

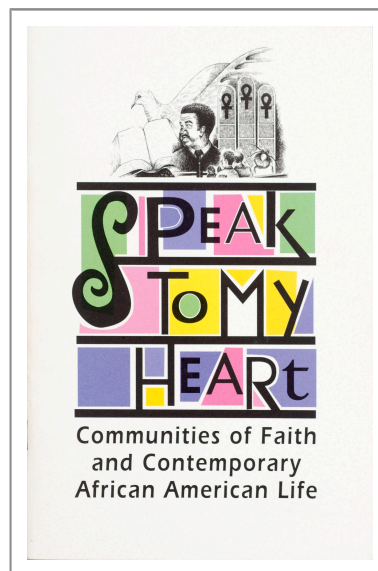


# Smithsonian

## *Anacostia Community Museum*

*Speak to My Heart: Communities of faith and contemporary African American life* exhibition records

Jennifer Morris



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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Speak to My Heart: Communities of faith and contemporary African American life</i> exhibition records
<b>Date:</b>	1995-1999
<b>Identifier:</b>	ACMA.03-037
<b>Creator:</b>	Anacostia Community Museum
<b>Extent:</b>	14 Linear feet (17 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	An exhibition examining the faith and spiritual traditions in African American religious life in the 1990s. The exhibition features members of Christian churches as well as those of other faiths. Special attention is given to the ways that African American congregations are responding to contemporary challenges affecting their families, neighborhoods, and communities. Curated by Gail Lowe, the show wa displayed in the Smithsonian Arts & Industries Building from May 1998 to December 1999.

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## Administrative Information

### Related Archival Materials

Audiovisual materials related to this exhibition located in Anacostia Community Museum Archives.

### Preferred Citation

*Speak to My Heart: Communities of faith and contemporary African American life* exhibition records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions on Access

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Please contact the archivist at [ACMarchives@si.edu](mailto:ACMarchives@si.edu).

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## Scope and Contents

These records document the planning, organizing, execution, and promotion of the exhibition. Materials include correspondence, brochures, notes, exhibit script, brochures and exhibit reviews.

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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:

African American churches  
Museum exhibits  
Religion

Types of Materials:

Administrative records  
Bibliographies  
Brochures  
Correspondence  
Exhibit plans  
Exhibit scripts  
Floor plans  
Newspaper clippings  
Posters  
Slides (photographs)  
Transcripts

Names:

Anacostia Community Museum  
Lowe, Gail Sylvia

Places:

Washington (D.C.)

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## Container Listing

### Series ACMA AV03-037: *Speak to My Heart: Communities of faith and contemporary African American life* audiovisual records, 1995-1999

56 Sound recordings (56 audio cassette sound recordings)

14 Video recordings (7 U-matic 3/4" video recordings ; 7 VHS 1/2" video recordings)

1.5 Linear feet

Creator: Anacostia Community Museum  
Language: English.  
Scope and Contents: Audiovisual materials created for an exhibition examining the faith and spiritual traditions in African American religious life in the 1990s. The exhibition features members of Christian churches as well as those of other faiths. Special attention is given to the ways that African American congregations are responding to contemporary challenges affecting their families, neighborhoods, and communities. This collection includes video and sound recordings of interviews and services at various churches that were used within the exhibit as well as recordings of talks and workshops related to the exhibit.  
Restrictions: Use of the materials requires an appointment. Some items are not accessible due to obsolete format and playback machinery restrictions. Please contact the archivist at [ACMarchives@si.edu](mailto:ACMarchives@si.edu).  
Preferred Citation: *Speak to My Heart: Communities of faith and contemporary African American life* audiovisual records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution  
Names: Anacostia Community Museum  
Lowe, Gail Sylvia  
Genre/Form: Video recordings  
Sound recordings  
Topic: Religion  
African American churches  
Museum exhibits  
African Americans  
Place: Washington (D.C.)

ACMA AV002233: *Speak to My Heart: Recording Session at Bible Way Temple*, 1998

2 Video recordings (VHS)

000324 013702

Creator: Anacostia Museum

Technical: 000324 013702

Language: English.

Notes: ACMA AV002234

Musical recording session at Bible Way Temple, located in northwest Washington, D.C., to create CD of religious music. Contents include First Fruits, Cureton Family, and Bible Way Choir.

Music. Related to *Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life*. Dated 19980423.

*Speak to My Heart: Recording Session at Bible Way Temple*, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

*Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life* examined the faith and spiritual traditions in African American religious life in the 1990s. The exhibition featured members of Christian churches as well as those of other faiths. Special attention was given to the ways that African American congregations were responding to contemporary challenges affecting their families, neighborhoods, and communities. The exhibition was developed by the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, and held at The Arts and Industries Building, North Gallery, 900 Jefferson Street, SW, Washington, D.C. from February 1998 to August 1999.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
Topic: African Americans  
Choirs (Music)  
Spirituals  
Gospel music  
Church music  
Place: Washington (D.C.)  
United States  
Genre/Form: Video recordings

ACMA AV001934\_A: Empowerment Poetry with Cherie Ward and Community Arts Experience with Life Pieces to Masterpieces, 1999

1 Sound recording (audio cassette)

xxxxxx

Creator: Anacostia Museum

Technical: xxxxxx

Language: English.

Notes: ACMA AV001934\_B

Cherie Ward performs her empowerment poetry. Community arts experience performed by Life Pieces to Masterpieces, a nonprofit arts organization for boys so they can experience love, security and expression by telling their stories through poetry, song, dance, and art. In addition to performing, the boys explain the principles of Life Pieces to Masterpieces, and what they have learned through the program.

Poetry, and music and dance performances. Audio only. Related to exhibition 'Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life.' Dated 19990803.

Empowerment Poetry with Cherie Ward and Community Arts Experience with Life Pieces to Masterpieces, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

'Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life' examined the faith and spiritual traditions in African American religious life in the 1990s. The exhibition featured members of Christian churches as well as those of other faiths. Special attention was given to the ways that African American congregations were responding to contemporary challenges affecting their families, neighborhoods, and communities. The exhibition was developed by the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum and Center

	for African American History and Culture, and held at The Arts and Industries Building, North Gallery, 900 Jefferson Street, SW, Washington, D.C. from February 1998 to August 1999.
Names:	Anacostia Community Museum Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
Topic:	African Americans African American women poets Poetry African American youth Youth African Americans in the performing arts Community arts projects Spirituality
Place:	Anacostia (Washington, D.C.) Washington (D.C.) United States
Genre/Form:	Sound recordings

ACMA AV002190: *Speak To My Heart: Exhibition Tour, 1998*

1 Video recording (VHS)

004403

Creator: Anacostia Museum

Technical: 004403

Language: English.

Notes: Dr. Gail Lowe led a tour of the exhibition 'Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life.'

Exhibition tour. Related to *Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life*. Dated 19981006.

*Speak To My Heart: Exhibition Tour*, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

*Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life* examined the faith and spiritual traditions in African American religious life in the 1990s. The exhibition featured members of Christian churches as well as those of other faiths. Special attention was given to the ways that African American congregations were responding to contemporary challenges affecting their families, neighborhoods, and communities. The exhibition was developed by the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, and held at The Arts and Industries Building, North Gallery, 900 Jefferson Street, SW, Washington, D.C. from February 1998 to August 1999.

Meeting at The Friends for Preservation of Af Am Hist/Culture (transcribed from physical asset).

Names: Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Churches  
African American churches  
Religion  
Spirituality

Choirs (Music)  
Museum exhibits  
Place: Washington (D.C.)  
United States  
Genre/Form: Video recordings

ACMA AV001049: *Speak To My Heart: Exhibition Talk with Gail S. Lowe, Ph.D.*, 1996

1 Video recording (VHS)

011245

Creator: Anacostia Museum

Technical: 011245

Language: English.

Notes: Gail S. Lowe, Ph.D. talked about the center of African American life and community - the Black Church. She detailed the significance and work of the Black Church in communities, and provided an introduction to the upcoming exhibition 'Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life.' Lowe discussed each section of the exhibition, and the types of materials and information the museum planned to include in the exhibit. The talk was part of a meeting for the Friends for the Preservation of African American History and Culture.

Exhibition talk. Related to exhibition 'Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life.' Dated 19961016.

Speak To My Heart: Exhibition Talk with Gail S. Lowe, Ph.D., Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

'Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life' examined the faith and spiritual traditions in African American religious life in the 1990s. The exhibition featured members of Christian churches as well as those of other faiths. Special attention was given to the ways that African American congregations were responding to contemporary challenges affecting their families, neighborhoods, and communities. The exhibition was developed by the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, and held at The Arts and Industries Building, North Gallery, 900 Jefferson Street, SW, Washington, D.C. from February 1998 to August 1999.

Meeting at the Friends for the Preservation of African American History and Culture.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Churches  
African American churches  
Communities  
Religion  
Spirituality  
Choirs (Music)  
Museum exhibits

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



United States  
Genre/Form: Video recordings

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ACMA AV001924: Dr. Cornel West Lecture, 1998  
2 Sound recordings (audio cassette)  
000219 004809 004812

Creator: Anacostia Museum  
Technical: 000219 004809 004812  
Language: English.  
Notes: ACMA AV001925\_A

ACMA AV001925\_B

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](mailto:ACMarchives@si.edu).

In coordination with the exhibition 'Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life,' Dr. Cornel West spoke about the crisis in America as it relates to people who suffer, of all colors, of all faiths, and of all political persuasions. He stressed the importance of gathering community builders and provided guidance on 'reinventing ourselves, our public institutions and our communities.' West spoke of the truth or lack of truth in America; democracy in America; political and economic reform; and getting to the deep, hidden truths about America and its legacy, including white supremacy, male supremacy, wealth inequality. Specifically, he talked about how to restructure U.S. economy; the role of media and corporations; churches and faith-based communities; new social order; the loss, or lack, of dignity; and the Democratic Party's disconnect with the African American community. This lecture and conversation took place post-election cycle and a few weeks after the release of his and Roberto Unger's book, 'The Future of American Progressivism.'

Lecture/conversation. Audio only. Related to 'Speak to My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life' exhibition. Dated 19981105.

Dr. Cornel West Lecture, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Location: Baird Auditorium at the National Museum of Natural History. Hosted by the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture.

Names: West, Cornel  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Communities  
Economics

Political science  
Mass media  
Democracy  
Equality  
Place: United States -- Politics and government  
Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Washington (D.C.)  
United States  
Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Genre/Form: Sound recordings