



# Smithsonian

*Anacostia Community Museum*

## ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project

ACMA staff

2014

Anacostia Community Museum Archives  
1901 Fort Place, SE  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project
<b>Date:</b>	1991-1992 (bulk 1992)
<b>Identifier:</b>	ACMA.09-034
<b>Creator:</b>	Anacostia Community Museum
<b>Extent:</b>	110 Sound cassettes 1.25 Linear feet (3 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Materials were created as part of the Museum's 25th Anniversary exhibition and celebration.

### Related Archival Materials

The Anacostia Community Museum Archives also houses other oral histories of the area, including the Anacostia Oral History Project.

### Preferred Citation

ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

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

In 1992, The Anacostia Community Museum celebrated its 25th anniversary. In the year leading up to that event, oral history interviews with individuals engaged in the community and museum activities were gathered to document the workings of the Museum and help prepare for the 25th anniversary exhibition. All interviews were recorded on audiocassettes, which are currently stored at ACMA.

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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 Americans

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Oral history  
Sound recordings

Names:

ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Places:

Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

## Container Listing

AV001643: Oral history interview with Ahmed Mbalia, 1991 November 14

1 Sound cassette

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

Ahmed Fletcher Mbalia talks about his involvement in the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), where he began as a volunteer serving on the advisory board, and eventually became the Director of Educational Outreach. He describes the unique qualities of the museum, including its focus on African American history and culture, its service to the neighborhood, its hands-on interactivity, its educational programming, and its outreach efforts. He recalls residents of the community becoming involved as volunteers, serving on the advisory board, and joining the youth group. He describes the outreach program, which distributed miniature versions of the museum exhibits to communities, schools, prisons, and libraries. He also talks about the environment that existed prior to the museum, recalling a riot that occurred in the Anacostia neighborhood in 1967, which he felt was rooted in people feeling left out and on the short end of things. He felt that the development of the museum was in part a response to this. The interview was recorded on November 14, 1991 by Trina Fletcher Smith. There is significant background noise, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) , , [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , , [Out of Africa: from West African kingdoms to colonization](#)" .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Ahmed Fletcher Mbalia (1941-2017) served as the Director of Educational Outreach for the Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, DC. From 1988 to 2011, he served as Senior Lecturer Emeritus in the Department of Africology at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He founded the community organization, "Africans on the Move."

Names: Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Campbell, James  
Margolls, Carolyn  
Mayo, James E.  
Southeast Neighborhood House (Washington, D.C.)  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001636: Oral history interviews with Albert "Butch" Hopkins, 1992 May 12

1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Hopkins, Albert

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

Albert Hopkins describes how he came to be involved with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), through his role with the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation, where he and John Kinard served on the board of directors. He describes the museum's emphasis on African American history and achievements, and the impact it had on schools throughout Washington DC because tours came from all over the city to see special programs. He describes the critical contributions of Louise Hutchinson, Zora Martin-Felton, and John Kinard. He also talks about how the museum changed upon relocating, becoming less accessible while still serving the community. The interview was recorded on April 21, 1992, and begins at about 30 minutes into recording, after Cynthia Matthews interview. The audio quality is clear throughout with some minor background noise.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Albert (Al) Hopkins (1941-2012) served in the Air Force from 1956 through 1960. He graduated from Howard University with a BS in Mathematics, and earned a JD from Howard Law School. In 1965 he served as associate engineer with the Human Engineering Section of the Man Machine Department of the Martin Marietta Company in Baltimore, where he worked with U.S. Air Force astronauts. In 1969 he became a Business Development Counselor for the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation, where he progressed to Deputy Director, then Executive Director from 1974 until his passing in 2012.

Names: Hopkins, Albert

Jones, Teresa

Hutchinson, Louise Daniel

Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Anacostia Economic Development Corporation

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001521, AV001672: Oral history interview with Alton Jones, 1991 August 16

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Miller, Erin

Interviewee: Jones, Alton

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

Alton Jones recalls the founding of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), the qualities that made it unique, how it helped progress African American representation in museums through its original exhibits and programming, and how it contributed to a sense of pride amongst the residents of the Anacostia neighborhood. He also discusses the

interactions between the Anacostia Museum and the Smithsonian Institution, and how the museum has changed over time.

The interview was recorded by Erin Miller on August 16, 1991. The voices are faint and there is background noise which makes the interview difficult to hear throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Alton Jones (1941-) earned a degree in social work, specializing in community planning. He served as chairman of the Advisory Council for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum and held a leading role in the museum's development for many years.

Names: Jones, Alton  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001538, AV001671: Oral history interview with Alvin Eugene Prue, 1991 June 27  
1 Sound cassette (original)  
1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Prue, Alvin Eugene

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

Alvin Eugene Prue discusses how the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) affected the surrounding neighborhood and became a source of pride for residents. He describes his involvement with the museum as a singer who performed matinees, and a visitor who took many arts and crafts classes. He explains how the museum staff and programs provided training for neighborhood youth to become young adults and community leaders. He also describes John Kinard and Zora Martin-Felton's many contributions to the museum and neighborhood.

The interview was recorded on June 27, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some minor background static.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Alvin Eugene Prue (1930-) was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. He sang with a group called the Anacostia Neighborhood Singers and was an active participant in many classes and activities at the Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Prue, Alvin Eugene  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001645: Oral history interview with Amina Dickerson, Undated  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Dickerson, Amina J., 1954-

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

Amina J. Dickerson describes the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) as a pioneering institution that provided great counsel and inspiration to the movement to create African American museums around the country. She views it as a model institution that served and was situated within its community, and that tried to elevate the spirit and the intellect of the residents to ever higher standards and awareness. She recalls collaborating with the museum on the [Out of Africa](#) exhibit in the 1970s when she worked for the Museum of African Art. She remembers Zora Martin-Felton's leadership in the education program, an effort she says to develop the skills, intellect and spirit of young people in the Anacostia area. She recounts the museum's many successes including the development of exhibitions that came to serve the network of African American museums around the country, and their commitment to creating publications to accompany their exhibitions.

The interview was recorded via telephone. The voices are somewhat muffled, but can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibitions mentioned: [Out of Africa: from West African kingdoms to colonization](#) , , [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , , [Climbing Jacob's Ladder: the rise of Black churches in Eastern American cities, 1740 - 1877](#) , , [Black women: achievements against the odds](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Amina J. Dickerson began her career in theater after studying at Emerson College in Boston. She earned an MA in Arts Management from American University in Washington, DC. From 1974 to 1982, she served as Director of Education at the National Museum of African Art. In 1983, she served as Assistant Director of Philadelphia's Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum. In 1984, she served as President of Dickerson Global Advisors. She has also served as Co-Interim Director of the University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art, and the DuSable Museum of African American History. She has held leadership positions at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, the Chicago Historical Society, the Woods Fund of Chicago, and as Vice President of the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation. She has also served as Chair of the Chicago's Cultural Advisory Council, and Co-Chair of the Art Institute of Chicago's Leadership Advisory Committee. She was honored as Chicago Professional Grantor of the year in 2002, Chicagoan of the Year in 2004, received the Legacy Award from the ETA Creative Arts Foundation, the Annual Sir Juana Award from the Mexican Fine Arts Center, and the Jazz Institute's Tim Black Award for Community Service in 2006.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Smithsonian Institution. Traveling Exhibition Service  
Barnett-Aden Collection



Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001536, AV001683: Oral history interview with Ann Zelle, 1992 July 14

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Martin-Felton, Zora

Interviewee: Zelle, Ann

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

Ann Zelle discusses how she came to meet John Kinard at the 1969 annual meeting of the American Association of Museums (AAM) in San Francisco. She describes John's impact on the AAM and on the International Council of Museums (ICOM) where his work with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) gained international attention. She describes her first impressions of the museum, recalling that it was a joyful, exuberant, hands-on museum that integrated into the neighborhood. She also describes John Kinard's many contributions, paying tribute to his charisma, his patience, and his ability to maintain great relationships with both the Smithsonian Institution leadership and the Anacostia community.

The interview was conducted on July 14, 1992 by Zora Martin-Felton. There is background static which makes it difficult to hear the interviewer in some parts, but the interviewee can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Ann Zelle (1943-) taught at Northern Virginia Community College and worked at the Smithsonian Institution. She served as an administrator and educator from 1963-1973 at the Illinois State Museum, Newark Museum, the International Council of Museums, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, and helped establish Art & Soul, which was a collaboration between the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Conservative Vice Lords. She also served as Associate Professor Emerita and as Head of Photography at the American University School of Communication from 1982 to 2002. She retired in 2007, moving to Western North Carolina, and continuing her creative work as a sculptor and photographer.

Names: Zelle, Ann  
Wardwell, Allen  
Freire, Paulo (Paulo Reglus Neves), 1921-1997  
Varine, Hugues de, 1935-  
American Association of Museums  
American Association of Museums. Meeting  
Conservative Vice Lords, Inc  
Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, Ill.)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001543, AV001668: Oral history interview with Barbara Fellows, 1991 July 23

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

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

Barbara Fellows was working as an exhibit designer for the National Museum of American History when she first heard about the development of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). In this interview, she recalls working on the museum's inaugural exhibit, and the effect the museum had on the surrounding community upon opening. She also describes the critical role John Kinard and Zora Martin-Felton played in shaping and leading the museum. The interview was recorded on July 23, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Barbara Fellows graduated from Huntington High School as a National Merit Scholar, and then from the Rhode Island School of Design, earning a BFA in Illustration and graduating with honors in 1959. She worked as a Visual Information Specialist at the Smithsonian Museum of History and Technology (now called the National Museum of American History) for ten years. She was a member of the original design team and worked in preparation for the museum's opening in 1964. She also worked on the inaugural exhibit for the Anacostia Community Museum in 1967. She later worked for the National Park Service, and then The Defense Mapping Agency (DMA). She retired from Senior Executive Service at the DMA in 1994.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Cooper's Restaurant  
Operation Crossroads Africa

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001620: Oral history interview with Edmund Barry Gaither, 1992 May 14

1 Sound cassette (original)

Interviewee: Gaither, Edmund Barry, 1944 -

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

Edmund Barry Gaither discusses how genuinely pioneering the original Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) was because the community was the empowering agency and subject for the museum. As the first director of the African American Museums Association, he describes John Kinard's influence, and how he introduced or helped shape every important issue that organization addressed. He also describes Kinard's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution, and how he tried to give voice to what he felt the Anacostia community wanted.

He talks about how the museum's programs and exhibits reflected issues relevant to the Anacostia community, and how the museum has changed over time yet has continued to generate exhibitions that are of national importance.

The interview was recorded on May 13, 1992. The audio quality is faint with some background noise, but the interview can generally be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibitions mentioned: [Black women: achievements against the odds](#) , , [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Edmund Barry Gaither (1944-) was born in Great Falls, South Carolina. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Brown University in 1968. In 1969, he became curator of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. He founded the National Center of Afro-American Artists in Roxbury, Massachusetts, taught courses in African American studies at Boston University, and lectured about African American art at various colleges, including Spelman College, Massachusetts College of Art, Harvard College, and Wellesley College. He served on the Commission on Museums for a New Century, the American Alliance of Museums, and on President George W. Bush's Advisory Board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He was also the first president of the Association of African American Museums.

Names: Gaither, Edmund Barry, 1944 -  
Rushing, Byron  
Perrot, Paul N.  
Martin, Jeanine  
Thomas, Betty  
Austin, Joy Ford  
Hezekiah, Lloyd  
Association of African American Museums  
National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (U.S.)  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site  
(Washington, D.C.)  
Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001542, AV001664: Oral history interview with Benjamin Franklin, 1991 June 26  
1 Sound cassette (original)  
1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Franklin, Benjamin L.

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

Benjamin L. Franklin talks about his experiences with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) from its inception in 1967 until 1991. He describes his friendships with John Kinard and James Mayo, and the drawings, prints, and

photographs he contributed to some of the exhibits. He describes the museum's impact and expresses his wish that it expand and receive more attention. He describes the positive effects of the museum's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution, and of the relocation from the Carver Theater to Fort Stanton Park. He also shares memories of the museum's traveling exhibits. In particular, he describes taking the Frederick Douglass Years exhibit to the Trenton State Museum in New Jersey.

The interview was recorded on June 26, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Benjamin L. Franklin is an artist who creates prints, drawings and photographs. He contributed to the Anacostia Community Museum in Washington DC by providing demonstrations to the community and contributing art to the exhibits. He also served as an Exhibits Specialist for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Franklin, Benjamin L.  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001653: Oral history interview with Benjamin W. Lawless, 1991 July 23  
1 Sound cassette

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

Benjamin Lawless was serving as director of exhibitions at the Smithsonian Museum of History and Technology (now National Museum of American History), when he was selected to work with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) to develop its first exhibitions. He describes the selection process for the Carver Theater site. He talks about preparing the theater for exhibitions by leveling the slanted floor and adjusting the lighting. He suggests the idea for the museum arose because the neighborhood was cut off from the mainstream Washington museums. With little access and no direct subway line, concern had also grown that the Anacostia neighborhood children were not receiving the same treatment as children across the river. In his opinion, the purpose of the museum was to address this inequity. He talks at length about the first exhibits, and the process for finding subjects relevant to the residents. He also remembers John Kinard, describing him as "fun", "smart", "cagey", and "dedicated", and describes how he helped communicate the community's needs to the Smithsonian Institution. The interview was recorded on July 23, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording, with some minor background noise.

Exhibitions mentioned: This Thing Called Jazz, [Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Benjamin Lawless trained as a portrait painter before serving as Director of Exhibitions for the National Museum of History and Technology (the predecessor to the National Museum of American History), a position he held from 1953 to 1981. He designed exhibits for Elvis Presley's Graceland, the National Civil Rights Museum, and the Jurassic Park Discovery Center. After retiring, he wrote articles for Smithsonian Magazine, Air and Space, Invention & Technology, and Boating. He also collaborated as a writer on twenty films and won the Best Writer Emmy for his work on "America's Biggest Birthday Party."

Names: Shelton, Jerry  
Blitzer, Charles  
May, Edie  
Collins, Herb  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001621: Oral history interview with Blanche Nagelgast, 1992 May 6  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewer: Martin-Felton, Zora

Interviewee: Nagelgast, E. Blanche

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

E. Blanche Nagelgast, the former curator of the Africana Museum in Johannesburg, describes hearing Dr. John Kinard's speech at the Conference of the South African Museums Association in 1987, how he described the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) with great pride, and the impact it had on her and her colleagues. She describes how the Africana Museum began to build a non-Eurocentric museum, and began collecting things from the indigenous population, like artwork, bead work, headdresses, and bridal veils. She talks at length about animal toys that children in rural areas had made from wire, which are now collected by museums, including a museum in Washington.

The interview was conducted by Zora Martin-Felton. There is some minor background noise, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

E. Blanche Nagelgast (1931-) worked as a cataloguer for the Johannesburg Public Library, in South Africa, in 1962 and became

a librarian in 1975. She joined the staff of the Africana Museum in Johannesburg in 1976, and became chief curator in 1980. She retired in 1993.

Names: Nagelgast, E. Blanche  
MuseuMAfricA (Johannesburg, South Africa)  
Place: South Africa  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Topic: Indigenous art

AV001629: Oral history interview with Byron Rushing, 1992 June 12  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Rushing, Byron

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

Byron Rushing discusses his affiliation with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) through its founding director, John Kinard, and through Zora Felton, the director of the education program. He describes seeking out John after receiving a fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts to travel and meet with people involved with African American museums around the country, in support of his work at the Museum of African American History in Boston. He describes remaining in close contact with Kinard and Martin-Felton, and the significant influence the museum had on his work at the museum in Boston. He describes the seminal innovations of the museum, including the extension of its mission beyond exhibit content to a relationship with the community, the style of its staff, and its active presence and involvement in various issues. He expresses his view that the major successes of the museum were the tone and standard it set for African American museums in the United States, its education program, and its exhibit program because it involved members of the community in the production of exhibits.

The interview was recorded via telephone on June 12, 1992. It can be heard clearly throughout the recording, despite significant background noise.

At the 25 minute mark, the interview ends and a recording of an audio tour for the exhibition *To achieve these rights: the struggle for equality and self-determination in the District of Columbia from 1791-1978*, begins.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , , [Climbing Jacob's Ladder: the rise of Black churches in Eastern American cities, 1740 - 1877](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Byron Rushing (1942-) attended Harvard College and MIT, and received an honorary doctorate from the Episcopal Divinity School where he served as an adjunct professor. He served as president of the Museum of African American History in Boston from 1972 to 1985. He represented the Ninth Suffolk district in the Massachusetts

House of Representatives from 1983 to 2019. He received the Harriet Tubman Community Achievement Award in 2012, and the HistoryMaker Award from the History Project in 2014.

Names: Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
Museum of Afro-American History (Boston, Mass.)  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001548, AV001616: Oral history interview with Carolyn Bingham, 1991 July 24

1 Sound cassette (original )

1 Sound cassette (copy)

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

Carolyn J. Bingham discusses her involvement with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), beginning in 1970 when she was invited to research the history of the Anacostia neighborhood and worked to establish a library for the museum. She describes how the museum supported neighborhood youth by hosting school visits, teaching classes, and helping to develop their talents. She recalls how the museum provided opportunities for artists who might not otherwise have had an outlet. She also talks about the community's involvement through the advisory committee and through volunteering. The interview was recorded on July 24, 1991. There is background noise which makes the interview difficult to hear at some points, but the interview can generally be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Carolyn J. Bingham (1960-) was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. She worked on exhibit research and design for the Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001635: Oral history interview with Carolyn Margolis, 1991 December 12

1 Sound cassette

Interviewer: Miller, Erin

Interviewee: Margolls, Carolyn

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

Carolyn Margolis describes becoming involved with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) in 1968 as a volunteer and becoming a paid employee after two years. She describes learning to design exhibits and write exhibit catalogs. She discusses serving as a go-between for the museum and the Smithsonian Institution on several issues and building those relationships. She expresses her opinions about the development

of the National African American History & Culture Museum on the National Mall, and how that might affect the museum. She describes the museum as being a community museum with national significance, with exhibits of national importance. She describes a loss of community spirit and a more formal approach when the museum relocated to Fort Stanton Park. She describes the original museum as "neutral territory" and "almost sacred ground", where staff had an emotional commitment and caring for the place. She describes how it brought the neighborhood together and helped them cope with a lot of problems. The interview was recorded by Erin Miller on November 12, 1991. The audio quality is clear with some minor background noise.

Exhibitions mentioned: [Blacks in the Westward Movement](#) , , [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) , , [Black women: achievements against the odds](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Carolyn Margolis (1946-) studied art history at George Washington University. She volunteered and worked for the Anacostia Community Museum as an exhibit designer and researcher in the 1960s and 1970s.

Names: Goldstein, Peggy  
Parziale, Renny  
Neibauer, Esther  
Thomas, Larry Erskine  
Mayo, James E.  
Campbell, James  
Hart, Harry  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Spate, Jim  
Jones, Teresa  
Archer, Audrey  
Southeast Neighborhood House (Washington, D.C.)  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001544, AV001871: Oral history interview with Caryl Marsh

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Marsh, Caryl

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

Caryl Marsh was a psychologist for the Washington DC Recreation Department. She was consulted in the development of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), and she describes writing the initial plan for the museum, working with various community groups, developing criteria for location selection,



and conducting regular meetings with the museum's Advisory Committee. She worked alongside community and museum leaders like S. Dillon Ripley, Stanley Anderson, and Charles Blitzer, and describes how John Kinard came to be selected as the first director. She recalls the experimental nature of the museum, its focus on outreach, and how its innovation influenced the national museum community. She also describes the positive impact the museum had on the Anacostia community, how it has changed over time, and its relationship with the Smithsonian Institution.

The interview was recorded on July 25, 1991. There is background noise throughout the recording, but the interview can be heard clearly.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , , [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Caryl Marsh (1923-) earned a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College in 1942, and a Master of Arts from Columbia University in 1946. She was the Assistant Cultural Attache to the American Embassy in Paris from 1946 to 1948. She served as a psychologist for the District of Columbia Recreation Department from 1957 to 1969, and a Special Assistant for the Smithsonian Institution from 1966 to 1973. In 1978, she earned a Doctor of Philosophy from George Washington University. From 1978 to 1985, she served as an Exhibitions Curator for the National Archives, and from 1985-1986, she served as Senior Exhibitions Specialist. She also served as Director of the traveling psychology exhibition for the American Psychological Association from 1986 to 1993, and Chair of the humanities seminars for the Science Technology Centers, Science Museum Association from 1994 to 2001. She retired in 2003.

Names: Marsh, Caryl  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Jones, Altman  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Blitzer, Charles  
Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
Jones, Theresa  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Adams Morgan (Washington, D.C.)  
Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001649, AV001650: Oral history interview with Charles Blitzer, 1992 March 30  
1 Sound cassette (original)  
1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Lowe, Gail Sylvia

Interviewee: Blitzer, Charles

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

Dr. Charles Blitzer recounts how the idea for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) came to be, the initial meetings, the site selection, selecting John Kinard as director, and the development of the first exhibits. He recalls a speech given by S. Dillon Ripley about bringing the Smithsonian Institution to the people who do not normally visit the museums, which he considers the true beginning of the museum. He remembers early meetings at Cooper's Restaurant, next to the Carver Theater, where he would meet with Stanley Anderson, Caryl Marsh, and the Advisory Council to discuss the museum's potential over pork chop sandwiches. He recalls the social and political environment in Washington DC, prior to the museum opening, the great enthusiasm with which it was received, and how it became a trusted safe haven and educational resource for the community. He also talks about the impact the museum had on young people, by providing educational opportunities and employment, and on the museum world both nationally and internationally. The interview was recorded on March 30, 1991 by Gail S. Lowe. There is significant background noise, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Dr. Charles Blitzer (1927-1999) earned a bachelors degree from Williams College in 1947, a masters degree from Harvard University in 1949, and a Ph.D. in government from Harvard University in 1952. He served as an assistant professor of political science at Yale University from 1950 to 1960, and as executive associate at the American Council of Learned Societies from 1960 to 1965. He then served as director of the Office of Education and Training for the Smithsonian Institution from 1965 to 1968. He became the assistant secretary for history and art from 1968 to 1983. Then he served as director of the National Humanities Center from 1983 to 1988. He founded the Woodrow Wilson Center with Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan in 1971 and served as its director from 1988 to 1997.

Names:

Blitzer, Charles  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Marsh, Caryl  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
District of Columbia Parks and Recreations Roving Leaders Program  
Cooper's Restaurant  
Hope, Marion Conover  
Operation Crossroads Africa  
Johnson, Lady Bird, 1912-2007  
Rockefeller, John D. (John Davison), 1839-1937  
Warner, Willie  
Mayo, James E.  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Tyler, Edgar (Tiny)  
Taylor, Frank

Euell, Julian (1929-05-23-2019-06-03)  
Lawless, Benjamin  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001648: Oral history interview with Charles William Mickens, 1991 July 12  
1 Sound cassette

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

Charles W. Mickens discusses how he came to become involved with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). He recalls working as the Assistant Chief of Production for Exhibits at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, developing a training program for exhibition design, and establishing a close collegial relationship with John Kinard, which eventually led to Kinard offering him a job at the museum. He talks about making plans to finish the interior of the Carver Theater so that it could be utilized as an exhibition space, and how there was no funding for that effort. He remembers making the renovation a project for his students because many of the skills required would also apply to exhibit design, like putting up drywall. He describes Kinard's generosity in the community, how he held big lunches which many residents would attend, and how he kept an open-door policy. He says that through the community's engagement, and Kinard's strong leadership, the museum became like the "Rock of Gibraltar", protected from attempted closures. The interview was recorded on July 12, 1991. There is some background noise, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) , , [Blacks in the Westward Movement](#) , , [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Charles W. Mickens worked for the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History as Assistant Chief of Production Exhibits, and established a training program for exhibit design. He later supervised exhibit production for the Anacostia Community Museum before retiring in 1977.

Names: Archer, Audrey  
Euell, Julian (1929-05-23-2019-06-03)  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Thomas, Larry Erskine  
Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

Oral history interview with Cynthia Matthews, 1992 April 24

1 Sound cassette

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

Cynthia Matthews recalls becoming an advisory board member for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) during its inaugural year. She remembers the community involvement in the museum, its early exhibits, meetings, and performances. She describes the intern program, the many educational programs and activities for children, and how the exhibits reflected local social concerns. She also talks about her involvement in the transition to new leadership after John Kinard passed away, and how the relocation affected the nature of the museum.

The interview was recorded on April 21, 1992. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Cynthia Matthews (1941-) attended Howard University and served as chairman of the board of directors for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. She was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC.

Names: Jones, Theresa  
Blake, John  
Clark Matthews, Cynthia  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001647: Oral history interview with Dean Anderson, 1992 May 8

1 Sound cassette

Interviewer: Lowe, Gail Sylvia

Interviewee: Anderson, Dean W.

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

Dean W. Anderson discusses his relationship with John Kinard from 1973 to 1983, when he worked for the Smithsonian Institution as a principal assistant to Charles Blitzer, the then Assistant Secretary for History and Art. He talks at length about Kinard's efforts to find a new location for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), one that would have a large parking lot, more visibility, and that would allow for an expansion of the scope of the museum. He recalls how the American Association of Museums recognized Kinard as having changed the definition of the word museum in this country because he was the first to pay attention to the local community, and to introduce topics into the exhibition program that museums had never treated before. He says Kinard's influence caused a "ripple effect", and that some would credit the existence of member organizations like the African American Museum Association to the success of the museum, and Kinard's leadership. He recounts

Kinard's strong moral conviction, devotion, patience, determination, how active he was in the AAM, and how this helped him when making a case to the Smithsonian Institution about various issues. He also describes many of the political deliberations, brainstorming, and the planning that went into the eventual relocation to Fort Stanton Park. The interview was recorded by Gail S. Lowe, on May 8, 1991(?). The audio quality is clear throughout the recording, with some minor background noise.

Exhibition mentioned: [Climbing Jacob's Ladder: the rise of Black churches in Eastern American cities, 1740 - 1877](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Dean W. Anderson (1946-) served as the Smithsonian Institution's Acting Assistant Secretary for History and Art beginning in October 1984. He was later named Under Secretary, to succeed Philip Samuel Hues. He continued in this post until 1990. He then served as Deputy Director for Planning and Management at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Names: Blitzer, Charles  
Euell, Julian (1929-05-23-2019-06-03)  
Archer, Audrey  
Adams, Robert McC. (Robert McCormick), 1926-2018  
Freudenheim, Tom L.  
Savage, Gus (1925-10-30-2015-10-31)  
Clay, William L. (1931-04-30)  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Marsh, Caryl  
Winston, Michael  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Smithsonian Resident Associate Program  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

Oral history interview with Deborah Jones, 1991 February 5-6

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (Copy)

Notes: Deborah Jones describes how she first became involved with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) as a member of the museum's Youth Advisory Council. She talks about the afterschool activities she participated in, including taking photography classes and learning to use a dark room. She details how the social and political climate of the late 1960s affected the museum's exhibits and programming, and how the museum reflected the reality of the surrounding neighborhood. She also describes how the museum changed, becoming more formal after relocating to Fort Stanton Park, but she highlights that it has maintained its emphasis on education and outreach.

The interview was recorded on December 5, 1991. There is static throughout the recording which makes it difficult to hear in parts, but the interview can generally be heard clearly.

Exhibit mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

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

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Deborah Jones (1953-) was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. She participated in the Anacostia Community Museum as a member of the museum's Youth Advisory Council. She later served as Executive Director of the Ward 7 Business Partnership.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Campbell, James  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

Oral history interview with Della Lowery, 1991 November 14

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

1 Sound cassette (original)

Interviewee: Lowery, Della, 1924-2008

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

Della Lowery discusses the inception of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), its impact on the Anacostia neighborhood, and her experience as a volunteer. She describes how important the original museum was to the community, and especially to young people, who were able to take art courses, participate in singing groups, and see many exhibits. She talks about the leadership of John Kinard and Zora Martin-Felton, and the influence Altman Jones and Almore Dale had on the original museum. She also describes the museum's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution over time.

The interview was recorded on November 14, 1991. There is background noise, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Della Lowery (1924-2008) was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. She was an active member of the community and served on the Board of Directors of the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Jones, Alton  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

Oral history interview with Dianne Dale, 1991 December 5

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Sparks, Dan

Interviewee: Dale, Dianne

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

Dianne Dale describes how she became involved with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) by following in the footsteps of her father, the president of the Anacostia Historical Society. She recalls that the museum was the first of its kind and helped to maintain the community's sense of continuity by preserving the neighborhood's history and telling its stories. She discusses how the Carver Theater was selected as the original site because of its central location and its significance to the community residents. She describes how community members became involved as staff, volunteers, and members of the advisory board, how the social and political environment affected the museum, and how it has evolved over time. The interview was recorded by Dan Sparks on December 5, 1991. There is minor background noise throughout the recording, but the interview can be heard clearly.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Dianne Dale (1942-) is a fourth generation Anacostian and a local historian for the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. She graduated from Howard University, earning a BA and two master's degrees. She is a founding member of the Organization for Anacostia Rowing and Sculling (OARS), and helped develop a rowing program for at-risk teens. She served as Program Coordinator for the "I Have a Dream" Johnson Dreamers scholarship program at Johnson Jr. High School. She is also a founding member of the Anacostia Garden Club. She was an early member of the Anacostia Historical Society, and a board member of the Anacostia Community Museum. In 2011, she published *The Village that Shaped Us*, an illustrated history of Anacostia. In 2014, she was appointed to serve on the Washington, DC Commission on African American Affairs.

Names: Newsome, Steven C., 1952-2012  
Jones, Altman  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Anacostia Historical Society  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001624: Oral history interview with Dorn C. McGrath, Jr., 1992 March 26

1 Sound cassette

Interviewer: Lowe, Gail Sylvia

Interviewee: McGrath, Dorn C., Jr.

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

Dorn C. McGrath (1930-) talks about discovering the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) in 1968, meeting John Kinard, establishing a long-standing friendship with him, and serving in an advisory role for the museum. He describes the museum as providing an enriching educational experience for Anacostia youth by focusing on their environment and local issues. He details the difference between the original museum, which he describes as more accessible, more focused on the neighborhood, and "funky", and the new museum, which he describes as more stylized and able to accommodate larger gatherings. He also talks about the potential of the Anacostia community and his hope that new leadership will emerge to support further development. The interview was recorded by Gail S. Lowe on March 26, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , , [The Real McCoy: Afro-American invention and innovation, 1619-1930](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Dorn C. McGrath was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania on May 16, 1930. He graduated from Bradford High School, earned a B.A. in engineering and architecture from Dartmouth in 1952, and a master's degree in city planning from Harvard University in 1959. He served in the U.S Navy from 1955 to 1958, and in the Civil Engineer Corps in Spain from 1958 to 1959. He worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Then he taught courses as an educator for George Washington University, first in the department of urban and regional planning, and later in the department of geography, a career which lasted 35 years. He founded George Washington University's center for urban and environmental research and served as chair of the geography department from 1996 to 2003. He worked closely with residents in neighborhood areas, including the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. He was active as an alumnus of Dartmouth and served as class president from 2007 to 2013.

Names: McGrath, Dorn C., Jr.

Hutchinson, Louise Daniel

Mayo, James E.

Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Southeast Neighborhood House (Washington, D.C.)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)



Oral history interview with Elaine Heumann Gurian, 1991 December 11

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Gurian, Elaine Heumann, 1937-

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

Elaine Heumann Gurian discusses how she first became involved with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) in 1986, when she served as the Deputy Secretary of Museums for the Smithsonian Institution. She describes her many conversations with John Kinard, and the assistance she provided in transitioning to new leadership after he passed away in 1989. She also describes the extraordinary impact the original museum had on the museum community, the early exhibits, and how the museum changed after relocating to the Fort Stanton site.

The interview was conducted on December 11, 1991. There is static throughout the recording, but the interviewee can be heard clearly.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Elaine Heumann Gurian (1937-) was born in New York City. She earned a Bachelor in Art History from Brandeis University in 1958, and a Master of Education in Elementary Education and Art Education from the State College of Boston in 1966. She worked as an Art Teacher for the Solomon Schechter School in Newton Massachusetts, an Art Consultant for the Boston Mayor General's Office (1969-1971), and as Director of Education for Instate Contemporary (1969-1972). In 1987, she became the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Museums at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. Then in 1991, she became the Deputy Director for public program planning at the National Museum of the American Indian, followed by a role as Deputy Director for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She continued to work as a senior consultant for projects at a range of institutions. In 2006, she authored the book *Civilizing the Museum: The Collected Writings of Elaine Heumann Gurian*. She also served as President of the Museum Group, and has received numerous awards and honors, including the Distinguished Service to Museums Award in 2004 from the American Association of Museums.

Names: Gurian, Elaine Heumann, 1937-  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001518, AV001681: Interview with Esther Nighbert, 1992 September 1

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Lowe, Gail Sylvia

Interviewee: Nighbert, Esther  
Notes: Use of the materials requires an appointment. Please contact the archivist to make an appointment: [ACMarchives@si.edu](mailto:ACMarchives@si.edu).  
Esther Nighbert discusses her involvement with the Anacostia Community Museum from its opening in 1967 through 1972. She describes her role and her work, including serving as a secretary for John Kinard, assisting him with editing and re-writing various publications, and the various ways she provided support to the museum. She discusses the museum's impact on the neighborhood, its relationship with the Smithsonian Institution, and its influence nationally and internationally. She recollects various exhibits, events, youth programs, and the many individuals involved in managing, developing, and advising the museum. The interview was conducted by Gail S. Lowe on September 1, 1992. Periodically, there is some minor background noise. The interviewee can be heard clearly throughout the recording.  
Exhibitions mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , This Thing Called Jazz.  
Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.  
Esther Nighbert (1912-2004) was born in Hazelton, PA. She graduated from Emerson College in Boston and authored Handbook on Creative Dramatics. She lived in Washington DC for a time and served as a secretary to John Kinard at the Anacostia Museum from its opening in 1967 through 1972. She moved to Gainesville, FL in 1976. She was awarded the Eleanor Gordon Award for Lifetime Service to Unitarian Universalist Ideals and Humanist of the Year from the Florida Humanist Association. She was a member of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, served on the national board for INFAC, and was a member of United Farm Workers Ministry and Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice.

Names: Nighbert, Esther  
Kinard, John, 1936-1989  
Blitzer, Charles  
Jessup, Georgia Mills, 1926-2016  
Martin-Felton, Zora  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
Anacostia Museum  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Jones, Altman  
Tyler, Edgar (Tiny)  
Bryant, Barbara  
Marsh, Caryl  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Archer, Audrey  
Gibson, Charles  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Morris, Carol  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Cooper's Restaurant

Youth Advisory Council (Anacostia Museum)  
Prue, Alvin Eugene  
Topic: African Americans  
Civil rights  
Community museums  
Place: Adams Morgan (Washington, D.C.)  
Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

AV001655: Oral history interview with Frank Taylor, 1991 June 25  
1 Sound cassette

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

Frank Taylor describes the initial conversations among Smithsonian staff that led to the creation of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). He recalls that as the idea came to fruition, upon selecting the Carver Theater as the site, his role became to help prepare the building. He talks about the positive changes that happened in the neighborhood after the museum opened. He shares an anecdote about John Kinard dealing with drug trafficking that happened near the building by employing the "toughest of them all", giving him a camera, and "bringing him into the family." In turn this person helped control the activity going on outside the museum. He talks about the purpose of the museum, to bring the museum to people who do not, or cannot, ordinarily access the museums on the National Mall. He also describes the experimental nature of the museum, and how decisions were made as they broke new ground. He talks about his relationship with John Kinard, and how he sometimes provided guidance for working with Smithsonian leadership, by encouraging him to write out and propose his objectives. The interview was recorded on June 25, 1991. The audio quality is generally clear, but it is difficult to hear the interviewee's responses at certain points due to significant background noise.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Frank Taylor (1903-2007) graduated from McKinley Manual Training School in 1921. He earned an engineering degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1928, and a law degree from Georgetown University in 1934. He worked as a laboratory apprentice in the U.S. National Museum's Division of Mechanical Technology. During World War II, he served as a Battery Commander in the 734th AAA Gun Battalion and as an Enemy Property Custodian Officer in the Southern Philippines. He established a program of research and scholarly publication for the National Museum of History and Technology (the predecessor to the National Museum of American History). He oversaw the construction, hiring of staff, and development of exhibitions for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and became its founding director in 1958. In 1968, he became the director-general of museums for the Smithsonian

Institution. In 1969, he served as director of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, a position he held until his retirement in 1971. Post-retirement, he continued working as a research associate and consultant to the secretary of the Smithsonian until 1983.

Names: Blitzler, Charles  
Ross, Benjamin  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Greene, Carol  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001523, AV001658: Oral history interview with Frederick Saunders, 1991 July 5  
1 Sound cassette (copy)

1 Sound cassette (original)

Interviewer: Fischer, Helene

Interviewee: Saunders, Frederick

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

Frederick Saunders, a former Roving Leader for the Washington DC Parks and Recreation Department in the Anacostia Neighborhood, discusses the conception and early development of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). He details the City Council members, and neighborhood leaders involved in the museum's formation, and the impact it had on the residents, neighborhood youth, and surrounding businesses. He recalls the hiring and tremendous impact of the museum's first director, John Kinard. He describes how the museum has evolved over time, and through the transition from the original site to the current location.

The interview was conducted by Helene Fisher on July 5, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Frederick Saunders (1937-) served as an Assistant Director of the Washington DC Parks and Recreation Department's Roving Leader Program. He worked with young residents in the Anacostia neighborhood.

Names: Saunders, Frederick  
Marsh, Caryl  
Shackleton, Polly , 1910-1997  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Blitzler, Charles  
Battle, Percy M., 1925-2008  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Anacostia Pharmacy  
Anacostia Business and Professional Group

District of Columbia Parks and Recreations Roving Leaders  
Program

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001633, AV001628: Oral history interview with G. Christopher Reynolds, 1991  
July 13

2 Sound cassettes

Interviewer: Fischer, Helene

Interviewee: Reynolds, Greg

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

Christopher Reynolds recalls the grand opening of Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) in 1967, when he was a student in junior high school. He remembers the speeches John Kinard and S. Dillon Ripley gave that day, with the themes "this museum is your museum" and "if people don't go to the museum, we'll take the museum to the people." He recalls how he became involved in the museum as a volunteer, and how he helped to organize the Youth Advisory Council with John Kinard. He remembers working with neighborhood children in creative productions, like plays, and the zoo and general store at the museum. He talks about his close relationship with Zora Martin-Felton, and the influence she and John had on him during his teenage years. He recalls how the Carver Theater site was a galvanizing location for the community, that was easily accessible. He remembers how there was a vibrancy on the block when a new exhibit was opening, and how the museum provided educational opportunities for everyone in a non-threatening way. He expresses his sense that the museum changed when it relocated, that it became less accessible, and less of a focal point of activity for the neighborhood. The interview was recorded on July 13, 1991 by Helene Fisher. The audio is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Exhibitions mentioned: This Thing Called Jazz, [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Christopher Reynolds (1952-) graduated from Sarah Lawrence College. He trained as a professional dancer with Alvin Ailey, Martha Graham, and Marcel Marceau. He went on to perform with the Paul Taylor Dance Company in the 1970s and 1980s, and with the Omega Liturgical Dance Group. He formed his own dance troupe in 1976, the Greg Reynolds Dance Quintet.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Youth Advisory Council (Anacostia Museum)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001619: Oral history interview with Georgia M. Jessup, 1991 July 24  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Jessup, Georgia Mills, 1926-2016

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

Georgia Mills Jessup discusses how she came to serve as an artist-in-residence for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). She recalls how the museum became a central gathering point and source of pride for Anacostia neighborhood residents, how it provided historical exhibits and education that were locally relevant, and how it generally brought positive attention to the area. She describes John Kinard's leadership, devotion, and engagement with the neighborhood and the museum. She also describes how many of her artist friends appreciated the exhibition space and designers, and how many wanted to become involved in supporting or exhibiting artwork at the museum. The interview was recorded on July 17, 1991. There is background noise which muffles the audio at some points, but the interview can generally be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , , [Blacks in the Westward Movement](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Georgia Mills Jessup (1926-2016) was born in Washington DC. She earned a BA in art from Howard University in 1959, and an MFA from Catholic University of America in 1969. She became an art teacher and art administrator in DC public schools, and taught at Eliot Junior High School, Eastern and Western High Schools, and Sidwell Friends School. She held a solo show at The Potter's House in 1964 and became the first artist-in-residence for the Anacostia Community Museum in 1968. In the 1970s, she became Supervisor of Art for the DC public schools. She received awards from the Research Club of Washington, DC, the Urban League, and the American Red Cross. She passed away in Columbia, Maryland on December 24, 2016.

Names: Jessup, Georgia Mills, 1926-2016

Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984

Prue, Alvin Eugene

Thomas, Larry Erskine

Mayo, James E.

Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001540, AV001673: Oral history interview with Gregory Jones, 1991 July 13

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

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

Gregory Jones recalls the inception of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), and his involvement in renovating the Carver Theater in preparation for the museum opening. He served on the Museum Advisory Committee and describes their meetings and their contributions to establishing the museum operations and exhibits. He also mentions his involvement in "Operation Crossroads", an exchange program that operated at the museum, which provided opportunities for museum staff to travel to East and West Africa to teach English or typing. Through this program, he was able to travel to Botswana. He describes the museum's impact on the neighborhood, the liberating effect it had, and how it came to be a community gathering place where everyone was welcome. The interview was recorded on July 13, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some background noise.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Gregory Jones (1952-) was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. He was involved in the inception of the Anacostia Community Museum, serving on the Advisory Committee and helping to renovate the Carver Theater. Through the museum's Operation Crossroads program, he traveled to Botswana to teach English.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Jones, Altman  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Marsh, Caryl  
Blitzer, Charles  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001532, AV001660: Oral history interview with Harold Ellis, 1991 July 24

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Ellis, Harold W.

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

Harold W. Ellis, of the National Museum of American History, discusses the early days of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), its development, leadership, and the impact it had on the Anacostia neighborhood. He talks about the museum as having been experimental and revolutionary in that it reflected the daily lives and history of the neighborhood residents. He also describes how the museum changed after relocating from the Carver Theater to the current site in Fort Stanton Park.

The interview was recorded on July 24, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Harold W. Ellis (1931-) worked for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Division of Armed Forces History in the Division of Naval History, and was a resident of Washington DC.

Names: Ellis, Harold W.  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001632: Oral history interview with Hazel Evans, 1991 November 25  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Evans, Hazel

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

Hazel Evans recalls attending workshops, interning, and eventually working for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) over the course of thirteen years. She remembers learning silk screening, photography, and many other skills that she continued to use throughout her life. She recalls the many exhibits that taught her about the neighborhood, and African American history, and how caring and close the museum staff were in the early days. She shares stories about staying up all night and putting together various exhibits, and describes her relationship with John Kinard, recalling how he was a central guiding force for the museum. She also describes the loss of community she felt happened when the museum relocated to Fort Stanton Park

The recording starts in the middle of the interview. There is some background noise, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout.

Exhibition mentioned: [Anacostia story: 1680-1930](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Hazel Evans worked for the Anacostia Community Museum in Washington DC in the late 1960s and early 1970s. She went on to work for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Names: Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001541, AV001667: Oral history interview with James "Jim" Banks, 1992 May 6  
1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

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



Jim Banks discusses the purpose and impact of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). He describes its emphasis on community outreach, and how the neighborhood residents became involved with its construction, programs, sewing council and community meetings. He describes the scope of the museum broadening from a special focus on the Anacostia community to presenting African American history in a broader context. He also discusses the effect of the social and political climate on the museum, and the museum's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution over the years.

The interview was recorded on May 6, 1992. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some background noise.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Jim Banks (1930-2005) earned a sociology degree from Howard University, and a Masters Degree in sociology from the University of Pittsburgh. He served in the Navy during World War II. In 1955 he was named Citizen of the Year by the DC League of Women Voters. He became the Assistant Director of tenant selection for the National Capital Housing Authority. In 1963 he began a four-year tenure as the first Executive Director of the United Planning Organization. From 1967-1969, he worked at the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. He later joined DC Mayor Walter E. Washington's cabinet as Director of Housing Programs. He then became the Executive Vice President of the Washington Board of Realtors. In 1988 he helped found the Anacostia/Congress Heights Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness. He also served as Senior Warden and Chairman of the Restoration Committee for the St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Washington. In 2004 he authored the book *The Unintended Consequences: Family and Community, the Victims of Isolated Poverty* with his son, Peter.

Names: Jones, Altman  
Underdue, Sally  
Frederick Douglass Memorial Home  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Sewing Council (Anacostia group)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

Oral history interview with James Daniels, 1991 November 19

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

1 Sound cassette (original)

Interviewer: Miller, Erin

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

Jim Daniels discusses his experience as an exhibit specialist at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) from 1973-1979. He describes the training program the

museum provided, and how it helped some trainees move into employment. He talks about the museum's outreach efforts, including touring some exhibits to other parts of the country. He also describes the improvements he feels happened when the museum moved from the Carver Theater to the Fort Stanton Park site.

The interview was conducted by Erin Miller on November 19, 1991. There is background static and music, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibitions mentioned: [Black women: achievements against the odds](#) , , [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) , , [Blacks in the Westward Movement](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Names: Thomas, Larry Erskine  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001623: Oral history interview with James A. Piper, 1991 July 15  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Piper, James A.

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

James A. Piper talks about his involvement in the construction of the original Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) at the Carver Theater site. He describes the attitudes of residents, and the atmosphere in the neighborhood during that time. He details the efforts and influence of John Kinard, Zora Martin-Felton, and James (Jim) Mayo in shaping the museum and its programming. He describes the culture of the Smithsonian Institution, where he served as an exhibit designer, and the evolution of African American representation in museums over time.

The interview was recorded on July 15, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Exhibit mentioned: [Black Patriots of the American Revolution](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

James A. Piper served as an exhibit designer for the Smithsonian Institution for over 25 years. He was involved in the renovation of the Carver Theater, site of the original Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
Hope, Marion Conover  
Hope, John , Dr.  
Mayo, James E.  
Underdue, Sally  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001630: Oral history interview with James "Jim" Mayo, 1991 July 2

1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Mayo, James E.

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

James Mayo recalls the selection and renovation of the Carver Theater as the site for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), the grand opening, and his time serving as the Supervisory Exhibit Specialist. He describes several of the early exhibits including Doodles and Dimension, Black History month, and Evolution of a Community, and discusses the exhibit design production laboratory training program, which was funded by the Ford Foundation, and allowed ten community members to partake in exhibit design, many of whom went on to work professionally as exhibit designers. He describes his close relationship with John Kinard, and many of the conversations they had which led to exhibits and programs. He also describes how the museum has evolved since relocating to Fort Stanton Park, and its changing relationship with the Smithsonian over the years.

The interview was recorded on July 2, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Exhibitions mentioned: Doodles in Dimension, [Evolution of a Community: 1972](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

James Mayo (1936-1995) worked as an exhibits production supervisor for the National Museum of American History, and for the Anacostia Community Museum. He also designed exhibitions for Dumbarton Oaks, and the City University of New York. He served as Chairman of the Board at the Market 5 Gallery in Washington DC and ran the renovation of the Benjamin Brown French School. He co-founded the Erika Thimey Dance and Theater Company and served as acting co-director of the Anacostia Community Museum from 1989 to 1991.

Names: Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001

Thomas, Larry Erskine

Davis, Ben

Hope, Marion Conover

Euell, Julian (1929-05-23-2019-06-03)

Eckardt, Wolf von, 1918-1995

Jones, Teresa

Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984

Winston, Michael

Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001530, AV001656: Oral history interview with Joan Maynard, 1992 May 6

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Maynard, Joan

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

Joan Maynard, a founding preservationist of the historic Weeksville neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, discusses how she came to learn about the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) in 1971 after attending a meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington DC. She talks about the museum's influence for developing African American museums throughout the country, its importance to and impact on the Anacostia neighborhood, and the leadership of John Kinard and Zora Martin-Felton. She discusses how a tour of the museum on its 5th Anniversary encouraged and energized members of the museum and preservation communities in New York.

The interview was conducted via telephone on May 9, 1992. There is background static throughout the recording, which makes it difficult to hear the interviewee in some parts.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Joan Maynard (1928-2006) was born in Brooklyn, New York on August 29, 1929. She attended Bishop McDonnell Memorial High, Art Career School in Manhattan, and graduated from Empire State College of the State University of New York. She was also a Revson Fellow at Columbia University and received an honorary doctorate from Bank Street College of Education. She worked as a commercial artist and art director for McGraw-Hill, and created comic book treatments of black history, including the Golden Legacy comic series. She also drew covers for The Crisis magazine, the official magazine for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1968, she founded the Society for the preservation of Weeksville and Bedford Stuyvesant, which worked to preserve the legacy of Weeksville, a pre-Civil War African American community in Brooklyn, New York. She secured funding from the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Downtown Brooklyn Association, and the Mary Flager Carey Trust in order to rehabilitate four wood-frame houses from the mid-1800s, and engaged the local community through public outreach and education, including recruiting students to participate in archaeological digs on the site. Joan Maynard served as President of the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford Stuyvesant from 1972-1974, and as Executive Director from 1974-1999. She was also a member of Alex Haley's Junta Kinte Oral History Workshop, a founding member of the African American Museum Association, and was Trustee Emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, receiving their highest honor, the Louise DuPont Crowninshield Award. In 1983, she authored *Weeksville, Then & Now: The Search to Discover, the Effort to Preserve*,

Memories of Self in Brooklyn, New York. She also received a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn District Attorney, Charles Hynes. In October of 2017, a block of Buffalo Avenue in Brooklyn was re-named Dr. Joan Maynard Way in her honor.

Names: Maynard, Joan  
National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001534, AV001682: Oral history interview with Joe Ragland, 1991 July 16

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

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

Joe Ragland discusses how he came to be involved with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), when John Kinard recruited the Anacostia Satellites Athletic Club to participate in the opening of the museum in 1967. He describes the many projects he became involved with, including creating silk-screen paintings for exhibits. He recalls John Kinard's strong leadership, how he gathered support from community clubs and associations, and gathered information about Anacostia history from the neighborhood's oldest residents. He also describes the impact of the museum, which became a place of gathering and engagement for the neighborhood.

The interview was conducted on July 16, 1991. The audio quality is clear, with some minor background static.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Joe Ragland was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. He was a member of the Anacostia Satellites Athletic Club, and volunteered for many projects with the Anacostia Community Museum, including creating silk-screen paintings.

Names: Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Anacostia Satellites Athletic Club  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001637: Oral history interview with John Brown, 1991 July 16

1 Sound cassette

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

John Brown recalls the gatherings among Smithsonian leadership to plan a neighborhood museum, the first of its kind, which became the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community

Museum). He describes the relationship the Smithsonian had with the museum staff. He remembers the exhibit design process, and all of the staff members involved. He talks about the positive impact the museum had on the community, how it became a source of pride and uplifted the spirit of the neighborhood residents. He describes the many contributions of S. Dillon Ripley, Almore Dale and Alton Jones in developing the museum. The interview was recorded on June 16, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording, with some minor background noise.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

John Brown was a senior architectural and graphics designer for the Smithsonian Institution and a contracts administrator for the exhibits department. He played a role in the planning and development of the Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Lawless, Benjamin  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Jones, Alton  
Pope, Annmarie, Mrs.  
Pope, Henry  
Blitzer, Charles  
Shelton, Jerry  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Anacostia Neighborhood Advisory Group  
Cooper's Restaurant  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001527, AV001678: Oral history interview with Joseph Falletta, 1991 July 22

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Falletta, Joseph

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

Joseph Falletta describes the early days of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), where he served as an art teacher and exhibit designer. He recalls working to prepare the original site, the Carver Theater, for opening, and how the residents of the neighborhood came to know and trust the museum's leadership. He talks about the silk-screening and illustration classes he taught for inner city youth. He discusses the museum's relationship to the Smithsonian Institution in the early days, and the influence of the museum over time.

The interview was conducted on July 22, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Joseph Falletta was an artist and teacher who worked for the Anacostia Community Museum from 1967 to 1969. He worked on exhibit design and taught silk-screening and illustration classes to inner city youth.

Names: Falletta, Joseph  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Brooklyn Museum of Art  
Pratt Institute  
School of Visual Arts (New York, N.Y.)  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Topic: Vietnam War, 1961-1975

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

Oral history interview with Josephine Wharton, 1991 December 11

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Wharton, Josephine

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

Josephine Wharton describes how she became involved with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) after she retired, by serving as a docent. She discusses the impact the museum had on the neighborhood and Southeast Washington DC, especially on young students. She also talks about John Kinard's leadership, the joys of working as a docent, and how the museum has changed over time. The interview was conducted on December 12, 1991. There is static throughout the recording, but the interviewee can be heard clearly.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , , [Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Josephine Wharton (1921-2017) was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. She worked for the Federal government and served as a docent for the Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Wharton, Josephine  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Jones, Alton  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001517, AV001666: Oral history Interview with Joy Ford Austin, 1992 May 16

1 Sound cassette (copy)  
1 Sound cassette (original)  
2 Digital files

Creator: Anacostia Museum  
Interviewer: Banks, Joanne  
Interviewee: Austin, Joy Ford  
Language: English.

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

Joy Ford Austin, a former Executive Director of the African American Museums Association, discusses her earliest experiences with, and her recollection of the evolution of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). She highlights the important role that John Kinard played in leading the Museum, and in being an original voice advocating for social responsibility in museums. She discusses the first exhibitions she recalls viewing at the museum, the [Blacks in the Westward Movement](#) , and [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) exhibits. She also reflects on the purpose and influence of the museum over time.

The interview was conducted by Joanna Banks on May 15, 1992. There is some static throughout the recording, but the interviewee can generally be heard clearly.

Exhibitions mentioned: [Blacks in the Westward Movement](#) , , [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) , , [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

The interview was conducted by Joanna Banks on May 15, 1992. There is some static throughout the recording, but the interviewee can generally be heard clearly. Exhibitions mentioned: Blacks in the Westward Movement, The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history, The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction.

Joy Ford Austin was the Founding Executive Director of the African American Museums Association and served from 1980 to 1987. She also served as Executive Director of Humanities DC from 2000 to 2020. In October 2020, she was the recipient of the Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Humanities. She currently serves as the CEO of Joy Ford Austin Arts and Humanities Advocacy, which provides services to philanthropic and cultural organizations.

Names: Austin, Joy Ford  
African American Museums Association  
Association of African American Museums  
Kinard, John, 1936-1989  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Banks, Joanne  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Topic: Social responsibility of business  
Civil rights



Community museums  
Culture: African Americans  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

AV001545, AV001659: Oral history interview with Julian Euell, 1991 July 5  
1 Sound cassette (original)  
1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Euell, Julian (1929-05-23-2019-06-03)

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

Julian Euell describes his role in the inception of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). He explains how he became a consultant to the Smithsonian Institution in the mid-1960s, and describes his conversations with Charles Blitzer (the Smithsonian Education Director), S. Dillon Ripley (Smithsonian Institution Secretary), and others, and their exploration of the idea of a museum designed to benefit a community, provide teaching, exhibits, and artists in residence. He describes the exploration of Washington DC, and how Anacostia came to be selected as the museum site. He speaks at length of his relationship with John Kinard, the plans and politics behind the scenes, the directions he hoped the museum would take, and the impact the museum had overall.

The interview was recorded on July 5, 1991. The audio is clear throughout the recording with some background noise.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Julian Euell (1929-2019) was a jazz bassist who played with Sonny Rollins, Jackie McLean, and Art Taylor, among others. He served in the military from 1945 to 1947. In 1952, he studied under Charles Mingus. Then he attended the Juilliard School from 1953 to 1956. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Columbia University, and then taught courses there from 1954 to 1956. He began working in New Jersey as a social worker in 1958, and from 1964, he served as a project consultant for the Smithsonian Institution, contributing to the conceptualization of a neighborhood museum, which ultimately became the Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Marsh, Caryl  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Blitzer, Charles  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Yates, Sid  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Euell, Julian (1929-05-23-2019-06-03)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001524, AV001677: Oral history interview with Lillian Smith, 1991 July 24

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Smith, Lillian

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

Lillian Smith, a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood, recalls the opening of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), its impact and presence in the community, and the effect it had on the neighborhood youth. She discusses how the social and political environment in the 1960s and 1970s affected neighborhood residents, and the important role the museum played as an exhibition space, and community center. She also describes the effect of the relocation from the Carver Theater to the current location near Fort Stanton, and how the Anacostia neighborhood has changed over time.

The interview was conducted on July 24, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Lillian Smith was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC.

Names: Smith, Lillian

Davis, Ben

Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001526, AV001615: Oral history interview with Louise T. Jackson, 1991

November 12

2 Sound cassettes

Interviewer: Miller, Erin

Interviewee: Jackson, Louise T.

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

Louise T. Jackson, a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood, recalls the inception of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), the early exhibits, and the impact it had on the neighborhood. As a museum docent, she worked closely with the museum's leadership over time. She describes the many groups and activities she became involved with, the influence the museum had on her children, and how the museum has changed over time. The interview was conducted by Erin Miller on November 12, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Real McCoy: Afro-American invention and innovation, 1619-1930](#) , , [Climbing Jacob's Ladder: the rise of Black churches in Eastern American cities, 1740 - 1877](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Louise T. Jackson was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC and served as a docent for the Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Jackson, Louise T.  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001631: Oral history interview with Margaret Mahone, 1992 May 6  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Mahoney, Margaret, 1924-

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

Margaret E. Mahoney recalls her time as an employee of the Carnegie Corporation in New York and describes meeting John Kinard while working on community development issues. She talks about Kinard's energy, leadership, ability to bring people together, and the many difficulties he faced. She talks about how the residents were encouraged to search their homes for material that showed the history of Anacostia, and how the ACM became a source of pride and a reflection of the community.

The interview was conducted via telephone on May 6, 1992. The voices are somewhat muffled, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Margaret E. Mahoney (1924-2011) graduated from Vanderbilt University and worked for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She became the first woman to head a major U.S. philanthropic foundation when she served as president of the Commonwealth Fund for the Carnegie Corporation from 1980 to 1995. She was also a trustee of Smith College, and a member of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine.

Names: Mahoney, Margaret, 1924-  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001537, AV001670: Oral history interview with Marion Agnes Gill, 1991 October 24

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

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

Marion Agnes Gill discusses how she came to design the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum's (now Anacostia Community Museum) 1987 exhibit, *Climbing Jacob's Ladder: The Rise of Black Churches in Eastern American Cities, 1740-1877*, by coordinating photographs for the exhibit and catalog, and how this led to her eventually working for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. She highlights the commitment and work of Zora Felton-Martin, whom she credits with positively impacting her career. She describes the museum's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution, and how social and political trends have affected the museum over time. She also describes the positive impact the museum has had on the neighborhood, by serving the local community, being inclusive, providing essential information to all, and displaying exhibits that are relevant to the residents. The interview was recorded on October 4, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording, with some background static.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , , [Climbing Jacob's Ladder: the rise of Black churches in Eastern American cities, 1740 - 1877](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Marion Agnes Gill (1964-) earned a BA in Political Science and a minor in Art History from Fisk University. She served as an intern and later an exhibit designer for the Anacostia Community Museum, coordinating the inaugural exhibit for the museum's Fort Stanton site. She then worked for the Smithsonian Institution for 20 years, and played a key role in planning and opening the National Museum of the American Indian in 2004, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2016. She also served as Director of Museum Planning and Operations for the International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina. She then served as Associate Director of Special Projects for Princeton University.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Mayo, Sharon  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001642: Oral history interview with Marjorie Kinard, 1991 June 15

1 Sound cassette

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

Marjorie Kinard talks about the founding of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) and what it was like to be married to its founding director, John Kinard. She describes the difficult environment in Washington DC as the museum was being developed because there was upheaval after a riot in Anacostia that year. She recalls the hope that the museum would serve as a place for the community to learn about their

own neighborhood and become more aware of the Smithsonian Institution. She describes the challenges John Kinard faced within the community, like winning the faith and trust of the "silent infrastructure" and "silent leadership" among the residents. She talks about how the museum gave the community the opportunity to see themselves in a positive light, and how the exhibits were interactive, engaging, and targeted local issues. She states that the museum offered educational programming like sculpting, macrame, pottery, and drama. She describes the museum's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution as supportive, but she mentions some of the racism her husband managed like a lack of promotional opportunities for African Americans. She describes her husband as the first African American museum director in the country. She expresses her concern that contemporary African Americans may take for granted the opportunities they have within the Smithsonian Institution, recalling that there were not always executive roles, or even internships. She describes her husband as a fighter and innovator and feels that the museum's programs helped African Americans become interested in museology and created opportunities for them to work within the Smithsonian. She also talks about how the museum evolved from a little community museum for children and residents to a more global concept with exhibits that addressed a wider audience, like Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds, and Out of Africa, which focused on African American heritage and history. The interview was recorded on June 15, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Marjorie Kinard held a Bachelor of Arts from Livingstone College, and a Master's Degree from the University of the District of Columbia. She served as an educator for District of Columbia public schools, Director of public relations for Barber-Scotia College in Concord, and as Director of the Shiloh Baptist Church Child Development Center in Washington DC. She was a prominent community activist, fundraiser, and popular speaker. She was a member of the National Council of Negro Women, the Livingstone College National Alumni Association, the National Association of the Education of Young Children, the Washington Association of Child Care Centers, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She also moderated the weekly radio show "Health Talk" on WYCB. She was married to John Kinard, the founding Director of the Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Youth Advisory Council (Anacostia Museum)  
Southeast Neighborhood House (Washington, D.C.)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001640: Oral history interview with Marshall Jackson, 1991 July 16

1 Sound cassette

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

Marshall Jackson describes how he came to become involved in the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) by volunteering as a docent in 1970. He talks about the recognition the museum brought to the Anacostia neighborhood by drawing diverse people from all over to see the exhibits and events. When asked how the museum changed upon relocating, he describes the Carver Theater site as "ideal" because it was a centrally located historic building, but also expresses his appreciation for the improved facility, and larger staff at the new Fort Stanton Park site.

The interview was recorded on July 16, 1991. There is significant background noise, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibition mentioned: [Out of Africa: from West African kingdoms to colonization](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Marshall Jackson (1931-) was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. He served as a docent for the Anacostia Community Museum.

Names: Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001618: Oral history interview with Michael Battle, 1991 July 24

1 Sound cassette (original)

Interviewee: Battle, Michael

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

Michael Battle discusses his experience as a youth in the Anacostia neighborhood and describes how he became a member of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum's (now Anacostia Community Museum) Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) in 1968. He describes the many youth activities that became available through the museum, like photography, pottery, arts and crafts. He talks about how the YAC helped shape exhibits, and how it led to other opportunities for him, like joining Operation Crossroads, which allowed him to travel to Zambia and Botswana to help build a kitchen and an amphitheater. He explains that the museum was different because it was hands-on, interactive, and focused on African American history and experience. He also describes the impact of the museum on the neighborhood, particularly on young people who now had a communal place to gather and more opportunities to learn about art and history.

The interview was recorded on July 24, 1991 and begins at the 17:04 mark. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording, with some minor background noise.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) , This Thing Called Jazz.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Michael Battle (1952-) was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC. He participated in the Youth Advisory Committee for the Anacostia Community Museum and traveled to Africa with Operation Crossroads. He became a lawyer and served as Legislative Council of the District of Columbia

Names: Battle, Michael  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Robinson, James H., 1907-1972  
Operation Crossroads Africa  
Southeast Neighborhood House (Washington, D.C.)  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Sergio and the Free Souls (Band)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001522, AV001657: Oral history interview with Michael Fischer, 1991 November 4

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Miller, Erin

Interviewee: Fischer, Michael F.

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

Michael Fischer discusses the early development of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), and his experiences serving as a photographer for the museum. He recounts photographing events and working with students who were interested in photography. He discusses how residents of the Anacostia neighborhood became involved with the museum by serving as board members, participating in community events, and attending exhibits. He also discusses John Kinard's leadership, and the museum's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution over time.

The interview was conducted by Erin Miller on November 4, 1991. There is background static, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Michael Fischer (1941-) worked as a photographer for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from the Spring of 1961 until 1975. He later worked as a photographer for the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Names: Fischer, Michael F.

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001654: Oral history interview with Milton Jones, 1991 June 28

1 Sound cassette

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

Milton Jones describes working in the exhibits department and helping with research, design, and education at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) from its inaugural year in 1967. He recalls being on a street corner, encountering John Kinard, and asking him for a job. He credits the opportunity he received as the "best thing that ever happened to me in my lifetime", because the museum inspired him to work, be honest and fair with people, and turn away from crime. He describes the effect the museum had on the community, how it brought something new and fresh to the neighborhood and afforded opportunities to learn about history and get involved with museum work. He remembers teaching children in the education program to stay in school, reach for better things in life. He says 200-300 kids went on to college and he credits the museum with providing opportunities and support. He recalls how the museum attracted people from all over the world to Anacostia, and "put them on the map." He also discusses his sense that the museum has changed, the community has become less involved, and he expresses concern that it should be more focused on community programs and events. The interview was recorded on June 28, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording, with some minor background noise.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) , , [Black women: achievements against the odds](#) , , [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Milton Jones (1934-) resided in the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington, DC. He worked in the exhibits department of the Anacostia Community Museum, helping with research, design, and education.

Names: Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001644: Oral history interview with Omar Wynn, 1991 October 24

1 Sound cassette

Interviewer: Smith, Trina Fletcher

Interviewee: Wynn, Omar

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

Omar Wynn discusses his time at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), where he served as an exhibit specialist from 1979-1982. He describes the mission of



the museum as meeting the needs of people who are traditionally not served by the big museums on the National Mall. He recalls how the Anacostia residents engaged with the museum through daily patronage, and how it became a meeting place for civic organizations. He remembers feeling that the original Carver Theater site prevented people with a genuine interest from coming to the museum because of the heavy street traffic. He also describes how John Kinard enjoyed the full support of the community, and how Audrey Archer had control over the administrative operations of the museum. The interview was recorded on October 24, 1991 by Trina Fletcher Smith. The audio quality is somewhat muffled, with background noise, but the interview can be heard clearly.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Omar Wynn (1952-) was the director of the Smithsonian's Office of Exhibition Services. From 1979 to 1982 he served as an exhibits specialist for the Anacostia Community Museum. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Art History from Colby College in 1974.

Names: Archer, Audrey  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001638: Oral history interview with Percy Battle, 1991 July 1  
1 Sound cassette

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

Percy Battle describes his experience as a member of the Anacostia Satellites Athletics Club and the Board of Directors for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). He talks about how the Carver Theater was chosen as the original site, and how the community became deeply involved in the museum's operation by participating in the Board of Directors, and influencing what exhibits would be displayed. He describes the museum's focus on African American contributions to culture and history, and on Africa itself. He recalls how the museum brought culture to the community rather than residents needing to travel to the National Mall. He also describes how the museum changed when it relocated to Fort Stanton Park, saying it had a larger capacity, and the benefit of producing exhibits on-site, rather than having them produced downtown.

The interview was recorded on July 1, 1991. The audio is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Frederick Douglass years: a cultural history](#) , , [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Percy Battle (1925-2008) graduated from Cardozo High School, and attended Howard University, Cortez Peters Business College, The University of Hawaii, Southeastern University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School. He served in the Navy during World War II and was stationed at Pearl Harbor from 1944-1946. He then served as a file clerk at the U.S. Civil Service Commission, before becoming a fiscal officer at the State Department. He then served as chairman of the D.C. Police and Firemen's Retirement and Relief Board. He also served as chairman of the Anacostia school board, treasurer of the Frederick Douglass United Community Center, and member of the Ward 8 Community Council. He served on the advisory boards of the Washington Convention Center, RFK Stadium, the DC Cable Television Committee, and the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum.

Names: Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Marsh, Caryl  
Shackleton, Polly , 1910-1997  
Jones, Milton  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Anacostia Satellites Athletic Club  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001622: Oral history interview with Polly Shackleton, 1991 August 2  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Shackleton, Polly , 1910-1997

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

Polly Schackleton describes being a part of Ladybird Johnson's Beautification Committee and working with a group of young people in the Anacostia area, which led to her involvement with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). She discusses the positive effect the museum had on the neighborhood by providing opportunities for residents and by focusing on local history. She talks about how the museum changed after relocating, by having a much better facility, but also being less accessible to the neighborhood. She also describes the important contributions of John Kinard, Stanley Anderson, Louise Hutchinson, and Zora Martin-Felton.

The interview was recorded on August 2, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Polly Shackleton (1910-1997) was born in Brookline, Massachusetts. She attended Garland Junior College and Simmons College's School for Social Work. She also studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the New School for Social Research. She moved to Washington DC in 1939 and worked on Franklin Delano Roosevelt's

presidential campaign. She served as editor for Who's Who in American Art, and American Art Annual. During World War II, she worked as an information specialist and researcher for the Office of War Information. From 1951 to 1962, she worked for the American Institute of Architects. In 1956, she became a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, serving on the platform committee. In 1967, President Johnson appointed her to the newly created unelected DC Council. In 1974, she won the first election for Ward Three, and served from 1975 to 1987. Her efforts helped in the passing of 60 pieces of legislation that became DC law.

Names: Shackleton, Polly , 1910-1997  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Marsh, Caryl  
Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
Frederick Douglass Memorial Home  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Ladybird Johnson's Beautification Committee

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001531, AV001663: Oral history interview with Riddick Vann, 1991 July 16

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

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

Riddick Vann, a former Exhibit Designer for the National American History Museum, discusses how he came to serve on a committee to develop the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). He describes how the committee came to select the Carver Theater as the site, John Kinard as the director, and the many other topics they considered. He recalls how the museum affected and impacted the Anacostia neighborhood upon opening. In remembering people who influenced the museum's development, he highlights the tremendous work of Louise Hutchinson, the historian who researched and presented the exhibits, and John Kinard, the first director. He comments on the experimental nature of the museum, and how its success influenced museums around the country.

The interview was conducted on July 16, 1991. There is background noise throughout the record, but the interviewee can be heard clearly throughout.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Riddick Vann (1930-2022) graduated from the Howard University School of Architecture. He worked as an Assistant Professor for the School of Architecture and Planning, teaching Museum Design and Architectural Photography. He designed the University Museum for the Moorland Spingarn Research Center, and was a tennis coach at the University of the District of Columbia. He worked at the

Smithsonian Institution National Portrait Gallery, National Museum of American History, the Anacostia Museum, and the National Museum of Natural History, with over 30 years of service. He also served as the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Ward 4A04 (Brightwood, DC) November 1992-2002.

Names: Vann, Riddick  
Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001550, AV001684, AV001646: Oral history interviews with Rhawn Anderson, 1991 December 5-6

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

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

Rhawn Anderson describes his experience as a trainee in the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) Exhibit Design and Production Lab's training program, where he learned how to produce exhibits, and took classes on graphics, silk-screening, exhibit construction, photography, and conservation. He talks about how these experiences led to other opportunities, including work as a photographer for the Washington Post, and the Evening Star. He describes the positive impact the museum had on the Anacostia neighborhood, and the way the exhibits reflected realism and related to the residents' lives and history. He also details how the Smithsonian Institution supported the ACM by helping with film development, graphics, matte work, and sometimes loaning people or materials. The interview was recorded on December 6, 1991. There is static throughout the recording which makes it difficult to hear in parts, but the interview can generally be heard clearly.

Exhibitions mentioned: [Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation](#)

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Rhawn Anderson (1947-) was a photographer and exhibit designer who lived in Washington DC, and worked for the Anacostia Community Museum, the Washington Post, and the Evening Star.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001547, AV001639: Oral history interview with Richard Ahlborn, 1991 November 5

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Miller, Erin

Interviewee: Ahlborn, Richard E., 1933-2015

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

Richard Ahlborn discusses his involvement in the founding of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), where he assisted with planning, examining the Carver Theater site, and working on early exhibits. He describes how the relationship between the museum and the Smithsonian Institution has evolved over time, and the impact the museum had on his life, and on the Anacostia neighborhood.

The interview was conducted by Erin Miller on November 5, 1991. The audio quality is clear with some background static throughout the recording.

Exhibition mentioned: [Blacks in the Westward Movement](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Richard Ahlborn (1933-2015) earned a BA in Studio and Art History from the University of Colorado, graduating with honors and Phi Beta Kappa. He won a Henri DuPont Wintearthur Museum Fellowship at the University of Delaware, where he earned an MA in American Studies. He wrote more than fifty books and monographs and specialized in Spanish American history and arts research. He served as Curator at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. He worked for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History from 1964 to 2002 and retired as Curator Emeritus.

Names: Ahlborn, Richard E., 1933-2015

Molotov, Bob

Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001

Hutchinson, Louise Daniel

Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Watkins, C. Malcolm

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001525, AV001674: Oral history interview with Robert Stanton, 1991 August 15

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Fischer, Helene

Interviewee: Stanton, Robert George, 1940-

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

Robert Stanton, former Director of the National Park Service, discusses how he came to be involved in the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), his relationship with the museum's Founding Director, John Kinard, how the Anacostia neighborhood received and engaged with the museum, and how

it has evolved over time. He describes the process of converting Carver Theater site into the original museum, and his service as the Chairman of the Exhibit Planning Committee, which established the first exhibits and programming. Robert also describes his involvement in relocating the museum to Fort Stanton Park, after having been appointed Superintendent of the National Capital Parks East. The interview was conducted by Helene Fisher on August 15, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Robert Stanton (1940-), was born in Fort Worth, Texas. He earned a B.S. in 1963 from Huston-Tillotson University and completed graduate work at Boston University and George Washington University. In 1966, he relocated to Washington DC, and became involved in the emerging Anacostia Community Museum, eventually serving as Chairman of the Exhibit Planning Committee. He worked in progressively more responsible positions in the National Park Service, starting as a personnel management and public information specialist, then serving as a management assistant for National Capital Parks-Central, and later as superintendent of National Capital Parks-East. In 1976, he became Assistant Director for Park Operations, and was then selected as Deputy Regional Director of the National Capital Region. In 1988, he advanced to Regional Director of the National Capital Region, where he remained until his retirement in 1997. Shortly thereafter, he was called out of retirement, and appointed as the 15th National Park Service Director by President Bill Clinton, where he served until January, 2001. He was the first African American to serve as Director of the National Park Service. During his distinguished career, he worked to improve the agency's public programs to better serve minority populations, and completed numerous programs in conservation, management, and executive leadership. Mr. Stanton also received three honorary doctorate degrees and numerous awards, including the Department of the Interior's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award. He also served as a professor in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Names: Stanton, Robert George, 1940-  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Spade, Jim  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Frederick Douglass Memorial Home  
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (Agency : U.S.)  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001519, AV001627: Oral history Interview with Rowena Stewart, 1992 May 11

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Lowe, Gail Sylvia

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

Rowena Stewart, former Director of the African American Museum in Philadelphia, The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, the African American Historical and Cultural Museum, and the Motown Historical Museum and the American Jazz Museum, discusses the influence the Anacostia Community Museum had in introducing African American heritage in a museum setting, in serving the Anacostia neighborhood, and in supporting other emerging African American cultural institutions in the 1960s and 1970s. She discusses meeting John Kinard, and the guidance he provided in presenting history through exhibitions and educational programs. She shares her memories of the early days of the Anacostia Museum, the effects of its move from the Carver Theater to the current location, and its ongoing influence.

The interview was conducted by Gail S. Lowe on May 11, 1992. There is background static throughout the recording, but the interview can be heard clearly.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Rowena Stewart (1932-2015) served as director for four major African American historical museum societies between 1975 and 2002. She was the first director of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society in Providence. Then she served as the Director and Curator of the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum in Philadelphia. In 1992, she moved to Detroit to be the Director for the Motown Historical Museum. She later moved to Kansas City, Missouri, to oversee the development of the American Jazz Museum, becoming its executive director upon its completion in 1997. She retired and moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 2002. During this time, she served as President of the A.L. Lewis Historical Society Board, Coordinator of the American Beach Community Center and Museum, and worked as a consultant to museums.

Names: Stewart, Rowena, 1932-  
Kinard, John, 1936-1989  
Martin-Felton, Zora  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
Anacostia Museum  
Anacostia Community Museum  
African American Museums Association  
African American Museum in Philadelphia  
Rhode Island Black Heritage Society  
Parting Ways, the Museum of Afro-American Ethnohistory  
(Plymouth, Mass.)

Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
African Meetinghouse (Boston, Mass.)  
National Center of Afro-American Artists. Museum  
The Boston Group  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Topic: Social responsibility of business  
Civil rights  
Community museums  
Culture: African Americans  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

AV001528, AV001679: Oral history interview with Sala Faruq Farrow, 1991 October 24

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Faruq, Sala

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

Sala Faruq discusses her experience at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) in 1976, when she received training and participated in museum programming. She describes the museum's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution and her experience of the museum's leadership at that time. She also discusses how the museum in 1991 compared to the original museum at the Carver Theater location, and how the museum impacted the Anacostia neighborhood over time.

The interview was conducted on October 24, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Sala Faruq Farrow (1953-) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in drawing and printmaking from Howard University, and a Master of Arts degree in arts management from the American University in Washington, DC. She is the owner and designer for her company, Afro-Originals, which began in 1998. She worked as a freelance graphic designer from 2008 to 2011, and a senior museum assistant for the Wells Fargo History Museum since 2011. In 2019 she received the City of Charlotte Placemaking Program Award.

Names: Faruq, Sala  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001625: Oral history interview with Schroeder Cherry, 1991 December 30

1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Cherry, Schroeder , 1954 -

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



Schroeder Cherry recalls his experience working as a museum educator for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) from 1979 through 1982. He describes the museum as a cultural center that created exciting, innovative exhibits and educational programming. He talks about the efforts that were taken to engage the neighborhood, including the creation of a mobile unit that brought exhibits out to the community. He describes how inclusive the museum was in engaging school children, educators, unemployed people, and neighborhood residents of all ages, and how the community took ownership of and pride in it. The interview was recorded on December 30, 1991, via telephone. The interviewee's voice is somewhat muffled, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

The interview was recorded on December 30, 1991, via telephone. The interviewee's voice is somewhat muffled, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Schroeder Cherry earned a BFA in fine arts from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, attended the School of Painting and Sculpture in Skowhegan, ME, earned a Master of Museum Education from George Washington University in Washington D.C, and a doctorate in museum education from Columbia University. He apprenticed with a puppet master in Chicago, and went on to perform original shows with puppets in museums across the United States, including the Studio Museum in Harlem, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Baltimore Museum of Art. In 2020 he received a Maryland Arts Society of Baltimore Travel Grant and traveled to Brazil. In 2021 he received the Maryland State Art Council Independent Artist Award and was appointed Curator of the James E. Lewis Museum of Art at Baltimore's Morgan State University. In 2023, he received the Virginia Center for Creative Arts Fellowship. He also teaches museum studies at Morgan State University.

Names: Mayo, James E.  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001634: Oral history interview with Sherry Lumpkin, 1991 November 20  
1 Sound cassette

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

Sherri Lumpkin describes how she came to become involved with the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum) in 1990, by volunteering and becoming a docent. She expresses her view that the purpose of the museum is to educate all people about African American culture by providing cultural and historic exhibits in addition to art exhibits. She highlights educational

programming for children and community outreach as important facets of the museum and recalls a recent Juneteenth celebration. She describes how the museum has changed since she was a young girl, emphasizing that the community had more involvement in its operation in the early days. She credits the museum with influencing her desire to change careers by teaching her about her heritage and connecting her with museum staff members.

The interview was recorded on November 20, 1991. There is some background noise, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout the recording.

Exhibitions mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Sherri Lumpkin (1960-) attended Hampton University and the University of the District of Columbia. She worked as a production manager and graphic designer and was certified in Advanced Youth Development Training by DC Trust. In 2009, she founded the Ragbaby Exchange, a non-profit that creates specialized programs to build self-love and self-care in women and children and she serves as its Executive Director. She is artist-in-residence at Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council in Maryland and teaches crafts to seniors for Prince George's Parks and Planning. She is also a published children's book illustrator.

Names: Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001626: Oral history interview with Stanley J. Anderson, Sr., 1991 July 18  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewee: Anderson, Stanley J.

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

Stanley J. Anderson, Sr. discusses the conversations, politics, committees, and advisory groups that led to the Smithsonian Institution selecting the Anacostia neighborhood as the site for a neighborhood museum. He recalls the many factors and events that led to this outcome, including a visit from First Lady Ladybird Johnson. He also describes the selection of the Carver Theater, and the first museum staff members, and the impact the museum had on the neighborhood once it opened. He talks about the critical contributions of John Kinard, Zora Martin-Felton, and Almore Dale in shaping the museum and making it a success. He also describes how the museum has changed, saying in 1967 it had less structure and a narrower focus.

The interview was recorded on July 18, 1991 via telephone. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Stanley J. Anderson, Sr. (1927-1998) graduated from Howard University with a master's degree in sociology. He served as Deputy Director of the Neighborhoods Center Division of the Washington DC Parks and Recreation Department. In 1967, he was appointed as a member of the Washington DC council and served until his retirement in the early 1980s. He also served in a leadership capacity on the President's Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum Advisory Board.

Names: Anderson, Stanley J.  
Marsh, Caryl  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Johnson, Lady Bird, 1912-2007  
Blitzer, Charles  
Ripley, S. Dillon (Sidney Dillon), 1913-2001  
Howe, Althea  
Tyler, Edgar (Tiny)  
Hope, Marion Conover  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
District of Columbia Parks and Recreations Roving Leaders Program  
Southeast Neighborhood House (Washington, D.C.)  
Black Respect (group)

Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001520, AV001662: Oral history interview with Steven C. Newsome, 1991  
December 17

2 Sound cassettes

Interviewee: Newsome, Steven C., 1952-2012

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

Steven Newsome, the second director of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), and successor to John Kinard, discusses the purpose and impact of the museum, and how it has changed over time. He describes how the museum has aligned more with the Smithsonian Institution, and how it now serves an international audience, while remaining devoted to the local community. He describes the "call and response" relationship the museum has with the neighborhood, where, for example, if the community asks for guidance in researching genealogy, the museum will sponsor genealogy workshops. He describes the museum as having become more academically grounded and focused on more diverse audiences.

The interview was conducted on December 17, 1991. There is background static, but the interview can be heard clearly throughout.

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Steven C. Newsome (1952-2012) attended Trinity College and Emory University. He served as the Chief for the Office of Cultural and Educational Services, Division of History and Cultural Program, Department of Housing and Community Development in Annapolis, Maryland, the director of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, and as the Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture, before becoming the director of the Anacostia Museum from 1990 to 2004. In this role, he oversaw a renovation of the museum facilities and raised \$8.5 million to support it. He created an annual summer academy for children and launched a national collecting initiative for the museum through the exhibit Precious Memories. After retiring from the Anacostia Museum, he became Executive Director of Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, and founding director of Prince George's County African American Museum and Cultural Center. He also served on many boards of cultural organizations in the Washington DC area, including the American Association of Museums, Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, and the Maryland Humanities Council, and also served a term as President of the Mid-Atlantic Museums Association.

Names: Newsome, Steven C., 1952-2012  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001529, AV001676: Oral history interview with Theresa Howe-Jones, 1992 July 14

1 Sound cassette (original)

1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewee: Howe-Jones, Theresa

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

Theresa Howe Jones describes her involvement with the development of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), where she served on the Advisory Committee. She discusses how the Carver Theater came to be selected as the original site of the museum, how the neighborhood became involved, and how the exhibits and programming were developed. She also talks about the museum's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution, and how it evolved after the change in location to Fort Stanton Park.

The interview was conducted on July 27, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording.

Exhibition mentioned: [The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Theresa Howe Jones (1933-) worked as a Liaison at the United Planning Organization, as the Executive Director of Chase

Incorporated, and she also worked for Southeast Neighborhood House. She served as chairperson of the founding board of the Anacostia Community Museum and the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation, and was the founder of the Ward 8 Democrats. She was also active with the United Black Fund, and was elected commissioner for 8D07 from 2004-2008, and from 2012-2017. She was awarded the Anacostia Community Museum Community Service Award in 2013, and the DC Office of the People's Counsel Consumer Advocate Award of the Year in 2016.

Names: Howe-Jones, Theresa  
Dale, Dianne  
Gregory, Esther  
Dale, Almore M., 1911-1984  
Anderson, Stanley J.  
Holt, Marian  
Jones, Alton  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Anacostia Historical Society  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001641: Oral history interview with Toni Jackson, 1991 December 5  
1 Sound cassette

Interviewer: Sparks, Dan

Interviewee: Brady, Toni Jackson

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

Toni Jackson describes her experience working for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum). She describes the concept of the museum as "bringing the museum to the people", and recalls how it made a concerted effort to provide training and education to the African American community, and made African American representation and history a primary part of exhibitions. She describes the sense of optimism sparked by the presence of the museum because it stimulated the community and attracted visitors to the neighborhood. She recalls how the community engaged with the museum, and how the residents' participation and support were vital to its success. She also describes the museum's relationship with the Smithsonian Institution as complex. She felt they interacted poorly, and that it was difficult to secure funding, and for the director to manage programs freely. She describes some personality conflicts and racism. She also praises John Kinard as a kind, compassionate, and fair individual, who stood up for himself and for his people when necessary. The interview was conducted on December 5, 1991 by Dan Sparks. The audio quality is clear throughout the recording with some minor background noise.

Exhibition mentioned: [Blacks in the Westward Movement](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Toni Jackson worked for the Anacostia Community Museum, and was a resident of the Anacostia neighborhood in Washington DC.

Names: Archer, Audrey  
Newsome, Steven C., 1952-2012  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

AV001535, AV001680: Oral history interview with Vic Govier, 1991 November 4  
1 Sound cassette (original)  
1 Sound cassette (copy)

Interviewer: Miller, Erin

Interviewee: Govier, Victor

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

Victor Govier (1941-) discusses how he became the Exhibits Program Manager for the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now Anacostia Community Museum), how the exhibits were created, and various innovations in exhibit design. He describes the museum's impact, his experiences in working with museum leadership, and how the social and political environment of the time affected the museum's development. He recalls how the museum personally affected his life, and how members of the community got involved with and took pride in the museum.

The interview was conducted on November 4, 1991. The audio quality is clear throughout, with some minor background static.

Exhibition mentioned: [Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation](#) .

Conducted as part of the ACM 25th Anniversary Oral History Project, which includes approximately 100 interviews of residents and influential people of the Anacostia area of Washington, DC.

Victor Govier served as an Exhibits Program Manager for the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum from 1979 to 1984.

Names: Govier, Victor  
Archer, Audrey  
Robinson, John N.  
Carver Theater (Washington, DC)  
Genre/Form: Oral histories (document genres)  
Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)