Preserving the Black Community Experience in Southern Nevada

The African American Collaborative Community Partners

- Henderson Libraries
- Las Vegas Clark County Public Libraries
- Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries
- University of Nevada Las Vegas Libraries
- Weiner-Rogers Law Library at William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV
- Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
- Las Vegas National Bar Association
- Vegas PBS
- Clark County Museum

Community Advisors

Hannah Brown
Brenda Williams
Jarmilla Arnold-McMillan
Sonya Horsford, EdD
Samuel Wright
Clare Sampson
Todd Robinson, PhD
Courtney Mooney

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Beldon Katleman, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Pearl Bailey circa 1950s

The Moulin Rouge circa 1955

Hannah Brown, Brenda Williams, Jarmilla Arnold-McMillan, Sonya Horsford, EdD, Samuel Wright, Clare Sampson, Todd Robinson, PhD, and Courtney Mooney raise money at the NAACP circa 1950s

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The Goal of The African American Collaborative

The story of Las Vegas’ African American community embraces a migration of people who brought distinct experiences and made countless contributions that influenced the evolution of Southern Nevada.

Today, their stories and historical evidence dwell in disparate places and pieces. It is the goal of the African American Collaborative to more fully preserve the heritage of Las Vegas’ black community—its businesses, schools, churches, social and political organizations, publications and entertainment.

The success of this collaborative effort will locate, link and curate the vibrant African American history that is distinctively Las Vegas—and will make it easily accessible to everyone.

How does the African American Collaborative work?

- **Identify** what is known and where information about the history of the black community of Las Vegas currently resides.
- **Bridge** the gaps in history by adding oral history interviews of people with knowledge and experiences that complete the story.
- **Collect** donations of photos and documents that enrich the history more fully. While original documents and photos are accepted, digitization of items is provided as an option.
- **Create** a web portal for the community that provides easy and convenient access to all materials from all collections and sources.

What you can do.

**ORAL HISTORIES**

Do you know someone who has yet to record an oral history of their experiences working, playing and raising a family here? Where are the people who operated and worked at black businesses (e.g. El Morocco, Louisiana Club, and the Brown Derby)? Provide us contact information.

**PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS**

Help us find historic business and organizational documents; photos of civic groups (e.g. Barbara Jordan Club, La Femme Douze); photos of historic buildings from the black community; early church documents/photos; older school programs/photos; family diaries and journals; early NAACP records. We accept originals or will provide scanning.

Help the African American Collaborative document and share Las Vegas’ African-American history.

I want to support the African American Collaborative with a generous tax deductible gift.

I will give the following amount:

- [ ] $500
- [ ] $250
- [ ] $100
- [ ] $50
- [ ] Other

[ ] Check enclosed (Payable to UNLV Foundation)

Print name as shown on card:

Card number: ____________________________
Expiration: _______ Security Code: _______
Signature: ______________________________
Telephone: ______________________________
E-mail: ________________________________
[ ] Please have someone contact me with more information.
[ ] I am interested in sharing my history. Please have someone contact me.

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

UNLV Libraries • ATTN: Oral History Research Center
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., Box 457001
Las Vegas, NV 89154-7001

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