



# Smithsonian

*Anacostia Community Museum*

## *Lorton Reformatory: beyond time* exhibition records

Carrie Gehrer

2011

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
Names and Subjects .....	1
Container Listing .....	3
Series ACMA AV03-053: Lorton Reformatory: Beyond Time Audiovisual Records, undated.....	3

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Lorton Reformatory: beyond time</i> exhibition records
<b>Identifier:</b>	ACMA.03-053
<b>Date:</b>	1970-10 - 1970-11
<b>Creator:</b>	Smithsonian Institution. Anacostia Community Museum
<b>Extent:</b>	0.1 Linear feet (1 folder)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	An exhibition exploring artistic expression, poetry, and performance created by Lorton Reformatory inmates. The exhibit was held at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from October 1970 to November 1970. These records document the planning, organizing, execution, and promotion of the exhibition. Materials include correspondence, research files, exhibit scripts, administrative records, brochures, press coverage, education packets, loan agreements, floor plans, and catalogues.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Lorton Reformatory: beyond time exhibition records</a>

---

## Administrative Information

### Other Finding Aids

Box list in accession file.

### Preferred Citation

*Lorton Reformatory: beyond time* 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](mailto:ACMarchives@si.edu).

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Arts in prisons  
Museum exhibits

Types of Materials:

Correspondence  
Exhibit scripts  
Exhibition records -- 1967-1989  
Photographic prints

Names:

Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
Lorton Reformatory

---

## Container Listing

### Series ACMA AV03-053: Lorton Reformatory: Beyond Time Audiovisual Records, undated

*1 Sound recording (open reel; 1/4 inch)*

Creator: Anacostia Community Museum  
Language: English.  
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).  
Scope and Contents: An exhibition exploring artistic expression, poetry, and performance created by Lorton Reformatory inmates. The exhibit was held at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from October 1970 to November 1970.  
These records document the planning, organizing, execution, and promotion of the exhibition. Materials include video and sound recordings.  
Preferred Citation: Lorton Reformatory: Beyond Time Audiovisual Records, Exhibition Records AV03-053, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.  
Names: Lorton Reformatory  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Topic: Arts in prisons  
Museum exhibits  
Genre/Form: Exhibition records -- 1967-1989  
Sound recordings

ACMA AV003328-1: Lorton Reformatory: Slide Show Narration, circa 1970  
1 Sound recording (open reel; 1/4 inch)  
001148 004625

Creator: Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
Technical: 001148 004625  
Language: English.  
Notes: ACMA AV003328-2

For the exhibition Lorton Reformatory: Beyond Time, the narrator provides a short history as well as a description of the architectural look and feel of Lorton Reformatory. The dormitories, dining halls, barber shop, chapel, art studio, infirmary, arts and crafts building, ball field, miniature golf course, educational building, and maximum security cells are described. The narrator speaks of the marketable skills the inmates acquire in the barber shop, print shop, tag shop, garment shop, and car maintenance shop. The artistic pursuits of the inmates through the Inner Voices group, theatrical and band performances, and arts and crafts are also described.

Narration. Part of Lorton Reformatory: Beyond Time Audiovisual Records. Undated.

The exhibition, Lorton Reformatory: Beyond Time, explored the artistic expression, poetry, and performance created by Lorton

Reformatory inmates. The exhibit was held at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from October 1970 to November 1970. Created for Anacostia Neighborhood Museum.

Names: Lorton Reformatory  
Lorton Correctional Complex (Washington, D.C.)  
Inner Voices (Drama group)  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Prisons  
Prisoners  
Arts in prisons  
Museum exhibits

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

Genre/Form: Sound recordings  
Narration

Culture: African American

ACMA AV003328-1: Lorton Reformatory: Slide Show Narration, circa 1970s  
1 Sound recording (open reel; 1/4 inch)  
001148 004625

Creator: Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Technical: 001148 004625

Language: English.

Notes: ACMA AV003328-2

Narrator provides a history of Lorton Reformatory and describes the architectural look and feel of Lorton. describes the buildings - dormitory, dining hall, barbershop, chapel, art studio He talks about the buildings built and maintained by the inmates talks about the artwork acreated by the inmates, and the duties inmates performs for the district and federal government. Skills inmates learn at Lorton. Drama group, band musicians

Narration. Part of Lorton Reformatory: Beyond Time Exhibition Records. AV003328-2: consistent beeps throughout recording. Undated.

The exhibition, Lorton Reformatory: Beyond Time, explored the artistic expression, poetry, and performance created by Lorton Reformatory inmates. The exhibit was held at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from October 1970 to November 1970. Created for Anacostia Neighborhood Museum.

Names: Lorton Reformatory  
Lorton Correctional Complex (Washington, D.C.)  
Inner Voices (Drama group)  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Prisons  
Prisoners  
Arts in prisons

Place:	Museum exhibits Lorton (Va.) Anacostia (Washington, D.C.) Washington (D.C.) United States
Genre/Form:	Sound recordings Narration
Culture:	African American

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

ACMA AV000832: Lorton Correctional Complex: Religious Service, circa 1970s

1 Video recording (open reel; 1/2 inch)

010414

Creator: Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Technical: 010414

Language: English.

Notes: Religious service celebrating the initial baptism of the Layman Prisoners Council program. Held at Lorton Correctional Complex. Inmates participate in the service as baptismal candidates; with the readings; reciting testimonials; and as musicians.

Religious service. Part of ACM Museum Events, PR, and Ceremonies Recordings. Undated.

Lorton Correctional Complex: Religious Service, Record Group AV09-023, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Created for Anacostia Neighborhood Museum.

Names: Lorton Correctional Complex (Washington, D.C.)

Anacostia Community Museum

Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans

Prisoners

African American prisoners

Christianity

Religion

Baptism

Music

Church music

Place: Lorton (Va.)

Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

Washington (D.C.)

United States

Genre/Form: Video recordings

Music

Culture: African American

ACMA AV001350\_A: Conversation with Formerly Incarcerated Individuals, circa 1980

1 Sound recording (audio cassette)

004409 004410

Creator: Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Technical: 004409 004410

Language: English.

Notes: ACMA AV001350\_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).

Formerly incarcerated individuals discussed the effect of penal institutions on their lives; rehabilitation; work and educational opportunities and assignments; description of maximum security versus minimum security; black youth in prison; length of prison sentences; public court system and court appointed lawyers; racism within the criminal justice system and penitentiaries; homosexuality in penal institutions; and training opportunities within prison which lead to skills to gain employment when released from prison. Much of the conversation revolves around Lorton Reformatory/Lorton Correctional Complex and Occoquan Workhouse; Federal Correctional Complex in Petersburg also mentioned. John Kinard asked a question to the individuals toward the end of the recording.

Discussion. Audio only. Very poor audio quality. Transcribed from physical asset: Rap Session on Lorton by Male Anacostia Resident. Undated.

Conversation with Formerly Incarcerated Individuals, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Names: Lorton Reformatory  
Lorton Correctional Complex (Washington, D.C.)  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Prisons  
Reformatories  
Prisoners  
African American prisoners  
Rehabilitation  
Racism

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

Genre/Form: Sound recordings

Culture: African American

ACMA AV004343: Lorton Correctional Complex: Inner Voices Performance, circa 1970s



2 Video recordings (open reel; 1/2 inch)

010400 002331

Creator: Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Technical: 010400 002331

Language: English.

Notes: ACMA AV000826

The Inner Voices group from the Lorton Correctional Complex use music, dancing, and dramatic skits to present the drug scene based on the experiences of the men in the group. Performance is followed by a question and answer session where the inmates talk about their experiences using drugs.

Dramatic and music performance. Part of ACM Museum Events, PR, and Ceremonies Recordings. Transcribed from AV004343: Lorton "Inner Voices" Performance at Drug Exhibit on the mall. Undated.

Lorton Correctional Complex: Inner Voices Performance, Record Group AV09-023, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Inner Voices group was formed in October of 1969 by inmates of the Lorton Correctional Complex, which was a penal institution located in Lorton, Virginia. The goal was to alleviate some of the tensions and frustrations caused from being incarcerated. The group gives people an experience or shares an experience with people rather than performing for an audience. They use the stage as a social mirror to reflect some of their past experiences and to reflect some of the ills of society with the hope of coming up with some solutions for the problems. Inner Voices, Incorporated, an outside chapter and nonprofit corporation made up of men who were released from Lorton Correctional Complex, works with schools, churches, and government agencies to enlighten the community to some of the problems associated with drugs and some of efforts the community can participate to overcome the problems.

Created for Anacostia Neighborhood Museum.

Names: Inner Voices (Drama group)  
Lorton Correctional Complex (Washington, D.C.)  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Prisoners  
African American prisoners  
Drugs  
Methadone maintenance  
Heroin  
Music

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

Genre/Form: Video recordings  
Drama  
Music

Culture:           Dance  
                      African American