

# SUMMER RECAP



MSRC Reading Room. Courtesy of Howard Magazine, *Revitalizing the House of Truth*

Along with staffing transformations, the Library Division also had some interior related changes this summer. Books from our General Collection, serials, and journals have been moved into the S2 Compact Shelving area in the Howard University Undergraduate Library. In addition to the transfer, updated library signage is now being housed in the 3rd Stack of Founders Library.

This summer, more than 100 rare and historic Afro-Latino literary texts and African language Bibles were donated from Dr. James Davis, who is retiring this year after 44 years in the academy. Dr. Davis is currently Associate Dean for the Humanities, Academic and Student Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of Spanish and Foreign Language Education in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Howard University, Washington, DC. He served as chair for 20 years. A native of Virginia, Dr. Davis earned the B.A. in Spanish and English Education at Virginia State University, the M.A. in Spanish Language and Literature at the Ohio State University, and the Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education at the University of Maryland, College Park. He also holds a certificate in Hispanic Studies from the University of Madrid. MSRC graciously thanks Dr. Davis for his expansive contribution to our collections, and his continued support for the preservation work being done at MSRC.

The Reading Room was closed most of the summer due to repairs and construction related work on the Library. We are excited to announce that it is now complete and ready to reopen with Founders Library!





Christina Vortia, MSRC head librarian, wrapped up her term as Chair of the 2023 Newbery Committee. She introduced the winner and honorees in June. The Newbery Medal was named for eighteenth-century British bookseller John Newbery. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of library service to children. From creative programming and best practices to continuing education and professional connections—ALSC members are innovators in the field of children's library service. ALSC's network includes more than 4,000 children's and youth librarians, children's literature experts, publishers, education and library school faculty members, and other adults dedicated to engaging communities to build healthy, successful futures for all children. MSRC congratulates Christina on her tenure as the 2023 Chair on the Newbery Committee.



*Amina Luqman-Dawson was the recipient of the 2023 Newbery Award this year for her debut novel, Freewater.*

# BLACK PRESS ARCHIVES SUMMER RECAP



*A Word From Black Press Archives Division's Project Manager, Brandon Nightingale*

The Black Press Archives (BPA) experienced a highly productive and transformative summer, marked by significant milestones and enriching experiences. BPA student staff members, Trinity Webster-Bass was accepted into the Washington Post internship program. Also during this period, BPA welcomed four outstanding new hires: Lovelace Boafo, Rachel Jones, Alexis Woolford, and Corey Koakou. "Their addition has brought fresh perspectives and expertise to our team", says Project Manager Brandon Nightingale. Over the summer Nightingale was the recipient of the the Association of African American Museums Pace Setter Award at the Association of African American Museums Conference.

BPA also had the privilege of engaging in a productive collaboration with the BTLH (Bring the Lessons Home) Holocaust Museum Ambassadors this summer. This collaboration resulted in the valuable addition of two dedicated summer interns who made substantial contributions to our team. We also had the opportunity to visit the United States Holocaust Museum to explore how various Black Press newspapers reported on the Holocaust. This experience allowed BPA to gain a deeper understanding of the Black Press in general, as well as the historical conditions in the United States that shaped opinion and reporting within the Black Press related to Americans' responses to the Holocaust.

The summer of 2023 will be remembered as a period of growth, collaboration, and enlightenment for the Black Press Archives Division. "We look forward to building upon these experiences within the next year, or even as we continue to contribute to Black History" Nightingale closed out by saying.



— MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION —  
**SUMMER RECAP**



*Newly appointed Curator of the Manuscript Division, Charice Thompson*

For The Manuscripts Division this summer has been completely transformative, to say the least. MSS facilitated the move of MSRC collections into the Center's new state of the art archival facility. During this time MSS has been closed to researchers so that the division can give their undivided attention to such a massive effort.

Newly appointed Curator of the Manuscript Division, Charice Thompson, shared that “[the move] It has required that all hands be on deck. The move has allowed the MSS staff to become more acquainted with both unprocessed and processed collections within the MSRC. In regards being appointed, she added that “I am grateful for the opportunity to lead the staff of the Manuscript Division and do not take the responsibility lightly”. Thompson anticipates that the existing vigor and dedication of the staff that she has seen firsthand will be paramount in her facilitating opportunities to continue to highlight MSRC's invaluable collections through collaborative efforts toward proper preservation and access and with selective programming. As she said, “A lot of work has been done by my predecessors to solidify the Center as the premier repository for the documentation of the experiences of the global Black diaspora. She closed out by saying “I am honored to be amongst those charged with doing ancestry work by making available to the global community primary resources that support the decolonization of the Black narrative”.





# SUMMER RECAP



*Dr. Talton surveys wrapped and flat boxes, Warehouse, UGL Moving Dock Images*

For the University Archives Division staff the long-awaited move of our vast collections to our new state of the art archival facility began on June 12, 2023. Previously, the Center stored archival, manuscript, and library records in several areas across Founders Library, the Howard campus, and in commercial storage in both Maryland and Virginia. For more than forty years, several staff members consistently requested additional space for MSRC's collections, but we are especially grateful to our former Director Howard Dodson, current Director Dr. Benjamin Talton, and President Emeritus Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick for bringing this historic move to fruition.

In December 2022, MSRC was awarded a \$2 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to support five new positions in the University Archives and Manuscript Division to process the Center's collections. During the summer we welcomed three of the expected staff members to MSRC: Christiana McClain, an archivist in the University Archives Division; MarQuis Bullock, archivist in the Manuscript Division; and Milaun Brown, audiovisual archivist for both divisions. Maureen Jones joined the Manuscript Division as an archivist in early October.

## Moorland-Spingarn Research Center Receives \$2 Million Mellon Grant to Support Its Historic Archival Collections

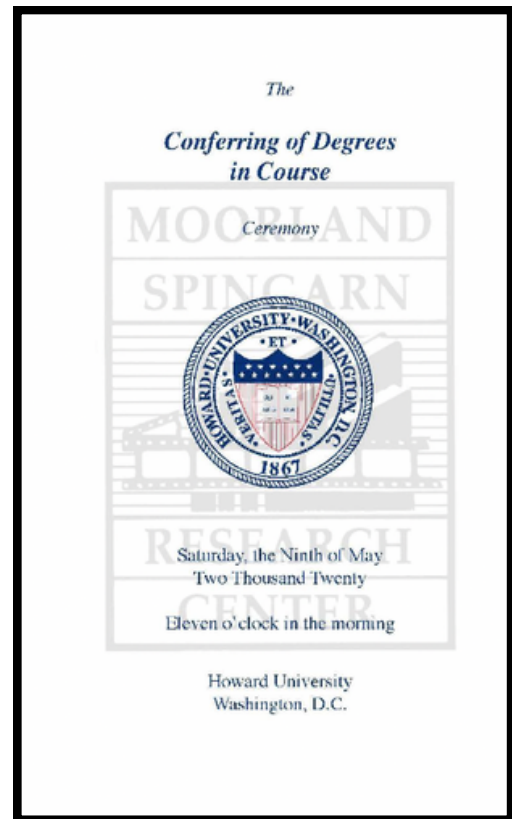
[Misha Cornelius](#)

Feb 13, 2023 ⌚ 3 minutes



# SUMMER RECAP

Archivist John R. Kennedy presented at the College of Arts and Sciences freshmen orientation on September 11th. Mr. Kennedy featured important events in Howard University's history, specifically, its seal and how it changed, the formation of the board of trustees, General Oliver O. Howard, old buildings, and the ways Howard University is connected to all HBCUs.



To prepare Dr. Ben Vinson III for his role as the 18th President, Sonja N. Woods (University Archivist) and John R. Kennedy (Archivist) compiled a robust Howard history dossier over the summer in digestible installments. Each week, Woods and Kennedy provided Dr. Vinson with two or three documents on key moments in HU's historical narrative, including notable convocation and commencement speeches, reports, timelines, lists of trustees and presidents, articles as well as accounts of Howard's history of student protests and civil rights movement contributions. The University Archives Division routinely supplies historical information to the Howard administration. Howard University Archives welcomes Dr. Vinson to Howard and wishes him a successful tenure.



# ASWAD CONFERENCE 2023

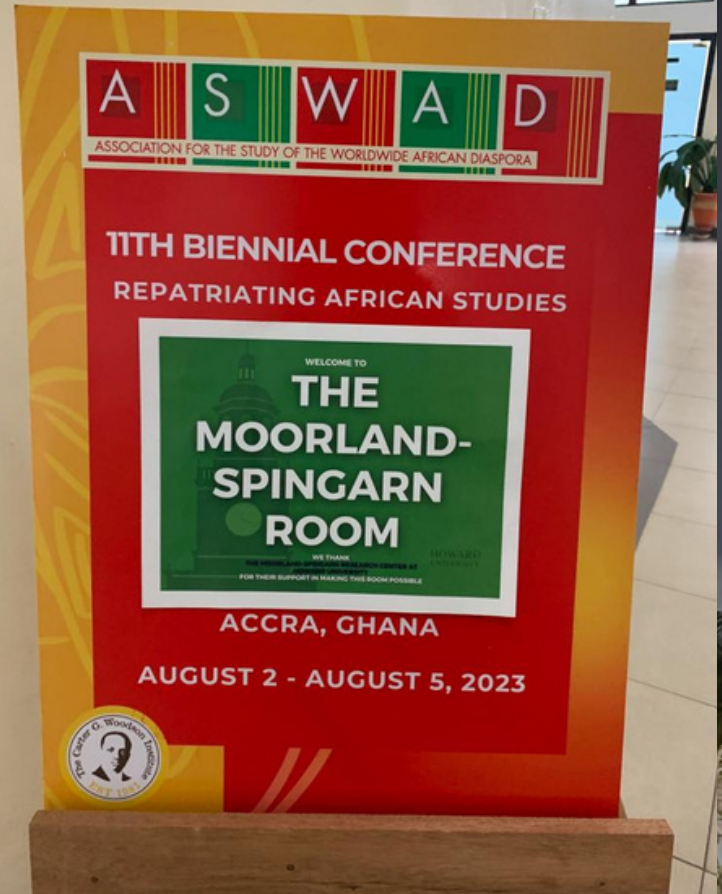
ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE WORLDWIDE AFRICAN DIASPORA

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The Moorland-Spingarn  
Research Center

Celebrating 110 Years of Preserving  
the Legacy of the Global Black Experience



MSRC Director Dr. Benjamin Talton participated in a roundtable at the 2023 ASWAD conference in Accra, Ghana in early August on panel in honor of the 25th Anniversary of "Exchanging Our Country Marks" by Michael Gomez, founder of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora. The panel was organized by Howard alum Dr. Kim Butler (HU Alum). At the 2023 ASWAD conference in Accra, Ghana MSRC sponsored a meeting room. Pictured in the photo below on the far right are HU graduate students Tiffany Wheatland and Milen Mehari.



Additional panelists were Dr. Leslie Alexander and Dr. Pashington Obeng. In the above photo left: Talton, Butler, Gomez and Alexander are pictured. Dr. Benjamin Talton was also honored at the 2023 ASWAD conference for his service to the Association with a President's Award by outgoing ASWAD president Dr. Robert Vinson (HU Alum). ASWAD is a not-for-profit organization of international scholars seeking to further their understanding of Africa and the African Diaspora. Dr. Talton was a member of the ASWAD board from 2015-2021.

MS  
RC

# HU ORG FAIR 2023

30  
AUGUST  
2023


## *Promoting the Archives & Documenting HU Student Life*

MSRC Scholars kicked off the start of a new school year in full effect. With a table set up at the Howard University Organization Fair, Scholars spoke with new and continuing students about the depth of the archival profession and the exciting work taking place across all Divisions. Most students the Scholars engaged with were unaware of MSRC's physical location and how to access our digital collection. Many expressed great interest in visiting MSRC once Founders Library re-opens. To capture the dynamic event, MSRC collaborated with HU student photographer and MSRC Scholar Blake Spencer. We want to thank all students and staff that helped in the tabling's organizational process.



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# THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK WRITERS FEST

*Written By: Kathryn L. Harris*

*Photographs By: MSRC Creatives*

The International Black Author Festival was a reunion, gathering, festival, spiritual and joyful occasion. In attendance was a community of local and global Black writers. It brought together generations of black writers, from first time authors to aspiring authors, to famous and student ones as well. It was held on the campus of Howard University, where Black writers have walked these hallowed grounds living and writing about our history, leaving a legacy that is surpassed by none. Before we were yanked from our mother land, we gathered to spread valuable words of wisdom, culture and knowledge.

This often took place at births, rites of passage, marriage and ancestral ceremonies. Historically, as highly social beings, African people have always gathered at events that highlighted the “word”. During slavery, we gathered at midnight, when the “masters” were asleep to hear readings from the bible and other sacred texts, by perhaps one fortunate brother or sister who had been granted the privilege of learning to read and write. Later, in churches and primitive school houses we heard the word and learned it too. Then at Historically Black Colleges and Universities we gathered to read the writings of notable Black figures and historians, and became writers ourselves.





And so, it was at the International Black Writers Festival that our mere gathering was an affirmation of who we are as a people and as Black writers. As we gathered in a safe, loving and connected environment we were not disturbed or contended with the “white gaze.” In this space, as writers we were able to express our intimate feelings, concerns and even fears about being a Black writer. Such writers, who had defied the reign of terror, like Ibram Kendi, Nikole Hannah Jones and Ta-Nehisi Coates, against the banning of their books on our true history, inspired us all.



Ibram X. Kendi said it took him one year to write three chapters because he was afraid of the backlash he would receive from white liberals about his book, “How to be an Anti-racist.” However, when he got cancer, he thought he would be dead before its publication. He released his fears and completed the book in a timely manner.



We gathered to learn some life lessons too. Walter Mosely gave us a lesson on forgiveness and acceptance of difference, as he recounted how he healed his rift with the publisher and educator, Haki Madhubuti. His encounter made me more aware of how hanging on to bitterness and misunderstandings can affect your writing. Negative energy dampens our creativity. He mentioned in one of his books that we have to “let go of the fear of what people say about our writing, so it can help us succeed not only as a writer, but in other aspects of our lives”. We also accumulated knowledge on supporting black publishing companies and the backbone of our literary world, black book stores.





As an emerging Black female writer, for many years, Nicole Hannah Jones and Mikki Kendall has encouraged me to flank my authenticity. Walter Mosely has also encouraged me to keep my voice even though others may disagree with the way I write or are not too fond of my characters. They inspired me, by example, to see myself as a Black spirited and vibrant female writer--letting the light of who I am shine. For example, I have been reluctant to finish my upcoming novel for fear of a backlash from the Black church as I critique Black Prosperity Theology through the eyes of a deacon. These authors have encouraged me to "speak the truth" and not worry about the consequences.

As I become more successful, I will behave and demonstrate what it is to be a likable Black Writer and not an "obnoxious one" which Ta-Nehisi vowed not to be. As a Black female writer, I believe that such behavior is diametrically opposed to our culture, our growth as a people and furthermore, it hurts and deflates the hope of other writers. I must remember the struggle I encountered to reach my goals, all while supporting and encouraging others.

I was overall inspired by the writers' dedication and passion. They charged us with the responsibility to write, but also to support our writers, buy their books and publish through Black enterprises. This festival was a gathering of how powerful Black writers, and Black literary institutions such as book stores and publishing houses could be if we unite as a collective. We were encouraged to pick up the battalion regardless of the fear or danger we may experience-- to keep writing as our endangered forefathers and mothers did.

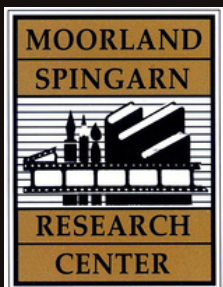


## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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A daughter of Howard and author, Kathryn L. Harris is currently completing her novel tentatively entitled, "The Plans I Have for You," or "Massive Success Is the Best Revenge". Ms. Harris is a Howard Alumna who received her Master's Degree in International Studies and Maternal and Child Health, and proud supporter of The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.



**Copy Link to View Photographs from the 2023 International Black Writers Festival:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fw8mgCpoMjRujXknsWSEZznA\\_7EsBinI?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fw8mgCpoMjRujXknsWSEZznA_7EsBinI?usp=sharing)

# FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

ORGANIZED BY THE MSRC PARTY PLANNING COMMITTEE



## WORDS FROM THE PARTY PLANNING COMMITTEE

“ CHRISTIANA MCCLAIN ”

*I wanted to create the Party Planning Committee to highlight all the contributions that MSRC staff bring and create a space for us to socialize with each other. As MSRC continues to change, the staff and students evolve and grow. Going forward, John Richard and I just want to make sure everyone feels welcomed, appreciated and valued.*

“ JOHN RICHARD KENNEDY ”

*Holistically, the chemistry and optimism present in Moorland was something Christiana and I wanted to build upon. Christiana introduced the idea of a committee, and I gladly obliged. This would allow us to nurture genuine care and growth within our Moorland Family. We are all devoted stewards of Black History and preservation of the same. With this committee, we are putting forth great intentionality. We aim for everyone to have fun and experience things outside the office. Ultimately, our committee will contribute to a healthy and peaceful work environment in all regards.*

THE FLUIDITY OF THE ARCHIVAL PROFESSION AT HOME & ABROAD

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# IN THE LEGACY OF PRESERVATION

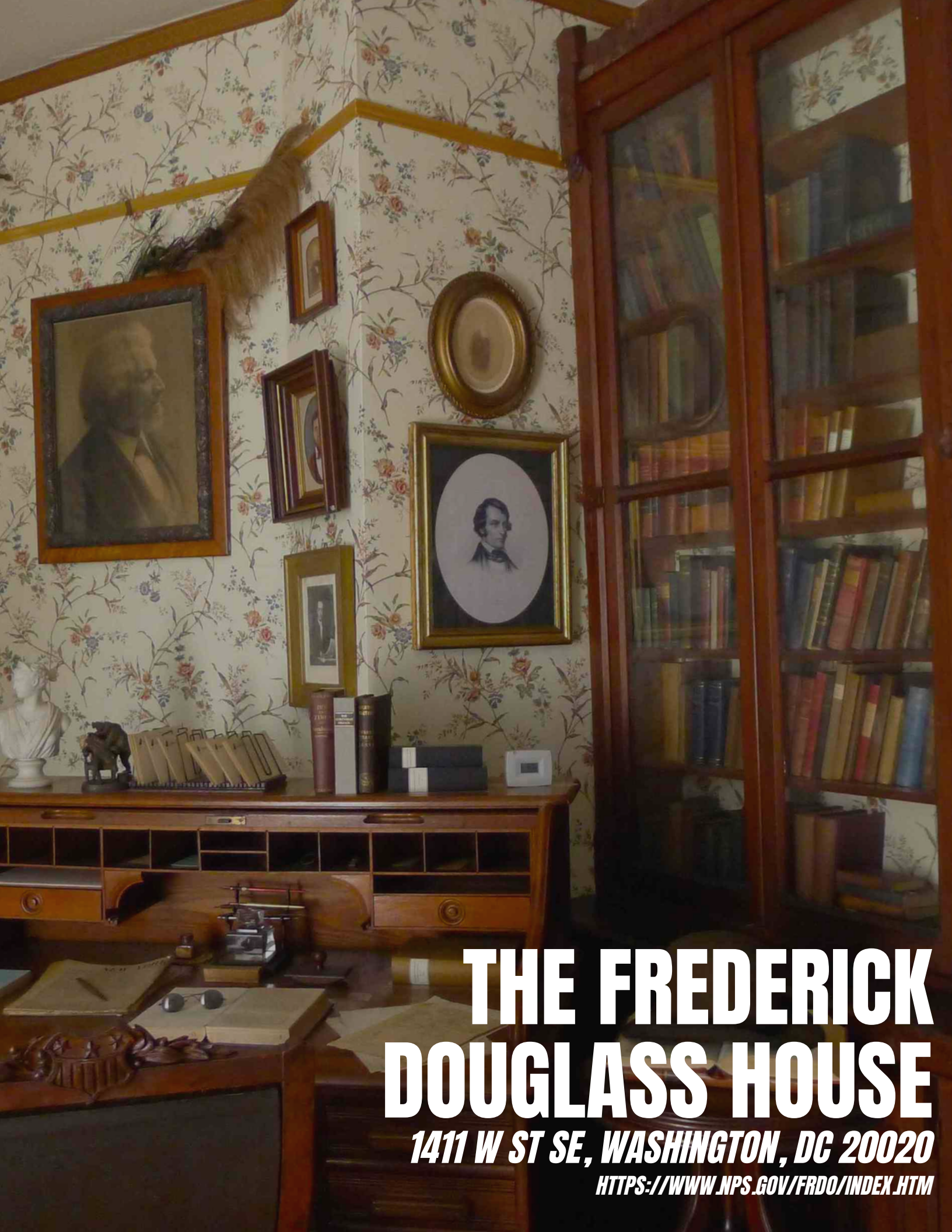
**MSRC SPOTLIGHT:  
THREE INNOVATIVE  
CULTURAL SITES**



Dorothy Porter Wesley and Former HU President, James E. Cheek, at Howard University Museum Opening

Dorothy Porter Wesley spent the duration of her career at Howard University as not only a librarian, but a master antiquarian. After being appointed in 1930, she spent nearly 43 years collecting both national and international documents, literature, and materials relating to Black people. Her extensive work is ultimately responsible for the development of The Moorland Spingarn Research Center, and our massive collection. Wesley dedicated her life's work to increasing the Black Student's curiosity and interest about their African inheritance.

In honor of the late Dr. Dorothy Porter Wesley, in each publication of "The Moorland" we will feature three institutions at the local, national, and international levels that remain instrumental in the process of preserving the history of African people. We encourage readers to visit these hubs of ancestral knowledge that still operate, whether they may be in our hometowns or where family members may reside. It is our social responsibility to sustain our historical institutions that have been and are still playing a fundamental role in the transmission of historical and cultural relevancies to subsequent generations. We hope you enjoy this new addition to our periodical. We also welcome you to share with us any pictures you may take upon your visit to these sites.



# THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS HOUSE

*1411 W ST SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20020*

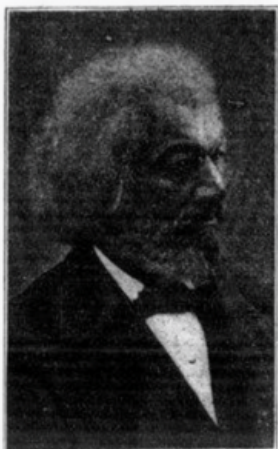
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# THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

**\$5.00.**

## Certificate of Membership



HON. FREDERICK DOUGLASS



"CEDAR HILL," ANACOSTIA, D. C.

"I remember that God reigns through eternity. Though discouragement and disappointments may hinder for a time, truth, justice and humanity will ultimately triumph."—*Frederick Douglass.*

*Helen Douglass* President

Secretary

*In the early 1900s, the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association encouraged people to save Cedar Hill by giving money and becoming members of their organization. Library of Congress*

For over thirty years the Frederick Douglass House, also known as the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, has served as a cultural treasure informing the greater public on the life and legacy of Frederick Douglass, one of the most notable figures in African American history to date. His former home is located in the historic Uniontown neighborhood in Washington DC, which was later renamed the Anacostia Historic District. The twenty-one bedroom dwelling, used to be the home of John Van Hook. Frederick purchased the property in 1877. This was Douglass' last place of residence, before his transition on February 20th, 1895. He named his home "Cedar Hill", for its many trees and high evaluation.



Before his ancestral transition, Douglass devised a will in 1886. Within the legal document, he left his four children ownership of most of his real estate and investments. His second wife, Helen Pitts Douglass, received a large portion of Frederick Douglass' personal properties including Cedar Hill. One year following Douglass' passing, Helen organized a meeting with the National League of Colored Women to raise money and communal support to establish Cedar Hill into a historic site. Helen went on to increase support by publishing an announcement in the *Evening Star* that she plans on creating an association with the sole purpose of encouraging the national public to travel to the Douglass Estate. On June 6, 1990 the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association (FDMHA) was chartered by Congress.

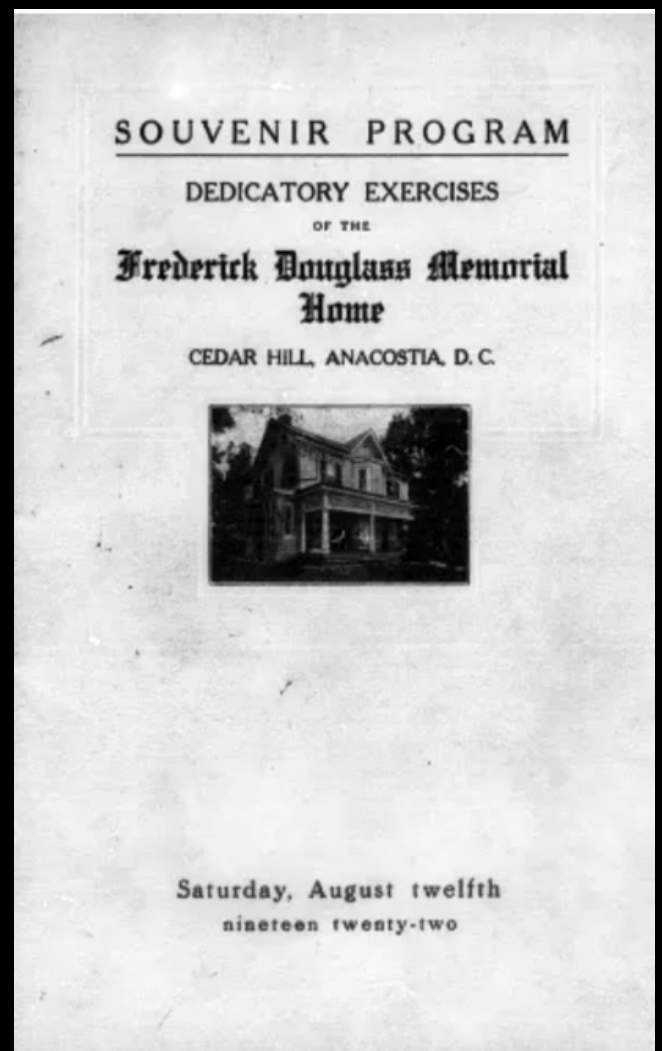


*Eastern view of Cedar Hill, estate of famed abolitionist and reformer Frederick Douglass. Photograph taken around 1893-1895. National Park Service*

Archibald Henry Grimké, African American lawyer, journalist, scholar, and community leader was the president of FDMHA at the time of Hellen Douglass' passing. After she died, the historic site was left in the association's name. Grimke established "stationed staff at Cedar Hill to show visitors the effects of the late Frederick Douglass and also to show them over the estate".

Into the early twentieth century many prominent figures and organizations like Booker T. Washington, Madam CJ Walker, and the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) advocated for the reduction of the site's mortgage, financially poured into preservation and renovation efforts at the Douglass Home. In July 1918, NACW pays off the full mortgage of Cedar Hill. The efforts were spearheaded by then President, Mary Burnett Talbert.

In 1983, Mary McLeod Bethune and the National Youth Administration launched a restoration project on the sites grounds. Years following FDHMA experienced major difficulties in maintaining the home and on August 25th, 1964 deeds the site's grounds, the entire museum collection and the personal paper's of Frederick Douglass to the United States Government. Congress legally named the Frederick Douglass Home, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in 1988. The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is currently apart of the National Park System.





## THE INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

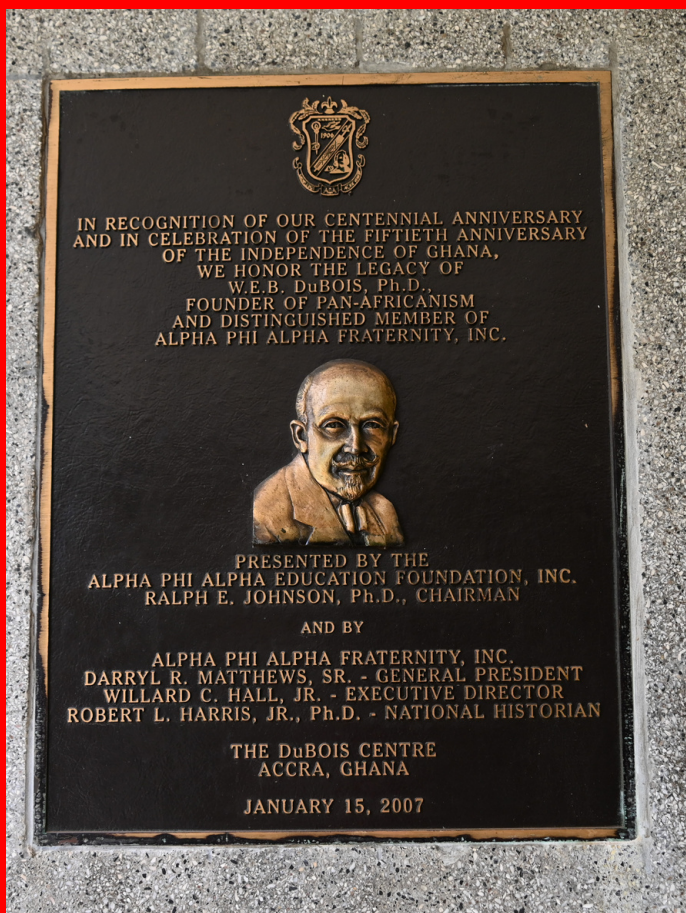
The coastal city of Charleston, South Carolina is known as the largest port in North America that was used in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. The capital city is a historic place of servitude and struggle, where tens of thousands of enslaved Africans disembarked after enduring the Middle Passage. The museum is located on the Gadsden's Wharf, and currently floats above the water to honor the site's significance as "hallowed ground". Gadsden's Wharf is the last and most important disembarkation point for enslaved Africans in North America. The wharf was completed in 1772 by enslaved labor. It was active between 1783- 1808 when an estimated 100,000 African men, women, and children arrived and were sold into American slavery. The city had previously sold the land the wharf was build on to a restaurateur, but after construction on the site discovered traces of Gadsden's Wharf, former Mayor of Charleston Joseph P. Riley Jr. Riley decided to repurchase the land.

Exhibits within the museum cover the entire history of African American people- beginning with the ancient civilizations of West and Central Africa, speaking to the continuity of the African experience. The museum also hosts an inaugural "Awakening the Ancestors" event, to celebrate the rich heritage of the Gullah Geechee who reside in the Low-country. Another arm of the institution is its faith-based initiatives program. Working in partnership with interfaith leaders and religious organizations, allows for connectivity among the Black Charleston spiritual and religious community. The IAAM continues to be a communal resource for the study and advancement of African American genealogy.



# The W. E. B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan-African Culture

PRESERVING AN INTERNATIONAL TREASURE



*Du Bois pictured with President Kwame Nkrumah (right) and wife, Fathia Nkrumah (left), celebrating his 95th birthday in Ghana. Du Bois Centre Archives*

The W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan African Culture is located in the La Dade Kotopon Municipal District in Accra, Ghana. The site is the former home and resting place of William Edward Burghardt DuBois. The Centre was established in 1985, but the history of its origins precedes the year of its official foundation. Du Bois met Kwame Nkrumah at 5th Pan African Conference, then secretary and later the first president of newly independent Ghana. This would begin their life-long friendship, and later be one of the influential factors of why Du Bois was naturalized as a Ghanaian citizen and relocated to the continent in 1961.



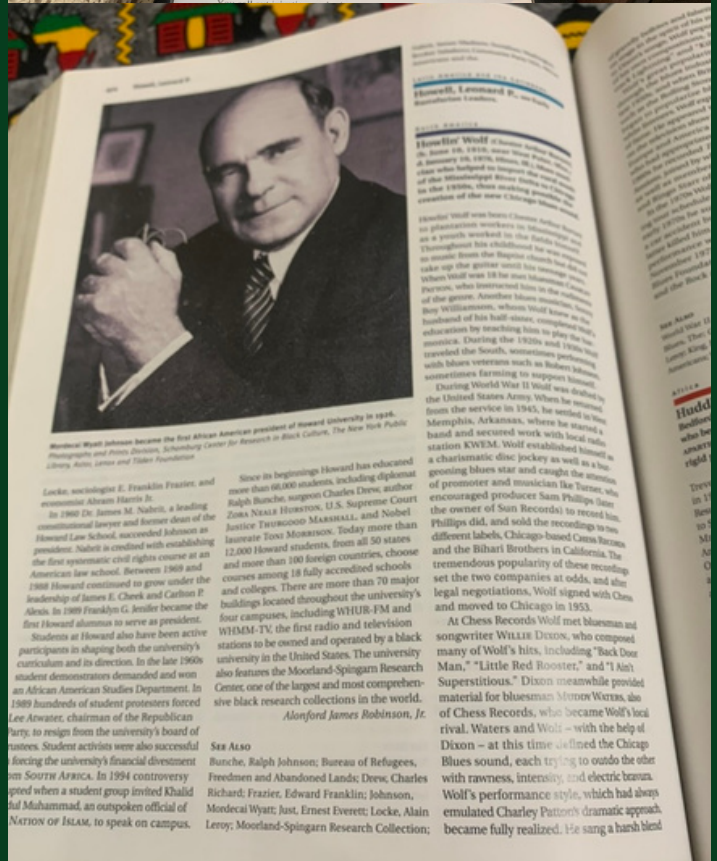
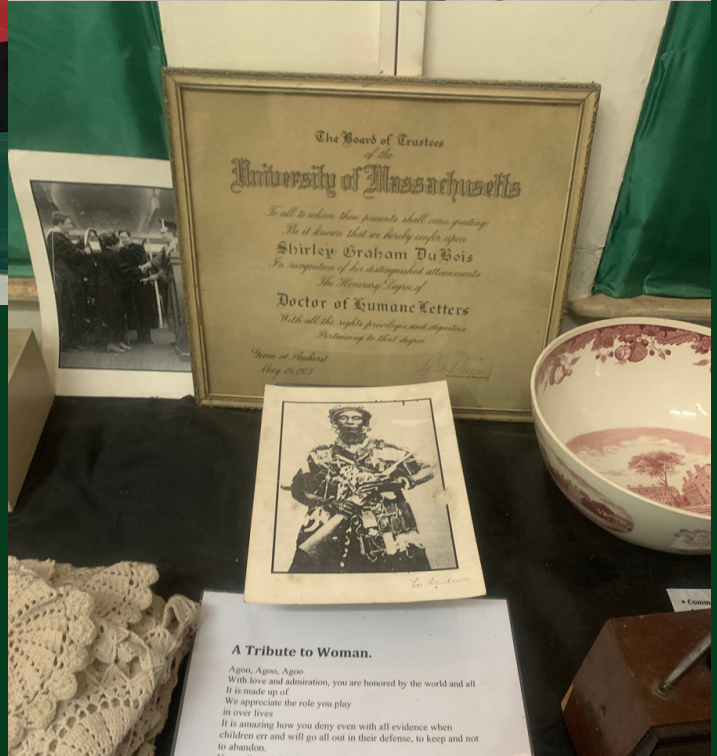
# CURRENT OPERATIONS



The Cultural Centre holds the personal book collection of the Black Intellectual leader and even the ashes of his wife, Shirley Graham Du Bois. There is a room within the memorial site that was her former bedroom/ office. The room is dedicated to African women who played a major role within the global African Revolution, illuminated with photographs of several women, including Amy Garvey, Assata Shakur, Queen Nzinga, and the region's very own Yaa Asantewaa.

Also inside are the Open Air Theater, Black Heritage Museum, W.E.B. Du Bois' bedroom, a picture gallery, and library. Within the picture gallery hang framed photographs memorializing Kwame Nkrumah, Patrice Lumumba, Malcolm X, Amilcar Cabral, Sekou Ture, Rosa Parks, Emperor Haile Selassie I, and other key figures. Du Bois' personal library was eventually turned into a public library where the community can read books written by Du Bois and other scholars from the continent and around the world, on the global Black experience. Notable scholars like Egyptologist Cheik Anta Diop, master-teacher John Henrik Clarke, and poet Amiri Baraka. Attached to the Centre there is the Marcus Garvey Guest House and Seminar Hall, used for conferences, symposia, seminars, and film screenings.

The memorial site functions as not only a burial ground, but also a museum, research center, public library, and community gathering space. The Centre uniquely attracts scholars and visitors from all over the world, with the direct purpose of not only enhancing understanding on the life and legacy of Du Bois, but Pan Africanism as an ideology and its historical and contemporary implications. Although the Centre receives its majority funding from the Ghanaian Government, it is struggling to keep utilities operating and money for programs like lectures, film/video-talks, seminar/workshops and the youth outreach program.





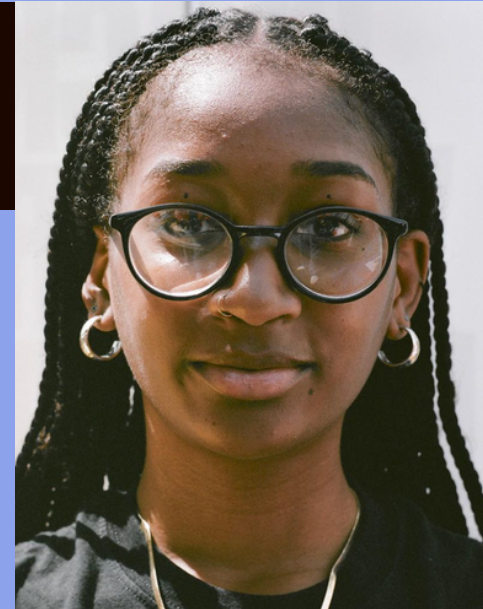
Jourdan Johnson is a senior Media, Journalism, and Film Communications major and Business Administration minor from Fort Worth, Texas. Jourdan is a Marketing Intern for the Washington Wizards (NBA) and a campus Resident Assistant (RA). Honors include Executive Leadership Council (ELC) Scholar and Disney Storytellers Fund Scholar.

Kimathi Talton is a junior International Affairs major Film and Television minor from Brooklyn, NY. He has a passion for filmmaking and community organizing and is involved with many community organizations at Howard



Cortneii Samuel is a current senior Journalism major and Africana studies minor from Long Island, New York, and a current photographer for the Moorland Spingarn Creative Network. Over the course of their matriculation at Howard, Cortneii has always been intrigued by the wealth of resources that Moorland possesses and was so grateful to find a way to support the functioning of the center. Outside of Moorland, Cortneii is a staff writer for Cover 2 Cover magazine, a reporter for the Howard University News Service, and an active member of the Howard Players. Cortneii hopes to continue to use their affinity for photography to continue to capture the beauty and individuality that people across the diaspora naturally possess, and effortlessly portray.

Latrese Johnson (they/them) is a sophomore Afro-American Studies major, Women, Gender, and Sexualities Studies minor from Saint Paul Minnesota. On campus, Latrese is a member of the Kwame Ture Society, a revolutionary work-study circle dedicated to Black Liberation.



# MSRC FEATURE



## AYANNA FLOWERS

### MSRC SCHOLAR

Hello everyone! My name is Ayanna Flowers. I am a sophomore Political Science major, Afro American studies minor from Jersey. I am really looking forward to being a part of this new chapter for the Library division. In this role, I am looking forward to engaging with the library's historic and prolific collection, assisting guests in their quest for information, while also contributing to the collaborative atmosphere here at the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center. I am also excited to meet and work with the other fantastic members of the library division to make this semester a great one!

## CAMILLE ROSS

### MSRC SCHOLAR

Camille Ross is a senior History major, math minor from the City of Brotherly Love & Sisterly Affection, Philadelphia, PA. She is a bibliophile, poet, and musician dedicated to the task of acquiring and preserving the stories of her rich inheritance as the proud daughter of a long line of community leaders and educators. She has served since 2020 as a leader in the Howard University Chorale and the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel Choir. Additionally, she works as a student facilitator for the Radical Reads Book Club on Campus. Working for the MSRC is a privilege of which she had only dreamed as a child, and she is beyond excited to help students and researchers take advantage of this invaluable resource.



# MSRC FEATURES



## NNAYELU ORANUBA

MSRC SCHOLAR

Hello! My name is Nnayelu Oranuba, I am a Senior Finance major, Philosophy minor from Rockville, Maryland by way of Nigeria.

This year, I am looking forward to highlighting the wonderful space and collection the MSRC Library has to offer.

## SHANE CAMERON

MSRC SCHOLAR

I'm very excited to be back in the Library. I have a lot of ideas for events that we could host. We did a lot of great work last semester and I know that this semester is going to be even better.



# MSRC FEATURES



## MILAUN BROWN

### MANUSCRIPT AND HUA AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVIST

Milaun Brown is from Charlotte, NC and works as the Audiovisual Archivist for Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. She holds two bachelor's degrees from Winston-Salem State University in Political Science and Africana Studies, and a master's degree in Library and Information Science from North Carolina Central University. She joined our staff through the generous support of the Mellon Foundation.

## BRANDON NIGHTINGALE

### BPA SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

Brandon Nightingale is the Senior Project Manager for the Black Press Archives Digitization Project at Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. In this role Brandon leads a team at Howard University, digitizing the university's historic black newspaper collection, which will give access to researchers across the world. Brandon received his bachelor's and master's degree in history from the University of Central Florida, recently obtained his master's in library science from Florida State University, and has started the PhD history program at Howard University.



# MSRC FEATURES

## TANASHAE BARRETT

MSRC SCHOLAR

Hi, my name is Tanashae Barrett. I'm a sophomore biology major from Kingston, Jamaica. I am excited to be a part of the black press archive as I am passionate about being immersed in the black experience and making my impact especially as a student of Howard University. I have been given the opportunity to expand my knowledge on not only Jamaican culture but the history of other countries all over the world. A fun fact about me is that I love trying new food.



## JOSEPH STURGEON

MSRC SCHOLAR

My name is Joseph Sturgeon, a senior history major and intern with the Black Press Archives digitization project. One thing I'm looking forward to on the project is getting to look at a bunch of newspaper material originating out of Africa and the Caribbean, and seeing how the press reflects our history. My primary research focus is on the experience of Black workers in the Caribbean, so I'm interested in seeing if the newspapers we have reflect any of the perspectives held by regular Caribbean people, outspoken writers, and the day-by-day happenings in the West Indies.



# MSRC FEATURES

## BRIANNA BRYSON

### MSRC SCHOLAR

Brianna Bryson is a junior journalism major with a photography minor from Detroit, Michigan. She discovered her love for writing and multimedia storytelling and is committed to using these skills to symbolize confidence and create intimate experiences that explore cultural expression's significance to both her and her community. Brianna believes that art preservation has the power to tell stories and preserve crucial archives of Black history, ensuring heritage representation, struggles, and triumphs are never lost. With a background in journalism and photography, she combines her passion for storytelling with the visual arts to document and celebrate the rich roots of Black heritage.



## MICAH CLARK

### MSRC SCHOLAR

My name is Micah Clark. I am junior Political science major Spanish minor from Washington, D.C. I am an aspiring lawyer who's interested in all things legal, I plan to specialize in medical malpractice/healthcare law. Alongside my career aspirations, I have always loved Black history and preserving art/culture through photos and archives. I find it is important to be able to tell a story without saying a word.





# MSRC FEATURES

## ALEX WILSON

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Alex Wilson, a DMV native, has served in academic and museum administration for the past five years. With a BA in Art History from Bryn Mawr College and a certification in Art and Business from Sotheby's Institute of Art in London, Alex has dedicated her career to the preservation of Black history through her passion for administrative leadership. Currently, Alex is working on acquiring her MA in Public History from Howard University and in her free time volunteers with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Alex is honored to serve Moorland Spingarn Research Center and excited to begin her work as Business Manager.



## CHRISTINA VORTIA

### RARE BOOKS LIBRARIAN

Christina Vortia is the Rare Books Librarian at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Co-Chair of the Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table & Reforma Collaboration List Committee, and youth literature reviewer for Kirkus Literary Magazine. She serves on the Archives and History Committee for the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Roundtable and on the Nominating Committee for the Reference Services Section of the Reference and User Services Association. She is the current Communication Chair for the Film and Media Round Table of the American Library Association. Vortia has served as Chair of the 2023 Newbery Committee, on the 50th Anniversary jury of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards in 2019 and 2020, The 2020 LA Times Book Prize for Young Adult Literature, and has served on the 2017 Printz award. Vortia is a proud daughter of Tuskegee University.



# MSRC FEATURES



## CHARICE THOMPSON

CURATOR OF MANUSCRIPTS

Charice Thompson owned and operated Sittin' Pretty Inc. Hair Salon in Buffalo, NY for over 20 years before redirecting her career path in 2015 when she returned to the University at Buffalo to finish studies towards her B.A. in Political Science. She completed her graduate studies in 2021 earning an M.S. in Information and Library Science. Her continued desire to be of service to Black people informed her decision to seek job opportunities at HBCU's. She started at the MSRC in January of 2022 as a Manuscript Librarian and became Curator of Manuscripts in September 2023.

## CHRISTIANA MCCLAIN

HUA ARCHIVIST

Christiana McClain is from Houston, Texas. She graduated from Spelman College in 2018. She obtained her MLIS from University of Maryland College Park. She joined our staff through the generous support of the Mellon Foundation.



# MSRC FEATURES



## CAMERON EVANS

BPA STAFF

My name is Cameron Evans. I am originally from Jacksonville, Florida. I am a 2L at Howard University School of Law. I obtained my Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in the Fall of 2021. As a former student-athlete, I am passionate about all things related to sports and entertainment. I hope to use the opportunity of working with the Black Press Archive to learn more about the history of black publishers throughout history while continuing to develop my eye for attention to detail.

## OLAWÁLÉ DUPEOLU KUPONIFE

### BPA STAFF

Olawálé is Nigerian (with roots in Osun and Ekiti State to be exact!), born and raised in east London, United Kingdom. Currently, he is a second-year master's student in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) program at Howard University. He looks forward to working on blogs, podcasts, conferences, campus involvement and creating collaborations where we can showcase the historical and current validity of the project and Moorland-Spingarn Research Center to the masses and local communities who look like us for decades to come.



# MSRC FEATURES



## RACHEL JONES

BPA STAFF

Rachel is a filmmaker from and based in Washington DC/Maryland with a concentration in cinematography and film photography. She received her MFA in Film at Howard University and is currently working on a docu-narrative focusing on Black American culture in DC and Maryland during gentrification. As an image maker she is passionate about capturing the essence and stories of Black life.

## ALEXIS WOOLFORD

ARCHIVES LIBRARIAN

Alexis Woolford is an Archives Librarian for the Black Press Archives at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University. She earned her Bachelor's of Science in English at Towson University in 2015, and her MLIS at University of Maryland College Park in 2021. After falling in love with archival digitization and all its benefits, she now makes it her mission to preserve stories within primary sources with the power of a digital space.



# MSRC FEATURES



## MICHAEL BRYANT

BPA STAFF

Michael Bryant is a Howard University graduate student who is currently pursuing a MA degree in Religious Studies. He serves as a Graduate Technician with the Moorland-Spingarn Research Centers Black Press Project division. He graduated from UNC Charlotte with a BA in Religious Studies and a Africana Studies minor. His interest revolves around the religious experiences through out the African Diaspora and forms of Religious expression in pre-colonial Africa. He plans to enter the African Studies PHD program fall of 2024.

## MAVEN MCGANN MSRC SCHOLAR

Maven McGann Howard University sophomore is currently serving as a Moorland-Spingarn Research Center Scholar working specifically on the digitization of the Black Press Archive. She graduated with honors from Banneker Academic High School in Washington, D.C. She has participated in several art and archival projects. In 2022, she co-curated with Howard English Prof. Darlene Taylor the visual art and poetry exhibition, the “Black Girl Project,” and served as a communications assistant at the inaugural Africa Foto Fair, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in West Africa. She even spent the summer of 2023 as a project assistant and interviewer for the oral history project and mini documentary “Streetwear Started in DC” with the Go-Go Museum.



# MSRC FEATURES



## ZOÉ COKER

### MSRC SCHOLAR

Zoé Coker is a senior at Howard University, majoring in Africana Studies and minoring in Philosophy from Houston, TX. Her current research project asks how the historical development of a jazz institute at Howard University reflected the institution's broader political landscape in the late 1960s. She is currently a MSRC Scholar in the Archives Unit. She is also a prospective graduate student in Ethnomusicology. Beyond academics, she enjoys writing poetry, gardening, and community engagement.

## SOLOMON BROOKS

### MSRC SCHOLAR

Solomon Brooks is a senior History major from Baltimore, MD. He is an administrative intern at Moorland Spingarn Research Center, and involved in work with the Kwame Ture Society for Africana Study.”



# MSRC FEATURES



## JOHN KENNEDY

HUA ARCHIVIST

John Richard Kennedy is a native of New Orleans, LA. He earned his B.A. in History at Dillard University and M.A. in Museum Studies from Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO). Mr. Kennedy is currently a PhD Candidate in the Urban Studies Department at the University of New Orleans. His dissertation title is "Beyond Their Walls: How Pioneering Black Universities Have Shaped New Orleans from 1865 to the Present, Through the Dillard University Legacy."

## JASMINE BANNERMAN

### MSRC SCHOLAR

Hi! My name is Jasmine Bannerman, and I am a junior Economics major, African Studies minor. I am a student scholar in the manuscripts division, and this semester I'm looking forward to being able to help with the assessment of materials in manuscripts. Its important to the center and researchers that everything is in order, so I look forward to working on this project!



# MSRC FEATURES



## FOLLY A. KOUEVI

### MSRC SCHOLAR

Folly A. Kouevi is a fourth-year student at Howard University's College of Arts and Sciences, pursuing a dual bachelor's degree in History and Philosophy. In his studies, Folly is an Africana Historian and Philosopher, focusing on analyzing and examining African people's historical, cultural, and political experiences both on the African continent and across the Diaspora. His interest in Black studies stems from his mission to teach Black History to empower his students effectively. He is the recipient of The Black Teacher Pipeline fellowship for The Center of Black Educator Development, where he is gaining practical experience and professional development to prepare for his career in education. Folly is beyond excited to join the MSRC family in the library division this year.

## BLAKE SPENCER

### MSRC SCHOLAR

Blake Spencer is a Junior Nursing Major from Flint, MI. He also works at the library and archives division at Moorland-Spingarn. Blake looks forward to continuing to bridge the gap between the past and present, using Black Studies to thrust the Black Radical Tradition into daily life. Blake is also a Member of Kwame Ture Society, and the Head of Community Service for the HU Nursing Club





# MSRC FEATURES

## LOVELACE BOAFO

BPA DIGITIZATION ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER



Hello!! I'm Lovelace Boafo, a dedicated and accomplished professional with a focus on project management. I am originally from Philadelphia, and in 2020, I proudly graduated from the University at Albany in Albany, NY.

Discovering my passion for project management after graduation, I have since gained three years of valuable experience in this exciting field. Prior to my current venture in the DMV, I served as a Program Coordinator at General Electric (GE), where I honed my skills in coordinating projects and fostering collaboration among talented teams.

Beyond my professional endeavors, I believe in living life to the fullest. During my free time, I love to explore new places, cherish moments with my loved ones, and indulge in my love for travel. Staying active is essential to me, and you'll often find me hitting the gym, keeping both my body and mind in top shape.

My academic background has provided me with a strong foundation, and my practical experience has given me the tools to effectively manage projects and overcome challenges. I thrive on continuous learning and growth, always eager to take on fresh opportunities and contribute to the success of any endeavor.

# MSRC FEATURES

## MARQUIS BULLOCK

### MANUSCRIPTS ARCHIVIST



Hailing from Dallas, Texas, MarQuis Bullock currently works as a Manuscripts Archivist with the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University. He is a December 2022 graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington's Master of Information and Library Science program where he specialized in archives and records management. Prior to his arrival at MSRC, he worked with the Harvard Graduate School of Education as a research assistant for The Black Teacher Archive, a new digital repository which makes accessible the political and intellectual contributions of Black educators before 1970 and as an archival assistant with the Black Film Center and Archive in Bloomington, IN.

He also served as an inaugural 2022-2023 EDIBA intern with Harvard Library where co-managed and oversaw initial project planning for reimagining Harvard library spaces as more inclusive and engaging for an increasingly diverse student population. Additionally, he spent seven years working in public history and interpretation as a park ranger with the National Park Service researching and developing public and educational programming spanning the subjects of school desegregation in the Southern United States, enslavement in the South Carolina Lowcountry, and the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MarQuis also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts and English Literature from University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He joined the MSRC staff through the generous support of the Mellon Foundation.

# MSRC FEATURE

## COREY KOUAKOU

BPA COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST



My name is Corey Kouakou, a 24-year-old from Rockville, Maryland who graduated from Towson University in May of 2022 . Upon taking the position, I did not expect for there to be so many pieces of content from Africa and as a first-born American citizen, I am more than enamored with the pieces we must work with. any media from Ivory Coast and Cameroon will be observed with an extra sense of pride when i get my hands on them.

# MSRC FEATURE

## MIKHAEL LOCKHART

MSRC SCHOLAR



Mikhael Lockhart, a dedicated Howard University student, is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Philosophy. Beyond his academic pursuits, he serves as the 2023-24 Mister College of Arts on the Howard University Royal Court, embodying a commitment to his campus community. Outside the classroom, he finds solace in running, indulges his intellectual curiosity through reading, and treasures quality time with friends. Those close to him describe Mikhael as animated and loving, qualities that extend to his advocacy for marginalized voices. With aspirations of becoming an attorney, he's resolute in championing the unheard and ignored. Mikhael's passion for the Black Press Archives is rooted in his desire to be part of its impactful legacy, contributing to a greater narrative of social justice and equality.



*A Conversation With Dr. Michael R. Winston: Historian & Storyteller TRAILER is now available for viewing on MSRC TV YouTube Channel*



## The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

Preserving the Legacy of the Global Black Experience Since 1914

# CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY, CHARTING OUR PATH FORWARD

We are celebrating our 50th year in operation as a research center. This November 15th join MSRC's founding director, former directors, and staff in discussion on the history of the largest privately owned repository of the global Black experience. Be on the lookout for updates regarding the event.



# HOMECOMING AT THE MECCA



## EXHIBIT NOW OPEN

Take a stroll down memory lane at our HU Homecoming exhibition, decorated with archives from our HUA Collection. The exhibit is now on display in Founders Library. This year we are celebrating our 99th Homecoming Celebration.



TO ACCESS THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY DIGITIZED YEARBOOKS  
VISIT [HTTPS://DH.HOWARD.EDU/BISON\\_YEARBOOKS/INDEX.2.HTML](https://dh.howard.edu/bison_yearbooks/index.2.html)

# THE MSRC READING ROOM NOW OPEN



**QUIET**  
QUIET  
QUIET

Need a quiet place to study? The MSRC Reading Room is now open Monday-Fridays from 9AM to 4PM.





TO ACCESS THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY DIGITIZED YEARBOOKS  
VISIT [HTTPS://DH.HOWARD.EDU/BISON\\_YEARBOOKS/INDEX.2.HTML](https://dh.howard.edu/bison_yearbooks/index.2.html)