

**Gude to the Black Arts in D.C.
Survey Oral History Collection
DCAAP.0015**

**Historical Society of Washington,
D.C., Collection Number MS 0824**

Finding aid prepared by D.C. Africana Archives Project

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DC Africana Archives Project
Gelman Library
Special Collections, Suite 704
2130 H Street NW
Washington DC, 20052

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Summary Information

Repository	DC Africana Archives Project
Title	Black Arts in D.C. Survey Oral History Collection
Date	1988
Extent	0.5 Cubic feet
Location note	This collection is part of the holdings at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C (MS 0824). Please contact them for information about accessing these materials. Address: 801 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Email: library@dchistory.org
Language	English
Abstract	The D.C. Blacks in the Arts oral history collection chronicles the history of fine arts in the Shaw, U Street, Howard University, LeDroit neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. The collection contains 15 reel-to-reel tapes that in include interviews with community members. Among these interviews are Dr. Montague W. Cobb, Lois Jones, and Todd Duncan.

Biographical/Historical note

The D.C. Blacks in the Arts oral history collection chronicles the history of fine arts in the Shaw, U Street, Howard University, LeDroit neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. The project highlights the development of Howard Theatre, noting that it became a site for the exploration of the arts in predominately black neighborhoods. Howard Theater was constructed in 1910 and was strategically placed in the neighborhood where street cars were accessible. At its opening in 1910 it was “the largest colored theatre in the world.” For most of the twentieth century, Howard Theatre captivated audiences with music, dance, drama and comedy. Speakers such as Booker T. Washington shared the stage with the musicians like Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holliday and Cab Calloway. Howard Theatre provided a place for Blacks to find entertainment and community enrichment in a segregated city and nation. The theatre also provided a venue for up and coming acts to hone their skills, develop a following of fans and learn from nationally famous mentors.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains 15 reel-to-reel tapes that in include interviews with community members. Among these interviews are Dr. Montague W. Cobb, Lois Jones, and Todd Duncan.

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged into alphabetical order by surname of interviewee.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

DC Africana Archives Project

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use note

Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of the D.C. Historic Preservation Office, 1998.004.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Banks, James Undated	1	1
General Note 3 3/4 ips 5" Reel to Reel		
Cobb, Dr. Montague W. interviewed by Sharon Harley 30-Jun-88	1	2
General Note 7" Reel to Reel		
Cobb, Dr. Montague W. interviewed by Sharon Harley 30-Jun-88	1	3
General Note 7" Reel to Reel		
Duncan, Todd interviewed by Sharon Harley 21-Jun-88	1	4
General Note 7" Reel to Reel		
Ealey, Adolphus 21-Sep-88	1	5
General Note		

7 1/2 ips 5" Reel to Reel

Jefferson, Mary 5-Oct-88 1 6

General Note

7 1/2 ips 5" Reel to Reel

Jones, Doris 23-Sep-88 1 7

General Note

7 1/2 ips 5" Reel to Reel

Jones, Lois 25-Aug-88 1 8

General Note

7" Reel to Reel

Jones, Lois M. 25-Aug-88 1 9

General Note

7" Reel to Reel

Pearis, Ella Undated 1 10

General Note

5" Reel to Reel

Robinson, Nellie C.S. 14-Sep-88	1	11
General Note		
7 1/2 ips 5" Reel to Reel		

Scott, Alfred Sep-88	1	12
General Note		
7 1/2 ips 5" Reel to Reel		

Shelton, Louise interviewed by Ruth Ann Overbeck 28-Nov-88	1	13
General Note		
3 3/4 ips 5" Reel to Reel		

Siermer, Casma 8-Aug-88	1	14
General Note		
3 3/4 ips 5" Reel to Reel		

Duncan, Todd interviewed by Sharon Harley 21-Jun-88	1	15
General Note		
7" Reel to Reel		