

Uncovering CUNY TV's Audiovisual Heritage

Report for 2021 August

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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

- Eight-nine tapes digitized in the month of August (and 89 assets)
- One hundred and fifty assets were ingested into long term storage
- Uncovering CUNY students Aida Garrido (University of Amsterdam) and Nour Sleiman (CUNY Recovery Corps) ended their summer sessions working on the project
- A small number of tapes from all currently digitized collections were added to Youtube Playlists (see individual collections for details)
- The collections focused on this month: City Club and HoMoVISIONES with some considerations for the next steps for Medgar Evers.

Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College Collections

- Forty-four HoMoVISIONES tapes have been digitized bringing us to about 164 episodes.*
- One hundred and thirty eight MiniDV's were inventoried
- CUNY-TV and Lindsay Wittwer met on August 26th to discuss the next steps for HoMoVISIONES and Centro Records.
 - Centro Record VHS tapes have been pulled by Hunter and will be handed off next week to Kelly Haydon.
 - Contingent on the creators thoughts about sharing the collection via Internet Archive, Hunter may create an Internet Archive account where CUNY-TV can send episodes of HV. Hunter can then work with students over time on description and captioning and metadata will be publicly available, meeting CLIR deliverables.
 - We will use [Maestra Transcription Suite](#) to caption all of the files and send them to Lindsay to edit. Vendor is in the process now of being approved. The vendor was selected as they have auto-captioning in multiple languages and have a intuitive user interface.
 - A researcher who is participating in the NALAC Latinx Summit 2021 in September has been connected with Lindsay and is navigating permissions.

Baruch College Collections

- Six new episodes were captioned by our CUNY Recovery Corps student worker and available on the Baruch College Special youtube playlist.

Bronx Community College Collections

- No updates at this time. Collection managers will be contacted in late September regarding the next steps.

Cinema Then/Cinema Now

- Seven new episodes were captioned by our CUNY Recovery Corps student worker and available (or nearly available) on the Cinema Then/Cinema Now youtube playlist.

City Club

- Inventory of these tapes is complete
- A major cleanup-effort will be needed to tidy up the existing CC data in Filemaker with the new CC data in Airtable. About a third of the collection held off site were duplicates.
- Ampex tapes in the collection have been prioritized, as well as those of major public figures like Guiliani and Schumer.

John Jay College Collections

- Will connect with the collection manager at the end of September.

Medgar Evers College Collection

- Sent update to collection manager on the status of the more problematic material. Information from the email sent on August 18th:
 - CLIR0045 - Shirley Chisholm
~ completed, there is an access copy in dropbox
 - CLIR0047 - Black History Month: Blacks in Politics Part 1-2
~ completed, in dropbox. both tapes are combined into one access copy
 - CLIR0048 - An Interview with Kalamu ya Salaam
~ completed, in dropbox. This tape is very "pink" but can be adjusted in post if preferred.
 - CLIR0049 - Black History Month: Poetry Reading, Parts1-3
~ These three tapes are highly degraded and did not respond to baking. They were transferred in sections to be spliced together.
 - CLIR0050 - Jazzworker

~ Duo channel mono tape with audio on one track and dialogue on the other. There is a version in Dropbox but we should do more work to get an adequate downmix of the two channels for access copies.

- CLIR0051 - Iswe Lethu ("Our Land")

~ Duo channel mono tape that needs to undergo the same process as above. The tape was also extremely degraded and took many bakes and tries to get all the way through. Some special handling of the deck had to be done during playback and no adjustments were made as a result.

- CLIR0052 - Medgar Evers College, Department of Gerontology Recruitment Tape

~ Duo channel mono tape that needs to undergo the same process as above.

- CLIR0053 - NAACP Black History Program: Dr. John Henrik Clarke, Keynote Speaker

~ completed, in dropbox

*Numbers may fluctuate slightly from month to month as some assets are deemed not eligible for digitization, and others either cannot be digitized for conservation reasons, or need to be re-digitized after failing quality control.