

## **Celebrating diverse artists in archives: How GLAM institutions can work together to support DEI**

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### **Abstract:**

Librarians and archivists interested in strengthening diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in their collections have focused in part on metadata revision and acquisition. Collection visibility and access can be amplified further by exhibiting materials such as artwork. This poster depicts the collaboration at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) between archivists at the Special Collections Research Center of Morris Library and curators from the University Museum to showcase a diverse range of artists represented in the Caresse Crosby Papers. An expatriate publisher in Paris between the wars, Crosby moved in art circles that included Surrealists such as Man Ray, Salvador Dali and Dorothea Tanning, and the Decadent German artist Alastair. In the 1940s Crosby opened a gallery in Washington, D.C., where she was among the first to show Romare Bearden's early work. Original art submitted to Crosby's Black Sun Press and her (now collectible) periodical Portfolio will be displayed later this summer, with examples by Bearden, Eldzier Cortor, Henry Miller and Charles Bukowski among other artists and writers from the period. Featuring striking color images, the poster details how the team worked together to exhibit these too long hidden treasures to the campus and local community and eventually a wider audience through a planned future traveling exhibit.

### **About the authors:**

*Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm, PhD, CA* is the Associate Dean of Southern Illinois University's Morris Library. In this role, she directs the Special Collections Research Center and oversees Records Management and the University Museum and Archives. After earning her doctorate in Linguistics from the University of Georgia, she earned her MLIS from the University of Alabama. She has developed digital and archival collections and exhibits for universities and public libraries across the nation, including the Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada, the Digital Library of Georgia, the Center for Oak Ridge Oral History, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Henderson District Public Libraries, the Henderson Historical Society, the General John A. Logan Museum, and Southern Illinois University Carbondale. An active member of ALA, SAA, and MAC, she serves on the editorial board of Archival Issues. Striving to increase public access to cultural heritage, she pursues education and preservation initiatives in collaboration with diverse institutional and community partners. She is currently working with university and community stakeholders on planning the Center for African American History in Southern Illinois and conducting research to expand access to professional engagement for all library and archives workers.

*Aaron M. Lisee, MA* is the Research Specialist for Southern Illinois University's Special Collections Research Center. In this role, he provides virtual and in-person reference services to scholars from around the world and promotes the Center's collections through exhibits and social

media. He has master's degrees in English and History from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and previously served as assistant editor on Volumes 21-31 of the Papers of Ulysses S. Grant. He currently serves as book reviews editor for the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*.

**WM Weston Stoerger, MPA** is the Curator of Exhibits for Southern Illinois University Carbondale. In this role, he designs exhibits and coordinates activities for the University Museum. He earned his undergraduate degree in History and Master's degree with a concentration on Museum Administration from SIUC. After graduation, he worked for the Cincinnati Museum as Traveling Exhibition Manager and Exhibition Fabricator before returning to SIUC. Collaborating with departments across campus and artists across the country, he strives to highlight the extraordinary and unique talent throughout the Southern Illinois region as well as works from the University Museum's world class collection.