



Smithsonian
Anacostia Community Museum

ARCHIVES



The Anacostia Community Museum Archives (ACMA) opened in 2001 in the Smithsonian Institution's newly renovated Anacostia Community Museum, founded in 1967 as the first federally funded neighborhood museum and located in the historic Anacostia section of Washington, D.C. The archives unit collects, preserves, and makes available materials supporting the object-based collection and the research and educational activities of the museum, as well as the museum's mission which is centered on contemporary urban communities.



THE COLLECTIONS

Most of the collections are on-site at the museum's main Fort Place facility but some materials are in off-site storage. Approximately 1000 linear feet of materials, comprising personal papers, manuscripts, exhibit records, local community records, photographs, and special collections, are located at Fort Place. A small selection of Anacostia Community Museum historical and administrative records are kept by the archives and supplement the institutional records held by Smithsonian Institution Archives.

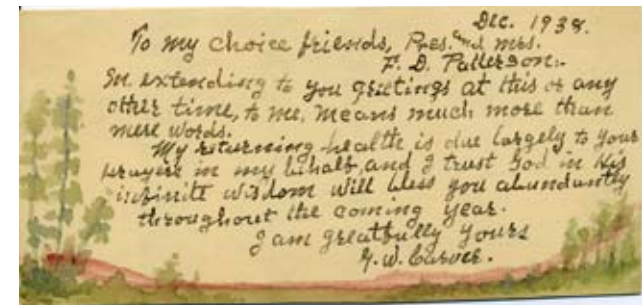
DISCRETE COLLECTIONS

Holdings include the personal papers of individuals with national or local reputations. Among these materials include the papers of Frederick Douglass Patterson, Madame Lillian Evarianti, Lorenzo Dow Turner, Ethel Payne, Joy McLean, Col. West A. Hamilton, Charles E. Qualls, Ella Pearis, and Alice B. Finlayson. In addition, collections of family papers that document

everyday life and family history in diverse communities include the Sullivan, Griffith, Henson, Plummer-Arnold, Harris, Bryan, Lucus, and Robinson-Smith papers. The archives also contain the records of several organizations, such as the Bladensburg Union Burial Association, with records dating from 1874–1978; the Chitlin Market; and the District of Columbia Art Association.

EXHIBITION RECORDS

These records document the museum's myriad exhibits from 1967 to the present and also complement the institutional records held by Smithsonian Institution Archives. Highlights from the collection include: *The Anacostia Story: 1609–1930*; *The Real McCoy: African-American Invention and Innovation, 1619–1930*; *Climbing Jacob's Ladder: The Rise of Black Churches in Eastern American Cities, 1740–1877*; *The Harlem Renaissance: Black Arts of the Twenties*; *Banding Together: School Bands as Instruments of Opportunity*; and *Black Mosaic: Community, Race, and Ethnicity among Black Immigrants in Washington, D.C.*





PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

The archives house over 50,000 images, with the strength residing in the visual documentation of the community, exhibitions, programs, educational, and outreach material spanning the museum's forty-three years. The collection also includes works by historical and contemporary celebrated photographers. Among these photographers are Arthur P. Bedou, Prentice Herman Polk (P. H. Polk), Addison N. Scurlock, Carl Van Vechten, Ernest C. Withers, Robert H. McNeill, Titus Brooks Heagins, Kerry Coppin, Dennis C. Calhoun, and Fern Logan. In addition, the Dorn C. McGrath Jr. slide collection dates from 1969 to 2000 and provides an extensive resource of the built and natural environment of the Anacostia community.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The archives include over 200 volumes of books dating from the early 19th century to the present. *Poems on Various Subjects Religious and Moral* by Phillis Wheatley is the earliest publication in the collection. Posters, sheet music, pamphlets, vertical files, and audiovisual materials are also among the holdings in the Anacostia Community Museum Archives.



RESEARCH ACCESS

The Anacostia Community Museum Archives are open by appointment only on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call (202) 633-4853 or e-mail a request to ACMarchives@si.edu.



1901 Fort Place SE
Washington, DC 20020


GENERAL INFORMATION
202.633.4820 Monday–Friday
202.633.1000 Saturday–Sunday
202.287.3183 Fax

HOURS
Open daily 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Closed December 25

ADMISSION FREE

TOURS
For group tours, call 202.633.4870

PARKING
Museum parking lot and
on-street parking

Accessible to people with
physical disabilities 
anacostia.si.edu

- PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ▲Special Collections, Rare Books Photograph by Susana Raab
 - ▲Fort Place storage
 - ▲Frederick Douglass Patterson Papers, gift of Frederick Douglass Patterson IV
 - ▲Collection of 19th Century African American Literature
 - ▲Jennifer Morris, Archivist Photographs by John F. Ficara
 - ▲Collection of Frederick Douglass Material