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# ARCHIVISTS AND ARCHIVES OF COLOR ROUNDTABLE AND ARCHIVES OF COLOR ROUNDTABLE ARCHIVISTS OF COLOR ROUNDTABLE ARCHIVISTS AND ARCHIVES ROUNDTABLE ARCHIVISTS AND ARCHIVES OF COLOR

# AACR NEWS



*2016 Harold T. Pinkett Award Winner, Karen Li-Lun Hwang (third from left) at Museum of Modern Art WikiEditatbon for Asian/Pacific/American artists with Jennifer Tobias, Nina Kuo, Ann Matsuuchi, 2015. Photo by Lia Chang.*



## Letter from Senior Chair

Hello Everyone:

I am excited to begin my term as Senior Chair of the Archivists and Archives of Color. First approved by SAA Council at its Winter 1987 meeting as the Minorities Roundtable, AAC is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

In recognition of the contributions of AAC and its members, I am focusing this year on celebrating archivists of color.

The focal point of this effort is **Archiving in Color**, a collection of profiles featuring dedicated and inspirational archivists of color and allies—our colleagues, mentors, confidants, and friends. Our first profiles, featuring newly minted SAA Fellow Helen Wong Smith and 2016 Pinkett Award recipient Karen Hwang (as seen in this issue), are online at [archivingincolor.wordpress.com](http://archivingincolor.wordpress.com). We'll be publishing new profiles on a regular basis. If you would like to help us with this project (including interviewing, researching, and writing profiles), please contact Project Coordinator Des Alaniz at [aacr.roundtable@gmail.com](mailto:aacr.roundtable@gmail.com).

We're also looking to facilitate networking within our roundtable. In response to Petrina Jackson's excellent request at our annual meeting, we've started an AAC LinkedIn group

([www.linkedin.com/groups/7064492/](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/7064492/)). Please join us! We're also planning to release an update to the AAC membership directory—stay tuned for more information.

I've also appointed several regional contacts (see below chart) to arrange local get-togethers and share member news and accomplishments. If you'd like to volunteer to serve as a regional contact, please send me an email at [hinefuku@iastate.edu](mailto:hinefuku@iastate.edu)!

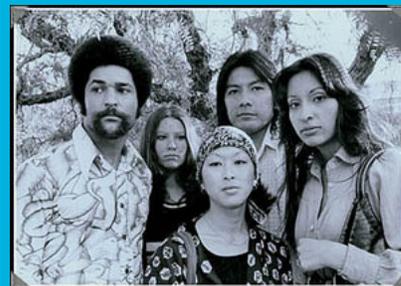
Before I close, I want to thank Aaisha Haykal for the excellent work she's done during her tenure as Chair of AAC, and Micha Broadnax for serving as our newsletter editor for the past year. I must also thank Derek Mosley and the Auburn Avenue Research Library for hosting our annual meeting in their beautiful new facilities. If you find yourself in the Atlanta area, please pay them a visit! I also extend a warm welcome to Maria Angel Diaz, our new co-chair, and Anita Mechler, our incoming newsletter editor, and thank Sonia Yaco for continuing as our webmaster.

Cheers,

Harrison W. Inefuku

AAC Regional Contacts		
Atlanta	Holly Smith	<a href="mailto:hsmith12@spelman.edu">hsmith12@spelman.edu</a>
Iowa	Rachel Seale	<a href="mailto:rmseale@iastate.edu">rmseale@iastate.edu</a>
Los Angeles	Joanna Chen Cham	<a href="mailto:joannacham@library.ucla.edu">joannacham@library.ucla.edu</a>
Louisiana	Cheyron Woods	<a href="mailto:cheyron.woods@louisiana.edu">cheyron.woods@louisiana.edu</a>
Philadelphia	Krystal Appiah	<a href="mailto:kappiah@librarycompany.org">kappiah@librarycompany.org</a>

## About AAC



The Changing Face of California State University, circa 1970s. Public Affairs Photo Collection. Courtesy of the California State University Archive.

The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable (AAC) is an interest group within the Society of American Archivists. SAA is the oldest and largest archival association in North America, serving the educational and informational needs of more than 5,500 individual and institutional members. The AAC Roundtable helps to identify concerns and promote the needs of archivists and archives of color.

# Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award

## Gailyn Bopp and Karen Hwang: Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Awardees

Each year, the **Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award** is awarded to up to two students enrolled in archival management graduate programs.

Named in memory of SAA Fellow Harold T. Pinkett, the first African American to be appointed an archivist in the National Archives, where he worked for over 35 years. It provides complimentary registration to the SAA Annual Meeting and funding to cover hotel and travel expenses, in hopes of attracting minority students to careers in archives and participation in SAA.

This year, the Pinkett award was awarded two outstanding students: **Gailyn Bopp** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) and **Karen Hwang** (Pratt Institute).

Gailyn serves as the president of the SAA student chapter of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and on executive board of the Nā Hawai'i 'Imi Loa, which aims to strengthen native Hawaiian presence in the library and information services profession and raise cultural awareness concerning indigenous collections. She also works as a library research paraprofessional at the Joseph F. Smith Library at Brigham Young University–Hawaii and volunteers at the Hawaiian Historical Society and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Tokioka Heritage Resource Center.

As a student, Karen focused on making minority narratives more accessible to the public through linked open data and through her work with community archives. She has worked with the Asian American Arts Centre in New York City to create a digital archive to advance Asian American art and with community archives in Brooklyn, such as Interference Archive.

She believes that “without the ability to apply methods for discovery on the internet, mainstream histories would promulgate and advance at the expense of specific narratives told from within community archives.” Her work with the Linked Jazz team at the Pratt Institute and the “We Won’t Move”: NYC Tenant Movements Exhibition at Interference Archive in 2015 has established a practice of bringing together resource materials from heterogeneous collections to offer more nuanced portraits of history.



*Karen Li-Lun Hwang (pictured standing) at the Interference Archive, 2014.*

Enjoy our Q&A with Karen in this issue.

Please consider helping Archivists and Archives of Color and the Society of American Archivists continue to support graduate students of color interested in pursuing careers in archives. Donations to the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award fund can be made at <https://saa.archivists.org/4DCGI/donate/form.html>.

Pinkett award citations are from [archivists.org](http://archivists.org).

## Q&A: Karen Li-Lun Hwang, 2016 Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award Recipient

Graduate Program: Pratt Institute, 2016

Current Position: Fellow, Metropolitan New York Library Council

1. What attracted you to a career in archives?



*Moderating an event at Interference Archive, 2016*

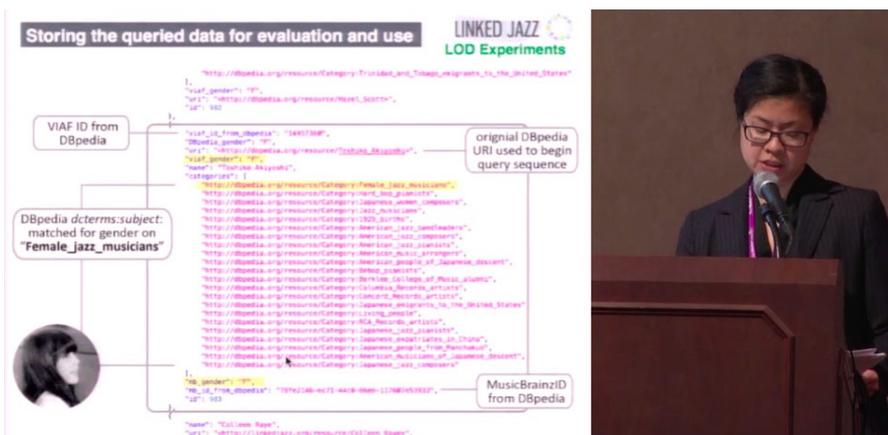
My work in archives began with the Asian American Arts Centre (AAAC) as the project manager for establishing a digital archive of Asian American contemporary artists and art based on AAAC's history in arts promotion. Materials in the digital archive were selected from thousands of artist files collected by the director Robert Lee over the decades. I came to this position with a background in art history, community and education work, and experience as a web and database designer, not as an archivist. At first, the idea of the digital archive struck me as similar in its considerations to record creation for databases in general, but I soon came to recognize the

immense intellectual work needed to formalize an arrangement and describe the materials in a manner sensitive to their genesis as a collection. I feel I was particularly fortunate to be drawn to the archives profession by this digital archive project. Working closely with Robert Lee to ensure the digital archive reflected the organization's mission and accounting for its function as a living document for an organization that was still in operation allowed me to understand the possible role of the archive as situated, as a powerful means to engage with and amend the corpus of our historical record. This realization continues to motivate me in my work.

2. How does being and archivist of color influence your practice?

I think for many people of color there is often a disconnect between reality as we experience it and the way we encounter it formalized. It isn't simply an issue of our histories being handled cursorily. Even when included in the larger historical narrative, narratives of color tend to be molded to conform to larger frameworks, and sometimes become almost unrecognizable or can even represent a dangerous appropriation, appended to a context with more privilege.

In this way community-based archives, present an opportunity to “tell the story a different way”, to diversify the narratives represented by allowing contexts to also unfold to the public from within, opening up primary sources and other materials to new interpretation by end users. This belief in the power of archives has led me to investigate how we as archivists and librarians can work to promote a level of equality in the potential discovery of resources by end users. This not only includes developing and adopting technologies that meet user information-seeking behavior, but also--on the side of the narratives, histories, and communities being documented and archived--working towards more flexibility in descriptive practices and greater potential for self-description and self-identification in the available choices, while still operating in the realm of standards to maintain interoperability for resource discovery. These are the kinds of questions I am currently exploring as a research fellow with the Metropolitan New York Library Council, with a focus on the implementation of Semantic Web technologies, such as linked open data, to cultural heritage materials, an extension of my past and current work with the research group Linked Jazz.



Presenting Linked Jazz at a plenary session at the Music Library Association Annual Conference, 2016

3. What was your most memorable experience from the 2016 SAA Annual Meeting?

A few weeks prior to the annual meeting in Atlanta, both Gailyn Bopp (the other 2016 Harold T. Pinkett Award recipient) and I received an invitation from SAA to participate in the Association of Research Libraries/SAA Mosaic Fellows Leadership Forum. At the forum, I was able to meet and exchange ideas with the Mosaic Fellows in a small setting--peers with whom I may not otherwise have had the opportunity to speak--as well as benefit from candid talks by experienced archivists who are committed to diversity and inclusion in our field and to mentoring new generations of archivists of color. This one-day forum set the tone for my conference experience, and the conversations I had and friendships will carry forward in the years to come.

4. What is something that excites you about the archival profession?

Even though much of my current work relates to new technologies and archives, I am always excited to sit down and immerse myself in the physical processing of collection materials. On one level, the intellectual work needed to provide access to materials in a way that is substantive and meaningful--delving into the contexts surrounding a collection--appeals to me. And on another, the pure sensual aspect of the materials (How does the paper smell and feel? What typeface is being used or what does the handwriting look like?)--all add to the journey of understanding the context in which a collection was created.

I am going to cheat here and add a second answer to this question: the collaborative spirit. Through my involvement with the Brooklyn-based collective Interference Archive, I've come into contact with and forged alliances with progressive-minded librarians and archivists throughout New York City who share a belief in the power of archives to promote counter-agendas. That there are so many volunteering collaboratively, grouping ourselves around what we feel needs to happen--whether Interference Archive fighting for social justice or members of SAA pushing for greater inclusion in our field--is really inspiring.

5. Do you have any hobbies or special talents?

Taichi, cooking, hiking, amateurish knitting, programming, performing on occasion in parades.

Please view Karen's complete profile in Archiving in Color (<http://archivingincolor.wordpress.com>).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Black Metropolis Research Consortium will be requesting proposals starting on November 14, 2016 for their 2017 Summer Short-term Fellowship Program.

**The subject areas slated for 2017 are: Gospel Music; Design, Urban Design and Architecture**

August 2017 will mark the 85th anniversary of Thomas A. Dorsey's (Father of Gospel Music) gospel music standard, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," which was composed in Chicago. The BMRC will invite scholars, musicologists, and musicians to submit proposals to research the under-investigated musical genre of Chicago gospel music and its impact on American popular music, Jazz, and/or other music genres. *(continued on next page)*

In 1937, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, a Hungarian photographer as well as professor in the Bauhaus school, was recruited from Europe to found the New Bauhaus in Chicago, which would later become the School of Design and then the Institute of Design. We will invite researchers to investigate the lives and careers of African American designers working in Chicago and/or how modern design approaches, through architecture and urban design, affected African American communities in the City of Chicago.

The application process will close on midnight CST on January 15, 2017. Applicants will be notified of results by April 1, 2017.



### *Announces*

#### **The Timuel D. Black Short Term Fellowship in African American Studies**

The Timuel D. Black, Jr. Fund, a standing committee of the Vivian G. Harsh Society, Inc., is providing short-term research fellowships related to the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature housed at the Carter G. Woodson Regional Library of the Chicago Public Library. The fellowship program supports scholars, writers, educators and institutional researchers who would benefit from research conducted at the Vivian G. Harsh Collection. The fellowship period is for one or two months during summer 2017.

**Request for Proposals (RFP) will open on Monday, November 14, 2016**

**The application process will close on midnight (CST) January 15, 2017**

**Applicants will be notified of results by April 1, 2017**

#### **Contact Information:**

Vivian G. Harsh Society, Inc.

773-844-7644

[info@harshsociety.org](mailto:info@harshsociety.org)

Vivian G. Harsh Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. Donations to the Society are tax deductible as charitable contributions in accordance with the law but may also be deductible as a business expense - check with your tax advisor.

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# INSTITUTIONAL PROFILES

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## “Michiana Memory Explores Unexplored Histories”

by George Garner, Indiana University South Bend  
Civil Rights Heritage Center

In January 2014, the St. Joseph County Public Library (SJCPL) launched “Michiana Memory,” an incredible new tool to promote local history (<http://michianamemory.sjcpl.org/>). With funding from the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) through the Indiana State Library, SJCPL was able to bring on board additional collections from the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center (CRHC) through the IU South Bend Archives in order to create the largest and most robust online repository of African American history and the local civil rights movement. By receiving a third year of funding through the LSTA, Michiana Memory can now include more traditionally underrepresented histories than ever before.

Soon, student workers will begin scanning artifacts from the local LGBTQ community preserved through the Civil Rights Heritage Center’s archival collection of LGBTQ history – the first (and only) in the region. The CRHC LGBTQ Collection formed over two years ago and has since grown to include over one hundred unique documents and artifacts. Among the highlights are the publications and communications of South Bend Equality, an organization whose work led South Bend to become one of the few cities in Indiana to include sexual orientation protections in its Human Rights Ordinance.

The oral histories of over one-hundred people from the African American, Latinx, and LGBTQ communities will be made available online as well. The Civil Rights Heritage Center began an extensive oral history program in 2001, uniting scholars and students in an effort that has yielded an incredibly diverse and robust collection of stories – especially from a smaller city such as South Bend, Indiana.

Response to Michiana Memory has been overwhelmingly positive. Last year (the first full year of activity), there were over 10,000 unique sessions and over 40,000 page views. If the trend for 2016 continues, this year will undoubtedly show an increase.

Michiana Memory continues to be an example of what multi-organizational collaboration and embracing digital tools can mean to a city’s history – particularly the histories of traditionally under-represented people.

## Amistad Seeks to Diversify the Digital Record with IMLS Grant



The Amistad Research Center is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for a project that will seek to expand the diversity of the nation's digital memory. In collaboration with the Shorefront Legacy Center, the South Asian American Digital Archive, Mukurtu, and the Inland Empire Memories Project of the University of California-Riverside, Amistad was awarded a National Leadership Grant for Libraries to host a series of forums titled: *Diversifying the Digital Historical Record: Integrating Community Archives in National Strategies for Access to Digital Cultural Heritage*.

The four meetings will occur in Los Angeles in October 2016; New Orleans in January 2017; Chicago in May 2017; and New York City in September 2017. Participants will consist of a diverse group of community archives curators and practitioners, community members, scholars, and digital collections leaders, to discuss broader inclusion of community archives materials into national digital collections. Outcomes of the project will include a summary white paper providing recommendations for increased representation of marginalized communities and people in our digital cultural heritage. Each forum will have five panels and will be livestreamed to encourage the widest possible participation. Recordings of the presentations will be made available on the project website after each forum.

Grant participants will seek to achieve three goals during the project:

- Create a space for critical conversations about the makeup of America's cultural heritage, including the digital, with the goal of addressing representation and the lack of diversity in our collections.
- Discuss the development of effective and sustainable networks for community archives that can assist with culling resources, expanding programming, and widening collections access.
- Design strategies for increased collaboration with and inclusion in national digital initiatives.

Project website: <http://diversifyingthedigital.org/index.html>

# UPCOMING DATES

**PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH:**  
GOSPEL MUSIC & THE GREAT MIGRATION IN CHICAGO

PANEL DISCUSSION & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

**SATURDAY OCT 29 2016**

Join us for a conversation between musicians, scholars, and gospel music enthusiasts about the role of gospel music, as creative capital and expression, in the making of the "Black Metropolis."

The conversation will cover the development of the "gospel blues" tradition, specifically with the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses (NCGCC) within the black community from 1916 to the present. The convening will also act as a solicitation for NCGCC-related collections to be deposited at the Center for Black Music Research.

Panel Includes:  
Dr. Lou Della Evans-Reid,  
Gospel Conductor  
Rev. B. Herbert Martin,  
Pastor, Progressive Community Church  
Robert "Bob" Marovich,  
Gospel Journalist  
Johari Jabir,  
Artist/Scholar  
Bobbi Wilsyn,  
Sr. Lecturer and Coordinator of Vocal  
Performance, Music Department,  
Columbia College  
Ethan Michaeli,  
Author

photo credit:  
At: Institute of Chicago, Ryerson & Dunham Archives

BMRC  
Columbia University  
Center for Black Music Research

The Black Metropolis Research Consortium cordially invites anyone in the Chicagoland area to join us on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 10:30am-1:00pm for a conversation between musicians, scholars, and gospel music enthusiasts about the role of gospel music, as creative capital and expression, in the making of the "Black Metropolis."

The conversation will cover the development of the "gospel blues" tradition, specifically with the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses (NCGCC) with the black community from 1916 to the present. The convening will also act as a solicitation for the NCGCC-related collections to be deposited at the Center for Black Music Research.

For more information and to register go to:  
[chicagobmrc.eventbrite.com](http://chicagobmrc.eventbrite.com)

Pilgrim Baptist Church is located at 3300 South Indiana Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616.

## Conference Calls for Submissions:

### Society of American Archivists (SAA)

2017 Annual Meeting

July 23–29, 2017

Portland, Oregon

<http://www2.archivists.org/am2017/program/call-for-program-proposals>

Deadline: November 18, 2016

### Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS)

2017 RBMS Conference

June 20–23, 2017

Iowa City, Iowa

<http://conference.rbms.info/2017/program/>

Deadlines: October 21, 2016 (Short Papers), October 28, 2016 (Participatory Sessions), January 13, 2017 (Posters)