

Uncovering CUNY TV's Audiovisual Heritage

October 2020 Report

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Project Dashboard: <https://github.com/cunytv/uncoveringcunytv>

Note: This report may reference previous reports, all of which can be accessed by following this link (<https://github.com/cunytv/UncoveringCUNYTV/tree/main/MonthlyReports>) or by contacting library@tv.cuny.edu with an access request.

Overall Progress

- Digitization began in the second week of October and meeting weekly goals.
- Workflows for captioning and access workflows will need more adjustment.
- CUNY TV submitted a proposal to CLIR for COVID-19 Emergency Funds on October 31st.

Digitization

- Sixty were tapes digitized this month from the Baruch collections. Eighty-five were digitized before the project began for a total of 145 videos transferred.
- Highlights from these digitized collections include a 9 part series reviewing public policy during the Mayor Lindsey years, a still-relevant 2005 discussion of the Voting Rights Act, and city council debates from that same year featuring a youngish Bill de Blasio.
- Only about 20 files have been written to LTO tape thus far but will ramp up in the next months to meet the intended target goal.

Captions

- Initially, the plan was to caption as many tapes as were digitized in one month. However, Baruch College Specials and City Club programs are between 60-90 minutes, exceeding traditional 30-minute programming and requiring additional resources to fulfill CUNY's guidelines for correct spelling, speaker identification, and non-verbal sound cues: https://www.cuny.edu/accessibility/content/videos/#captioning_guidelines.
- An auto-captioning tool called Descript can achieve around 90% accuracy. All files will be auto-captioned with this tool, with a percentage manually corrected by the project's interns or technician. What percentage can be managed is still under discussion.
- After the new year, we will be reaching out to the collection managers individually on opportunities for partnerships in this area.

Access

- An introductory meeting with the web team has been scheduled for November regarding CUNY TV content.

Outreach

- Just in time for the upcoming mayoral race in NYC, we will be looking to Baruch College Specials for mayoral topics of the past to post on social media.

Funding

- The project's funder, CLIR, accepts proposals for up to \$7500 in Emergency Relief Funds related to COVID-19. Our request was to retain the project technician for an additional 5.5 weeks. During that extended time, the technician would make up the digitization work lost while waiting for building access approval. The proposal and an updated budget can be found here:
<https://github.com/cunytv/UncoveringCUNYTV/tree/main/ProjectDocumentation>

Roadblocks

- Nothing significant to report. Technical issues have been resolved quickly.