

Uncovering CUNY TV's Audiovisual Heritage

Report for 2021 September

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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

- 51 tapes digitized in the month of September (51 assets)
- 650 tapes transferred total since October 2020.
- Much of September was dedicated to adapting Filemaker metadata import workflows for the Uncovering CUNY project. Metadata for the project is collected via Airtable and can now be routinely migrated to Filemaker for long-term retrieval and discovery.
- Maestra, a transcription application, will be purchased by CUNY-TV and used to auto-caption foreign-language collections.
- A book chapter on the Uncovering CUNY project was proposed for a 2023 publication titled The Archivability of Television and Related Media:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d0AL1HlxTJ8KMKMXAnFXJCMTyW2Q8twMr0ryu7-of4c/edit>
- The collections: Centro, City Club, and HoMoVISIONES with Criminal Justice Up Close in preparation for transfer to CUNY-TV.
- Two U-Matic decks remain inoperable. Conversations with engineer department on prioritizing their maintenance continues.

Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College Collections

- 9 HoMoVISIONES tapes have been digitized bringing us to about 169 episodes.*
- 9 tapes were transferred from the CentroPR collection.
- All HoMoVISIONES metadata was imported into the CUNY-TV Archive database.
- Lindsay Wittwer is on maternity leave and Janeen Schiff is our contact at Hunter until Spring 2022.
- CentroPR created an Archive.Org page and provided CUNY-TV with the login information for mass upload of the materials.
- The creators of HoMoVISIONES will present and showcase the material at the NALAC LatinX Summit on October 1st with scholar Jose-Luis Benevides.
<https://hopin.com/events/nalac-national-latinx-summit/registration>

- Two boxes of VHS tapes from the CentroPR collection were picked up on September 23rd.
- Gonzolo Aburto, HoMoVISIONES creator, approved IA upload for remaining collections.

Baruch College Collections

- 5 additional episodes are awaiting upload to YouTube with 35 awaiting upload to Archive.Org.

Bronx Community College Collections

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

Cinema Then/Cinema Now

- 166 episodes are being prepared for mass captioning via Youtube and bulk import into Archive.Org.

City Club

- 33 tapes transferred in September. Two are being prepared for upload to YouTube.
- Several U-Matic tapes containing mold have been identified. These items were removed from their boxes and destroyed. So far, all have duplicates on VHS and we will transfer those instead. The records in the CUNY-TV Archives FileMaker database were updated to reflect the presence of mold and subsequent deaccessioning.
- 2 episodes are being prepared for upload to YouTube

John Jay College Collections

- Ellen has yet to return to onsite work, we will meet in October regarding the next steps for preparing Criminal Justice Up Close.

Medgar Evers College Collection

- No updates at this time to the issues addressed in the August report.

*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.