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This email is a newsletter from the University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS) sharing news, event information, collection updates, and more from the August Wilson Archive and Black arts and culture collections.

Exploring August Wilson's Global Impact



In partnership with the Center for African Studies, the ULS hosted the August Wilson Around the World panel on September 13th. The discussion, moderated by our August Wilson Outreach and Engagement Curator Diael Thomas, explored Wilson's impact on a local, national, and international level. Thank you to all who attended and made this engaging event possible!

The panel members included:

- Dr. Laurence Glasco, *Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh*
- Dr. Leah Mickens, *August Wilson Project Archivist, University of Pittsburgh Library System*
- Professor Ousmane Sène, *Director, West African Research Center; Professor, University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar*
- Dr. Sandra Shannon, *Founder & President, August Wilson Society; Professor Emerita of African American Literature, Howard University.*



You can view a recording of the program
at:

[youtu.be/6M4VY5JtT20?
si=EDFXGFNehMtjdHUW](https://youtu.be/6M4VY5JtT20?si=EDFXGFNehMtjdHUW)

Backstage with the August Wilson Archive: Theater Research and Performance



Photo of actors from Pittsburgh Playwrights Company digital program.

ULS Archives & Special Collections supported Pittsburgh Playwrights Company's production of August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* through several engagements this summer. A complementary exhibit featuring materials from the August Wilson Archive curated by high-school students Lucy Caroff and Monica Neely was installed in August Wilson House for the duration of the production. We hosted a behind-the-scenes exhibit tour and actor's talk in collaboration with the Hill District Community Engagement Center, as well as an "Archivist Talkback" with insight and knowledge from ULS colleagues Bill Daw, Ed Galloway, Leah Mickens, Miriam Meislik, and Diael Thomas.

performance piece titled *A Study of August*, delved into Wilson's life and legacy. This project used the August Wilson Archive as a point of inspiration and research. The goal was to create a performance piece that explores the intersection between academia and artistry in studying theatrical icons. During this presentation, Die-Cast cofounder Brenna Geffers and performer Steven Wright shared a sample of the developing work and how they have used research as performance in the past.

Die-Cast is an artist's collective dedicated to creating site-specific immersive performances and installations that explore the intersection of history, science, and art. The collective's past projects include mixed media installations that delve into the science behind NASA's tragic Columbia shuttle, as well as the behavior of viruses within the human genome. In addition, Die-Cast has created immersive performances that examine the real lives of artists such as Bertolt Brecht and Otto Dix.

Request a Recording of the Die-Cast Presentation

Exhibit Spotlight on the Blue, Gold and Black Digital Archive

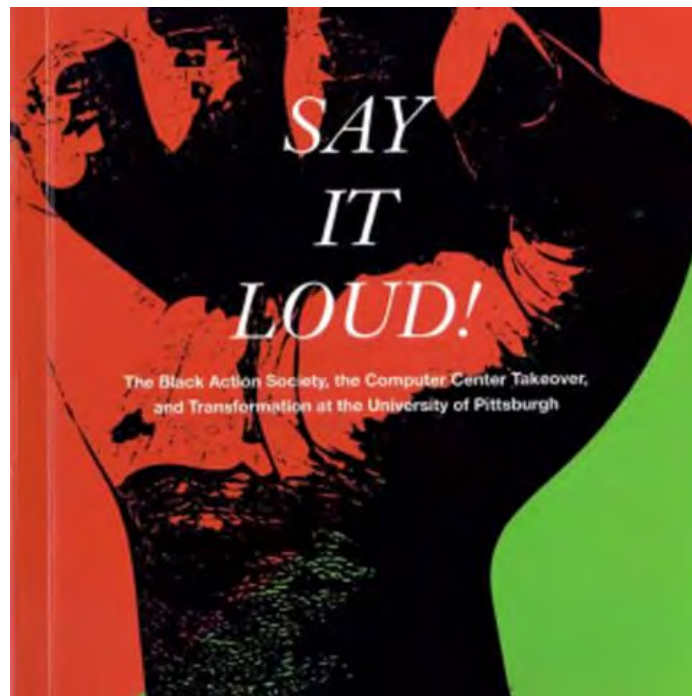
The Blue, Gold and Black Digital Archive is a dynamic digital archive, coordinated by the University Library System and Pitt's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, created to reflect the Black Pitt experience through the years.

"True Black Freedom": History of Activism at Pitt

Activism has helped create a road to justice for Black students at the University of Pittsburgh. The Black Action Society (BAS) student organization has historically made many contributions through its activism, such as catalyzing the founding of the University's Black Studies Department (now the Africana Studies Department).

One of the group's notable first actions was the Computer Center sit-in in 1969. During the takeover of the Cathedral of Learning's central computer room, 40 students held a six-hour sit-in. They demanded an improved college experience for Black students, including creating a Black Studies program and hiring Black faculty and staff. These demands were eventually met, leading to several programs and resources that Black students at Pitt have today. Black students and organizations, like the Youth Power Collective, have also used activism to voice their concerns about issues occurring around the world, such as police brutality and South African Apartheid.

The quote in this exhibit title comes from The Black Action Society (BAS), "Demands of Black Action Society," *The Blue, Gold and Black Digital Archive*.



[Explore the Exhibit!](#)

[Share Your Pictures & Stories!](#)

August Wilson Website Receives Archival Publication Award



We are pleased to announce that the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) has awarded the ULS with the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award for 2023 for the August Wilson Archive website (augustwilson.library.pitt.edu). Awarded annually by MARAC's Finding Aids Award Committee, this prize honors online publications, including digital exhibitions, LibGuides, websites, and web pages devoted to promoting and using archival materials created by individuals or institutions in the MARAC region.

The committee commented that the "site did an outstanding job in implementing an engaging design that invited users to explore the digital exhibit, 'August Wilson in Place,' and the archives further." The committee also noted "how the site highlighted physical exhibits in the collection and linked researchers to the finding aid. The site did an excellent job combining narrative with engaging media to introduce researchers to the author, his history, and his work." Congratulations to everyone involved in this exciting achievement!



New & Noteworthy: The Archive of Jazz Photographer Jeffrey Kliman

The ULS recently acquired the archive of Jeffrey Kilman, a well-known and respected jazz photographer based in Baltimore, Maryland. Kilman worked throughout the Northeast from 1986 to 2012 and was a significant figure in the documentation of jazz during this time. His photographs feature many Black musicians, such as Miles Davis, Branford Marsalis, and Cindy Blackman. During his career, Kilman captured numerous artists for major jazz magazines like *Jazz Times*. He also produced cover and session photographs for record labels and photographed frequent performances at jazz festivals, clubs, and concerts at the John F. Kennedy Center. This fall, Archives & Special Collections hosted Kilman as part of the 53rd Pitt jazz seminar. He was featured in two history of jazz classes and took part in a conversation discussing his photographic career and influences. At the event, photographs and memorabilia from Kilman's archive were displayed. [You can view the finding aid for the Jeffrey Kliman Photographs on our Digital Collections website.](#)

Notes from Bedford Avenue

Updates from the August Wilson Archive at Pitt

On June 23rd, the Center for Urban Education held a day-long workshop on Archival Research in the August Wilson Archive. Dr. Khalid Long (Howard University) instructed 20 participants on the principles of archival research and Wilson's work. This workshop involved a three-hour session for participants to access unique materials within Archives & Special Collections. We look forward to hosting future workshops!



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