

2019-2020 Humanities Center Brown Bag Series

Hastings Street Blues Project

By 1943, when Detroit became the epicenter of the nation's largest wartime race riot, Hastings Street had already emerged as the vibrant center of business and commerce for the city's burgeoning African American Community. But by 1960, it had become a ghost town—giving way to construction for the new Interstate, I-75.

Hastings Street Blues is a documentary work-in-progress that will examine mid-20th Century African American life in Detroit and the city's pre-Motown music legacy. The blues and its duality of hope and hard times becomes a driving narrative, and metaphor for the film's parallel themes of self-determination and community displacement. Hastings Street record shop owner and record producer, Joe Von Battle becomes the central character who weaves these themes together. The writings and performances of his daughter, Kresge Literary Fellow Marsha Music, inform his story, as will the first person accounts of those who knew him, archival images and the music he recorded. Filmmaker Juanita Anderson addresses the process of developing this documentary feature film, and ponders the relationship between present-day physical place, collective memory and forgetfulness.

FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY



Tuesday , February 4, 2020

12:30PM—1:30PM

Rm. 2339

Faculty Administration Building



Photo Credit: Joe Von Battle in front of his Hastings Street record shop c. 1955



Juanita Anderson
Communication

Senior Lecturer and 2019-20
Murray E. Jackson University
Creative Scholar in the Arts

Juanita Anderson is Senior Lecturer and Area Head of Media Arts and Studies in the Department of Communication at Wayne State University. A veteran film/television producer and documentary filmmaker, she is the university's 2019-2020 Murray E. Jackson Creative Scholar in the Arts.

Photo Credit: Emmy Perryman