

#### **Preserve & Respect:**

Collaborative Historical African American Digital Collections at the University of Delaware

> ACRL-DVC Fall Meeting October 26, 2018

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## Overview

- 2 digital projects (2017)
  - School Hill Project & Baltimore Collection
- Common themes:
  - Sensitive content
  - Collaborations
  - Mistakes = Learning
    Opportunities
  - Long-term preservation



# School Hill Project

- Community event & digital project – May 2017
- Images (~100) & Oral Histories (7)
- Freely-accessible (DSpace)
- Short turn-around
- New endeavor



PRESERVING THE PAST: GATHERING HISTORY & MEMENTOS OF THE NEW LONDON ROAD / SCHOOL HILL COMMUNITY





### School Hill Project













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## School Hill Project













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### **Baltimore Collection**

- Photographs (~50) late 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- UD accessible (Artstor)
- Campus collaboration
  - Africana Studies/Art History course: "Curating Hidden Collections and the Black Archive"
- New endeavor



#### **Baltimore Collection**





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### Theme 1: Sensitive Content

Certain amount of discomfort involved – lean in!

#### **School Hill Project**

- Cultural background
- Economic background
- Relationship to UD
- Personal, face-to-face



### Theme 2: Collaborations

Find common ground and compromise

#### **School Hill Project**

- Community engagement
  - NAACP Newark Chapter
  - UD Community
  - Newark Community
- Press coverage
- Faculty / Students



### Theme 3: Learning Opportunities

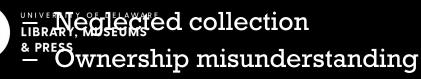
Document mistakes and evolve

#### **School Hill Project**

- Rushed planning
- No one "in charge"
- Documentation was limited
- Print & digital combo

#### Manage expectations of final product in beginning

#### **Baltimore Collection**



#### **Theme 4: Long-term Preservation**

If you don't plan to preserve, it's lost...again.

#### **School Hill Project & Baltimore Collection**

- Preservation is often an afterthought
- Server space and/or hardware
- Identify stewards (anyone can preserve with a plan!)
- Plan for maintaining long-term personal relationships





MSS 0784 – Friends of School Hill Oral Histories and images, May 2017

DSpace (open access)

http://udspace.udel.edu/handle/19716/21630

UD Museums: AFRA467 Class project: "The Baltimore Collection"

- Artstor (UD Community)
  - <u>https://library.artstor.org/#/collection/36618</u>

Museums Collection, University of Delaware Library, Museums, and Press, "The Baltimore Collection," Course website: <u>https://sites.udel.edu/baltimorecollection/</u>

Department of Art History, "News: The Baltimore Collection Online," 2017. <u>https://www.arthistory.udel.edu/news/Pages/The-Baltimore-Collection-online.aspx</u>

