Digital Humanities, Accessibility and Paths to Funding Anti-racist Research
An ORI & UCH Supporting Arts and Humanities Speaker Projects series presentation
March 24, 2023 Western Michigan University

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What to expect today

- Digital Humanities overview and support at WMU.
- Dream Storytelling Project.
- WMU Libraries support of Dream.
- Current funding opportunities for anti-racist and social justice focused project.
“DH values collaboration, plurality, investigation of human culture, and the disruption of and reflection on traditional practices and is concerned with not just the use of digital technology for humanities projects but how the use of digital technology for humanities projects changes the user’s experience.” -

THATCamp LAC 2012.
Types of Digital Humanities Projects

- Creating archives and databases;
- Collecting interviews and ethnographic studies;
- Transcriptions & translations;
- Text analysis;
- Mapping;
- Storytelling;
- Open-source publishing;
- Data visualization;
- Creating websites/web applications;
- 3D Modeling & augmented reality;
- etc...

The Digital Humanities Stack (from Berry and Fagerjord, *Digital Humanities: Knowledge and Critique in a Digital Age*)
Current Areas of Support

- Digital storytelling;
- Creating digital exhibitions;
- Integrating digital humanities technology into the classroom;
- Creating and curating digital archives.
Library support to supplement grant applications

“Value-added library services”

- Create data management plans to fulfill funding mandates.
- Persistent digital access and preservation of digital materials.
- Help make grant outputs discoverable to larger audiences.
- Provide guidance and support for digital humanities projects.
- Technological expertise and infrastructure to create digital project plans & workflows.
- Assistance with creation and management of streaming media.
Storytelling
Project Goal

To increase public knowledge about African American Muslim community building in Detroit

Dream of Detroit Leaders & Volunteers
Image by Louisa Bertman, The Nation, July 26, 2017
Method

Community Based Participatory Research:

People most affected by an issue engage in collaborative knowledge production
Rafiq Mahdi with Ayesha Cook & Samayyah Cook, August 2020, Photo: Tasneem Joseph
Dream Storytelling Project Intern Training w/Malikah Shabazz & Alisa Perkins
Muslim Center Jazz Café, July 2022
Photo: June Pearson
Dream Storytelling Project Intern Training
Muslim Center Jazz Café, July 2022
Photo: June Pearson
SANKOFA: BLACK MUSLIM LEGACY CONVENING
MUSLIM CENTER | 6PM | SAT 5/14
WITH REMARKS FROM

FEATURING
- Panel Conversation
- Special Remarks by Youth Participants
- Select Oral History Previews
- Youth Awards Ceremony
- Delicious Food Before & After

APPETIZERS & DINNER FROM
KHALIPHA'S MOBILE KITCHEN
BARAKA BLENDS

AKIL FAHD  ZARINAH EL-AMIN  MALIKAH SHABAZZ  ALISA PERKINS  MARK CRAIN  ZAINAB YOUSIF-AHMED  IMAM NADIR AHMAD  SR. NAFeESA MAHDI
Interns give speeches and receive Young Historian Awards
Sankofa: Black Muslim Legacy Convening
Detroit, Michigan, May 2022
Photo Credit: June Pearson
Team Members

- Administrators: 4
- Filmmakers: 13
- Young Historians: 9
- Transcribers: 13
- Archivists: 5
- Video Editors: 11
- Photographers: 2
- Web-design: 1
- Others: 5
Nation of Islam Pioneers, Detroit 1970, Historic Masjid Wali Muhammad, Photo Credit: Br. Shedrick Bilal El-Amin
Oral History Interview with Dawud Clark on March 14, 2021

Dream Storytelling Project Team

Interviewee
Clark, Dawud

Interviewer(s)
Sadid, Abdul-Zahir; Perkins, Dr. Alisa (Research Director)

Description
Oral history interview with Dawud Clark conducted by Abdul-Zahir Sadid on March 14, 2021. Interview written by Dr. Alisa Perkins (Research Director) and Abdul-Zahir Sadid. Dawud Clark was born in 1959 in Germany while his father was stationed there as part of his military service. After Clark’s family returned to the US in the 1960s, they settled in Detroit, where his father worked for Ford Motor Company and his mother pursued a career as a teacher. After graduating from Murray-Wright High School, Clark earned his EMT license from Wayne County Community College. He...
Live AT THEIR FEET
COME SIT WITH US AND HEAR MORE FROM THE DETROIT BASED BLACK MUSLIM ELDERS FEATURED IN THE NEW BOOK!

At Their Feet is an initiative to capture the living legacy and wisdom of Muslim Elders. We aim to tell our stories, in our words.

Muslim Center
1605 W. Davison
Detroit, MI 48238
SUNDAY
March 5, 2023
2 PM – 5 PM

*Youth Interviewers from the Dream of Detroit Storytelling Project will be highlighted as well!*
Dream Documentary Film
Shakeb Ahmed, Buraq Oral
Saadiq Ibn Benson, Dawud Clark
Usman Mian, Mark Crain
August 2022. Photo: Alisa Perkins
Next Steps: 2022-2025

- Welcome new young historians interns
- Expand Oral History Archive from 55 to 100
- Launch website with video clips
- Publish second Book Power Publishing more of our work
- Produce documentary film 60 mins, pitching to PBS
creating digital archives
Supporting and safeguarding born-digital archival material

- Create digital archive of scholarly materials, including streaming media.
- Preserve and safeguard your scholarship and intellectual output.
- Help make your materials more discoverable.
- Collaborate to create a digital archive-framework that will fit your needs.
- Provide assistance and training for self-deposit of materials in ScholarWorks.
How we did it…:
Creating digital collections collaboratively

Collection visioning and infrastructure development.
Create templates and workflows.
Training and collection building.
Publication!
Dissemination and promotion.
Where does this bring us?

Engagement opportunities, sharing a template for success and seeking funding opportunities.

Initial Funding Secured
Pillars Fund 15k (2020-21)

Assemble Community Team

Whiting Seed Grant 10k (2021-2022)

Henry Luce Foundation Grant 250k Presidential Innovation 45k (2022-2025)

Ongoing Grant Writing

Labelling and Storing Data

Ethnographer Training

Select Storytellers

Research/Writing Interviews

Conducting Interviews

Transcribing

Compiling Metadata

Shooting Documentary Footage

Video Editing

Story Editing

Archive

Website

Documentary Film

Publications
Supporters

Financial Backers:

Pillars Fund Grant
Whiting Foundation Seed Grant
Henry Luce Foundation
Western Michigan University, Presidential Innovation Award (2022-2025), Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Awards
University of Michigan, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Detroit Community-Engaged Research Program (DCERP)

Internship Partners:

Western Michigan University
Emory University, Candler School of Theology
Michigan State University
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan
Wayne State University
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Smaller grants, local, seed money

| Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) | + |
| Support for Faculty Scholars Award (SFSA) | + |
| Faculty Research Travel Fund (FRTF) | + |
| Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works (PPP&E) | + |
National grants
Takeaway:

- **Start small with room for growth**: you can fund your project incrementally
- **Seek sustainable solutions**: Right-size for your institution.
- **Creating a community of practice**: - Build inter-departmental networks, partnerships between universities, and cultivate collaborations between campus and community.
Thank you!