

Project Title

Developing Houston Hip Hop Archives

Project Mentor(s)

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Project Summary

This project will be aimed at enhancing access to Houston Hip Hop archives held by Fondren Library's Woodson Research Center by expanding the descriptions of existing collections, bringing in additional materials starting with CERCL's holdings, and creating a video aimed at inspiring research and expansion of the archives.

Project Description

The project will contribute to the work of Rice faculty through The HERE Project (now the Center for Engaged Research and Learning or CERCL) who developed courses, programming, and collected archival materials related to Hip Hop Culture in Houston between 2010-2020.

Shortly after arriving at Rice, Dr. Anthony Pinn began teaching a course entitled "Religion and Hip Hop Culture," in which students examined connections between Religion and Hip Hop Culture. This course grew into several offshoots including additional classes, academic and community programming, DJ Battles, Cyphers, exhibits, online learning modules, and community partnerships with Houston area artists.

The Hip Hop collections, housed at the Woodson Research Center, chronicle these efforts but more work needs to be done to enhance the collections' visibility to the research community. In collaboration with the Woodson Center and CERCL staff, the fellow will develop enhanced descriptions of the existing materials, update finding aids, and develop lib-guides to accompany each collection. Through their joint efforts with the CERCL Research Fellow and the CLIR/ DLF Postdoctoral Research Associate, the fellow will also have the opportunity to contribute to the archive by identifying possible new materials to add to these collections. Finally, the fellow will create a promotional video using production software available through the DigitalMedia Commons (DMC) that highlights the collections' intellectual, political and cultural significance and its research potential to scholars.

Key Tasks for Fellow(s)

- Enhance description of existing archives in finding aids linked from this lib-guide, including pointing to materials at UH (2 weeks - early Fellow deliverable - working with Woodson staff and with descriptive guidance from CERCL and community partners)

- Collect CERCL's existing and new oral histories, images, videos, or other ephemera related to events hosted by CERCL about Hip Hop in Houston, and add them to the archives at Woodson Research Center. These are currently held by CERCL in the Box environment. Continue descriptive work for these new materials, and note materials suitable for inclusion in the final video. (4 weeks - midpoint Fellow deliverable)
- Create a promotional video pulling from archives / oral histories to highlight the Hip Hop collections held at the Woodson, and to also point to those at UH. The video will be showcased at the Afro-Diasporic Houston symposium and RURS during the Spring semester. It will also be posted on the CERCL YouTube Channel. The goal of the video will be to raise awareness of what is already present in the archives, what archives are, how important they are, how fragile cultural heritage materials can be if not archived, and encourage those with archival materials to plan for sharing them with others. This may be in a community archive or in an institutional archive such as at Rice or UH. (4 weeks - final deliverable)

Qualifications

We're looking for a student who is a self-starter and has a willingness to learn new digital programs. No experience is necessary for editing or archival studies, but a general interest and understanding of each is helpful. The student will need to have a creative vision to incorporate multimedia, photographs, documents, newspaper clippings, and press releases for the final promotional video. **Visual and Dramatic Arts, History, or Humanities majors are encouraged to apply.**

Learning Outcomes

Students will learn approaches to archival description and research, gain skills in video production and editing, sharpen writing skills, and build valuable knowledge in the areas of digital humanities and public history.