Welcome

The DC Public Library Foundation is proud to sponsor the 48th Annual DC History Conference at the newly modernized Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library.

The DC Public Library Foundation partners with the DC Public Library to enhance Washington, DC’s public libraries, bringing private philanthropy together with government support to ensure that our libraries deliver the highest quality of service to the District’s residents. With the help of many generous people, the Foundation provides educational programs for children and youth, workforce development training, cultural events, and collection enhancements for DC’s libraries.

The permanent exhibit *Up from the People*, on the fourth floor of the MLK Library, was made possible, in part, with support from the DC Public Library Foundation.

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**CO-PRESENTED BY**

[DC History Center]

[DC Public Library]
ABOUT THE DC HISTORY CONFERENCE

The DC History Conference is an interdisciplinary, community conference considering the past, present, and future of the District. The conference is co-presented by the DC History Center and DC Public Library, sponsored by the Graduate Program in Public History at American University, made possible by a grant from HumanitiesDC, and organized by a volunteer planning committee.

Since 1973, the conference organizers have aimed to provide a welcoming, educational, and stimulating forum for original research on and engagement with the history of the Washington, DC metropolitan area, including Maryland, Virginia, and the federal government.

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Mariana Barros-Titus, DC History Center
Mark Benbow, PhD, Marymount University/Arlington Historical Society
Kimberly Bender, Heurich House Museum
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Karen L. Harris, DC History Center
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PROGRAM

John DeFerrari, Editor
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GUIDE TO THE CONFERENCE

The 2022 DC History Conference in-person sessions take place at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. You’ll find the majority of conference sessions located in the Conference Center on the fourth floor of the library. Feature events will take place in the Great Hall on the first floor and the Rooftop on the fifth floor.

The Letitia Wood Brown Memorial Lecture featuring Marcia Chatelain on Thursday night is the only session hosted by Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives—a long-standing DC History Conference tradition.

Why no theme?

As many DC History Conference attendees, presenters, and volunteers may notice, there is no designated theme this year. Instead, the program committee made the decision to cast a wide net to all DC history researchers to propose their own session, unrelated to a theme. This resulted in a record number of submissions of all types. Two conference subthemes emerged, influencing the program creation from content to design to keynotes: the history of arts and culture and of education. These through-lines appear in the conference sessions and invite you to consider why the themes matter so deeply to Washingtonians.

What’s on the program?

The program is laid out chronologically. Find the schedule-at-a-glance for a quick preview of content. Each panel in the main program calls out these aspects: Keywords help you quickly identify what a panel is about. Descriptions provide a greater level of detail about that panel. Presenters tell you who to expect in the room. As a new feature this year, the program designates sessions that might be of particular interest for K-12 education, either reflecting on the history of education in DC or directly relating to curriculum standards. For more, see “For Educators.”

In addition two Keynotes, one on Friday and one on Saturday, spotlight topics designed to bring the entire audience together in a single session with no other events competing in that hour.

Keep your eye out for special features, including the History Network, Reception, and Poster Session. Each of these are community-building, social opportunities. Connect with organizations, ongoing research projects, and other scholars and history enthusiasts about their work. Celebrate our collective work and meet with other conference presenters and attendees!
What's a hybrid program?
This year, the conference is **in person** with online components, making it a hybrid program. Each day consists of multiple sessions, designated by letters A–F. Each session block features three to four panel options. For the best experience, plan to attend **in person**, allowing you to select from all panels. But in order to meet you where you’re at, select conference sessions will be livestreamed via Zoom. You can tune in and learn some new DC history wherever you are.

What kind of panels should I expect?
In the fall when the Conference Committee invited submissions, the form prompted presenters to categorize their session as one of the following: Individual Presentation, Panel Proposals, Group Conversations, and Creative Expressions. Accepted individual presentations were grouped into single panels under a common theme. You can find this distinction in the program where three presentation titles are listed underneath the session name. We envisioned Group Conversations to bring audience members into the dialogue, and Creative Expressions were a new type designed to encourage creativity, arts, and unique program formats.

Who’s the moderator?
Each panel includes a **moderator**. Moderators are responsible for introducing panels, keeping time, and putting presenters in conversation with each other. They will also guide the Q&A in the last part of the session.
FOR EDUCATORS

Education is at the heart of the DC History Conference’s goals. To encourage young historians, the conference offers a platform to share their work. Educators can easily identify relevant curricular connections for their classrooms by reviewing sessions highlighted below. On this page, see spotlighted student-led and education-focused panels to inspire the K–12 audience to dream of the possibilities for their original research and classrooms.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, SESSION A
10:30 – 11:45 AM
The Invalid Corps: A Documentary
Keywords: 19th Century, Dis/ability History, Military History, Civil War History
SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION STANDARDS:
5.5.5 Describe the experience of the war on the battlefield and home front.
8.11.8. Explain how the war affected combatants, civilians, the physical environment, and future warfare.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, SESSION A
10:30 – 11:45 AM
African American Activism, Enfranchisement, and Empowerment in 20th-Century DC
“We Need a New Society”: The Far-Reaching Vision of the DC Statehood Party
Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Community History, Neighborhood History, Civic Engagement, Statehood
EDUCATION STANDARDS:
12.DC.15. Students describe efforts to overcome discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing, and education in the District (examine the National Committee on Segregation) and explain the local and national effects of these efforts.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, SESSION D
10:30 – 11:45 AM
Capturing the Voices of Black Career Educators: A Critical Race Analysis
Keywords: Black History, Cultural History, Education, Sociology

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, SESSION E
12:00 – 1:15 PM
Race, Place and Real Estate: Family Journeys
Keywords: Black History, Community History, Cultural History, Economic History, Indigenous History, Student Presentation

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, SESSION F
3:00 – 4:15 PM
Black Education Legacies: Remembering DC Schools
Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Community History, Education, Historic Preservation

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, KEYNOTE
4:30 – 5:30 PM
A Mixtape from the 2021–2022 Great Migration Oral History Project
Keywords: 20th Century, Black History, Community History, Student Presentation
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Get excited for the 2022 DC History Conference by following us online. Leading up to the conference, you’ll find:

- Poster Session sneak peeks
- Panel Session insights
- Project Spotlights

During the conference, watch for behind-the-scenes previews and live updates. But don’t just listen. Join the fun! Share your unique conference experience with your followers and networks on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If you’re a virtual participant, all the more reason to start a conversation online. Include our handle @dchistcon and the conference hashtag, #DCHistCon, to join the conversation.

Accessibility and Social Media

This is the most accessible DC History Conference yet. Conference attendees can register for free and join us in person, onsite for conference sessions, including the Poster Session and History Network. Select panels will be livestreamed to virtual attendees with live transcription.

If you miss a session you wanted to see, don’t worry! Select conference sessions will be recorded and made available on YouTube with closed captioning after the conference.

To request a reasonable accommodation, including ASL interpretation, please contact the DC Public Library’s Center for Accesssibility seven (7) days in advance at 202-727-2141 or by emailing DCPLaccess@dc.gov. During the conference, please contact the staff at the registration desk.

These services were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
March 31, 2022

Dear Friends,

After two years of pandemic, the 48th annual DC History Conference is a welcome reunion. The magic of this conference is not only in the sessions, but in chance encounters and casual conversations in the hallway between lectures. In these brief exchanges, we express our care for each other, but those first words quickly lead down a path of learning and discovery.

Exploring DC history together is to engage with moments of injustice, as well as inspiring instances of resistance and determination. We glean unforeseen insights and new information. This opportunity to gather and share together in an inviting space is no longer one we take for granted.

Indeed, in planning this conference, we continuously confronted the possibility that we would need to pivot to a virtual conference, but we remained hopeful that we would convene here, together, at the beautiful Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

Luckily we landed on a bit of both, with a heaping portion of accessibility. The DC History Conference is presented in a hybrid model, offering programming in-person and virtually to those at home—meeting people where they are. Select sessions can be livestreamed and are recorded to be made available on YouTube. The conference is also free for all to attend, thanks in part to those of you who generously donated at registration.

I warmly thank the generous supporters and sponsors who believed in this gathering of DC history enthusiasts, with a special shout-out to Humanities DC, American University, the DC Public Library Foundation, and the DC Office of the Secretary. Our deep appreciation goes to the Planning Committee. Their thoughtful dedication to diverse and inclusive programming makes this program nothing short of a victory each year.

The volunteer Planning Committee joins me in acknowledging DC History Center Program Manager Maren Orchard and Conference Manager Kathryn Morgan, a recent graduate of American University’s public history master’s program, whose dedicated planning and rigorous project management have brought us together.

Now, a warm welcome to this year’s DC History Conference! I look forward learning from your passions, whether during a panel discussion, a poster board, or brief encounter during coffee break—and what an honor and pleasure it will be.

Sincerely,

Laura Brower Hagood
Executive Director
Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the newly modernized Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library for the 48th annual DC History Conference. We are especially pleased that this gathering of scholars, students, and D.C. history enthusiasts marks the first multi-day event to be held in the new library, and we look forward to two days of discovery and celebration.

As we were planning for the modernization of the MLK Library, we heard from the community that it was important for the building itself to represent the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. and to tell the stories of local activists and artists who have influenced the city. Through Nekisha Durrett’s artwork at the library’s entrance; the Alma Thomas paintings outside the Children’s Room on the 2nd floor; the temporary exhibits on the 1st floor; and more, we aimed to show the diversity and beauty of life in the District.

The 4th floor, where the DC History Conference is being held, is the centerpiece of the Library’s efforts to share knowledge about the District’s history. Our permanent exhibit, Up from the People, provides a fresh look at the issues that moved local activists and Martin Luther King Jr. to take action for justice. It also highlights local politics and history through displays on D.C. Mayor for Life Marion Barry, D.C. home rule, and the cultural impact of go-go and punk music.

These exhibits provide a portal for engagement with the library’s resources, most importantly, the local history collections of The People’s Archive, where diverse stories — past and present — are preserved and amplified. The archive houses the DC Community Archives, the Washingtoniana Collection, Black Studies, and more. Many of the presenters and attendees of the Conference have contributed material to the Archive and use them on a regular basis. Whether you are a frequent or first-time visitor, we invite you to explore these resources further.

We are grateful to the DC History Center for their leadership in planning the conference, to HumanitiesDC and American University for their partnership, and to the DC Public Library Foundation for its sponsorship. We especially thank the volunteers of the planning committee for their commitment to hosting compelling, groundbreaking discussions about our city’s history and culture. Most importantly, we thank you — the scholars, students, activists, and history buffs who are creating new scholarship and telling new stories, deepening our understanding of the wonderful city we live in.

Enjoy the conference,

Richard Reyes-Gavilan
Executive Director
MARCIA CHATELAIN, PHD
The Other Franchise Fight: Fast Food and Black Freedom from U Street to Capitol Hill

In the 1970s, the United States was under the spell of a franchise frenzy, with fast food outlets popping up across cities overnight. These businesses not only catered to hankerings for burgers and fried chicken, but they also played a key role in the reinvigorated campaigns to use Black capitalism as a tool for civil and economic rights. Marcia Chatelain uses her award-winning research on Black communities and McDonald’s to delve into the ways that the District played a central role in the complicated relationship between Black consumers and drive-thru civil rights. By examining the rise of Black fast food franchisees in the city, as well as the various pleas for more regulation of franchises on behalf of Black franchisees, Dr. Chatelain explains why DC is so important to understanding fast food’s dominance today.

ABOUT LETITIA WOODS BROWN

The DC History Conference celebrates historian and educator Letitia Woods Brown with this annual lecture featuring a distinguished scholar of DC history. With the support of the Murray family, we honor Letitia Woods Brown for her influence on our study of DC history.

Letitia Woods Brown, historian and educator, brought her singular intellect and tenacity to colleagues and students at Howard University and George Washington University during the pivotal 1960s and 1970s. She was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, on October 24, 1915, to a family with deep roots at Tuskegee Institute. She received a BS from Tuskegee, taught grade school in Alabama, and went on to graduate studies at Ohio State University and Harvard University. Dr. Brown’s dissertation centered on free and enslaved African Americans in DC. After completing her PhD in history at Harvard in 1966, she taught at Howard University. Dr. Brown was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and in 1971 joined the faculty of George Washington University, where she remained until her untimely passing in 1976.
MARCIA CHATELAIN, PHD

Marcia Chatelain is a Professor of History and African American Studies at Georgetown University. The author of *South Side Girls: Growing up in the Great Migration* (Duke University Press, 2015) she teaches about women’s and girls’ history, as well as Black capitalism. Her latest book, *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America* (Liveright Publishing Co./W.W. Norton, 2020) examines the intricate relationship among African American politicians, civil rights organizations, communities, and the fast food industry. In 2021, Chatelain’s *Franchise* received the Pulitzer Prize in History, the Hagley Prize in Business History, and the Organization of American Historians (OAH) Lawrence W. Levine Award. An active public speaker and educational consultant, Chatelain has received awards and honors from the Ford Foundation, the American Association of University Women, and the German Marshall Fund of the United States. At Georgetown, she has won several teaching awards. In 2016, the Chronicle of Higher Education named her a Top Influencer in academia in recognition of her social media campaign #FergusonSyllabus, which implored educators to facilitate discussions about the crisis in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014. She has held an Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fellowship at New America, a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, and an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.
FRIDAY

APRIL 1
How do you capture and celebrate the history of an underrepresented group like DC’s Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders? The speakers on this panel are part of a project called “AAPI in DC: Here in Plain Sight,” which identifies, documents, and preserves Asian American history in Washington, DC. Through a series of “lightning talk” presentations, each team member will highlight a different site, theme, or activity they have pursued to collect stories, experiences, photos, and artifacts that illuminate the places and spaces of significance for DC Asian American history. They will share their highly collaborative approach and expansive ways of conducting archival research, oral histories, and fieldwork, particularly given ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. The project is part of the 1882 Foundation and is funded by the National Park Service’s Underrepresented Communities Grant program and in partnership with the DC Historic Preservation Office and the DC Preservation League.

**PRESENTERS:**

- **Wei N. Gan,** Project Director, 1882 Foundation/PhD Candidate, Princeton University
- **Sojin Kim, PhD,** Senior Consultant, 1882 Foundation/Curator, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- **Grace Dahye Kwon,** Curatorial Assistant, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- **Emma Lucier-Keller,** Research Assistant, 1882 Foundation/University of Maryland
- **Mia Owens,** Research Assistant, 1882 Foundation/American University
- **Claudia Vinci,** Research Assistant, 1882 Foundation/American University
- **Mengshu Ye,** Research Assistant, 1882 Foundation/American University
- **Karen Yee,** Research Assistant, 1882 Foundation/University of Maryland

**MODERATOR:**

- **Michelle G. Magalong, PhD,** Senior Consultant, 1882 Foundation/Postdoctoral Associate, University of Maryland and President, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation
The Evolution of Hand Dance in Washington, DC

Keywords: Arts & Culture, Community History, Cultural History, Music, Dance

AUDITORIUM

Hand Dance is a contemporary swing-style partner dance that has been a social dance form for nearly 60 years, and DC Hand Dance is the official dance of the District of Columbia. The National Hand Dance Association’s (NHDA) mission is to “Preserve, Educate and Promote the Art Form of Hand Dance.” As few people know about hand dance, NHDA’s goal is to educate and raise awareness as well as to record the history of hand dance. NHDA will showcase several hand dance styles showing the evolution of the dance from the classic styles of the 1960s to today’s contemporary style. Both performance and education, hand dance is best learned through experience! A brief lesson will be included for the audience.

PRESENTERS:

Jacque Ballard, President, National Hand Dance Association
Maxine Grant, 2nd Vice President, National Hand Dance Association
Lawrence Bradford, 3rd Vice President, National Hand Dance Association

The Invalid Corps: A Documentary

Keywords: 19th Century, Dis/ability History, Military History, Civil War History

ROOM 401-E

In addition to the over 600,000 soldiers killed during the Civil War, more than 40,000 suffered amputated limbs, and even more endured other debilitating injuries and illnesses. Hospitals in Washington, DC, housed thousands of soldiers recuperating from injuries incurred on nearby battlefields. In July 1864, a Confederate Army of 15,000 advanced on Washington, DC. Because the Union Army had sent every able-bodied soldier to a raging siege at Petersburg, all who were left to defend Washington were clerks, government officials, and the Invalid Corps, made up of soldiers injured in battle or sickened by disease. Deemed “hopeless cripples,” the Invalid Corps held the enemy at bay for a desperate 24 hours until Union General Ulysses S. Grant sent reinforcements. This documentary tells their often-overlooked story. After the screening, the director will discuss the themes of the documentary.

PRESENTER:

Day Al-Mohamed, Author, Filmmaker, and Disability Policy Strategist based in the DMV area
African American Activism, Enfranchisement, and Empowerment in 20th Century DC

This panel offers three different views of African American-led grassroots efforts to claim a place of equality in the city’s social life, public spaces, and civil affairs.

Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Civic Engagement, Community History, Neighborhood History

ROOM 401-A, LIVESTREAM

MODERATOR:
Khaleelah Harris, Curator/Graduate Student, Howard University

The Capital Was Never a Paradise: Mary Church Terrell and the Struggle for Racial Equality

Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Community History, Neighborhood History

PRESENTER:
Alisa Hardy, Doctoral Student, University of Maryland

Mary Church Terrell was a public orator and writer who used her platform to advocate for the liberation of African Americans. Her speech, “What it Means to be Colored in the Capital of the United States,” was delivered at the United Women’s Club in Washington, DC on October 10, 1906. In this speech, Terrell challenged the belief that DC was a “paradise” for African American people by illustrating how systemic barriers to education, housing, and jobs hindered them from obtaining full citizenship. African Americans, as Terrell assessed, were excluded from public spaces such as theaters, restaurants, hospitals, and schools, which impacted their capacity to enjoy the nation’s capital. The presenter will explore the contextual elements surrounding Terrell’s speech to demonstrate the various ideologies and barriers that restricted equitable participation for African Americans in civic life.

Caring in Public: The Struggle for Community Park West

Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Community History, Neighborhood History, Civic Engagement

PRESENTER:
Amanda Huron, PhD, Associate Professor, University of the District of Columbia

In the 1960s, a group of Black teenagers in Adams Morgan took over a four-acre, overgrown vacant lot. They needed a place to play because their neighborhood was short on recreational space. Over the years, they worked with neighbors to create an informal community-run park. Dubbed Community Park West, it became a place for ball games, gardening, festivals, dances, politicking, and many more expressions of community life. When property values started rising in the 1970s and the lot’s owners decided to sell it to develop luxury townhomes, the neighborhood fought back—and won. This is the story of how a group of neighbors organized to create and preserve public space amid the pressures of a red-hot real estate market—a story relevant to our own times.
“We Need a New Society”: The Far-Reaching Vision of the DC Statehood Party

Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Community History, Neighborhood History, Civil Engagement, Statehood

PRESENTER:

Tim Kumfer, Doctoral Candidate, University of Maryland

The radical origins of the modern struggle for DC statehood began over 50 years ago. Emerging from Black Power and New Left circles, the fight for equal status was formalized when the DC Statehood Party was created in 1971. Its initial aim was to secure political self-determination for the citizens of the District, but its goals soon expanded. At the local level, members worked to strengthen civil rights and increase the personal freedoms of women, sexual minorities, and the incarcerated. Nationally, party leaders called for an end to the Vietnam War and the transition to a peacetime economy that included a guaranteed income, universal healthcare, and free public transit. In tracing the rise of the DC Statehood Party and the development of its far-reaching platform, this presentation assesses the complex relationships between social movements and electoral campaigns during a pivotal era in local political history.

FRIDAY KEYNOTE 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Think-In: Archiving and Activating DC’s Art History

Keywords: 20th Century, 21st Century, Arts & Culture, Black History, Historic Preservation

AUDITORIUM, ASL INTERPRETATION

This conversation with community partners in the art field will generate ideas for preserving, studying, and celebrating Washington, DC’s regional art history and for building a more inclusive archive. A “Think-In” is an informal, collegial “state of the field” conversation that brings together artists, curators, collectors, and arts workers with archivists and historians to discuss current efforts, best practices, historical challenges, and new opportunities in the study and practice of regional art history. Participants will highlight perspectives on outstanding recent work, shortfalls, and opportunities in the field today, followed by a 30-minute conversation. Participants will be able to share contact information and join a google group to continue the conversation beyond the conference.

MODERATORS:

Natalie Campbell, Consultant, DC Public Library

Kayleigh Bryant-Greenwell, Community Engagement Officer, Smithsonian American Art Museum

HISTORY NETWORK 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Great Hall, 1st Floor

The DC History Conference History Network is an opportunity for conference attendees to meet representatives from organizations doing humanities-based work across the DMV. Learn about a new organization, project, or initiative you’d like to follow, volunteer with, or join! During the History Network, visit the tables to pick up information and swag from participating organizations and individuals.
SESSION B 3:00 – 4:15 PM

Enlarging the (Color) Field: Rethinking the Washington Color School

Keywords: 20th Century, Arts & Culture, Black History, Community History, Cultural History

AUDITORIUM, LIVESTREAM

The artists Cornelia Noland, Alma Thomas, Kenneth Victor Young, and Mary Pinchot Meyer are among the women and Black artists often excluded from discussions of Washington’s historic art scene. The traveling museum retrospective *Alma W. Thomas: Everything Is Beautiful* showcases the work of Thomas and others, including Gene Davis, Sam Gilliam, Morris Louis, and Kenneth Noland. The project has helped reinvigorate scholarly interest in the Washington Color School. Grouped primarily on the basis of a confluence of style, period, and geography, this constellation of color field artists emerged in the nation’s capital in the late 1950s and flourished into the 1970s. The panel highlights previously underappreciated artists by critically reexamining the coherence of the Washington Color School as an artistic category and by exploring the diverse perspectives of artists practicing multifaceted approaches to color field painting and sculpture in postwar Washington.

PRESENTERS:

Miriam Grotte-Jacobs, PhD, Independent Scholar
Sarah Battle, 2021–2022 Ailsa Mellon Bruce National Gallery Sabbatical Fellow, National Gallery of Art
Mollie Berger Salah, Curatorial Associate, National Gallery of Art

MODERATOR:

Jonathan Frederick Walz, PhD, Director of Curatorial Affairs, The Columbus Museum

Fresh Convos Breathe: The Untold Story of DC HipHop

Keywords: Arts & Culture, Black History, Community History, Cultural History, Music

ROOM 401–A

Everyone knows that the organic music of DC is Go-Go, but few people know that DC was once a hotbed of local HipHop talent. Through vintage video clips and recordings, this presentation shows U Street from a teenager’s perspective in the 1990s to early 2000s, documenting the neighborhood in all its gritty glory. U Street HipHop artists never sought or received the limelight that was bestowed upon other cities’ music scenes. Narrators and production team members of the *Fresh Convos: Voices of U Street HipHop Culture Oral History* documentary will discuss their origins, collaborations, and evolution; the uniqueness of DC HipHop from the 1990s to today; and the process of bringing so many artists together to highlight the previously untold history and significance of HipHop.

PRESENTERS:

Khalil Gill, Director, Editor and Arts Scholar, DC HipHop
Phil Henery, Screenwriter, Narrator, and Score Contributor, DC HipHop
Shatungwa Juma, Associate Director and Editor, DC HipHop
Gabriel Benn, Event Advisor, DC HipHop

MODERATOR:

Judy Cohall, Project Manager, Video Producer, Writer, DC HipHop
Environment and Society: Case Studies from the District

This panel encompasses three case study perspectives on local issues with an environmental impact: floodwater management, archaeological exploration, and noise abatement.

Keywords: 20th Century, Archaeology, Black History, Community History, Environmental History, Neighborhood History, Social History, Urban Planning

ROOM 401-G

MODERATOR:

Dominique Hazzard, PhD Candidate, John Hopkins University

The Routine and the Extreme: A Critical Environmental History of Water in Washington, DC

Keywords: 20th Century, Black History, Community History, Environmental History, Neighborhood History, Social History, Urban Planning

PRESENTER:

Carmen Bolt, Doctoral Student, American University

DC has a long history of racism and environmental injustice for low-income Black communities, especially east of the Anacostia. By focusing on water, this presentation explores the many ways water—in particular, routine and extreme floodwater—creates environmental hazards that disproportionately affect vulnerable DC residents. The city experienced multiple phases of physical change: rapid urbanization between 1920 and 1945, urban renewal during the 1950s–1970s, wide-scale white flight and divestment in the 1970s–1980s, and waves of gentrification since the 1990s. Each phase is marked by federal and municipal agencies’ unjust water management decisions, which exacerbated the vulnerability of its poor and working-class Black residents to water-related hazards.

The Q Street Burial Ground: A Sacred Space Lost and Found?

Keywords: 19th Century, 20th Century, Archaeology, Black History, Community History, Environmental History, Neighborhood History, Social History, Urban Planning

PRESENTER:

Christine Ames, Assistant District Archaeologist, DC History Center

During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, the DC Historic Preservation Office Archaeology Team completed emergency salvage of historic burial spaces found in a Georgetown basement crawl space. They were part of a larger, undocumented cemetery that likely served Georgetown’s large African American community—both enslaved and free—in the first half of the 19th century. The cemetery was additionally pressed into use for victims of the 1832 Cholera Pandemic. Historically, burials and burying grounds, and especially those serving disenfranchised communities, suffer benign neglect or have been intentionally obscured as the District expanded. Recent federal legislation, however, proposes to support identifying and inventorying African American cemeteries in an effort to preserve these historically Black sacred spaces. How would such a program serve the District? What opportunities would it afford us to reclaim these spaces?
Loud Flights, Angry Neighbors, and Indifferent Bureaucrats: The Civil Aeronautics Board Confronts Noise Pollution

Keywords: 20th Century, Community History, Environmental History, Neighborhood History, Social History, Urban Planning

PRESENTER:

Joanna Grisinger, JD, PhD, Associate Professor of Instruction, Northwestern University

In 1967, residents of the Palisades neighborhood in Washington, DC organized to prevent helicopters from flying over their homes, disturbing their peace, and reducing their property values. Palisades residents who resented jet noise and wanted to avoid additional helicopter noise brought their case to the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), which had never before given serious consideration to noise or environmental concerns. The resulting helicopter permit case pending before the CAB raised the issue of noise threats posed by proposed helicopter service across the Washington/Baltimore area. This fight—before the board and in the courts—demonstrates both the possibilities and the challenges of public interest group mobilization within the administrative state.

SESSION C 4:30 – 5:45 PM

From “Slum Clearance” to “Mixed-Income”: The Serial Displacement of Black Washingtonians

Keywords: 20th Century, 21st Century, Black History, Neighborhood History, Social History, Urban Planning

AUDITORIUM, LIVESTREAM

Black residents make up just 46 percent of DC’s population—down from over 70 percent in the 1970s. This panel addresses how new development and gentrification displaced Black residents from their homes and communities over the course of the 20th century. The presentation will begin with the big picture via an overview of the online exhibit Mapping Displacement, launched in 2021. Panelists will then home in on the role of alley clearance in dispersing long-standing Black communities and the repeated eviction of Black residents from one square block on Capitol Hill. Using Southeast DC’s Barry Farm Dwellings as a case study, the panel will highlight how anti-Black racism undergirds the transformation of public housing into mixed-income “new communities.” This discussion will provide context for how gentrification today is a continuation of historical movements that have repeatedly destabilized and removed Black residents from spaces deemed too valuable for them to occupy.

PRESENTERS:

Sarah Shoenfeld, Historian/Co-Founder, Prologue DC

Michael J. Fisher Jr., PhD, Assistant Professor, San José State University

Johanna Bockman, PhD, Associate Professor, George Mason University

Carolyn Swope, Doctoral Student, Columbia University

MODERATOR:

Daniel del Pielago, Organizing Director, Empower DC
DC In Revolt: Organizing the City’s Most Underrepresented

These three case studies explore widely varying tactics used to further the interests of diverse groups of marginalized and underrepresented DC residents, from the late 19th into the 20th century.

Keywords: 19th Century, 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Cultural History, Community History, Economic History, Immigration, Labor, Latinx/Hispanic History, Neighborhood History, Public History, Transportation

ROOM 401-A

MODERATOR:

José A. Centeno-Meléndez, Oral Historian, National Museum of American History/ PhD Candidate, The University of Texas at Austin

El Pueblo Unido: Salvadoran Migrants, DC Activists, and Revolutionary Communities in the 1980s

Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Cultural History, Community History, Economic History, Immigration, Labor, Latinx/Hispanic History, Neighborhood History, Public History

PRESENTER:

Patrick Scallen, PhD, Department of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies, American University

This presentation analyzes the bonds forged between DC activists and Salvadoran migrants during the early days of Salvadoran immigration in the 1980s. These relationships birthed community organizations and grassroots networks that have played transformative roles in the Latinx DC community ever since. A dedicated cadre of Salvadoran and U.S. activists guided these efforts, and they have had an enduring impact in empowering Latinx communities across the metropolitan Washington, DC area.

Riot or Revolution? A Rhetorical Reimagining of the 1972 DC Jail Hostage Crisis

Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Cultural History, Community History, Economic History, Labor, Neighborhood History, Public History

PRESENTER:

Carolyn Robbins, Doctoral Student, University of Maryland

On October 11, 1972, after airing grievances about jail conditions, some 50 inmates at the DC Jail seized control of their cell blocks and took 11 guards hostage, holding them for almost 24 hours before releasing them unharmed. As the 50th anniversary of the crisis approaches, incarcerated people are still fighting to have their civil rights honored in jails and prisons. The presenter will examine the details of the hostage crisis including the significance of this event taking place in a jail rather than a prison. The presentation will also highlight the rhetorical implications of referring to such events as “riots.”
Washington Transit Workers and the Struggle to Organize, 1883–1916

Keywords: 19th Century, 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Cultural History, Community History, Economic History, Labor, Neighborhood History, Public History, Transportation

PRESENTER:

Jordan Patty, PhD, Historian

Washington, DC transit workers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries faced a protracted struggle to gain collective bargaining rights. In the 1880s, the Knights of Labor (KOL) attempted to organize workers from multiple Washington transit companies, and by the mid 1890s, workers at one company established a local KOL. But by this time, the KOL had lost power in the nationwide labor movement as the American Federation of Labor (AFL) rose to prominence. The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), another organization attempting to organize Washington transit workers in the early 1900s, joined the AFL rather than the KOL. They were initially stymied by the Washington Central Labor Union, which would not allow strikes. But in 1916, Washington transit workers finally went on strike, paving the way for the establishment of ATU Local 689, which continues to represent local transit workers.

“FIERCENESS SERVED!” The ENIKAlley Coffeehouse: A Documentary Screening and Discussion

Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Arts & Culture, Black History, LGBTQ+

ROOM 401-G

“FIERCENESS SERVED!” is a short documentary on the history of a local Black LGBTQ+ artist performance venue and rehearsal space, as well as meeting place for LGBTQ+ activist organizations in Washington, DC. Active from the 1980s to mid 1990s, The ENIKAlley Coffeehouse, located near the H Street NE corridor, was the epicenter of a cultural renaissance reminiscent of the DC roots of the Harlem Renaissance. The Coffeehouse operated during a time of significant political ferment in the city, at the height of the AIDS and crack epidemics.

With the current anxiety surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, “FIERCENESS SERVED!” seeks to preserve the history of a cultural phenomenon and open viewers to its relevance during these precarious times. In literature, film, music, photography, visual arts, and performance, the creative force of these local artists today informs new generations of LGBTQ+ artists and activists internationally.

PRESENTERS:

Michelle Parkerson, Director, “FIERCENESS SERVED!”
Christopher Prince, Project Director, The ENIKAlley Coffeehouse Project
Mara Cherkasky, Historian/Co-founder, Prologue DC

MODERATOR:

Sabiyha Prince, PhD, Director/Senior Researcher, AnthroDocs
RECEPTION 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Martin Luther King Jr. Library Rooftop, 5th Floor
Gather with fellow DC history enthusiasts to celebrate another successful DC History Conference! While listening to music and enjoying light snacks, catch up with your friends and colleagues on the beautiful rooftop of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Connect with other attendees, meet presenters, and join us as we recognize this year’s generous sponsors.

Reception Area, 5th Floor
1 Auditorium
2 Event Space
3 Roof
What does it mean to collect and value the personal documents and objects of the still-living? What do living archives offer to the history of Washington, DC? This panel will explore the subject through the lens of four firsthand experiences:

- Wanda Hernández takes us through her mother's bedside archive to explore questions of illegality, identity, and the politics of race and ethnicity in the Central American communities in DC, Maryland, and Virginia.
- keondra bills freemyn discusses the archives of 51 Black women she has curated on her website, the Black Women Writers Project, several of whom are from or lived in Washington, DC. This collection of collections both stitches together and uncovers, with the goal of making primary sources on Black women and gender-expansive writers more easily discoverable.
- Manuel Mendez presents what he calls “the Manny archives,” which he has kept in his bedroom since he was a teenager growing up in the District. With the goal of combating the erasure of AfroLatino/a/x, especially AfroDominican communities in Washington, DC, he uses archives for community conversations and public programs.
- Kristy Li Puma discusses the suitcases she and her family members have packed to fly between the DMV and Lima, Peru, for the past 20 years. Her archive illuminates the other side of “confiscatable objects” as they move through the highly policed and disciplined airport-border-screening space, where objects of affection stand in for controlled contraband.

**PRESENTERS:**

- **keondra bills freemyn**, Founder, Black Women Writers Project
- **Wanda Hernández**, Doctoral Student, University of Maryland
- **Manuel Mendez**, Chair, DC AfroLatino Caucus

**MODERATOR:**

- **Kristy Li Puma**, Doctoral Student, University of Maryland
Capturing the Voices of Black Career Educators: A Critical Race Analysis

Keywords: Black History, Cultural History, Education, Sociology

AUDITORIUM, LIVESTREAM

In Washington, DC, the largest generation of Black Career Educators has retired, and no one captured their historical career journeys and oral histories. They started teaching between the 1960s and 1980s. By the late 1990s, they were leaving the schoolhouse. They cherished their teaching careers, filled classrooms with ideas and inspirations, and found ways to counter systemic inequalities. They wrote curricula, built schools, and taught anyone who entered their classroom. For over 50 years, they were social reformers, community activists, and civil rights leaders. When Washington was burning, and drug wars were outside their classroom doors, they taught Black students. Their historical dialogues and journeys are portraits of the cities’ public education system. Segregation to desegregation and back to resegregation, Black Career Educators can speak to the impact of systemic racism and inequalities in public education. From Brown to COVID, their historical journeys define teaching pedagogy in the District of Columbia.

PRESENTERS:
Gloria B. Allen, Retired Educator, DC Public Schools
Isaac W. Jackson, Sr., Retired Educator, DC Public Schools

MODERATOR:
Wanda A. Alderman, PhD, Author, The Last Black Teacher: Race, Education, and Students of Color

Living on Sixteenth Street NW: Architecture and Community

Keywords: Arts & Culture, Black History, Cultural History, Historic Preservation, Social History

ROOM 401-A

Sixteenth Street at various points in its history has been known officially and unofficially as “Avenue of the Presidents,” “gateway to the nation’s capital,” and the “avenue of churches.” At almost seven miles, it’s one of the District’s longer streets, and its architecture reflects the many communities that have lived on or near it since Washington’s earliest days. This panel considers three different aspects of city life as reflected in the buildings of 16th Street. John DeFerrari examines the late 19th century African American community centered around 16th and M Streets NW. Peter Sefton delves into the street’s rich and unheralded history of venues for live entertainment. Kim Williams concludes with a critical look at the 20th century rise of Modernist residential architecture as seen along and near upper 16th Street. DeFerrari and Sefton are co-authors of the new Sixteenth Street NW: Washington, DC’s Avenue of Ambitions.

PRESENTERS:
John DeFerrari, Trustee, DC Preservation League
D. Peter Sefton, Trustee, DC Preservation League/Adirondack Architectural Heritage
Kim Williams, National Register Coordinator, DC Historic Preservation Office

MODERATOR:
Zachary Burt, Community Outreach and Grants Manager, DC Preservation League
SESSION E 12:00 – 1:15 PM

Race, Place and Real Estate: Family Journeys

Keywords: Black History, Community History, Cultural History, Economic History, Indigenous History, Student Presentation

ROOM 401-G

Four senior students from Georgetown Day School will explore the importance of family history. “Race, Place, and Real Estate” explores the intersection of race and place within and beyond the Washington, DC area through the lives and experiences of four Black families. Using census records, city directories, family documents, and family lore, the students reconstructed their family stories, embedding them in the larger histories of neighborhood development and neighborhood change. The stories they uncovered reflect larger patterns and narratives about the Great Migration and about entrepreneurship, resourcefulness, and courage.

PRESENTERS:

Brock Davis, Student, Georgetown Day School
Ahlyah Albritton, Student, Georgetown Day School
John (Chris) Massey, Student, Georgetown Day School
Antonio Cyrus, Student, Georgetown Day School

MODERATOR:

Lisa Rauschart, Educator, Georgetown Day School

By Broad Potomac’s Shore: Early DC Poems as History

Keywords: 19th Century, Arts & Culture, Cultural History, Literature

ROOM 401-A

Poetry tells the story of the city in a nuanced way, allowing us to experience the emotional life of DC residents and round out our understanding of their lives. But too often, historians ignore creative works to focus on factual sources, such as court records, newspapers, and correspondence. In this session, Roberts will present poems by former DC residents that address important themes in the city’s history, such as abolitionism, the Civil War, and fights for women’s rights and civil rights.

PRESENTER:

Kim Roberts, Editor, By Broad Potomac’s Shore: Great Poems from the Early Days of our Nation’s Capital

MODERATOR:

Teri Ellen Cross Davis, Poetry Coordinator, Folger Shakespeare Library
Belonging In DC: Special Interests and Community Formation

Communities are constantly forming and growing as individuals with unique perspectives, interests, and backgrounds assemble and share their experiences. This panel assesses the intriguing case studies of three such communities in the DC area.

Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Community History, Immigration, Latinx/Hispanic History, LGBTQ+, Arts & Culture, Black History, Education, Cultural History, Music, Social History

AUDITORIUM, LIVESTREAM

MODERATOR:

Lina Mann, Historian, White House Historical Association

“Nashville of the North”: When Country Was King in DC

Keywords: 20th Century, Arts & Culture, Cultural History, Music, Social History

PRESENTER:

Ken Avis, Performing Musician, Broadcaster Filmmaker, Writer, Veronneau Music

During the 1950s, the DC area was a major country music town; in fact, the term “country music” was first coined by an Arlington radio DJ, Connie B. Gaye. Fueled by wartime rural migration, DC became the nation’s country music capital and home to some of the biggest stars and media enterprises of the country music world. This examination of the development of country music in Washington focuses on media tycoon Connie B. Gaye, who became the first president of the US Country Music Association in the early 1960s after bringing the country sound to many local venues.

Mi Casa Es Tu Casa: DC Latinx LGBTQ+

Keywords: 20th Century, Activism/Advocacy, Community History, Immigration, Latinx/Hispanic History, LGBTQ+, Arts & Culture, Education, Cultural History, Social History

PRESENTER:

Jose Gutierrez, Founder, Jose Gutierrez Archives

This interactive presentation offers a retrospective of the Washington, DC Latinx LGBTQ+ community from the mid 1980s to the present. It includes historic photos, flyers, banners, and memorabilia from the various groups, organizations, and activists that promoted the DC Latinx LGBTQ+ community. This presentation is important because it identifies overlap in the Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities. Jose Gutierrez is a local leader and activist, founder of the Jose Gutierrez Archives, the Latino GLBT History Project, the DC Latino Pride and co-founder of the Rainbow History Project.
**Re-Discovering Graphics: A History of the Smithsonian’s Printmaking Program for DC Area Youth**

Keywords: 20th Century, Arts & Culture, Education, Community History, Cultural History, Social History

**PRESENTER:**

Pamela Harris Lawton, PhD, Florence Gaskins Harper Endowed Chair, Maryland Institute College of Art

For 24 years, Discover Graphics, a museum-school-community partnership developed by the Smithsonian Institution, provided professional-level printmaking studio and museum experiences to high school students, college students, and art teachers in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. This presentation offers a historical account and analysis of the program’s impact on school districts, students, teachers, artists, and museum professionals, as seen through the eyes of presenter Pamela Harris Lawton, a student participant in the program. Lawton will describe the transformative effect the program had on her education and career.

**POSTER SESSION 1:30 – 3:00 PM**

Great Hall, 1st Floor

The DC History Conference Poster Session is an opportunity for presenters to share their research visually with small groups of attendees. Visit the poster presenters to learn and to ask questions! Continue the conversation on social media, sharing your favorites and connecting with presenters.

**LUNCH SESSION 2:15 – 2:45 PM**

*“Culture Unmuted”: A One-Act Play*

Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Arts & Culture, Black History, Cultural History, Music, Youth Movements

**AUDITORIUM**

In present-day DC, Roxanne, a young Go-Go artist is in the midst of preparing for DC’s annual block party. Tensions rise between Roxanne and her new neighbors as they clash on the culture and future of their neighborhood. This original play—written, produced by, and starring native and adoptive Washingtonians—explores issues of gentrification, social justice, African diasporic cultural traditions, and what was once Chocolate City. The creators hope this play—which reflects on DC’s history, captures present conversations, and looks to the future—will spark constructive conversation and inspire action and support for both Washingtonian artists and the city’s treasured Go-Go heritage.

**PRESENTERS:**

Shermica Farquhar, Director, Founder/CEO, Soka Tribe

Marjuan Canady, Playwright, Founder/CEO, Sepia Works

Josanne Francis, Music Consultant, Executive Director, Cultural Academy for Excellence, Inc.

Jazelle Hunt, Associate Producer
Blockbusting, White Flight, and the Price of Housing in Two Uptown Neighborhoods

Keywords: 20th Century, Economic History, Neighborhood History, Social History, Urban Planning

AUDITORIUM, LIVESTREAM

This panel chronicles demographic change in two Ward 4 neighborhoods, North Portal Estates and Brightwood Park, in the second half of the 20th century, as restrictive covenants fell and many White residents left the city. The panel focuses on the real estate industry’s role in encouraging “White flight” and debunks the baseless fears real estate agents instilled in White homeowners that the arrival of Black residents would result in a decrease in property values and overall decline of the neighborhoods.

PRESENTERS:

Phylicia Fauntleroy Bowman, PhD, Economist and Retired Executive Director, DC Public Service Commission

Tanya Golash-Boza, PhD, Professor, University of California, Merced

MODERATOR:

Mara Cherkasky, Historian/Co-Founder, Prologue DC

Black Education Legacies: Remembering DC Schools

Keywords: Activism/Advocacy, Black History, Community History, Education, Historic Preservation

ROOM 401-A

In honor of the Charles Sumner School’s 150th anniversary, Charles Sumner Museum and Archives director Kimberly Springle leads a reflective conversation with scholars who have tapped into the Charles Sumner Museum and Archives Collection to illuminate Black education legacies in DC. Audience members are invited to contribute to the dialogue by responding to selected discussion topics that spring from the scholars’ works. The audience is also invited to participate by sharing their own lived experiences that resonate with the topics under discussion.

PRESENTERS:

Anika Burtin, PhD, Associate Professor/Chair of the Division of Education, Health, and Social Work, University of the District of Columbia

Tikia Hamilton, PhD, Assistant Professor, Loyola University Chicago

Marya McQuirter, Curator, dc1968 project

MODERATOR:

Kimberly Springle, Director, Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives
After Redevelopment: Telling Lorton’s Story Through Multiple Media

Keywords: 20th Century, 21st Century, Activism/Advocacy, Arts & Culture, Environmental History, Historic Preservation

ROOM 401–G

The Lorton Reformatory, formerly DC’s prison for convicted felons, closed in 2001 after operating for 91 years. In 2017, the mixed-use suburban development Liberty Crest at Laurel Hill began welcoming new residents into apartments and townhomes located on the former prison site. This conversation focuses on the importance of continuing to tell the story of Lorton Correctional Facility, and particularly the experiences of its inmates. Three creators—a theater producer, a photographer, and an installation artist—share their stories of Lorton and reflect on what the site tells us about our city today. This panel brings together Roach Brown, a DC icon and founder of the prison theatrical group Inner Voices; photographer and activist Nancy Shia, who worked with inmate photographer Roland “Breezy” Shelvy to collect hundreds of photographs in the mid 1970s; and artist R.L. Martens, whose installation, Material Witness, uses material salvaged from the site (clay and incinerator remains, or “trashglomerate”) to tell an alternative history of the social and environment conditions of the complex. Whose story is being well told, and whose is not? In what media can you find alternative versions of Lorton’s history? What can different forms of storytelling illuminate?

PRESENTERS:

Rhozier (Roach) Brown, Executive Director/Chairman, Inner Voices/Coalition of National Association of Ex-Offenders

Nancy Shia, Photographer, Political Artist, and Neighborhood Activist based in the DMV area

R.L. Martens, Founding Member, Urban Soils Institute’s Art Extension Service

MODERATOR:

Katea Stitt, Program Director, WPFW Radio Station
Each fall, DC high schoolers enrolled in the Real World History program study the Great Migration—the mass movement of Black Americans out of the Jim Crow South to cities in the north and west (1915-1970). After reading Isabel Wilkerson’s *The Warmth of Other Suns*, the students conducted oral history interviews with people who came to DC as part of the Migration. As a class, the 2021–2022 cohort of Real World History identified key themes and topics of interest from their interviews and pulled excerpts to put their narrators’ experiences of migrating to DC in conversation with one another. This presentation is a student-facilitated discussion about the Great Migration and Washington, DC. Using a selection of audio excerpts from the students’ fall semester oral history projects, Real World History students will facilitate a conversation among their narrators about the experience of migrating to Washington, DC.

**PRESENTERS:**

**Cosby Hunt**, Educator, Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School/Real World History  
**Max Peterson**, Oral Historian/Educator, Real World History  
**Dylan Park**, Student, School Without Walls High School  
**Jerome Bettis**, Narrator, Real World History  
**Eamonn McAloon**, Student, Washington Latin Public Charter School  
**Frances Robinson**, Narrator, Real World History  
**Ella Hankins**, Student, Washington Latin Public Charter School  
**Laura Danley**, Narrator, Real World History  
**Ardie Myers**, Narrator, Real World History  
**Charles Tracey**, Narrator, Real World History  
**Edith Crutchfield**, Community Partner, Real World History  
**Thelma D. Jones**, Community Partner, Real World History

**MODERATOR:**  
**Tori Tracey**, Student, Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School
HISTORY NETWORK

Friday, April 1 1:00–3:00 PM
Great Hall, 1st Floor

The DC History Conference History Network is an opportunity for conference attendees to meet representatives from organizations doing humanities-based work across the DMV. Learn about a new organization, project, or initiative you’d like to follow, volunteer with, or join! During the History Network, visit the tables to pick up information and swag from participating organizations and individuals.

1882 Foundation
AAPI in DC: Here in Plain Sight
Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, James Dent Walker Chapter, DC
Albert H. Small Center for National Capital Area Studies
Arlington Historical Society
Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc.
Back in the Day: A Boxing Memoir
Black Broad Branch
Capital Jewish Museum
Chevy Chase Historical Society
Cleveland Park Historical Society
Connecting the Dots Through Community Connection Via Literacy Development
DC Archives Advisory Group
DC Archives Advocates
DC by Foot
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
DC Cultural Narratives Collaborative
DC Historic Preservation Office Projects and Resources
DC History Center/Washington History magazine
DC Legacy Project
DC Legendary Musicians
DC Preservation League
“Digger Dave” Miller
Disruption as a Business Model
Exposed DC
Friday Morning Music Club
Friends of Peirce Mill
Friends of the DC Archives
The Friends of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library
Georgetown University Press
Heurich House Museum
HumanitiesDC
Humanities Truck
League of Women Voters
Mapping Georgetowner
The People’s Archive
Researching Latino/a/x DC–Community Outreach Program
Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Robert Frederick Smith Center for the Digitization and Curation of African American History
The Map & Guide to New Deal Washington DC
Washington Walks
The Washington DC Hall of Fame
Tour Guide Tell All
White House Historical Association
Women of the Civil War Era in Washington, DC
Women’s Organizations in Dupont Circle
In 2019, Apple opened its East Coast flagship store in the Carnegie Library in Mount Vernon Square. Many heralded the corporation’s renovation and preservation of the dilapidated historical building. While the building remained, little mention was made of the displacement of the African American neighborhoods surrounding the square. *Downtown Displaced* examines the history of their removal as part of a much longer history, from the 1840s through the present, of displacement and gentrification in this downtown residential neighborhood.

**Showcasing History with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and HumanitiesDC**

Great Hall, 1st Floor

2:00 – 2:45 PM

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DDCAH) and HumanitiesDC (HDC) are two key supporters of public history work in DC. Come hear from representatives from DDCAH, HDC, and recent grantees about the creative ways they are working with the humanities. This is a great place to ask questions, get ideas, and find ways to support your next project!
The DC History Conference Poster Session is an opportunity for presenters to share their research visually with attendees in small groups. Visit the poster presenters to learn and ask questions! Continue the conversation on social media, sharing your favorites and connecting with presenters.

“All the pomp and splendor”: Faith, Power, and Patriotism at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 1895–1917
Madeleine P. Shakotko, Ronald Stolk

The Animals Among Us: The History of the National Zoo’s Impact on the DC Area
Kara Arundel, Karie Kirkpatrick, William Xanten

The Awakening: Washington, DC’s 1927 Performance of a Ku Klux Klan Musical
Peggy Ann Brown

AAPI in DC: Using Instagram to Tell Our Stories
Wei Gan, Grace Kwon, Mia Owens, Mengshu Ye

Abner Cloud was not a Miller!
Catherine N. Ball

Amalia Steinhauser: Housekeeper and World Traveler
Katherine DeFonzo

Arming a New Navy: The Naval Gun Factory and its Local Workforce
Edward Valentin

Born Free: Embodying Legacies of Free People of Color in the DMV Area
Chelsea Dee Harrison

Chocolate City Childhoods: Investigating Play on the Hopscotch Bridge
Renee Scott

DC Liquor: What There Is and What There Was
Flore de Preneuf

Father to Daughter: Archibald Grimke Writing to Angelina Weld Grimke
J. Eric Robinson

From Lives Apart to Lives Together: An Oral History of Former Residents of Forest Haven
Tina M. Campanella, Ricardo and Donna Thornton, Robert Williams, Phyllis Holton

From Mecca to DC: Reminders of Islam in the Nation’s Capital
Nur Shaina Ayers

A History of the Adams Morgan Plaza and Its Easement
Nancy Shia

Hunting for Hunster: A Portrait of Thomas Watson Hunster, Art Education Pioneer in the District of Columbia
Pamela Harris Lawton, PhD

Hybrid Wayfinding Signs: Penn Ave East DC Case Study
Hazel Arroyo, Meagan Couture, Tambra Stevenson, Benjamin Stokes, PhD

Lady Bird Johnson Park: An Intersection of Recreation and Commemoration on the Potomac
Angelina Ribeiro Jones
Making Historical Conversation: Ellen Wilson’s Disputed Impact in Female Progressive Reform and the Transformation of Washington’s Alleys
Laura Roa

Mapping Black Literary DC
keondra bills freemyn

Material Witness: Incarceration and Waste Management in Lorton, Virginia
R.L. Martens

Emily Lefeber, Kathryn Morgan, Adara Woodcook

P Street Strip to Art Fairs: DC Art In the 1970s
Brett Abrams

Reclaiming Black Joy: Playgrounds, Parks, and Libraries
Catherine Frost, Sisi Reid

Reflections on Georgetown’s History
Ellen Georgi, Deborah Sokolove, PhD

Representation and Leadership: Hidden History of the FDR Memorial
Mary E. Dolan, Kelly Douglas

Teaching DC History in Elementary School
Mellie Davis

The DC Housing Segregation Hearings, April 1962
Brian Gilmore

The DC I See: Art of a Vanishing “City”
Carolyn Toye

The District’s Masons: The History of Freemasonry in DC
Chris Rull

The First Time I…
Jeronique Bartley

The Homeless Man who Made Alexandria History
J. McElhatton

The Life of George Washington
Parke Custis
Charles S. Clark

Therapeutic Aquatic Center Oral History Project
Hilary Kacser

Walk the Walk of Fame: Celebrating 21 Years of the Washington DC Hall of Fame
Stanley Williams, Toby Horn, PhD

Washington, DC: A Transformative Destination
DC Metro Chapter of the North America Chinese Writers Association

What Lies Beneath: Documenting the History of the Columbian Harmony Cemetery
Katlyn Calamito, Amanda Gallagher, Rebecca Kaliff, Alexis Zilen

COFFEE BREAK
SATURDAY, APRIL 2 2:30 – 3:00 PM
Sponsored by Georgetown University Press
Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 1st Floor
Marianne’s Café
PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Find on social media @DCHistCon

Project Spotlights shared on social media are short informational videos submitted by presenters. These features spotlight individual projects, including published book projects, documentaries, exhibitions, oral history projects, and more. Engage in conversation online and keep an eye out for the presenters at the DC History Conference to learn more about their work!

Asbury United Methodist Church Oral History Project: Voices from 11th and K
Adelle Banks

Barry Farm/Hillsdale: Our Roots Run Deep
Sabiyha Prince

Food for the People: Eating and Activism in Washington, DC
Dominique Hazzard

Francis Scott Key’s Desk and Revisiting the “Snow Riot”
Rob DeHart

From Sitting In to Standing Up: Histories of Site-Specific Protest in the Nation’s Capital
Roneva Keel

Gentrifying Northwest One
Melissa Daniel

A Guide to the History of LeDroit Park
Canden Arciniega

Hattie Sewell Project
Angela Kramer

La Manplesa: An Uprising Remembered
Cindy Centeno

Mapping DC’s Lost Streams
David Ramos

An Oral History of Shaw, LeDroit Park and Bloomingdale from Segregation through Gentrification
Shilpi Malinowski

Rigging History: The Smithsonian “Skull Crew” and Dignified Black Labor in DC
Michelle Chatman

Rorschach Theatre’s Psychogeographies Projects
Jenny McConnell Frederick

Spotlight on Cultural Connections
Karim Ali

The Day Arthur Ashe and Robert Kennedy Played Tennis on Our Block: Reflections of a DC Community
Akua Kouyate-Tate

The Making of the Channing Pollock Theatre Collection
Nubia Kai

The New Howard Woman: Lucy Diggs Slowe in Her Own Words
Amy Yeboah Quarkume

Unveiling Archive Voices: The Trinity History Project
Kimberly Monroe

Where to Go From Here? Heritage Tourism in Washington, DC
Lauren Rever

Who Cares About DC?
Stephen Kolb
The DC History Conference is co-presented by the DC History Center and the DC Public Library, sponsored by the Public History Program at American University, and organized by a volunteer planning committee.

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The DC History Center also recognizes support from the DC Historic Preservation Office and Office of Planning; the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities; and Humanities DC, as part of the “SHARP Grant Program,” an initiative funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.
DC’S PUBLIC HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAM

American University’s Graduate Program in Public History prepares students for an exciting career with historical knowledge, research skills, and hands-on practical experience. Students have the freedom to develop their own unique set of skills and expertise, pursuing internships and classwork in fields of their choice and collaborating closely with DC-area practitioners and institutions.

36 credits, full time and part time options available.

For more information, please visit our website using this QR code.
APPENDIX

Alma W. Thomas in the Studio, 1968, gelatin silver print. The Columbus Museum, Georgia. Photo Courtesy of Jonathan Frederick Walz, PhD.

Friday, April 1 Session B: 3:00 - 4:15 PM
Enlarging the (Color) Field: Rethinking the Washington Color School

Woodson High School Art Teacher Patricia Giles, Woodson students, and Museum Educator Teresa C. Grana. Collection of Teresa C. Grana. Photo Courtesy of Pamela Harris Lawton, PhD.

Saturday, April 2 Session E: 12:00 - 1:15 PM
Belonging In DC: Special Interests and Community Formation

Nancy Shia, photographer. Photo Courtesy of Amanda Huron, PhD.

Friday, April 1 Session A: 10:30 - 11:45 PM
African American Activism, Enfranchisement, and Empowerment in 20th Century DC


Saturday, April 2 Session E: 12:00 - 1:15 PM
Belonging In DC: Special Interests and Community Formation
THURSDAY, MARCH 31
Sumner School Museum and Archives

LETITIA WOODS BROWN MEMORIAL LECTURE
6:00 – 8:00 PM
The Other Franchise Fight: Fast Food and Black Freedom From U Street to Capitol Hill
Marcia Chatelain, PhD

FRIDAY, APRIL 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 4th Floor

SESSION A 10:30 – 11:45 AM
DC’s Asian American Heritage: Engaging the Community and Preserving Its History
The Evolution of Hand Dance in Washington, DC
The Invalid Corps: A Documentary
African American Activism, Enfranchisement, and Empowerment in 20th Century DC

FRIDAY KEYNOTE 12:00 – 1:00 PM
Think-In: Archiving and Activating DC’s Art History

HISTORY NETWORK 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Great Hall

SESSION B 3:00 – 4:15 PM
Enlarging the (Color) Field: Rethinking the Washington Color School
Fresh Convos Breathe: The Untold Story of DC HipHop
Environment and Society: Case Studies from the District

SESSION C 4:30 – 5:45 PM
From “Slum Clearance” to “Mixed-Income”: The Serial Displacement of Black Washingtonians
DC In Revolt: Organizing the City’s Most Underrepresented
“FIERCENESS SERVED!” The ENIKAlley Coffeehouse: A Documentary Screening and Discussion

SATURDAY, APRIL 2
Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 4th Floor

SESSION D 10:30 – 11:45 AM
Intimate DC Archives: Personal Processes of Collecting Outside of Institutions
Capturing the Voices of Black Career Educators: A Critical Race Analysis
Living on Sixteenth Street NW: Architecture and Community

SESSION E 12:00 – 1:15 PM
Race, Place and Real Estate: Family Journeys
By Broad Potomac’s Shore: Early DC Poems as History
Belonging In DC: Special Interests and Community Formation

POSTER SESSION 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Great Hall

LUNCH SESSION 2:15 – 2:45 PM
“Culture Unmuted”: A One-Act Play

SESSION F 3:00 – 4:15 PM
Blockbusting, White Flight, and the Price of Housing in Two Uptown Neighborhoods
Black Education Legacies: Remembering DC Schools
After Redevelopment: Telling Lorton’s Story Through Multiple Media

SATURDAY KEYNOTE 4:30 – 5:30 PM
A Mixtape from the 2021—2022 Great Migration Oral History Project