



Smithsonian
Anacostia Community Museum

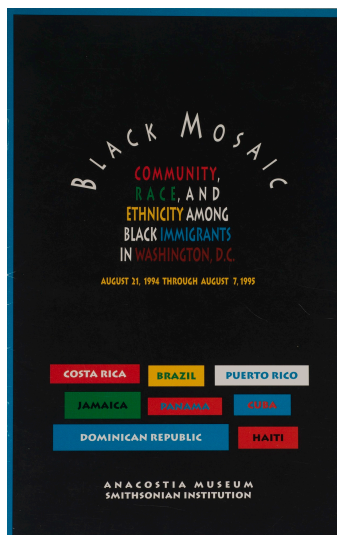
*Black Mosaic: Community, Race, and
Ethnicity among Black Immigrants in
Washington, D. C.* Exhibition Records

ACMA.M03-027

Kendra Jae

Funding for partial processing of the collection was supported by a grant from the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund (CCPF).

2017 June



Anacostia Community Museum Archives
1901 Fort Place, SE
Washington, D.C. 20020
ACMArchives@si.edu
<http://www.anacostia.si.edu/Collections/ArchiveCollection>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	3
Historical Note.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	3
Names and Subjects	4
Container Listing	5
Series 1: Administrative Records, 1968-1997.....	5
Series 2: Research Files, 1942-1998.....	7
Series 3: Exhibit Files, 1961-1996.....	10
Series 4: Project Files, 1996-1998.....	14

Collection Overview

Repository:	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
Title:	<i>Black Mosaic: Community, Race, and Ethnicity among Black Immigrants in Washington, D. C.</i> Exhibition Records
Identifier:	ACMA.03-027
Date:	1942-1998
Extent:	21.6 Cubic feet (consisting of 17 cartons, 2 oversized boxes.)
Creator:	Smithsonian Institution. Anacostia Community Museum
Language:	English Collection is in English and Spanish, with some material in French.
Summary:	These records document the planning, organizing, execution, and promotion of an exhibition exploring the immigration of people of African descent from Central and South America and the Caribbean to the Washington Metropolitan Area. The show was organized and hosted by the Anacostia Museum from August 21, 1994 through August 7, 1995. Materials include correspondence, research files, exhibit script, administrative records, brochures, press coverage, education packets, loan agreements, floor plans, and catalogues.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Records of *Black Mosaic: Community, Race, and Ethnicity Among Black Immigrants in Washington, D.C.* Exhibition were created by the Anacostia Community Museum.

Other Finding Aids

Original box list in accession file.

Processing Information

In 2016, with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund, the Archives at the Anacostia Community Museum implemented the use of minimal level processing standards to increase information about and facilitate access to more of existing collections. For the records of the Black Mosaic exhibit, minimal processing included arrangement to the folder level, based on prior processing and preservation action, with retention of the pre-existing arrangement when possible, if applicable. Otherwise, an order was imposed by the Processing Archivist. Some materials were consolidated to eliminate excess bulk but items within folders were not arranged further. The guide may or may not include a more refined lists of folder contents. Non-archival housing was replaced for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed. Addition photographic and

audiovisual material was not processed at this time but has been retained by the Anacostia Community Museum Archives for internal use only.

Minimal level processing and machine-readable finding aid completed by Kendra Jae, 2017. The initial collection record was produced by Carrie Gehrler in 2011.

Preferred Citation

Black Mosaic: Community, Race, and Ethnicity among Black Immigrants in Washington, D. C. Exhibition Records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Please contact the archivist to make an appointment: ACMarchives@si.edu.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Historical Note

The exhibit *Black Mosaic: Community, Race, and Ethnicity among Black Immigrants in Washington, D.C.* was curated by the Anacostia Community Museum's supervisory curator Portia James, and was open at the Anacostia Community Museum from August 1994 to August 1995. The exhibition explored the immigration of people of African descent from South America, Central America, and the Caribbean to the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Topics addressed in the exhibition include migration, situations faced by Black immigrants, the maintenance of relationships with places of origin, community events and cultural performances, public and private expressions of culture, commodification of culture for economic support, and the expression of multiple identities. Some intentions of the exhibit were to provide forums for discussing culture and identity, provide resources for people learning about communities in the Washington Metro area, and to be a model to other museums and cultural institutions for understanding and interpreting similar immigration and settlement patterns.

The exhibit was designed to be experienced with broader cultural concepts being introduced towards the external part of the exhibit, while personal stories could be experienced further in. Over 100 oral history interviews featured prominently in the exhibit where interviewed individuals explained their immigration experience and how they've adapted to life in the area. The exhibit also included mounted photographs, artifacts, music, and conversations. Artifacts included passport photos, tickets, family photographs, and letters. The exhibit's text displayed in three languages: English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. There were additional exhibition guides provided in Brazilian Portuguese, French, and the Ghanaian languages of Ga, Twi, Akan, and Ewe.

Coupled with the exhibit, the museum coordinated an extensive series of programs to engage various communities in the exploration of issues and traditions. These programs included creating newsletters and a photograph exhibit to keep the community up to date about the progression of the exhibit, working with performance groups, creating multi-institutional partnerships in order to develop more effective methods

of collecting oral histories, and collaborating and modeling for the CFPCS African Immigrant Communities project.

Scope and Contents

The records of the Black Mosaic exhibition presented by the Anacostia Community Museum measure 21.6 cubic feet and date from 1942 to 1998, with the bulk of material dating from 1990 to 1995. The records include administrative records, publications, research files, floor plans, exhibit text drafts, oral history transcripts, and project files for programs coordinated for or tangentially with the Black Mosaic Exhibit.

Administrative records include advisory board member lists, meeting minutes, agendas, grant proposals, project reports and assessments, correspondence, training material for museum volunteers and docents, and assorted notes. Publications within the series directly relate to the Black Mosaic Exhibit and the Anacostia Community Museum. Correspondence includes both internal correspondence and those with local community members.

Writings and notes were previously scattered throughout the collection have been collocated within the Administrative Records series, and a majority are undated. The notes cover topics ranging from administrative activities to exhibit and research planning. Included are printed documents, scrap paper, and spiral-bound notebooks.

The research files contain background information about numerous immigrant communities within Washington D.C. The community research files were originally organized by country, continent, or region of origin, and then later by subjects that coordinated with the exhibit's designated themes. This organization method has largely been maintained. Research files include scholarly articles, news clippings, event programs, compiled bibliographies, and material related to the study of museology.

The exhibit files include floor plan layouts, photocopies of images, interview transcripts, exhibit literature, and extensive exhibit text drafts. Drafts of the exhibit's text include notes throughout multiple editing stages. Additionally, copies of flip books for different thematic sections of the *Black Mosaic* exhibit are included and are organized alphabetically by title. Other exhibit literature present is primarily in English with one French copy present.

The project files include training material for collecting oral histories and documenting community folklife, conference records, event records, and records pertaining to related projects at the Anacostia Community Museum. Concurrent projects supporting the exhibit include the *Black Mosaic* community newsletter and an educational curriculum project. Additional project records that thematically overlap with the *Black Mosaic* exhibit but extend beyond the timeframe of the formal exhibit are present also.

Arrangement

Black Mosaic: Community, Race, and Ethnicity among Black Immigrants in Washington, D.C. exhibition records are arranged in four series:

Series 1: Administrative Records

Series 2: Research Files

Series 3: Exhibit Files

Series 4: Project Files

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Immigrants -- United States -- Exhibitions
Museum exhibits

Types of Materials:

Color slides
Contact sheets
Correspondence
Exhibit scripts
Exhibition records -- 1990-2004
Photographic prints
Transcripts

Names:

Anacostia Community Museum

Geographic Names:

Washington Metropolitan Area

Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1968-1997

Includes advisory board meeting minutes, agendas, notes, lists of advisory board members, grant proposals, progress reports and assessments, training material for museum volunteers and docents, and correspondence. Promotional material includes news clippings and press releases for the *Black Mosaic* exhibit. Includes drafts of the publication *Building Bridges: The Black Mosaic Exhibition Project and the Construction of Museum Identity at Anacostia Museum* by Portia James.

Box 1, Folder 1	Advisory Board Member Lists, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Committee Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 1991-1995, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Council of Caribbean Organizations, 1991
Box 1, Folder 4	Training Material, 1986-1996 Includes training resources and training program documentation for museum docents, volunteers, and research advisors.
Box 1, Folder 5	Project Reports and Assessments, 1988-1996 Includes reports and assessments of the <i>Black Mosaic</i> exhibit as well as Anacostia Community Museum yearly activities.
Box 1, Folder 6-9	Grant Proposals, 1990-1995
Box 1, Folder 10-13	Promotional Material, 1990-1995 Includes unedited visitor comments from exhibit later used for promotional material, newspaper clippings discussing the exhibit, and press releases.
Box 1, Folder 14-17	Publications, 1968-1996 Includes Anacostia Community Museum newsletter, publication drafts, and notes. The bulk of the material are drafts of the article <i>Building Bridges: The Black Mosaic Exhibition Project and the Construction of Museum Identity at Anacostia Museum</i> by Portia James.
Box 1, Folder 18-19	Correspondence, 1978-1997 Subjects include project or event coordination, advisory requests, and general exhibit and museum updates.
Box 2, Folder 1-5	Correspondence, 1978-1997 Same as above.
Box 2, Folder 6-13	Writings and Notes, 1989-1997, undated

Subjects include exhibit brainstorming, lists of action items, and informal messages to others. Material is largely undated and unattributed to any particular person.

Box 3, Folder 1-11

Writings and Notes, 1989-1997, undated
Same as above.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Research Files, 1942-1998

Research material on numerous Black immigrant communities in Washington D.C. includes scholarly articles, news clippings, community event programs, bibliographic lists of research sources, and material related to museology research.

Subjects addressed in the research files include immigration, government activities, population growth and the United States census, war, refugees, and civic engagement. Museology research encompasses ecomuseums, community museums, and other institutions' programming.

Community of Origin Files, 1942-1997

Box 3, Folder 12-13	Africa, 1985-1992
Box 4, Folder 1-6	Brazil, 1988-1993
Box 4, Folder 7-12	Caribbean, 1946-1996
Box 4, Folder 13	Colombia, 1991-1994
Box 4, Folder 14-16	Cuba, 1942-1992
Box 4, Folder 17	Dominican Republic, 1981-1993
Box 4, Folder 18	Ecuador, 1990
Box 4, Folder 19	El Salvador, 1992
Box 5, Folder 1-4	Ethiopia, 1960-1992
Box 5, Folder 5-7	Ghana, 1957-1994
Box 5, Folder 8-9	Haiti, 1971-1994
Box 5, Folder 10-13	Jamaica, 1970-1993
Box 5, Folder 14-16	Latino, 1958-1997
Box 6, Folder 1-3	Latino, 1958-1997
Box 6, Folder 4	Liberia, 1991
Box 6, Folder 5-6	Panama, 1955-1995
Box 6, Folder 7	Peru, 1994

- Box 6, Folder 8 Puerto Rico, 1988, undated
- Box 6, Folder 9-11 Rastafari, 1983-1994
- Box 6, Folder 12 Trinidad, 1980-1985
 Contains only images from Trinidad.

Subject Files, 1951-1998

- Box 6, Folder 13-15 Arts, 1979-1998
- Box 6, Folder 16-18 Celebrations and Festivals, 1986-1995
- Box 6, Folder 19 Community and Family Life, 1970-1995
- Box 7, Folder 1 Community and Family Life, 1970-1995

 Education, 1951-1994
- Box 7, Folder 2 Education, 1951-1994
- Box 7, Folder 3 Howard University International Student Material, 1993-1994
- Box 7, Folder 4 Federal City College Yearbook, 1974
- Box 7, Folder 5 Food, 1989-1993
- Box 7, Folder 6-7 Health, 1991-1994
 Material related to the AIDS epidemic represents a majority of the records.
- Box 7, Folder 8 Language, 1990-1991
- Box 7, Folder 9-13 Music, 1986-1995
 Includes sheet music.
- Box 7, Folder 14-15 Religion, 1984-1994
- Box 7, Folder 16 Sports, 1989-1991

Additional Research Material, 1955-1998

- Box 8, Folder 1-4 Museology, 1982-1998

Articles related to the study of museums with an emphasis on ecomuseums, community museums, and other institutions' programming. Folders include museum curriculum packets from other institutions.

Box 8, Folder 5-15

Printed Material, 1955-1995

Contains newspapers, magazines, and additional assorted printed material that either cover multiple topics per issue, are oriented towards the Black community more generally, or discuss immigration or class mobility in a broader context.

Box 9, Folder 1

Census Records, 1980-1991

Box 9, Folder 2

Bibliographic Material, 1992-1996

Lists of resources used for exhibit research formatted into bibliographies.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Exhibit Files, 1961-1996

Floor plans, exhibit text drafts, photocopies of exhibit images, exhibit objects (mounted images, flag,) and copies of interview transcripts and exhibit literature provided for museum patrons. Drafts of the exhibit text include notes from multiple revisions, and photocopies of exhibit images include notes and measurements. A majority of the material is undated.

Additionally, copies of flip books for different thematic sections of the *Black Mosaic* exhibit are included and are organized alphabetically by title. Other exhibit literature is primarily in English with one French copy present.

Layout Plans, 1961-1996

Box 9, Folder 3	Satellite Exhibit Locations List, undated Includes two lists of proposed satellite exhibit locations and notes. One includes an original list of 38 locations, and one includes 40. The proposal did not move forward from the planning stages.
Box 9, Folder 4-8	Floor Plans, 1994
Oversize 99	Floor Plans, 1994
Box 9, Folder 9-16	Text Drafts, 1993-1996
Box 10, Folder 1-17	Text Drafts, 1993-1996
Box 11, Folder 1-14	Text Drafts, 1993-1996
Box 11, Folder 15-18	Images, 1961-1995, undated Includes photocopies of photographs or newspaper articles used for exhibit planning, and lists of photographs. Material frequently includes written notes, measurements, and identification numbers that correspond to lists of photographs. A majority of material is undated.
Box 12, Folder 1-17	Images, 1961-1995, undated Same as above.
Box 13, Folder 1-3	Images, 1961-1995, undated Same as above.
Box 13, Folder 4-7	Object and Photograph Lists, 1994, undated Lists of objects collected and displayed in the Black Mosaic Exhibit, as well as lists of photographs and descriptions. Photograph descriptions have been separated from printed images due to their having been previously scattered or not connected to the images described in the list.

Interview Transcripts, 1991-1994

Interview transcripts are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the interviewee. Not every copy of an interview transcript is complete. Certain transcripts were copy and pasted into single documents based on theme, and they are arranged alphabetically by theme title assigned to them.

Box 13, Folder 8	A, 1992-1994
Box 13, Folder 9-10	B, 1992-1994
Box 13, Folder 11	C, 1991-1994
Box 13, Folder 12	D, 1992-1993
Box 13, Folder 13	E, 1992
Box 13, Folder 14	F, 1991-1992
Box 13, Folder 15	G, 1992
Box 14, Folder 1	H, 1993-1994
Box 14, Folder 2	I, undated
Box 14, Folder 3	J, 1991-1994
Box 14, Folder 4	K, 1993-1994
Box 14, Folder 5	L, 1991-1994
Box 14, Folder 6	M, 1992-1993
Box 14, Folder 7	O, 1991
Box 14, Folder 8	P, 1991-1994
Box 14, Folder 9	R, 1991-1993
Box 14, Folder 10	S, 1991-1994
Box 14, Folder 11	T, 1992-1993
Box 14, Folder 12	V, 1991-1993
Box 14, Folder 13	W, 1991-1993

Box 14, Folder 14	Z, 1992
Box 14, Folder 15	Arrival and Adjustment, undated
Box 14, Folder 16	Celebrations and Festivals, 1991
Box 14, Folder 17	Community History, undated
Box 14, Folder 18	Community in D.C., undated
Box 14, Folder 19	Identity, undated
Box 14, Folder 20	Languages, undated
Box 14, Folder 21	Memories of Home, 1993, undated
Box 14, Folder 22	Music, undated
Box 14, Folder 23	Race and Color, undated
Box 14, Folder 24	Traditions, 1992
Box 14, Folder 25	Work, undated
Box 14, Folder 26	Unattributed, 1994, undated Transcript drafts from multiple interviewees that are unattributed to a subject.

Flip Books, 1994, undated

Flip Books created by the museum as supplemental material for the Black Mosaic Exhibit. They are arranged alphabetically by the title of the flip book.

Box 15, Folder 1	<i>Adjustments</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 2	<i>Bob Marley Soccer Tournament</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 3	<i>Building Communities in D.C.</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 4	<i>Caribbean Cruise</i> , 1994, undated
Box 15, Folder 5	<i>Community and Family Celebrations</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 6	<i>Community History</i> , undated

Box 15, Folder 7	<i>Community Life</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 8	<i>Diplomatic Incident</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 9	<i>Jennifer Keane Dawes' Family at Home</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 10	<i>Migration to Panama</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 11	<i>New Arrivals</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 12	<i>Race and Ethnicity at Home</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 13	<i>Race and Ethnicity in D.C.</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 14	<i>Recipes</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 15	<i>Reunion and Return</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 16	<i>Sueli and Miriam at Home</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 17	<i>Why People Came</i> , undated
Box 15, Folder 18	Assorted, 1994, undated Includes notes and drafts for multiple flip books.

Exhibit Literature, 1992-1994

Exhibit pamphlets for distribution to patrons. Contains a French language copy.

Box 15, Folder 19	Exhibit Literature, 1992-1994
-------------------	-------------------------------

Exhibit Objects, 1994, undated

Oversize 99	Images, 1994 Mounted photographs from exhibit.
Oversize 100	Images, 1994 Mounted photographs from exhibit.
Box 15, Folder 20	Realia, undated Miniature Ethiopian royal flag with Lion of Judah at the center, and cut-out of the Virgin Mary framed by red, white, and blue yarn.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Project Files, 1996-1998

Anacostia Community Museum records related to multiple projects including training program material for oral histories and community folklife initiatives, plus conference and event records which were directly or tangentially related to the *Black Mosaic* exhibit. Contains records related to the *Black Mosaic* community newsletter and educational curriculum projects.

Project Records, 1966-1998

Box 15, Folder 21	Africa Jam, 1991
Box 15, Folder 22	African American Communities Project, 1991-1996
Box 15, Folder 23	African American Experience Project, 1995
Box 15, Folder 24	African Burial Ground, 1993-1998
Box 15, Folder 25	African Immigrant Folklife Project, 1991-1993
Box 15, Folder 26	Africans in Washington Project, 1991
Box 15, Folder 27	Anacostia Museum Pilot Partnership Project, 1995
Box 15, Folder 28	A Place of Belonging, 1996
Box 15, Folder 29	Before Freedom Came, 1993-1994
Box 15, Folder 30	Black Mosaic Curriculum Project, 1991-1995
Box 15, Folder 31	Black Mosaic Newsletter, 1990-1993
Box 16, Folder 1	Black Mosaic Newsletter, 1990-1993
Box 16, Folder 2	Black Music in the Diaspora, undated
Box 16, Folder 3	Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds, 1994
Box 16, Folder 4	Brazilian Documentary Film Proposal, 1992
Box 16, Folder 5-7	Caribbean Communities Project, 1994-1996
Box 16, Folder 8	Caribbean Music in Washington D.C., 1995
Box 16, Folder 9	Caribbean Visions, 1995-1998

Box 16, Folder 10	Climbing Jacob's Ladder, 1990-1993
Box 16, Folder 11	Classic Black, 1996-1998
Box 16, Folder 12	Coalition for African American and Latino Unity, 1991
Box 16, Folder 13	Columbian Quincentennial Project, 1990-1992 Title transcribed from curator correspondence.
Box 16, Folder 14	Contemporary African American Communities Project, 1990-1991
Box 16, Folder 15	Contemporary Communities and Issues Project, 1991
Box 16, Folder 16	Dance: Movement and Community, 1968-1997
Box 16, Folder 17	Down Through the Years, 1996
Box 16, Folder 18	Emancipation Day Program, 1997
Box 16, Folder 19	Fort Mose: Colonial America's Black Fortress of Freedom, 1990
Box 16, Folder 20	Ghanaian Ethnicity and Immigrants Exhibit Project, 1994
Box 16, Folder 21	In Search of Balance, 1997-1998
Box 16, Folder 22-24	Latino Exhibit, 1980-1995
Box 16, Folder 25	Leadership for Diversity Initiative, 1994
Box 16, Folder 26	Oral History Project, 1990-1991
Box 16, Folder 27	Real McCoy: African-American Invention and Innovation, 1990-1993
Box 16, Folder 28	Store-Front Museums, 1966-1996
Box 16, Folder 29	Third World Music Festival, 1991
Conference Records, 1993-1997	
Box 16, Folder 30	Beyond the Reggae Beat, 1995
Box 16, Folder 31	Caribbean Community Conference, 1995

Box 17, Folder 1 Caribbean Music Conference, 1995

Box 17, Folder 2 Carnival Is We Ting, 1996

Box 17, Folder 3 Diaspora Conference, 1994

Box 17, Folder 4 La Francophonie Noire, 1997

Box 17, Folder 5-8 Musica Afro Latina, 1995

Box 17, Folder 9 Sounds of the City, 1993

Training Program Material, 1988-1995

Box 17, Folder 10-11 Black Mosaic Resource Kit, 1993-1995

Box 17, Folder 12-14 Community Folklife Documentation Training Program, 1989-1992

Box 17, Folder 15 Foodways Documentation Training, 1993

Box 17, Folder 16 School Education Files, undated

Box 17, Folder 17 Smithsonian Videohistory Program, 1988-1991

Box 17, Folder 18 Video and Television Production Training Program, 1992

Event Records, 1987-1995

Box 17, Folder 19 Black History Month Celebration, 1987-1991

Box 17, Folder 20 Museum and Community Collaboration Gathering, 1995

Box 17, Folder 21 Smithsonian Columbus Quincentenary Program, 1990-1992

Box 17, Folder 22 Assorted, 1988-1995
Event-related material consisting of single fliers, notes, programs.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

ACMA AV002046: Hector Corporan: Latin Music in Washington, D.C., 1994

2 Video recordings (VHS)

Anacostia Museum

002329 004810

English.

While walking through an exhibition, Hector Corporan talked about the African American pioneers of Latin music in Washington, D.C., particularly the musicians who performed the mambo, cha-cha rhythm, and the merengue of the 1950s and 1960s; and the instruments used by the musicians.

Exhibition tour. AV002046: dated 19941018. AV002042: dated 19941119.

Hector Corporan: Latin Music in Washington, D.C., Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Some items are not accessible due to obsolete format and playback machinery restrictions. Please contact the archivist to make an appointment: ACMarchives@si.edu.

Local Numbers

ACMA AV002042

Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African American musicians
African Americans
Afro-Caribbean
Museum exhibits
Music
Music -- Latin America
Musicians

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)
United States
Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Video recordings

Culture: African American