

Uncovering CUNY TV's Audiovisual Heritage

Report for 2021 April

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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

- One hundred tapes were digitized, making this the most productive month of digitization to date, largely from the the multi-deck DV captures for the miniDV tapes in the *Politics con Sabor* collection.
- CTCN is largely complete with some lingering “problem tapes” that are awaiting another deck for potentially better playback. Episodes captioned by our Spring Intern, Eric Silberg, are available as a playlist on YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRqOW3sjwjhPFRX88ARrTYd7axdxPdipJ>
- A Summer intern has been hired to caption the Homovisiones collection from Hunter, Aida Garrido who is earning an MA from the University of Amerstam’s media preservation program. Aida will begin in mid-June.
- A small collection of U-Matic tapes from the Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library at Medgar Evers University have been added to the project.
- Digitization of the City Club tapes have also begun with some tapes prioritized after a meeting with former chair, Stan Altman.
- 5.2 TB of data have been migrated to LTO tape for long term storage.

Digitization

- 63 assets (100 tapes) were digitized in April from the *Cinema Then*, *Cinema Now* and *Politics con Sabor* collections.
- Total, we are up to 470 tapes digitized, including the 89 that were transferred prior to the project, just under halfway to goal.
- The multi-deck command-line capture feature of DV Rescue has allowed us to digitize about 9 MiniDV tapes a day, but workflows for quality control and ingest still need to be realized. None of the MiniDV tapes have been ingested to LTO to date.
- A quick transfer of a Medgar Evers tape revealed an unknown Shirley Chisholm speech at the college during Black History Month in the early 1980s.

Captions

- To date, 38 videos have been captioned out of a possible 1200, totaling in 25.5 hours of content captioned.
- The Spanish language program, Homovisiones, will be captioned in Spanish, with short descriptions in both English and Spanish.
- Captions for archival material and raw footage will contain more instances noting that dialogue cannot be heard over poor audio. Contemporary media created at CUNY TV has the benefit of being returned to the editor if audio cannot be heard.

Access

- CTCN outreach is in the works but pushed back to May to finish up transfers and ingests for the collection.

Metadata

- At this time, nearly all of CTCN has been described, a focus of this month. Those that were not captioned have very basic description. Talks with the Web team about the next steps for this metadata will commence in May. These descriptions need to be uploaded to Filemaker very soon.