To Achieve These Rights: the Struggle For Equality and Self-Determination in the District of Columbia, 1791–1978 Exhibition Records

ACMA.03-033
Carrie Gehrer
2011
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Collection Overview

Repository: Anacostia Community Museum Archives
Title: To achieve these rights: the struggle for equality and self-determination in the District of Columbia, 1791–1978 exhibition records
Identifier: ACMA.03-033
Date: 1992-01 - 1992-07
Extent: 13.04 Linear feet (18 boxes)
Creator: Smithsonian Institution. Anacostia Community Museum
Language: English
Summary: An exhibition on 187 years of civil rights activism in Washington, DC. The show was created by the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum and exhibited there from January 1992 to July 1992. These records document the planning, organizing, execution, and promotion of the exhibition. Materials include correspondence, research files, exhibit script, administrative records, brochures, press coverage, education packets, loan agreements, floor plans, and catalogues.

Administrative Information

Other Finding Aids
Box list in accession file.

Processing Information

Preferred Citation
To achieve these rights: the struggle for equality and self-determination in the District of Columbia, 1791–1978 exhibition records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution

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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Civil rights
- Museum exhibits

Types of Materials:
- Brochures
- Correspondence
- Exhibit scripts
- Exhibition records -- 1990-2004
- Photographic prints

Names:
- Anacostia Community Museum
- Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Geographic Names:
- Washington (D.C.)
Series 2: AudioVisual Materials

To achieve these rights: the struggle for equality and self-determination in the District of Columbia, 1791–1978 exhibition records
ACMA.03-033

Container Listing

Series 2: AudioVisual Materials, 1992

0.25 Linear feet
12 sound recordings (6 audio cassette sound recordings; 6 cartridge 1/4" sound recordings)
2 video recordings (2 VHS 1/2" video recordings)

ACMA AV003331: To Achieve These Rights Exhibition Display 1: Charles Miner narration, 1992
1 sound recording (cartridge; 1/4 inch)
Anacostia Museum


Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
Miner, Charles, 1780-1865

Topic: Abolitionists
Activists
African Americans
Antislavery movements
Civil rights
Civil rights leaders
Slave trade
Slavery
Slavery -- Law and legislation

Place: United States
Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Narration
Sound recordings

Culture: African American

ACMA AV003339: To Achieve These Rights Exhibition Display 2: Frederick Douglass narration, 1992
2 sound recordings (cartridge; 1/4 inch)
Anacostia Museum
000554
Narration that weaves together excerpts from a speech by Frederick Douglass from April 1883 on the anniversary of Emancipation in Washington, D.C. Douglass speaks about Emancipation, status and future of the negro, and prejudice despite freedom. He also states that negroes should be American citizens to the fullest extent, including the right to a fair trial, vote, serve on a jury, and attend public schools.

Created for Anacostia Museum.

Local Numbers
ACMA AV003340

Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
Douglass, Frederick, 1817?-1895

Topic: Abolitionists
Activists
African American abolitionists
African Americans
Antislavery movements
Civil rights
Civil rights leaders
Slave trade
Slavery
Slavery -- Law and legislation

Place: United States
Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Narration
Sound recordings

Culture: African American

ACMA AV003343: To Achieve These Rights Exhibition Display 3: Clips of Marian Anderson's Lincoln Memorial concert, 1992
1 sound recording (cartridge; 1/4 inch)
Anacostia Museum
National Broadcasting Company
Howard University
000630

Clips of Marian Anderson's outdoor concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on April 9, 1939. Howard L. Ickes introduced Marian Anderson's performance. Narration between clips of radio broadcast provides context for historical event, including its significance in sparking D.C.'s modern civil rights movements.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
Anderson, Marian, 1897-1993
Daughters of the American Revolution
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952

Topic: African American singers
African Americans
Civil rights
Civil rights leaders
Civil rights movements
Lincoln Memorial (Washington, D.C.)
Race discrimination
Singers

Place: United States
Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Narration
Sound recordings

Culture: African American

ACMA AV003341: To Achieve These Rights Exhibition Display 4: Clip of Mary Church Terrell on Americans All radio program, 1992
2 sound recordings (cartridge; 1/4 inch)
Anacostia Museum
Whitehead, Henry P., 1917-2002
Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)
000747

A clip from "Americans All" radio program broadcasted on February 12, 1950 in celebration of Frederick Douglass' birthday. Tomlinson Todd, leader of Institute on Race Relations, interviewed Mary Church Terrell, civil rights activist and friend of Douglass. Terrell spoke of her friendship with Douglass - how they met and visiting World's Fair in Chicago with Douglass. She proposed February 14 as Frederick Douglass day. Narration and radio program provides brief description of Todd, Terrell, Institute on Race Relations, and "Americans All."


Created for Anacostia Museum. This recording of "Americans All" was provided courtesy of Henry P. Whitehead [Collection held by the Anacostia Community Museum].

Local Numbers
ACMA AV003342

Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
Douglass, Frederick, 1817?-1895
Terrell, Mary Church, 1863-1954
Todd, Tomlinson

Topic: Abolitionists
Activists
African American abolitionists
African Americans
Civil rights
Civil rights leaders

Place: United States
Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Narration
Sound recordings

ACMA AV002641: Around Town: To Achieve These Rights, 1992
1 video recording (VHS)
WETA-TV (Television station : Washington, D.C.)
002955

Around Town, which presented video segments of events happening around Washington, D.C. on public television station WETA, profiled the Anacostia Museum's exhibition 'To Achieve These Rights: The Struggle for Equality and Self-Determination in the District of Columbia, 1791-1978.' Other topics included in this episode: new feature film 'Daughters of the Dust,' new adaption of 'Frankenstein' by the Washington Shakespeare Company, and an international art exhibition and auction at the 'Very Special Arts' gallery. After brief clips or description of each topic, there was a short roundtable discussion.


Around Town: To Achieve These Rights, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans
Antislavery movements
Civil rights
Home rule
Museum exhibits
Slave trade
Slavery
Slavery -- Law and legislation
Slaves -- Emancipation

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

Genre/Form: Video recordings
Focusing on Washington, D.C., Dr. Sharon Harley spoke of about the period in the United States following the Civil War known as Reconstruction. Specifically, she talked about the migration of Blacks to Washington, D.C.; the deterioration of racial relations beginning in 1880s and 1890s; increased discrimination in the federal government; community building in response to segregation; and the many organizations formed by Blacks. This lecture was part of docent training for the exhibition "To Achieve These Rights: The Struggle for Equality and Self-Determination in the District of Columbia, 1791-1978.'

Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: Abolitionists
Activists
African Americans
Antislavery movements
Civil rights
Civil rights leaders
Civil rights movements
Home rule
Museum exhibits
Segregation
Slavery

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

Genre/Form: Sound recordings

Culture: African American

ACMA AV001052_A: To Achieve These Rights: Self Guided Audio Tour in Spanish, circa 1992
1 sound recording (audio cassette)

Anacostia Museum
004431 002014
Spanish.

Recording of the self guided audio tour for the exhibition 'To Achieve These Rights: The Struggle for Equality and Self-Determination in the District of Columbia, 1791-1978' which was held at the Anacostia Museum from January 1992 to November 1992. People, organizations, and laws which have made their mark on racial equality in the District of Columbia featured in the audio tour. This recording is in Spanish.

Local Numbers
ACMA AV001052_B

Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: Abolitionists
Activists
African Americans
Antislavery movements
Civil rights
Civil rights leaders
Civil rights movements
Home rule
Museum exhibits
Segregation
Slavery

Place: United States
Washington (D.C.)
Genre/Form: Sound recordings
Culture: African American

ACMA AV002134: To Achieve These Rights: Discussion with Brookland Elementary School Students, 1992
1 video recording (VHS)
Anacostia Museum
010457
Museum educator Joanna Banks discussed the meaning of prejudice and marching for justice with Brookland Elementary School students. The students visited the museum to view the exhibition 'To Achieve These Rights: The Struggle for Equality and Self Determination in D.C., 1791-1978'


Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African American students
African Americans
Civil rights
Museum exhibits
Museums and community
Prejudices
Students

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

Genre/Form: Video recordings
Culture: African American

ACMA AV002127: To Achieve These Rights: Video Epilogue, 1992
1 sound recording (VHS)
Anacostia Museum
010000
'To Achieve These Rights: The Struggle for Equality and Self-Determination in the District of Columbia, 1791-1978' showcased 187 years of civil rights activism in Washington, D.C. by examining the African American journey toward racial equality in the nation's capital--from slavery and emancipation to voting rights, desegregation, and home rule. The exhibition was created by the Anacostia Museum and exhibited there from January 1992 to November 1992.

Brief description of Washington, D.C. residents' fight for statehood and Congressional representatives during the 1980s. Local politics and rising crime in the district are also addressed.

In preparation of the exhibition 'To Achieve These Rights: The Struggle for Equality and Self-Determination in the District of Columbia, 1791-1978,' Dr. Paul Cook spoke to docents about racial segregation, integration, and discrimination during the 1940s and 1950s in Washington, D.C., and the civil rights movement. He spoke about his personal experiences, and events he witnessed or participated. Cook began his lecture speaking about Anna J. Cooper, who was an educator at M Street School (later Dunbar High School) in southeast Washington, D.C.


Names: Anacostia Community Museum
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
Cooper, Anna J. (Anna Julia), 1858-1964

Topic: Activists
African Americans
Civil rights
Civil rights leaders
Civil rights movements
Museum exhibits
Race discrimination
Racism
Segregation
Genre/Form: Video recordings
Culture: African American

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