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Balancing Act in the Archives: Increasing Access to the Great Plains Black History Museum Collection

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Balancing Act in the Archives: Increasing Access to the Great Plains Black History Museum Collection

Brick & Click: an academic library conference
November 3, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



Lori Schwartz, | she, her
Hagel and Technical
Services Archivist



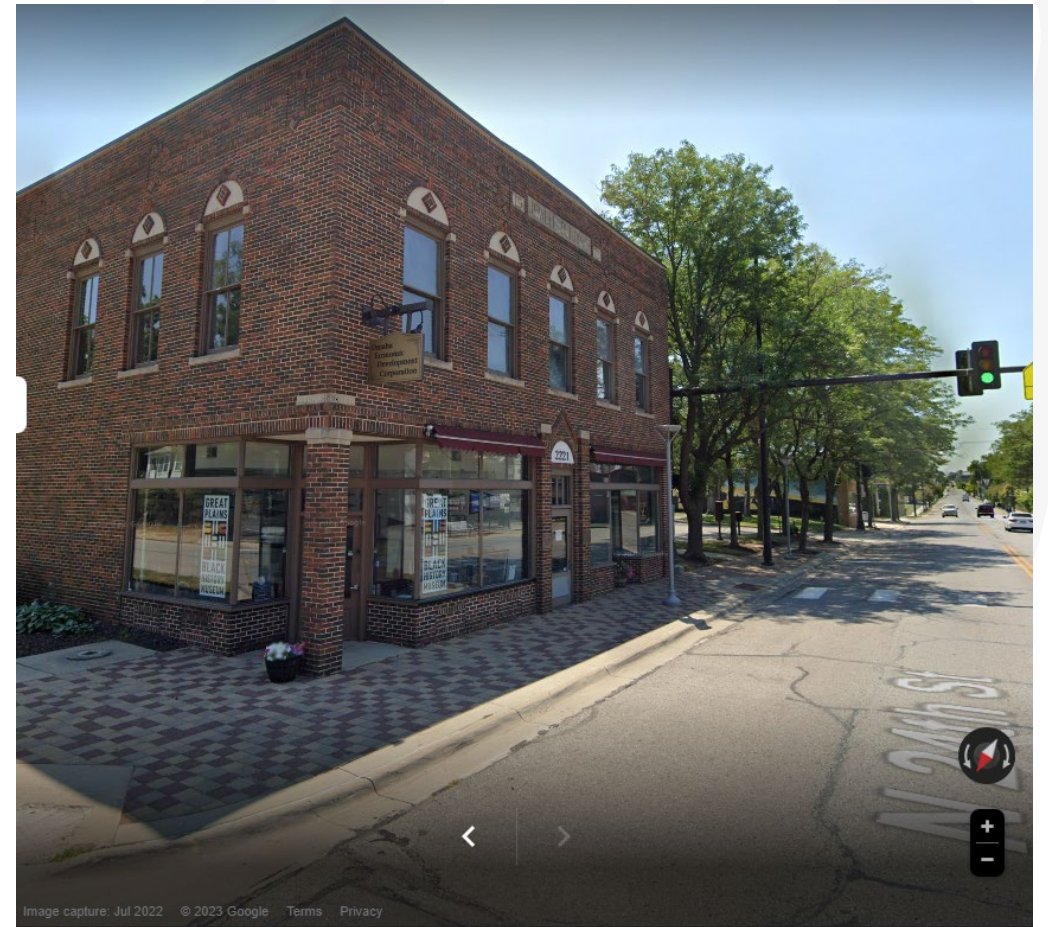
Wendy Guerra, | she, her
Digital Initiatives Archivist



Great Plains Black History Museum



Photos courtesy the GPBHM Facebook page and Google Maps.





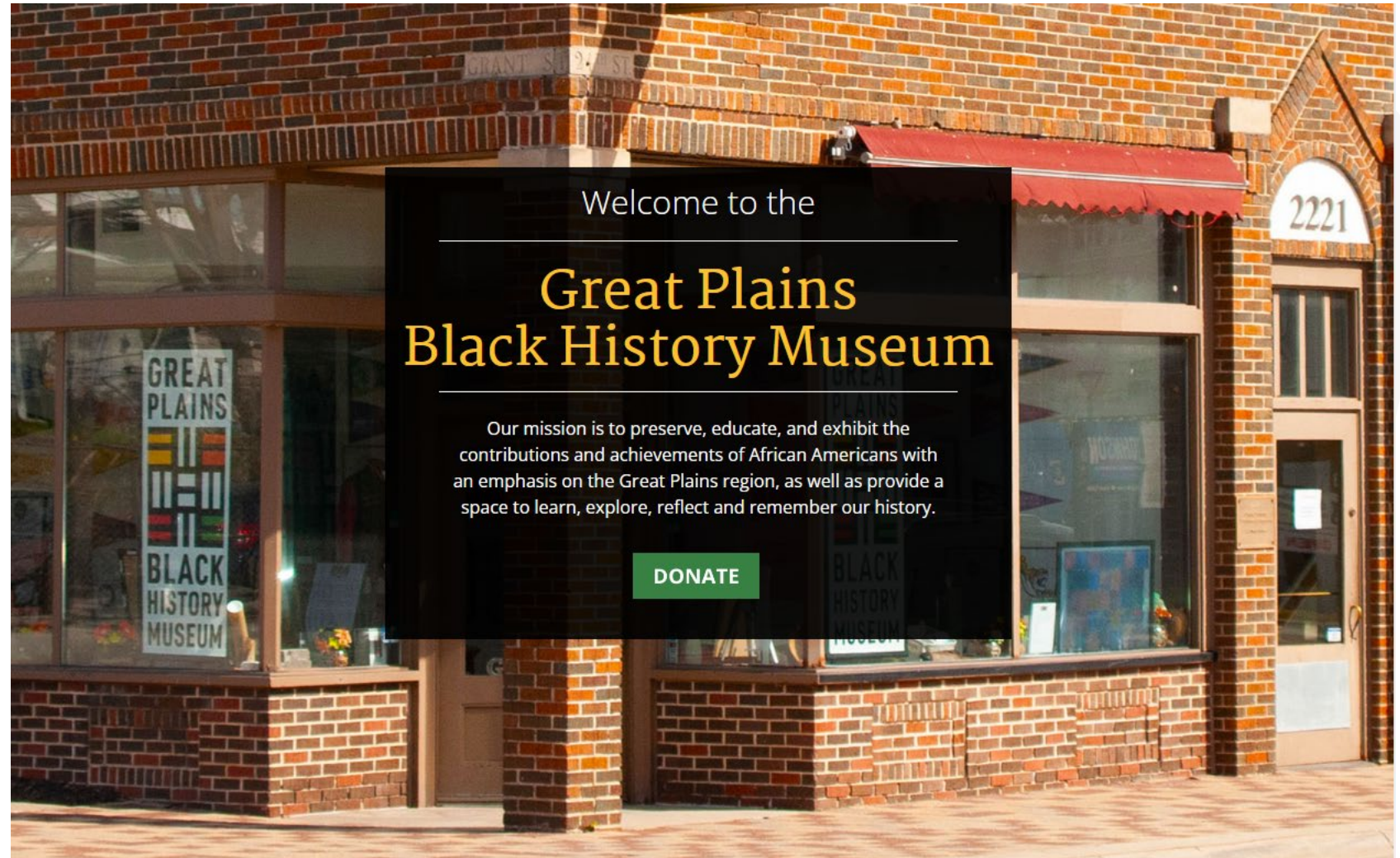
Outline

- History of Partnership
- The Project
- Lessons from Literature
- Obstacles
- Benefits and the Nebulous Future



History of Partnership

- Friendly neighborhood archivists
- Curiosity to Involvement
- Nothing into something!



Screenshot, front page, Great Plains Black History Museum website:
<https://gpblackhistorymuseum.org/>



The Project

Charting Our Path: Celebrating 50 Years of Black Studies Online Exhibit Opens

The exhibit celebrates 50 years of Black Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, sharing the history of the department through digitized collections from UNO Libraries.

published: 2022/07/18

contact: Claire Du Laney - Archives and Special Collections

phone: 402.554.2884

email: cdulaney@unomaha.edu

UNO STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Browse Items

Browse Collections

Browse Exhibits



The 1969 Catalyst
The Omaha 54
Omaha Response to
Unrest and the Trial of
the Omaha 54
University Response to
Unrest
Establishing a
Department of Black
Studies 1971

UNO Department of Black Studies

"Charting Our Path: Celebrating 50 Years of Black Studies" celebrates the 50th anniversary of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Department of Black

Studies.



Charting Our Path traveling exhibit

Screenshot of project press release

The Project



Photos of a UNO archivist and GPBHM executive director working with the collection in preparation for a collection move, and a closeup of one shelving unit.

Great Plains Black History Museum Collection

View IP Embargo Manage

Archival material from the Great Plains Black History Museum (GPBHM) consists of over 200 document boxes of letters, photographs, clippings, artifacts, and other collection material. An archivist for the GPBHM inventoried the material and identified potential series for the collection, including Local Histories, Black Institutions, Family Papers, Rare Books, Musical Scores, Bertha Calloway's Research Collection, Photographs, Artifacts, and Unknown or Miscellaneous documents. Documented here is a small selection of material from the whole collection. This material relates to the Department of Black Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Search this Collection

Search

The Black Studies at UNO series includes documents from Dr. Alonzo Smith, Class Materials, documents from the Black Liberators for Action (BLAC), documents regarding Black Studies at other institutions, and miscellaneous documents. Included in the documents from Dr. Alonzo Smith are his research, writings, and communications. Also included are class materials, such as quizzes (keys and ungraded), syllabi, assigned readings, and pamphlets. The pamphlets show the course descriptions for the available Black Studies courses. There is also a section on Black Liberators for Action on Campus (BLAC). Within the documents for BLAC, there are brochures for the events they hosted and letters from the secretary to the president of the organization. Newsletters and reports, flyers, research, and miscellaneous documents are also in this sub-series. Also included are documents regarding Black Studies at other institutions. This includes newsletters and publications along with class descriptions for Black Studies courses. The newsletters detail the state of Black Studies at other institutions and their current goals and outreach.

Finding aid: <https://archives.nebraska.edu/repositories/4/resources/3940>

This collection was processed and digitized as part of "Charting our Path: Celebrating 50 Years of Black Studies at UNO" with funding provided by UNO Libraries' Eugene S. and Sunny M. Thomas Fund for Innovation.

The originals and other historical material is available in the archives of the Great Plains Black History Museum. Contact the museum for more information: 402.932.7077, info@GPBlackHistoryMuseum.org, 2221 N. 24th Street Omaha, NE, 68110

Grid view List view



Miscellaneous



Black Liberators for Action on Campus (BLAC)



Pamphlets



Quizzes

Screenshot of the Great Plains Black History Museum Collection as it exists in UNO's digital collections repository.





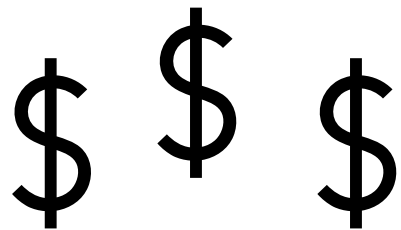
Lessons from the Literature





Obstacles

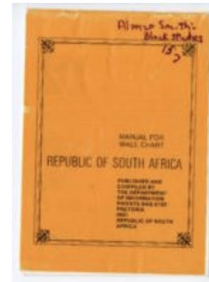
- Establishing trust
- Funding
- Digital infrastructure
- Communication



Miscellaneous



Black Liberators for Action on Campus (BLAC)



Readings



Syllabus



Communication with Others



Dr. Alonzo Smith's Research

File Manager

Collection UNOLibrary-ASC on hcc#attic

Path /~/Digital Processing/1_In Process/GPBHM/

select all up one folder refresh list filter view

NAME	LAST MODIFIED	SIZE
This endpoint must be migrated to version 5 by Dec 18, 2023		
Derivatives	12/2/2022, 04:35 PM	-
MODS	12/2/2022, 04:35 PM	-
Preservation Masters	12/2/2022, 04:35 PM	-

Above: Screenshot of digital files in UNO's cloud storage.

Left: Screenshot of items in the Great Plains Black History Museum Collection as it exists in Islandora 7.



Obstacles

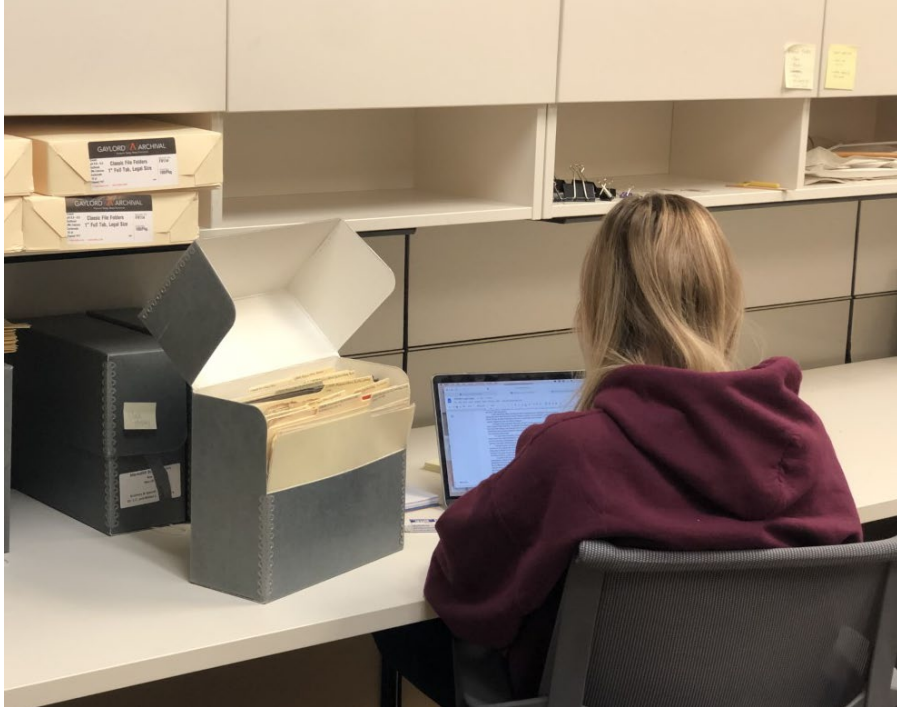


Photo of our student employee working on the GPBHM collection.

Great Plains Black History Museum Collection

Collection – Box: 1-16 Identifier: GPBHM

University of Nebraska at Omaha Archives & Special Collections | Great Plains Black History Museum Collection

Collection Overview Collection Organization Container Inventory

Scope and Contents

Archival material from the Great Plains Black History Museum (GPBHM) consists of over 200 document boxes of letters, photographs, clippings, artifacts, and other collection material. An archivist for the GPBHM inventoried the material and identified potential series for the collection, including Local Histories, Black Institutions, Family Papers, Rare Books, Musical Scores, Bertha Calloway's Research Collection, Photographs, Artifacts, and Unknown...

[See more >](#)

Dates

1906 - 1997

Conditions Governing Access

This material is temporarily in the custody of UNO Libraries Archives and Special Collections. Access to this material requires permission from staff of the Great Plains Black History Museum.

Biographical / Historical

The Great Plains Black History Museum officially opened in February 1976. In its early years, it received funding from the city of Omaha and private and corporate foundations. They operated on a shoe-string budget with founder Bertha Calloway often working without a salary. Calloway was always gathering artifacts, stories, and papers relating to Black History, and sought to share the rich history of African Americans with the Omaha community. As during...

Search Collection

From year To year

Search

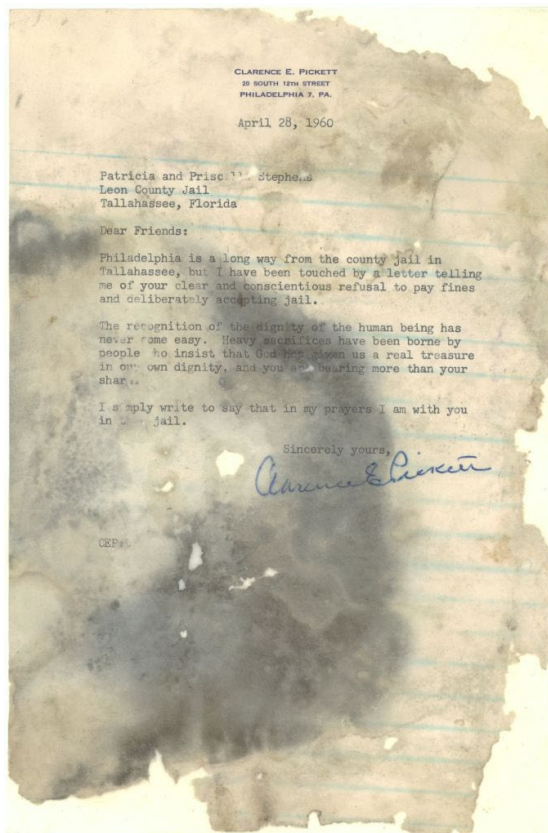
Navigate the Collection

Great Plains Black History Museum Collection

- + Black History
- + Black Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)
- + Education (College)
- + Education (PreK-12)
- + Museum Administration
- + Military
- + Sports
- + Miscellaneous



Obstacles – Preservation/Environment



Benefits and the Future

- Increased representation and access
- Teaching/learning opportunity for all?
- Challenge of realized benefits
- Funding and the questionable future

Screenshots of the Community Collections page in Islandora 7 and item-level usage stats.

Community Collections

View IP Embargo Manage

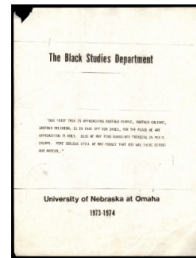
University of Nebraska at Omaha Libraries' Archives and Special Collections collaborates with community groups to host their archival collections online. The materials displayed here are collections physically held and retained by the communities that created them, yet accessible through this online archive.

Search this Collection

Search



Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska Newspaper Collection



Great Plains Black History Museum Collection

OBJECT	PID	PAGE VIEWS
Miscellaneous	unomaha:86063	507
Black Liberators for Action on Campus (BLAC)	unomaha:86064	488
Pamphlets	unomaha:86065	486
Dr. Alonzo Smith's Research	unomaha:86087	483
Flyers	unomaha:86084	483
Newsletters/Reports	unomaha:86085	483
Syllabus	unomaha:86068	481
Newsletters/Publications 2 from Other Institutions	unomaha:86090	480
Quizzes	unomaha:86066	480
General 2	unomaha:86070	479
Newsletters/Publications 1 from Other Institutions	unomaha:86089	479
Writings	unomaha:86083	478
Class Descriptions from Other Institutions	unomaha:86088	478
General 1	unomaha:86069	477
Research 1	unomaha:86091	477





Thank you!

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