

## **FY 2017 Museum Grants for African American History and Culture**

### **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center**

**MH-00-17-0005**

**\$143,976**

The B.B. King Museum will expand its main exhibit to cover the final eight years of Mr. King's life and legacy. This includes development of a new film and design of new spaces to include artifacts and materials recently acquired by the museum. Activities will include design development, content planning, and developing a conceptual framework for the new exhibit. In addition, grant funds will support the B.B. King All Stars music ensemble, helping to grow a successful pilot program that identifies and nurtures the musical talent of local students in grades 6-12.

### **Bennett College**

**MH-00-17-0006**

**\$24,750**

The Bennett College Wilbur Steele Art Museum will digitize and make accessible the architectural plans for the College's buildings, structures, and site development during the period 1926 to 1968. The project will result in an online digital collection accessible to students, staff, faculty, and researchers. The Bennett College campus was designated a Historic District by the National Park Service in 1992 naming twelve buildings, six structures and the quadrangle to the National Register of Historic Places. These original architectural plans serve to provide a history of the campus's development and to highlight the significance of each building and structure. They document the legacy of the administrators, donors, architects, the community and the establishment of Bennett College as a college for women in 1926.

### **Bethune-Cookman University**

**MH-00-17-0007**

**\$130,088**

Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU) will launch a capacity-building program to improve the quality of services provided by the Bethune-Cookman University Archives, which preserves collections dating to 1904. An archivist will work with a team of two interns from the Public History Department to process collections. The project will reflect a robust partnership between three Bethune-Cookman University departments: Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation-National Historic Landmark, B-CU Archives and the B-CU Public History Division of the History Department. The project will provide needed assistance and valuable experiences for students and researchers by allowing the facility to be accessible on a regular schedule.

**Birmingham Black Radio Museum****MH-00-17-0008****\$25,000**

The Birmingham Black Radio Museum project will complete digitization and access to the museum's collection of oral histories and interviews of radio personalities, civil rights leaders, authors, and entertainers. Only 10 percent of the oral history collection is currently available for the public at [www.thebbbm.org](http://www.thebbbm.org). With IMLS funding, the museum will digitize 100 percent of these resources, while creating a blog for public discussion, questions and donation requests. The project will allow the director to devote additional time to post-editing and supervising the continued digitization of the archival materials, all of which reflect a direct connection to the history of Birmingham, Alabama. The University of Alabama School of Library and Information Sciences will provide student intern digitizers and transcribers to assist with this work and the historic Carver Theatre will provide work space in support of the project.

**Broward Public Library Foundation (African American Research Library and Cultural Center)****MH-00-17-0012****\$24,337**

In honor of its 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration, the Broward Public Library Foundation/African American Research Library and Cultural Center will install a Harlem Renaissance Exhibit that will feature three distinct virtual reality experiences as well as murals, artifacts, and other related materials. The project will also include the creation of a virtual reality traveling exhibit that will be displayed in five different museums within the state of Florida. The goal of the project is to combine digital humanities and technology innovation to educate, inform and excite visitors. The exhibition is based on "Virtual Harlem," an established digital humanities project by Bryan Carter, an Associate Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Arizona, who specializes in African American literature of the 20th Century with a primary focus on the Harlem Renaissance and digital culture.

**DuSable Museum of African American History****MH-00-17-0013****\$149,620**

Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History will develop and present the "Exploration of African American Physicians and Surgeons" project with an overall goal to expose young people in the community to the opportunities and benefits of STEM education. Project components will include educational programming, lectures, and an historical exhibition revolving around African American contributions and achievements within the world of medicine. The exhibition will focus on the work of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, founder of Chicago's Provident Hospital, the first non-segregated hospital in the United States. Dr. Williams was the first general surgeon to perform a documented and successful pericardium surgical procedure to repair a wound. The project's educational programming will explore the ways in which other African American doctors broke down racial barriers within the field of medicine.

**The National Jazz Museum in Harlem****MH-00-17-0016****\$24,882**

The National Jazz Museum in Harlem will work with an experienced museum education consultant to develop five new K-12 education programs. These programs will complement the museum's two existing K-12 education programs and provide sequential, differentiated instruction for thousands of students who participate in annual fieldtrips to its visitor's center in Harlem. In addition to developing curricula for each program, the museum will create learning kits, pre-visit lesson plans and listening guides for teachers; online content for its website, and teaching notes and demonstration videos that will train teaching artists to lead these programs. Through these new education programs, students will develop a deeper understanding of the musical and cultural impact of jazz in Harlem and beyond.

**John Gilmore Riley Center and Museum of African American History and Culture****MH-00-17-0017****\$149,400**

The John Gilmore Riley Center/Museum of African American Culture (JGRCM) will collaborate with Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, through its Meek Eaton Black Archives and Museum, to establish an effective, efficient administrative and management support system for the JGRCM. A task force of staff from both institutions will be established to draft an MOU and framework for cooperation between the two historically successful entities to strengthen the museum's role in the community and the capacity of its partners to adapt to internal and external changes. The project will also support a full-time site coordinator for JGRCM and is intended to strengthen JGRCM and its partners' capacity to retain and acquire staff with strong professional skills in supervision and operations management with the expertise to carry out their missions. The project will produce a documented model to support similar collaborative efforts by other museums.

**Lewis H. Latimer House Museum****MH-00-17-0019****\$24,950**

The Lewis H. Latimer House Museum will develop a more cohesive education program that reflects both the museum's resources and the needs of local schools. The museum's deputy director and Tinkering Lab educator will work together to design a curriculum that meets current New York State and city standards, enabling the museum to more effectively serve schools in the community with object-based learning experiences. Packets of educational materials will be developed and made available for school teachers to download and use in their classrooms prior to and following visits to the museum. Target schools will be actively involved in the process of testing and utilizing the products. Project results will be shared with internal and external stakeholders to sustain long-term improvement and enhance institutional capacity.

**City of Miami (Historic Virginia Key Beach Park Trust)**

**MH-00-17-0022**

**\$144,228**

The City of Miami will promote the significance of its Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, an 82-acre indoor/outdoor open air museum. The collection holdings of the site will be archived, preserved, conserved, and digitally cataloged and placed online to ensure their survival and availability. Physical archival materials will be scanned and digitized to be added to a searchable database. Existing interview recordings will also be digitized and broken into segments with attached metadata. Because the holdings are currently neither categorized, nor archived, nor accessible electronically, it is difficult to locate information within them. The grantee will raise awareness about the availability of these resources, and they will track catalog visitors to measure the use of these historic resources.

**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources (North Carolina African American Heritage Commission)**

**MH-00-17-0027**

**\$148,570**

The North Carolina African American Heritage Commission will create an online database, host community discussions, and develop traveling exhibits based on the Negro Motorist Green Book. The annual guidebook, published from 1936 – 1966, helped African-American travelers avoid business owners who refused to serve them. The guidebook compiled listings of “oasis spaces,” businesses throughout North America that would welcome African Americans. Today, many of these safe spaces have been lost to urban renewal and sites still standing are rarely recognized. The project seeks to preserve and honor the resilience of previous generations of African Americans, while educating communities across North Carolina about the history and importance of these often-overlooked historical sites, and encouraging the preservation of the few structures that still exist.

**Ohio Historical Society (National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center)**

**MH-00-17-0028**

**\$ 147,418**

The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (NAAMCC) will hire exhibits staff to research and develop a new long-term exhibition designed to promote understanding of the African American experience in Ohio. Additionally, the new positions will assist with the continuing growth of the museum’s exhibition schedule for 2017- 2019. IMLS funds will also be used to rebuild the museum’s traveling exhibition program, which has the potential to provide much needed revenue that could help NAAMCC to sustain these two positions to support the museum’s ongoing interpretive programming for the community.

**Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center**  
**MH-00-17-0029**  
**\$31,515**

The Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center will begin the next phase of its capacity building process by strengthening the growth, knowledge, and leadership skills of the board of directors and staff through professional development; rebuilding the operational infrastructure; and expanding outreach to foster stronger institutional and community based partnerships. A third party evaluator will review and assess the goals and objectives of the project, identify measures of success, and assist with project revisions as necessary.

**Robbins House**  
**MH-00-17-0030**  
**\$149,835**

The Robbins House will create new interpretive materials to support the theme of the Long Civil Rights Movement (LCRM), from slavery to today. The LCRM will be the focus of research to interpret the Robbins House based on the lives, communities and context of the Robbins' family migration across generations and geography. Project activities will include the creation of 'Toolbox Talks' on eight sub-themes within the LCRM, including brochures, exhibits, panel discussions with the public, and workshops/charrettes for interpreters, teachers and staff. Curriculum will be developed for public and private schools for on-site, off-site, & electronic interaction with the LCRM.

**University of Maryland (David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans)**  
**MH-00-17-0031**  
**\$144,450**

The "Driskell Center Digitization Project," will preserve, reformat, digitize, and increase access to the Center's 1,550-object art collection and 150 audio tapes, 90 visual reels, 1,500 photographs, and 3,500 slides, which are a selection of fragile, aging, and discolored objects from the David C. Driskell Papers archival collection. Creating digital files and adding them to the existing records, including a searchable online database, will ensure preservation of the collection records for future generations, increase resources, and enhance accessibility to these unique collections. Through this project, the center will create a professional development training opportunity in digitization procedures for its staff, students, and interns and will produce digitization management policies to sustain the knowledge at the center for future professionals.

**The Withers Collection Museum and Gallery**  
**MH-00-17-0032**  
**\$22,936**

The Withers Collection Museum and Gallery will embark on the second phase of a digitization effort to preserve the original negatives of its Civil Rights Collection. The collection is largely the work of Dr. Ernest C. Withers, a renowned photojournalist who captured many of the most iconic images of the Civil Rights Movement, and was the personal photographer for Dr. King for twelve years. Funding will

support the digitization, duplication, and re-housing of the oldest silver gelatin negatives, identified as a priority in an initial collections survey. Following the completion of a catalogue and inventory process, the museum will digitize the original negatives, prepare duplicate negatives, and re-house originals for cold storage. A research finding aid will be prepared for educators and researchers and low-resolution images will be available through the Crossroads to Freedom Digital Archive at Rhodes College as well as the Digital Library of Tennessee.