



BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORPORATION PRESENTS:

BLACK BROOKLYN RENAISSANCE

BLACK ARTS + CULTURE • 1960–2010 SPONSORED BY MetLife Foundation

Black Brooklyn Renaissance (BBR) Digital Archive About the Digital Archive

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This digital archive contains 73 discs, formatted as playable DVDs for use in compatible DVD players and computers, and audio CDs where indicated. The BBR Digital Archive is organized according to performance genres: dance, music, visual art, spoken word, community festival/ritual arts, and community/arts organizations. Within each genre, performance events and artist interviews are separated.

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By accessing the contents of BBR Digital Archive, you represent that you have read, understood, and agree to comply with the above terms and conditions of use of the BBR Digital Archive.

CORRECTIONS

With such a large collection (73 discs), we realize there may be omissions in the documentation. If you find misspellings, names omitted in the credits, etc., please fill out the form at www.brooklynartscouncil.org/forms/243 by January 1, 2013. We will compile these corrections and post them at www.brooklynartscouncil.org/documents/1754.

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BACKGROUND

Black Brooklyn Renaissance: Black Arts + Culture, 1960-2010 (BBR) was a landmark, two year-long research, planning, and public presentation initiative by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), in partnership with Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. Beginning research in 2009 with major programming presented in 2010, BBR culminated in February 2011. Through field research, a series of public performances, exhibitions, panels and workshops, a scholarly conference, an oral history project, and other documentation, BBR celebrated the many ways Black performing artists, primarily those working in music, dance and spoken word, have contributed to the borough's significance as a center of Black culture in New York and the world. The project did not significantly cover theater, literature, or film, although some archive material is particular to these genres. The BBR initiative also provided for the creation of this digital archive documenting all BAC-curated BBR programs as well as interviews with artists and community members. This archive is deposited in research institutions accessible to the public, primarily in Brooklyn.

The Harlem Renaissance is the project's symbolic point of departure, in that the literary and jazz-infused Harlem of the early-20th century finds a powerful counterpoint in Brooklyn of the mid-to late-20th century to the present. In this era, Brooklyn has evolved as a site of diverse diasporic Black cultures: African-American, African-Caribbean, and West African. Brooklyn's renaissance, initiated during the Civil Rights, Black Power and Black Arts movements of the 1960s and continuing in today's age of Obama, offers an ever-evolving discourse on arts ranging from dance to music to spoken word, literature and visual arts.

BBR's yearlong programming was held at major venues and community sites throughout Brooklyn, with select programs in Manhattan, and focused on the folk roots of the Black Brooklyn Renaissance. Based first of all in community arts and community ceremonies and rituals, Brooklyn black culture has retained distinct African-diasporic legacies and traditions. These are preserved and performed in a range of artistic styles such as West Indian steel pan and calypso, Afro-Caribbean ceremonial music and dance, West African drumming, West African traditional and contemporary dance, southern African-American gospel music, hip hop and free-style poetry, and jazz. Many of BBR's concerts, panels and workshops examined how migration, immigration, and political movements galvanized these cultural expressions while drawing attention to the evolving interplay between Afro-Caribbean, southern African American, and African traditions. The project also sought to create a dialogue between young contemporary artists and leading artists of the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Black Brooklyn artists of different generations and styles shared, learned and performed together.

For more information, visit <http://www.brooklynartscouncil.org/blackbrooklynrenaissance>.

PROJECT CREDITS

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MetLife Foundation

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Artist interviews were conducted by:

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Camera

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Photography

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About the Black Brooklyn Renaissance Digital Archive—READ THIS FIRST

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BBR Summer 2010

BBR Fall 2010

BBR Winter 2010-11

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African Dance/Brooklyn Style

Sunday, February 28, 2010 at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College.
Black Brooklyn Renaissance kick-off highlighting the influence of African dance on traditional, modern and post-modern Brooklyn dancers and choreographers.

Participating Artists: Afro Mosaic Soul, Asase Yaa, Brooklyn Jumbies, Camille A. Brown, Conjunto Nuevo Milenio, Mickey Davis and Dancers, Vado Diomande, Restoration Dancers, Baraka de Soleil.

DISC 4, 5

African Dance/Brooklyn Style Symposium

Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at A.R.T./New York South Oxford Space.

A panel featuring members of Brooklyn's dance community discussing the influence of African dance styles in Brooklyn since 1960.

Participating Artists: Camille A. Brown, Sewaa Codrington, Baba Chuck Davis, Angela Fatou Gittens, Dionne Kamara, Youssouf Koumbassa, Linda Madueme, Michael Manswell, Alex Smith, Jr.

DISC 6

Intergenerations: Dance Kings of Black Brooklyn

Saturday, October 9, 2010 at Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts.

Honoring an important generation of Brooklyn's Black male dancers and choreographers, with performances by the Kings and their protégées, followed by a panel discussion. Honored as Kings: Ron Brown, Baba Chuck Davis, Jamel Gaines, Kevin "Shock-a-Lock" Porter, Reginald "Reggie" Wilson, and Obediah Wright.

Participating Artists: Danella Abbey, Akila Afrekhan, Abdullah AlMarta, Souleymane Badolo, Justin Boney, Anthony Cannonier, Carmen M. Carriker, Frantz Carty, Jean-Lemke Charlot, Elija De Silva, Linda Dugue, Jamel Gaines, Jamal George, Angela Fatou Gittens, Ade Love, Ka Siame Maasaiyah, Michael Manswell, Atiliah Kadajah Yaa Oyere Manyansa, Jonathon McKinney, Jasmine Poole, Kevin "Shock-a-Lock" Porter, Jenny Roberts, Shaun Rasmussen, Sade Small, Michelle Smith, Vaughn Subran, Omar "Firelock" Thomas, Keon Thoulouis, Carol Victor, Calvin E. Wallace, Jr., Jerome Melsaun Warren, Reginald "Reggie" Wilson, Obediah Wright.

Panelists: Loretta Abbott, Elendar Barnes, Niles Ford, Ella Thompson Moore, Abdel Salaam, Melvin Pi Taylor, Lee "Aco" Thompson.

Black Brooklyn Renaissance: The New Generation

See Music, Discs 23 & 24.

DANCE: INTERVIEWS

DISC 7

Rahkiah Abdurahman

Kyle Abraham

Calvin Booker

DISC 8

Ron Brown

Sewaa Codrington

Jamel Gaines

Doris Green

DISC 9

Youssouf Koumbassa
Michela Marino Lerman
Ella Thompson Moore

DISC 10

Francine Ott
Walter Rutledge
Baraka de Soleil

DISC 11

Nathan Trice
Reginald “Reggie” Wilson
Obediah Wright

DISC 12

Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

DISC 13 (Audio CD)

Nora Chipaumire

DISC 14 (Audio CD)

Michael Manswell

MUSIC: EVENTS

DISC 15

Hip Hop Hybrids of Brooklyn

Thursday, April 15, 2010 at Public Assembly.

Dance and music showcase of Brooklyn-based hip hop artists and break dancers who are crossing over, combining and mashing forms in unique ways.

Participating Artists: CharlotteMishell, Coole High (L. Blenman), D-Cross (Derick Cross), Demostina (Virginia José), Dyalekt (Brian Kushner), LMNOP (Lesliayn Miller), Ngoma Hill, DJ Tahleim (Alex Reyes), Tah Phrum Duh Bush, Tantra-Zawadi, M-Tri (Max Triolo) and DJ Leecey T (Felice Triolo).

B Boys (Curated by Eye See (Isaac Collazo) of Braggin’ Rites): El Julio (Julio Figueroa), E-Rock (Arkadiusz Lesniak), Oreo (Oscar Cayetano), Richie Rich (Richard Maguire).

DISC 16

Black Brooklyn Drum Call

Saturday, June 5, 2010 at Brooklyn Public Library: Grand Army Plaza.

Demonstrations and performances of various African-derived percussion styles as they are adapted in Brooklyn.

Participating Artists: Harold Akyeampong, Frisner Augustin, Ray “Chino” Diaz, Ayanna Frederick, Baba Mpho, Carlos de Oliveira, José Ortiz, Monty Pollard, Tony Reece and The Kutters, Austin Tuitt, Horace “Junior” Wedderburn.

DISC 17

Black Brooklyn Drum Call Symposium

Saturday, June 5, 2010 at Brooklyn Public Library: Dweck Auditorium.

Symposium discussing the history and current practice of African percussion and traditions in Brooklyn.

Participating Artists: Ayanda Clarke, Montego Joe (Roger Sanders), Neil Clarke, Obara Wali Rahman Ndiaye, Edwina Lee Tyler.

DISC 18

Intergenerations: Toshi Reagon and Friends

Thursday, July 29, 2010 at Southpaw.

A concert featuring a new generation of Brooklyn’s women vocalists of the African diaspora performing alongside legend Toshi Reagon with her band Big Lovely.

Participating Artists: Alsarrah, Stephanie Battle, Robert “Chicken” Burke, Fred Cash, Judith Casselberry, Marcelle Davies-Lashley, Karma Mayet Johnson, Josette Newsam-Marchak, Sun Singleton, Tamar-kali, Toshi Reagon, DJ Shae Smith, Adam Widoff.

DISC 19

Selection from The Black Brooklyn Renaissance Conference Concert, featuring The New Cookers

Saturday, October 23, 2010 at Levinson Recital Hall, Brooklyn College.

Participating Artists: Kenyatta Beasley, Keith Loftis, Anthony Wonsey.

DISC 20

Brooklyn: The Gospel Borough

Friday, November 12, 2010 at Memorial Hall, Concord Baptist Church.

A concert featuring a range of Brooklyn’s African American and Haitian gospel traditions, from quartet to choir.

Participating Artists: Imani Singers (Choir Director: Glenn McMillan), Keith “Wonderboy” Johnson and the Spiritual Voices, Sonya D. Johnson, The Men’s Choir of Concord Baptist Church (Choir Director: Glenn McMillan), The Pelerin Choir of the Evangelical Crusade of Fishers of Men Church (Choir Director: Kelly Nicolas), Team T-N-T (Thad and Tasha Johnson).

DISCS 21, 22 (Audio CDs)

Intergenerations: Randy Weston Trio with Special Guest Ayanda Clarke

Sunday December 12, 2010 at Cantor Auditorium, Brooklyn Museum.

Concert performance with legendary jazz pianist Randy Weston and invited percussionist Ayanda Clarke who represents a new generation of Brooklyn jazz.

Participating Artists: Alex Blake, T.K. Blue, Ayanda Clarke, Neil Clarke, Billy Harper, Randy Weston, Kim Weston-Moran.

DISCS 23-24

Black Brooklyn Renaissance: The New Generation

Friday February 11 & Saturday February 12, 2011 at BAMcafé.

Two back-to-back shows featuring a younger generation of cutting edge talent in jazz, dance, gospel, spoken word, contemporary soul, performance art, beat box, and more.

DISC 23

Participating Artists 2/11: Climbing Poetree (Alix Garcia and Naima Penniman), Talu Green, Michela Marino Lerman with Joseph Wiggan, Pegasus Warning (Guillermo E. Brown), Singers with a Testimony, Tah Phrum Duh Bush.

DISC 24

Participating Artists 2/12: Enoch Smith Jr. Trio, Kenya (Robinson), Kid Lucky (Terry Lewis), Somi, Tah Phrum Duh Bush, Laurie M. Taylor (Choreographer: Francine Ott).

MUSIC: INTERVIEWS

PERCUSSION

DISC 25

**Harold Akyeampong
Ayanda Clarke
Ray “Chino” Diaz**

DISC 26

**Montego Joe (Roger Sanders)
Obara Wali Rahman Ndiaye
Monty Pollard
Edwina Lee Tyler**

DISC 27 (Audio CD)

Baba Lee Abramson

DISC 28 (Audio CD)

Frisner Augustin with Lois Wilcken

DISC 29 (Audio CD)

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JAZZ

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Bob Myers

Sam Pinn

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Somi

Charles Tolliver

Jitu Weusi

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Reggie Workman

Kiane Zawadi

DISC 33 (Audio CD)

Ahmed Abdullah

DISC 34 (Audio CD)

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DISC 35 (Audio CD)

Cecil Bridgewater, con't

DISC 36 (Audio CD)

Olu Dara

DISC 37 (Audio CD)

Sarah McLawler

DISC 38 (Audio CD)

Sarah McLawler, con't

HIP HOP

DISC 39

Demostina (Virginia José)

Dyalekt (Brian Kushner)

DISC 40

Ngoma Hill

Tah Phrum Duh Bush

GOSPEL

DISC 41

Keith “Wonderboy” Johnson

Phil Groves of Singers with a Testimony

Team T-N-T (Thad and Tasha Johnson)

POPULAR MUSIC

DISC 42

Alsarah

Stephanie Battle

Marcelle Davies-Lashley

Ronnie Goodman

DISC 43

Toshi Reagon

Sun Singleton

VISUAL ART: EVENTS

DISC 44

The Brooklyn School of Black Visual Artists

Sunday November 21, 2010 at Artcurian.

A panel discussion addressing the rise in importance of Brooklyn’s Black visual arts scene over the past 50 years.

Participating Artists and Curators: Laurie A. Cumbo, Wendy Jones, Shantrelle P. Lewis, Karl McIntosh, Krista N. Saunders, Jane Weissman, Dexter Wimberly.

VISUAL ART: INTERVIEWS

DISC 45

**Laurie A. Cumbo
Ogundipe Fayomi
Izell Glover**

DISC 46

**LeRoy Henderson
Kenya (Robinson)
Karl A. McIntosh
Alfredo Mighty**

DISC 47

**Otto Neals
Ademola Olugebefola
Danny Simmons
Emmett Wigglesworth**

DISC 48 (Audio CD)

Anthony Bonair

SPOKEN WORD: EVENTS

DISC 49

Word is Brooklyn

Friday November 19, 2010 at BAMcafé.

Spoken word performances ranging from traditional to contemporary in an evening of poetry, rap, ghost stories, chants, word games, and signifying.

Participating Artists: Tai Allen, Melissa Butler, Efron Cherry, Sylvia Colón, George Davidson, Sabrina Gilbert, mTkalla Keaton, Delmo Nunez, Mike Nunez, Pamela Sneed, Patricia Spears Jones, Mariana Suazo, Tuan X, Edwina Lee Tyler, Hanifah Walidah.

Black Brooklyn Renaissance: The New Generation

See Discs 23 & 24 under Music.

SPOKEN WORD: INTERVIEWS

DISC 50

Tai Allen

Climbing Poetree (Alix Garcia and Naima Penniman)

George Davidson

DISC 51

Tammy Hall

Hanifah Walidah

Tuan X

DISC 52 (Audio CD)

James Lovell

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL/RITUAL ARTS: EVENTS

DISC 53

Rites and Ceremonies of the Brooklyn African Diaspora

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at Brooklyn Historical Society.

Discussion panel featuring leaders of annual African diaspora events, ceremonies, and rituals in Brooklyn.

Participating Panelists: Rahkiah Abdurahman, Jean P. Alexander, Peggy Alston, Joy Chatel, Doris Green, Pamela Green, Brenda Greene, Jeff King, Baba Mpho, Segun Shabaka, Renee Smith.

DISC 54

Preserving the Parade: Documenting the West Indian American Labor Day Carnival

Thursday, June 17, 2010 at Caribbean Literary and Cultural Center (CLCC), Brooklyn Public Library, Flatbush Branch.

A discussion on documenting, preserving, displaying and presenting the material culture of Brooklyn's West Indian carnival traditions, including costumes, banners, etc.

Participating Artists and Community Scholars: Jean P. Alexander, Anthony Bonair, Glenda Cadogan, Kelvin "Fuzzy" Davis, Roseann Evans, Kathyann Hernandez, Nancy Johnson, Les Slater.

DISC 55

Voices of the Elders

Sunday January 30, 2011 at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus.

Elders discuss the role of legacy, tradition and values in the preservation of Black culture for future generations.

Participants: Kwayera Archer-Cunningham, Safiya Bandele, Omolouwa Diop, LeRoy Henderson, Bernard Marsh, John Mason, Faybienne Miranda, Ella Thompson Moore, Obara Wali Rahman Ndiaye, Jitu Weusi.

For supplemental interviews, see disc 68.

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL/RITUAL ARTS: INTERVIEWS

DISC 56

Jean P. Alexander

Glenda Cadogan

Dolores Carty

DISC 57

Kelvin “Fuzzy” Davis

Kathyann Hernandez

Segun Shabaka

DISC 58 (Audio CD)

Baba Mpho with Grandmaster Kham and Mama Nyaah

COMMUNITY/ARTS ORGANIZATIONS: INTERVIEWS

DISC 59

Peggy Alston

Safiya Bandele

Hakika Boyd

DISC 60

Gaylord Hassan

John Mason

DISC 61

**Donald Sangster
Alex Smith, Jr.
Jacqui Woods**

DISC 62 (Audio CD)

Les Slater

LITERATURE

DISC 63

Brenda Greene

THEATER

DISC 64

**Josephine English
Bernard Marsh
E. Wayne McDonald**

DISC 65 (Audio CD)

Novella Nelson

COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS (respondents to an open call for personal histories)

DISC 66

**Yejide Akinlana
Maxine Alexander
Leslie Arlette-Boyce
Millie Burns
Elizabeth Carr**

DISC 67

**Fikisha Cumbo
Susan Goldbetter
Velma Johnson
Jeffrey Perry
Joanne Petit-Frere
Nepo Soteri**

DISC 68 (Audio CD)

Nana Okomfo Baakan Okukuranpon Yirenkyiwa (Vanessa Glover)
Austin Tuitt

DISC 69

“Voices of the Elders” Event: Supplemental Interviews

Nana Amma Ansa Atei
Chuk Fowler
Ajuba Grinage and family
Selma Jackson
Grandmaster Kham
Mama Nyaah (Marjorie Thorne)
Gloria Pickering
Beryl Quamie
Harold Valle

DISCS 70-72

The Black Brooklyn Renaissance Conference

Saturday, October 23, 2010 at Woody Tanger Auditorium and Levinson Recital Hall, Brooklyn College.

A day-long conference with panels, demonstrations, lecture, and concert, exploring the music, dance, and ceremonial practices of the African diaspora in Brooklyn since 1960.

DISC 70

Historical Reflections on the Black Brooklyn Renaissance

Panelists: Cecil Bridgewater, Obara Wali Rahman Ndiaye, Kay Turner, Randy Weston.

Keynote Address: Greg Tate.

DISC 71

Ceremony and Festival Traditions

Panelists: Ray Allen, Dale Byam, Ivan Jackson, Michael Manswell.

The New Hybridity in Music and Dance

Panelists: Neil Clarke, Kyra Gaunt, Fred Ho, Joe Schloss, Baraka de Soleil.

DISC 72

Afro-Caribbean Drumming and Uprocking Brooklyn Style

Participating Artists: Frisner Augustin, The Dynasty Rockers (Director: Ralph Casanova), José Ortiz.

Brooklyn Jazz with the New Cookers (See Disc 19)

Participating Artists: Kenyatta Beasley, Keith Loftis, Anthony Wonsey.

DISC 73

Pre-Performance Artist Interviews

Brief on-site interviews with some artists before their performances.

Intergenerations: Toshi Reagon and Friends

Stephanie Battle

DJ Shae Smith

Hip Hop Hybrids

Charlotte Mishell

Coole High (L. Blenman)

D-Cross (Derick Cross)

Dyalekt (Brian Kushner)

Eye See (Isaac Collazo)

Ngoma Hill

M-Tri (Max Triolo) and DJ Leecey T (Felice Triolo)

Tantra-Zawadi

Drum Call

Harold Akyeampong

José Ortiz

Tony Reece and The Kutters

Austin Tuitt

Horace “Junior” Wedderburn



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Bernard Marsh	55	64
John Mason	55	60
E. Wayne McDonald		64
Karl A. McIntosh	44	46
Jonathon McKinney	6	
Sarah McLawler		37, 38
Glenn McMillan (Men's Choir and Imani Singers)	20	
The Men's Choir of Concord Baptist Church (Choir Director: Glenn McMillan)	20	
Alfredo Mighty		46
Faybienne Miranda	55	
Montego Joe (Roger Sanders)	17	26
Ella Thompson Moore	6, 55	9
Baba Mpho	16, 53	58
M-Tri and DJ Leecy T (Max Triolo & Felice Triolo)	15	73
Bob Myers		30
Obara Wali Rahman Ndiaye	17, 55, 70	26
Otto Neals		47
Novella Nelson		65
Josette Newsam-Marchak	18	

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROGRAM DISC</u>	<u>INTERVIEW DISC</u>
Kelly Nicolas (Pelerin Choir)	20	
Delmo Nunez	49	
Mike Nunez	49	
Mama Nyaah (Marjorie Thorne)		58, 69
Nana Okomfo Baakan Okukuranpon Yirenkyiwa (Vanessa Glover)		68
Carlos de Oliveira	16	
Ademola Olugbefola		47
Oreo (Oscar Cayetano)	15	
José Ortiz	16, 72	73
Francine Ott		10
Pegasus Warning (Guillermo E. Brown)	23	
The Pelerin Choir of the Evangelical Crusade of Fishers of Men Church (Choir Director: Kelly Nicolas)	20	
Jeffrey Perry		67
Joanne Petit-Frere		67
Gloria Pickering		69
Sam Pinn		30
Monty Pollard	16	26
Jasmine Poole	6	
Kevin "Shock-a-lock" Porter	6	
Beryl Quamie		69
Shaun Rasmussen	6	
Toshi Reagon	18	43
Tony Reece and The Kutters	16	29, 73
Restoration Dancers	2, 3	
Richie Rich (Richard Maguire)	15	
Jenny Roberts	6	
Walter Rutledge		10
Abdel Salaam	6	
Donald Sangster		61
Richard Santiago	16	
Krista N. Saunders	44	
Joe Schloss	71	
Segun Shabaka	53	57
Danny Simmons		47
Singers with a Testimony (Artistic Director: Phil Groves)	23	41
Sun Singleton	18	43
Les Slater	54	62
Sade Small	6	
Alex Smith, Jr.	4, 5	61
Michelle Smith	6	
Renee Smith	53	

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROGRAM DISC</u>	<u>INTERVIEW DISC</u>
DJ Shae Smith	18	73
Tarik Smith	6	
Pamela Sneed	49	
Baraka de Soleil	2, 3, 7 ¹	10
Somi	24	3 ¹
Nepo Soteri		67
Mariana Suazo	49	
Vaughn Subran	6	
Tah Phrum Duh Bush (Brian Whitty)	15, 23, 24	4 ⁰
DJ Tahleim (Alex Reyes)	15	
Tamar-kali	18	
Tantra-Zawadi	15	73
Greg Tate	7 ⁰	
Laurie M. Taylor	24	
Melvin Pi Taylor	6	
Team T-N-T (Thad and Tasha Johnson)	20	4 ¹
Omar "Firelock" Thomas	6	
Lee "Aco" Thompson	6	
Keon Thoulouis	6	
Charles Tolliver		3 ¹
Nathan Trice		11
Tuan X	49	5 ¹
Austin Tuitt	16	68, 73
Kay Turner	7 ⁰	
Edwina Lee Tyler	17, 49	26
Harold Valle		69
Carol Victor	6	
Hanifah Walidah	49	5 ¹
Calvin E. Wallace, Jr.	6	
Jerome Melsaun Warren	6	
Horace "Junior" Wedderburn	16	73
Jane Weissman	44	
Randy Weston	21, 22, 7 ⁰	
Kim Weston-Moran	21, 22	
Jitu Weusi	55	3 ¹
Adam Widoff	18	
Joseph Wiggan	23	
Emmett Wigglesworth		47
Reginald "Reggie" Wilson	6	11
Lois Wilcken		28
Dexter Wimberly	44	
Anthony Wonsey	19	
Jacqui Woods		61
Reggie Workman		32

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROGRAM DISC</u>	<u>INTERVIEW DISC</u>
Obediah Wright	6	11
Kiane Zawadi		3 ²
Jawole Willa Jo Zollar		12



BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORPORATION PRESENTS:

BLACK BROOKLYN RENAISSANCE

BLACK ARTS + CULTURE • 1960–2010 SPONSORED BY MetLife Foundation

Black Brooklyn Renaissance (BBR) Digital Archive Guide to Other Archival Resources

The purpose of this guide is to give researchers a brief synopsis of some of the holdings in Brooklyn and Manhattan that relate to black arts and culture in Brooklyn from 1960-2010. Many of these sites also hold a copy of BAC's Black Brooklyn Renaissance Digital Archive. Most summaries were written by staff members at the institutions, and we are grateful for their assistance. Contact information is provided to further assist researchers, since some sites require appointments to access materials. **This guide is current as of 2011, but all holdings and contact information are subject to change over time.**

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BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORPORATION

1368 Fulton St
Brooklyn, NY 11216

Contact: Tracey Capers, Executive Vice President, Programs/Organizational Development
Jacqui Woods, NDA/Special Arts Project Manager
Phone: 718/636-6900
Email: tcapers@restorationplaza.org, jwoods@restorationplaza.org
Website: www.restorationplaza.org

Summary:

Founded in 1967 as the nation's first community development corporation, the history and legacy of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation is steeped in the nation's civil and human rights movement. The Corporation was founded by community leaders like the Honorable Thomas R. Jones, Elsie Richardson, and others with assistance from the Pratt Area Community Council (PAAC) and iconic Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Jacob K. Javits. This rich history also captures the quest by the residents of Black Central Brooklyn for social, economic and cultural justice and provides a blueprint for scholars and others of the history of community development in Central Brooklyn and the USA.

The BSRC archives include extensive ephemera, much of it dating back to the '60s, '70s and '80s regarding planning, architectural and legislative benchmarks and challenges, i.e. the development of the 300,000 square foot Restoration Plaza, including the legendary and award winning Billie Holiday Theatre, major businesses, legislative and other tenants; and the epic tale of how the Corporation survived after restructuring by President Ronald Reagan through the Special Impact Program (SIP) funding legislation in the '80s. Underscoring the importance of civic engagement, this seemingly simple act practically decimated the national community development movement.

Photos are another part of the archives – consisting primarily of board members, special events, Kennedy family members and other business and community leaders, the development of Restoration Plaza, housing and other early projects. Fortunately, in 2008, staff and the board of directors worked with the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) to capture oral histories and images primarily from the late 1960s for an exhibition titled, "Reflections on Community Development: Stories from Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation." Originally presented at BHS, the updated exhibit is currently on display in the lobby, and at some point will become part of archival records.

The Center for Arts and Culture (CAC) includes the 2,000 foot Skylight Gallery, the 180 seat Billie Holiday Theatre, and the Youth Arts Academy, the latter of which offers extensive programming, hosts residencies, and includes the Noel Pointer Foundation. It is estimated these programs annually serve more than 40,000 youth, families, residents, teaching artists and others. Each of these CAC programs is the repository of a significant body of ephemera, including posters, photos and artifacts.

The corporate art collection includes works by master printmaker Bob Blackburn, founder and director of the Printmaking Workshop; painters Theodore "Teddy" Gunn, Phillip Johnson, Otto Neals, the noted husband and wife team Jackie Peters Cully and Bernard Cully, and other important visual artists. In 2007, the Corporation retained the services of a professional archivist; by 2008

more than 172 visual arts items and other materials had been described, catalogued and photographed.

While we welcome opportunities to share this wealth of information with scholars, artists and others, at this time because of limited staffing and resources, any requests for access must be submitted in writing to Tracey Capers, Executive Vice President, Programs and Development. Today, forty-four years after its founding, the Corporation continues to partner with residents, businesses and other institutions to improve the quality of life of Central Brooklyn by fostering economic self-sufficiency, enhancing family and individual growth and stability, providing arts and culture programming and training and working to transform the neighborhood into a safe, vibrant place to live, work and visit.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC

1 Metrotech Center North
Brooklyn, NY 11201 (archive)

Contact: Sharon Lehner, Director of Archives
Phone: 718/638-6559
Email: archives@bam.org, slehner@bam.org
Website: www.bam.org/view.aspx?pid=269

Summary:

The archives at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), contains artifacts relating to performances, lectures and events that have been presented by BAM at various venues. BAM venues presently include the Howard Gilman Opera House, the BAM Harvey Theater, the BAM Rose Cinemas, the BAM Café and others. Previous venues have included the original Opera House that was located on Montague Street (1861-1903), the Music Hall (where the cinemas are presently), the BAM Majestic Theater, the “Attic Studio,” the Lecture Hall and the Lepercq Space.

The artifacts contained in the archives include programs, posters and promotional materials for performances, documentation such as photographs, video and press clippings, as well as administrative and technical production records and ephemera (souvenirs, props, etc.). Additionally, there are study guides created by the Education and Humanities Department that focus on specific production events and films.

Of interest to researchers working on African American or African Diaspora are artifacts relating to the following presentations:

- Dance Africa has had its home at BAM since 1977. Under Baba Chuck Davis’ direction, every conceivable form of African Dance has been performed at many of BAM’s venues.
- Black Theater Alliance – Oct. 31 – Nov 18, 1973, Jan. 1975
- Black Dance USA (founded in 1985 by DeBorah Ahmed)
- Chelsea Theater’s production of LeRoi Jones’ *Slaveship* (Nov. 1-4, 1969) featuring music by Archie Shepp
- Society of Black Composers: *Black Contemporary Music* (Nov. 12, 1969)
- Dancers of Mali (Oct. 10-15, 1972)
- Jamaica National Dance Theatre Company (1973, 1974, 1980)

- Afro Asian Festival (Oct. 19- Nov. 21, 1971)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Tribute (Jan. 18, 2011 was the 25th anniversary)
- Numerous Pop, R&B and Caribbean music acts. Highlights include “Gospel: Roots of Soul” (Mar. 1973 & Mar. 1980), Richie Havens (Apr. 20, 1968), and Nina Simone (Apr. 28, 1968)
- Film Festivals at BAM Cinémathèque: Black Film Series (May, 1970), The Best of the African Diaspora Film Festival (2004), Creatively Speaking (2008), Contraband Cinema Festival (2010), and New Voices in Black Cinema Festival (2011)
- Historic performances and lectures by well know black artists and leaders such as Booker T. Washington, Paul Robeson (1931), Marian Anderson (1938), Pearl Primus, Langston Hughes (1945), Harry Belafonte, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie (1979), Duke Ellington, Cleavon Little, Rube Dee & Ossie Davis (1968), Big Mama Thornton (1974), Dizzie Gillespie (1979), Cecil Taylor (1985), Alvin Ailey (1970, 1983, 2008-10) and many others.

BROOKLYN COLLECTION AT THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Grand Army Plaza

Brooklyn, NY 11238

Contact: Joy Holland, Division Chief, Brooklyn Collection
Phone: 718/230-2707
Email: J.Holland@brooklynpubliclibrary.org
Website: www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/digital
www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/brooklyncollection/collections.jsp

Summary:

Our Brooklyn—presents short histories, facts and resource lists documenting Brooklyn's vibrant and diverse neighborhoods, from Sheepshead Bay to Sunset Park, from Bushwick to Bath Beach.

West Indian Carnival (www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/ourbrooklyn/carnival)—a special collection of books, internet resources, and photographs pertaining to the Carnival in Brooklyn.

A detailed “Brooklyn Black History Finding Aid,” compiled by the Brooklyn Public Library, is available upon request and sampled from below. These resources are all related to black arts and recreation from the 1960s to the present. There are additional books on the arts in Brooklyn at the library.

Arts/Culture/Recreation is a mixture of subjects relative to Black History in Brooklyn. The three are grouped together because in the Black communities of Brooklyn, oftentimes where there is art, cultural events occur, and these events are often forms of recreation for Brooklyn residents. Separate from the rally outcries and political debates, artistic endeavors celebrate blackness and may even overlap with political causes in a social theme. Included at the Brooklyn Collection are overlapping images, articles, and brochures that represent the social lives in the form of laughter, critical commentary of social issues, and the development of ritualistic activities that are idiosyncratic to Black Brooklyn.

Examples of holdings

Books:

- Caribbean/American Media Studies. *Immigrant Caribbean study*. 1986.
Jackson, Kenneth T., ed. *The encyclopedia of New York City*. 1995.
Sutton, Constance R. *Caribbean life in New York City : Sociocultural dimensions*. c1987.

Wilder, Craig Steven. *In the company of Black men: The African influence on African American culture in New York City*. 2001

Archival files:

- Art at St. Ann's: Black artist showcase
Bedford-Stuyvesant: 46 folders on Community Newsletter, Senior Citizen Center, etc.
Bed-Stuy Playhouse: Black plays and actors
Bid Drum Nation Dance Company: flyers and description
BAM: Dance Africa: Press releases
Jazz Heritage Society: Classics concert series
Prospect Park Drummers Grove: Profile of festivities

Photographs:

- 750 Nostrand Ave., The Black Lady Theater and The Black Star Recording Studio
Mural on Bedford Bowl, Nostrand Ave., East Flatbush
Site of Vaudeville on Flatbush Ave
West Indian Kiddie Parade, Brooklyn

BROOKLYN COLLEGE LIBRARY

2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Contact: Anthony Cucchiara, College Archivist & Associate Librarian, Distinctive Collections
Phone: 718-951-5346
Email: TonyC@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Website: <http://library.brooklyn.cuny.edu/archives/findaid/BCBC/>
[detailed list under "Container Holdings" link at bottom of page]

Summary:

The BC library has a special collection called "Records of the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College." Besides administration records, the collection holds documentation of programs from 1973-1990s. This includes photographs, promotional materials, program notes and newspaper articles. Black artists and lecturers can be found among the files.

BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

128 Pierrepont Street

Brooklyn, NY 11201

Contact: Larry Weimer, Project Archivist
Phone: 718/222-4111
Email: library@brooklynhistory.org
Website: www.brooklynhistory.org/library/search.html

The following archival collections are available by appointment for viewing in the library. To schedule an appointment or for further information about these collections, please contact the library via email.

Summary:

Each entry follows the format:

Collection name, date range of the collection

Call number

Extent in linear feet of collection. Indication of whether a finding aid is available or not.

Brief description of content in the collection relevant to African-American arts and culture.

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation Oral History, 2007-2008

2008.030

56 interviews. No finding aid is available.

Brooklyn Historical Society and Restoration partnered on the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation Oral History project in 2007-2008 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Restoration's founding as the first community development corporation (CDC) in the United States. 56 interviews were conducted with founding Board members, supporters, activists, artists, tenants, and other community members. Arts-related interviewees include actress Peggy Alston, musician Randy Weston, and artists Che Baraka, Ralph Carter, and Theodore Gunn, as well as students in the Restoration arts program. There are no transcripts of the interviews, but recordings of the interviews can be heard in the BHS library.

Brooklyn Historymakers oral history interviews, 2006

BHS's series of interviews with local history makers includes a 90 minute interview with jazz musicians Randy Weston and Cliff Smalls. There is no transcript of the interview, but a recording of the interview can be heard in the BHS library.

West Indian Carnival Documentation Project, 1993-1996

2010.019

3.0 linear feet. Finding aid available in library.

The collection includes photographs and other material related to Brooklyn's West Indian Day Parade/Carnival.

Fort Greene / Clinton Hill audio tour, 2010

This includes commentary by author and filmmaker Nelson George on, among other things, artists of the community. The audio tour can be heard in the BHS library and is also available online at <http://brooklynhistory.org/blog/2011/01/13/fort-greene-clinton-hill-audio-tour>.

Constance Lesold / Eastern Parkway Coalition collection, circa 1965-2000

2007.016

15.0 linear feet. The collection is unprocessed and no finding aid is available.

These papers of a community activist include material on Crown Heights African-American community institutions, notably the New Muse Community Museum. The collection also includes some material on the West Indian Day Parade.

Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church records, circa 1857-circa 2003

2009.011

Approximately 90 linear feet. Most of the collection is unprocessed and no finding aid is available.

The records include the church's weekly bulletins and other hand-outs to the congregation which included, in the late 1970s and later, material regarding the performances, exhibitions, and other programs sponsored at LAPC by Cultural Crossroads, Inc. Many of these programs were oriented to African-American arts and culture, including local artists.

Crown Heights Oral History ("Listen To This," sound recordings)

43 oral history interviews with Crown Heights residents were conducted in 2010 with the help of the Crow Hill Community Association and five students from Paul Robeson High School. One is with photographer Delphine Fawundu-Buford about photography and the Labor Day Parade, one is with musician Douglas Guthrie on music and West Indian Day Carnival, and one is with Tonde Lumumba on African art at his store.

In addition to text-based material, you can also search a database in BHS's library for images (e.g., photographs, postcards, etc.), objects, and other non-textual material. The database includes images of the West Indian Day Parade from the mid-1970s. No appointment is necessary to search the image database.

MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE

1650 Bedford Ave.

Brooklyn, New York 11225

Center for Black Literature

Contact: Brenda Greene, Executive Director of Center for Black Literature

Phone: 718-804-8883

Email: bgreene@mec.cuny.edu

Website: www.centerforblackliterature.org

The Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College, CUNY, was established in 2003 with the mission to expand, broaden, and enrich the public's knowledge and aesthetic appreciation of the value of black literature and the works by black American writers. Spearheaded by Dr. Brenda M. Greene, the Center for Black Literature builds on the tradition and legacy of the National Black Writers Conference, which was founded in 1986 by the late John Oliver Killens, and serves as a voice, mecca, and resource for black writers and the general public to study the literature of people from the African Diaspora. It is the only Center devoted to this in the country.

Through a series of programs that build an audience for the reading, discussion, and critical analysis of contemporary black literature and that serve as a forum for the research and study of black literature, the Center convenes and supports various literary programs and events such as the National Black Writers Conference, the North Country Institute and Retreat for Writers of Color, Re-Envisioning Our Lives Through Literature program, The Elders Writing Workshop, Artist as Activist, Writers on Writing radio program, John Oliver Killens Reading Series, and the Killens Review of Arts & Letters literary journal. These programs include author signings, writing workshops, panel discussions, conferences, and symposia that offer an intellectual and integrative approach that focuses on the ways in which the literary arts and cultural values inform the work of black writers and the ways in which these works influence the culture at large.

As a resource center, CBL has audiocassettes, CDs, DVDs, and photographs that chronicle the National Black Writers Conference from its launch in 1986 to the present. The cassettes and CDs feature many of the authors who participated on the enlightening panels and discussions that were part of the NBWC. NBWC videotapes from the 1988, 1996, and 2000 Conferences are housed in the College's archival section of the library. DVDs and audiotapes from the conferences and symposia (2003 through 2010) are housed in the Center's library. Copies of books from Conference participants from those years are also housed in the Medgar Evers College and CBL library. The CBL library also has audiotapes and CDs from the Writers on Writing broadcast, which airs on WNYE 91.5 F.M., Sunday evenings, 7 p.m.–7:30 p.m. The tapes feature Dr. Greene's interviews with such noted authors as Amiri Baraka, Marita Golden, Marian Wright Edelman, Madubuti, Walter Mosley, Sonia Sanchez, Cornel West and many others.

Additionally, the Center has printed program booklets from its various programs and a collection of news articles that spotlight the Center for Black Literature's achievements and programs. As CBL continues to build its library, there are numerous books and magazines on its shelves that focus on literature, biography, poetry, films, and African American and African culture.

The Charles Evans Inness Memorial Library

Contact: Vanrea Thomas, Librarian, Reference Services
Phone: 718.270.4880
Email: vanrea@mec.cuny.edu
Website: www.mec.cuny.edu/library

The main library has a collection of materials from the Black History Month celebrations held by the College. These are programs, advertisements, and proposals starting in the early 1980s. It also holds Betamax and U-matic videocassettes with the recordings of the African Street Festival (1989), Malcolm X Suite (1986), etc. However, the equipment to play back or convert this obsolete format is not available. The library also has the audio and video recordings of the National Black Writers' Conference proceedings.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

40 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, NY 10023-7498

Phone: 917/275.6975 (general)
212/870-1627 (theater & dance)
Email: archives@lincolncenter.org
Website: www.nypl.org/locations/lpa
<http://new.lincolncenter.org/live/index.php/archives>

Summary:

The holdings at Lincoln Center can be searched via the NYPL website.

SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE

515 Malcolm X Boulevard
New York, NY 10037

Contact: Alison Quammie, Reference Librarian, Moving Image & Recorded Sound Division
Phone: 212/491-2200
Email: aquammie@nypl.org
Website: www.nypl.org/locations/tid/64/node/65914 (digital collections)

Summary:

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, one of four major research centers of The New York Public Library, is the world's leading publicly accessible research institution for the study of the history and culture of peoples of African descent.

Since 1980 the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division has conducted oral history interviews through its Oral History/Video Documentation Program. Both as individual and as series interviews, these primary source video testimonies are part of one of the nation's longest-running video oral history programs. Among the many subject series are "Black Physicians and Health Care in the African American Community," "African American Labor Leaders," "Black Dance Pioneers," "Black Scientists," "Community Development Corporation Leaders" and others.

During the 1990s, under the Louis Armstrong Jazz Oral History Project (funded by the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, Inc.), the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture conducted video oral history interviews with Nat Adderley, Doc Cheatham, Jon Faddis, Art Farmer, Jimmy Heath, Milt Hinton, Yusef Lateef, Abbey Lincoln, Marian McPartland, Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, Larry Ridley, Warren Smith, Grady Tate, Arthur Taylor, Clark Terry, Leon Thomas, Charles Tolliver, Tommy Turrentine, McCoy Tyner, Randy Weston, and numerous others.

In 2001, the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education collaborated with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture to conduct a series of interviews with African American journalists whose careers were deeply rooted in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Those interviewed were Gerald Fraser, William Greaves, Les Payne, Gil Scott, Melba Tolliver and Utrice Leid.