



MARYLAND CENTER
FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE

MUSEUMS AND COMMUNITY ARCHIVING: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

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AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS ANNUAL MEETING
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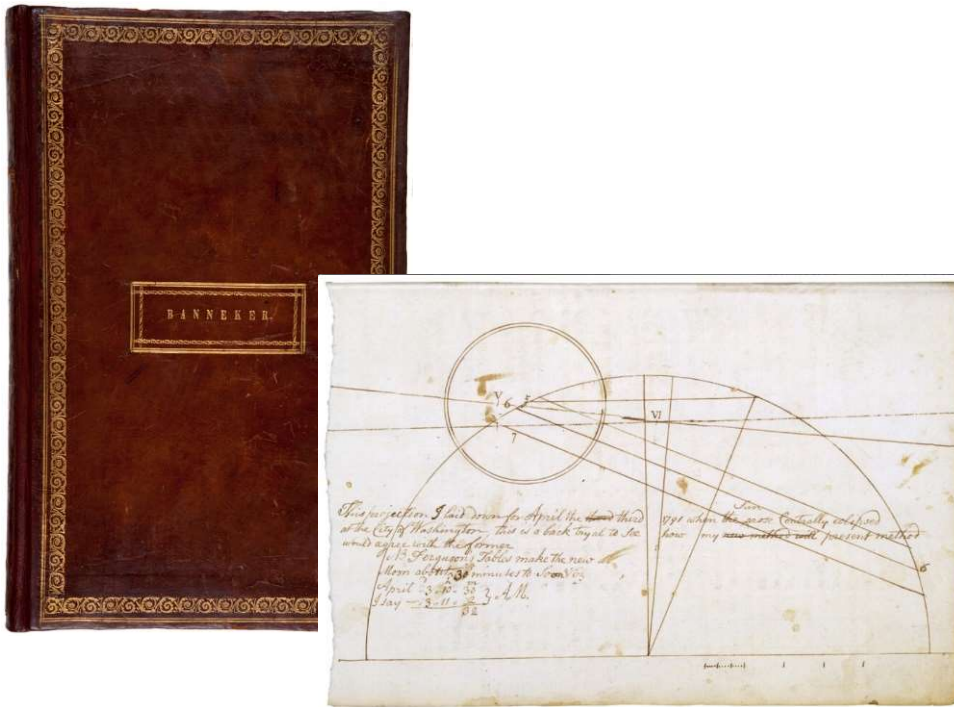
MARYLAND CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE

- **Founded in 1844 as the Maryland Historical Society**
- **Mission: to collect, preserve, and interpret the history, art, and culture of Maryland**
- **Library collection: 7 million books, documents, manuscripts, and photographs**
- **Museum collection: 350,000 objects**





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**Benjamin Banneker Astronomical Journal,
Eclipse Diagram, April 3, 1791. MCHC, H.
Furlong Baldwin Library, MS 2700, Gift of
Dorothea West (Mrs. Robert T.) Fitzhugh in
memory of her husband Robert Tyson
Fitzhugh**



**Sneak Peak of the *Jim Henson
Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited*, May
26, 2023, photograph by Leslie Eames for
MCHC**



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Fred Wilson welcoming visitors to *Mining the Museum: An Installation by Fred Wilson, 1992–1993* at the Maryland Historical Society



Community Collections and Collaborations

- **Grant awarded by the Society of American Archivists Foundation (SAA)**
- **October 2023–April 2024**
- **Goal: learn more about successful collaborations between community archives and institutions**
 - **Stewardship and custody agreements**
 - **Empowering communities toward active roles in the preservation of their histories**



Community Collections and Collaborations

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES:

- **Research and compile resources on community archiving**
- **Conduct interviews with 5–10 representatives of community archives that actively collaborate with institutions**
- **Produce research report**
- **Share project results**



Community Collections and Collaborations

PROJECT TEAM:

- **Caitlin Lerch, research fellow**
- **Sandra Glascock, special collections archivist**
- **Christopher Redwood, publications manager**
- **Martina Kado, VP of research and Library director;
primary investigator**



Community Archiving—Terminology

SAA DEFINITION:

“documentation of a group of people that share common interests, and social, cultural and historical heritage, usually created by members of the group being documented and maintained outside of traditional archives.”

dictionary.archivists.org/entry/community-archives.html



INTERVIEWS

Baltimore Reservation Project: Dr. Ashley Minner Jones (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)

Chesapeake Heartland: An African American Humanities Project: Carolyn Brooks, Adam Goodheart, Airlee Johnson (Washington College)

Mass. Memories Road Show: Dr. Carolyn Goldstein (University of Massachusetts, Boston)

Rhode Island LGBTQ+ Community Archive: Kate Wells (Providence Public Library)

Plateau Peoples' Web Portal: Michael Wynne (University of Washington)

Preserve the Baltimore Uprising Archive Project: Dr. Denise Meringolo (UMBC)

Rooted: A Community Archive Project: Sola Olosunde, Dr. Kishauna Soljour (Sarah Lawrence College)

The Southeast Asian Archive: Audra Eagle Yun (UC Irvine)



RESULTS: COLLECTION/CONTENT

- **Born-digital or digitized content**
- **Physical collections and exhibition space**





RESULTS: CUSTODY

- **Modified deeds of gift and release forms**
- **Sensitive content**





RESULTS: COLLABORATION

INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Physical space
- Digitization
- Collection intake and processing
- Collection management or co-management
- Web hosting
- Training



Carl Harding (Lumbee), Jessica Locklear (Lumbee), Francesca Basso-Landsteiner (UMBC), photograph by Bill Shewbridge, Baltimore American Indian Center, April 6, 2024.

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RESULTS: CHALLENGES

- **Funding**
- **Staffing**
- **Institutional trust**





NEXT STEPS

- How to use this research report
- Further research





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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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MCHC project team: Caitlin Lerch, Sandra Glascock, Christopher Redwood

MCHC current and former staff: David Armenti, David Belew, Katie Caljean, Karen Gasior, Catherine Mayfield

Reviewers and Library Committee members:
Corey Lewis, Assistant State Archivist MSA
Dr. Robert Schoeberlein, Baltimore City Archivist





THANK YOU!

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