

NEWS



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Scholarships and Awards

Feb. 28 is the deadline for applying for several SAA awards. Read more • [p. 3-4](#)

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Black New Orleans Nightlife Posters, 1979-1980

IMAGE: "Easter Sunday Night Dance and Jam with Chocolate Milk, The Electrified A.G.B., Flashback, Cool Enterprise, and The Creators," 1979, New Orleans, Hogan Archive poster and calendar collection, HJA-095, Tulane University-Special Collections, Tulane University Libraries.

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Letter from the Co-Chair

Greetings and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"Happy" is a relative term, depending on one's interpretation. And as I contemplated a theme for this first 2026 "Letter from the AAC Chair," happiness kept coming to mind. There's an African philosophy "Ubuntu" meaning "I am because we are."

<https://olivenetwork.org/Issue/ubuntu-i-am-because-we-are/24347>

Fellow SAA members, with all of the uncertainty in the world, mass layoffs in our

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chosen professions, the onset of AI, you're probably asking, "What is there to feel 'happy' about?"

Well, I believe it's a choice. Personally, I've experienced 3 corporate layoffs in my career and the 4th layoff most recently. And as I navigate unemployment specifically as a "baby boomer," I choose to be "happy" through the storm. Because the storm and clouds will certainly pass.

As memory workers, it is "we," the "whole," that have the power to help transform someone's livelihood and career paths.

Remember the collective power we hold to reach down and across to help lift up one another during these uncertain times in our profession of choice.

And with that:

- The [Harold T. Pinkett Student of Color Award](#) application deadline is February 28.
- [IMLS grants have been reinstated](#) and [March 13th is the deadline](#) to apply.

Ubuntu!

Tamera Coleman
Co-chair

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 Section (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 individuals and institutional members. The AAC Section helps to identify concerns and promote the needs of archivists and archives of color.

Ways to Connect



Microsite

www2.archivists.org/groups/archivists-and-archives-of-color-section



Newsletter Archive

www2.archivists.org/groups/archivists-and-archives-of-color-section/newsletter



Directory of Archivists and Archivists of Color

aacdirectory.wordpress.com

Facebook: [aac.section](#)

Instagram: [archivistsofcolor](#)

Twitter/X: [aac_section](#)

Email: aacr.roundtable@gmail.com



Announcements

AWARD DEADLINES



Harold T. Pinkett Student of Color Award

Apply by: February 28, 2026

IMAGE: Dr. Harold T. Pinkett. Source: National Archives History Office Collection.

In honor of Harold T. Pinkett, the first African American archivist at the National Archives, this award recognizes and acknowledges graduate students of color, such as those of African, Asian, Latinx, or Native American descent, who, through scholastic and personal achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of SAA.

PRIZE: Up to two awards may be given.

- Full complimentary registration and related expenses for hotel and travel to attend the SAA Annual Meeting during the year in which the award is received.
- Complimentary one-year membership in SAA.

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Personal statement/essay up to 500 words;
- CV or résumé.

PLEASE NOTE: Application no longer requires official transcripts and letters of recommendation.

LEARN MORE:

tinyurl.com/pinkett-award



Scan QR code to apply



Brenda S. Banks Travel Award

Apply by: February 28, 2026

IMAGE: Brenda S. Banks. Source: via Society of American Archivists.

Named in honor of Brenda S. Banks, Fellow and Past President of SAA and co-founder of the Archivists and Archives of Color Section in 2017, this award recognizes and acknowledges individuals of color, such as those of African, Asian, Latinx, Middle Eastern/North African, Native American, Alaska Native, or Pacific Islander descent, and who have demonstrated professional archival experience and manifest an interest in becoming active members of SAA.

PRIZE: One award may be given.

- Full complimentary registration and related expenses for hotel and travel to attend the SAA Annual Meeting during the year in which the award is received.
- Complimentary one-year membership in SAA.

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Personal statement/essay up to 500 words;
- CV or résumé.

LEARN MORE:

tinyurl.com/banks-award

Scan QR code to apply





Announcements

UPCOMING DATES

Mosaic Scholarship

Application, transcripts, and letters of recommendation are due by: February 28, 2026



This scholarship provides financial and mentoring support for students of color pursuing graduate education in archival science. Depending on SAA Foundation budget, the award permits up to two \$5,000 scholarships, complimentary one-year membership to SAA, and complimentary registration to the annual meeting.

PRIZE: Up to two scholarships.

- \$5,000 scholarship
- Complimentary registration to the SAA's Annual Meeting for the year in which the scholarship is received.
- Complimentary one-year membership in SAA.

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- A cover letter stating interest in the scholarship and how the applicant meets eligibility requirements.
- Official transcripts from the applicant's most recent academic program.
- Essay of not more than 500 words outlining the applicant's interest in the archives profession as well as how they would advance diversity concerns within it.
- Two letters of recommendation uploaded by application deadline.

MORE INFO:

tinyurl.com/mosaic-award



Scan QR code to apply



2026 SAA Research Forum: July 8 and 15, 2026

Call for Participants and Presentations

Due: May 1, 2026

The 2026 Research Forum Committee invites you to submit abstracts (of 300 words or fewer) for either **10-minute platform presentations** or **5-minute lightning talks**. Topics may address research on, or innovations in, any aspect of archives practice or records management in government, corporate, academic, scientific, or other settings.

The 2026 Research Forum will be conducted as two Zoom-based virtual sessions, each four hours long,

on July 8 from 12:00 – 4:00 pm CT and July 15, 12:00 – 4:00 pm CT.

A limited number of presentations will be accepted to allow for longer presentation times, extended Q&A periods, and opportunities for discussion between attendees.

MORE INFO:

<https://www2.archivists.org/am2026/research-forum-2026>



CONFERENCE • July 29 - August 1, 2026 •

New Orleans, Louisiana

90th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists

We are living in a period of momentous change for the archives, records management, and cultural heritage professions. These changes have affected everything from workflows to community engagement, and from personnel issues to sustainability. Different types of repositories have experienced these political, technological, cultural, and environmental forces in diverse ways. ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2026 gives us an opportunity to take stock, to explore innovative solutions to the problems we are encountering, and to assess our professions' history, practices, assumptions, and training

Stay tuned for more information.

More information at:

<https://www2.archivists.org/am2026>



CONFERENCE • October 8-10, 2026 •

Houston, Texas

XVIII Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage/Association for Documentary Editing 2026

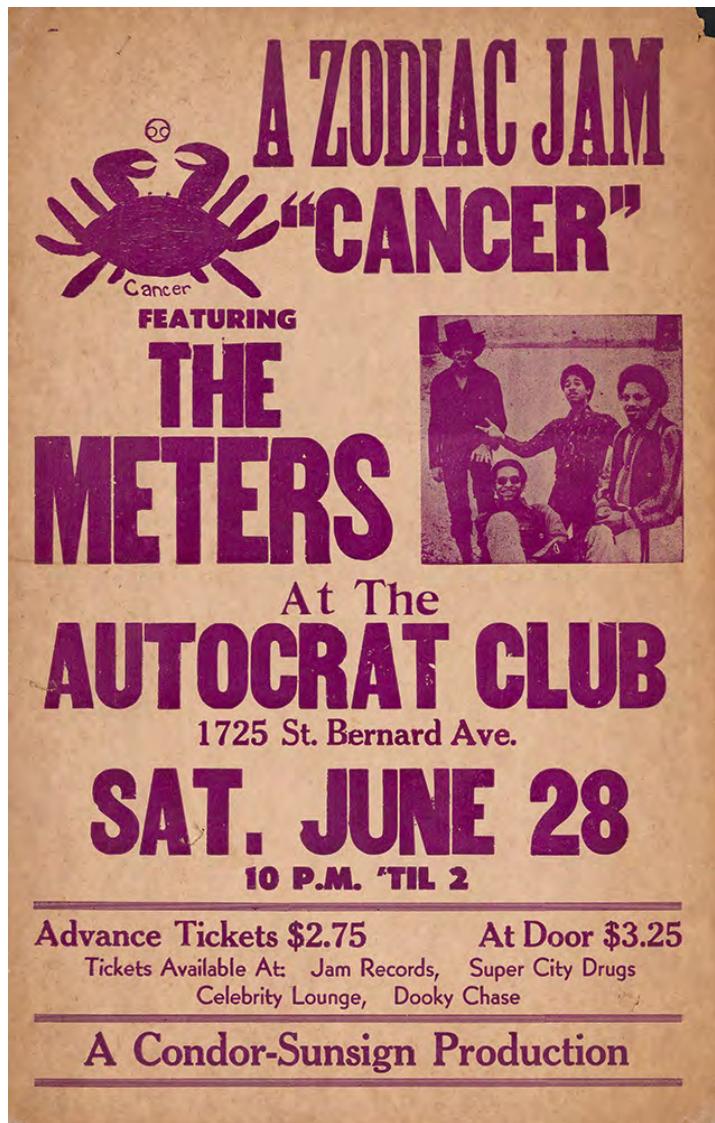
University of Houston

The Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage Program (Recovery) and the Association for Documentary Editing (ADE) will bring together scholars, archivists, editors, students, and community practitioners to explore how figures and documents—canonical, forgotten, official and grassroots—have shaped the histories, literatures and identities of the United States.

The conference theme, **Record Keepers of Nation: Diverse Foundational Figures and Documents of the US**, highlights the intersection, conflicts and compromises of people, papers, voices, archives and biographies of first nations, natives, settlers, immigrants and exiles that have forged collective memory and national narratives. The conference will emphasize recovery, preservation and dissemination of the historical records of various communities that expand and unsettle our understanding of the nation's foundation.

More information at:

<https://artepublicopress.com/recovery-program/conference-2026/>



NEW DIGITAL COLLECTION

Black New Orleans Nightlife Posters, 1979-1980

Tulane University Special Collections (TUSC) has recently published a digitized collection of Black New Orleans nightlife posters, 1979-1980. This sub-collection of posters from the Hogan Archive poster and calendar collection (HJA-095) represents concerts and other music and dance events presented in New Orleans and the surrounding region for young participants who made up the primary target audience for R&B, funk, disco, DJ and dance culture, and hip hop in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The posters reveal happenings, locations, events, businesses, photographs, and both locally and nationally known artists of Black New Orleans popular culture and youth culture of the time.

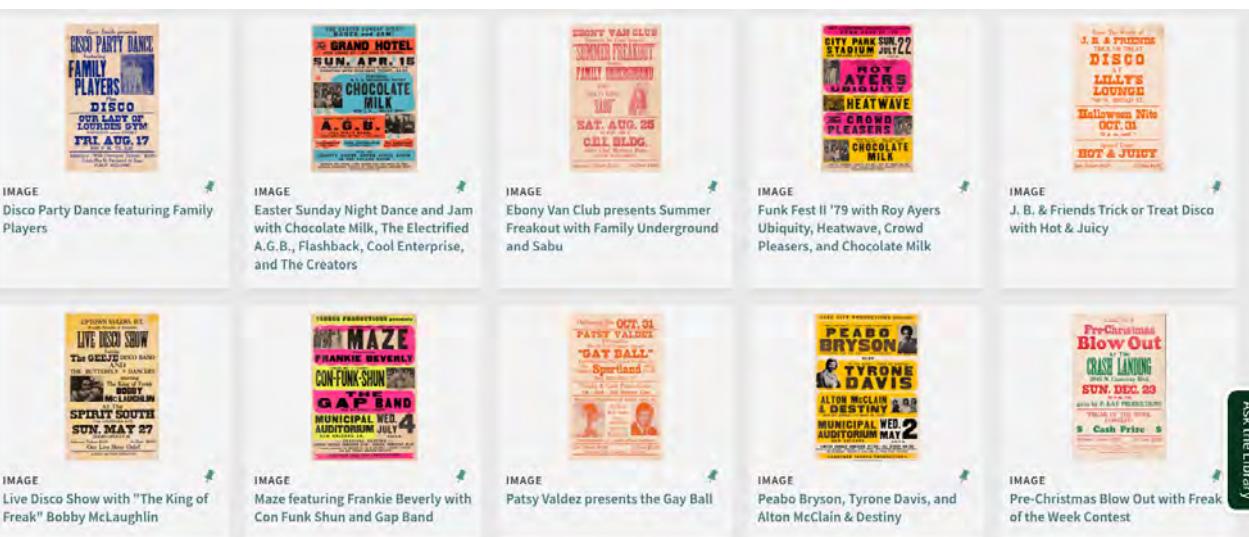
View collection:

<https://libguides.tulane.edu/BlackNightlifePosters>

About Tulane University Special Collections:

<https://library.tulane.edu/tusc>

Poster advertising "A Zodiac Jam" featuring The Meters at the Autocrat Club on June 28, circa 1980, New Orleans, Hogan Archive Poster and Calendar Collection, HJA-095, Tulane University Special Collections, Tulane University Libraries.





Group portrait of first graduating high school class, Jerome Relocation Center, 1943 June

Source: *Life Interrupted Collection, 1903-2005, UALR.MS.0250.*

University of Arkansas at Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture, Little Rock, AR.

This collection contains correspondence, books, periodicals, newspaper clippings, microfilm, photographs, videos, memorabilia, and digital media collected and created by the project, *Life Interrupted: The Japanese American Experience in World War II Arkansas*, concerning the incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans at Rohwer Relocation Center (Desha County) and Jerome Relocation Center (Drew and Chicot Counties) in Arkansas, and includes the project's administrative files, research files, audiovisual materials from the conference, "Camp Connections: A Conversation about Civil Rights and Social Justice in Arkansas," (2004), footage for the documentary, *Time of Fear* (2005), and donations received from individuals concerning Japanese American internment.

More about the collection at: <https://arstudies.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/findingaids/id/5135>



The House Archives Built & Other Thoughts On Black Archival Possibilities

DOROTHY BERRY

Book cover of The House Archives Built and Other Thoughts on Black Archival Possibilities by Dorothy Berry (We Here Press, October 2025).

BOOK • 3rd Printing Now Available

The House Archives Built and Other Thoughts on Black Archival Possibilities

By Dorothy Berry

“As cultural heritage institutions across the nation grapple with the realization that their collecting histories have captured an incomplete picture of history, curators and archivists like Dorothy Berry have been drawn into complicated conversations. The House Archives Built and Other Thoughts on Black Archival Possibilities brings together years of those conversations from their origins in conference halls, webinars, and reading rooms to open them up to the public. The labor and theory that upholds archives has been obscured, but our understandings of history and ourselves rest on those invisible foundations. This book clarifies those foundations while offering new possibilities for imagining archival futures in and outside of institutional holdings.”

Order book at: <https://www.weherpress.org/>

SCATTERED and FUGITIVE THINGS



LAURA E. HELTON

How
Black
Collectors
Created
Archives
and
Remade
History

Book cover of Scattered and Fugitive Things: How Black Collectors Created Archives and Remade History by Laura Helton (Columbia University Press, April 2024).

REVIEW • Jan. 2, 2026

Scattered and Fugitive Things: How Black Collectors Created Archives and Remade History

By Gabrielle Dean, *The American Archivist*

“Arturo Schomburg. Alexander Gumby. Virginia Lee. Dorothy Porter. Vivian Harsh. L. D. Reddick. Some or all of these names may be familiar to you, as the subjects of biographies and library histories, in books and articles about the building of African American institutions, and, of course, directly or indirectly, in hundreds if not thousands of footnotes. Bringing them together as Black librarians, bibliophiles, archivists, and curators from the turn of the twentieth century through the early days of the civil rights movement, Laura Helton illuminates not just their visionary creation and stewardship of Black collections, but, with rich and astounding detail, their day-to-day work as Black bibliographers.”

Continue reading review at:

<https://american-archivist.kglmeridian.com/view/journals/aarc/88/2/article-p480.xml>



Photo of "At the Vanguard" exhibit. Source: National Museum of African American History and Culture website.

EXHIBIT • January 16, 2026 – July 19, 2026

At the Vanguard: Making and Saving History at HBCUs

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), Washington, D.C.

"At the Vanguard weaves together stories of ingenuity, artistry and resistance — through collections from Clark Atlanta University, Florida A&M University, Jackson State University, Texas Southern University and Tuskegee University."

More at:

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/vanguard>



Screenshot of the "At the Vanguard" informational video trailer. Source: [NMAAHC YouTube page](#).

We Want to Hear from You!

Contribute to the AAC Newsletter

The Archivists and Archives of Color Quarterly Newsletter aims to feature stories and news of archives and archivists of color. Please consider sharing about the work you are doing, achievements, and opportunities that can enrich the AAC community. Learn ways you can contribute and how to submit your content for inclusion.



Ways to Contribute

Spotlight

This type of article is a chance to go in-depth about a featured collection, share behind the scenes work of a project, or interview colleagues about their work. Accompanying photos/images are encouraged but not required.

Word count: ~300-1,000 words

Announcements

This includes news briefs, upcoming events, exhibits, grant and scholarship opportunities, calls for proposals, job updates and other useful information.

Word count: ~50-150 words

Images & Photos

Submit photos of items from your collections to feature on the newsletter cover, or as part of our Spotlight section.

Please include the collection name and institution.

File specs: .jpeg, .jpg, .png, .tiff and at least 300 dpi

Deadlines and Publication Dates

Spring 2026

March 15 Spotlight Stories Due
April 1 Announcements Due
April 15 Publication Date

Summer 2026

June 15 Spotlight Stories due
July 1 Announcements due
July 15 Publication Date

Fall 2026

Sept. 15 Spotlight Stories due
Oct. 1 Announcements due
Oct. 15 Publication Date

Winter 2027

Jan. 15 Spotlight Stories due
Feb. 1 Announcements due
Feb. 15 Publication Date

How to Submit Your Contribution: Use our Google Form at bit.ly/aac-news-submit.
Questions: aacr.roundtable@gmail.com.

Your 2025-2026 AAC Steering Committee



Tamera Coleman
Co-chair
Independent Archivist



Lauren Cooper
Co-Chair and Newsletter Editor
Digital Scholarship Librarian & Managing Director,
Center for Black Digital Research and
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