



Guide to the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture Records, 1979-2017 and undated

This collection guide was produced in **2008**.

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Summary

Collection Title:

Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture records, 1979-2017 and undated

Abstract:

The Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture was established in 1983 to share information about Africana and African-American culture with both the Duke and Durham communities. The collection contains materials regarding the general origins, development, and oversight of the Mary Lou Williams Center, as well as files related to programming hosted by, or sponsored by the Center. There are also a small number of files, mostly course materials, related to Leon Latimer Dunkley, Jr., who was the director of the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture from 1999-2005.

Extent:

7.5 Linear Feet (4500 items)

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

UA.09.16.0001

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m13d9r>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture Records, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture records contain materials regarding the general origins, development, and oversight of the Mary Lou Williams Center, as well as files related to programming hosted by, or sponsored by the Center, or at other black culture centers and in higher education in

Guide to the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture Records, 1979-2017 and undated general. Among the materials are articles; plans; Board of Directors meeting minutes, agendas, and draft policies; event and exhibit flyers; black-and-white photographs; mailing and contact lists; correspondence, reports, and budgets; and reservations. Many of the events involve poetry or jazz. There are also a small number of files, mostly course planning materials, related to Leon Latimer Dunkley, Jr., was the director of the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture from 1999-2005.

Biographical/Historical

The Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture (MLWC) was established in 1983 to share information about Africana and African-American culture with both the Duke and Durham communities. It is named for the jazz pianist and composer Mary Lou Williams who was a Duke Artist-in-Residence from 1977 until her death in 1981. The Mary Lou Williams Center (as described on its website) seeks to:

"... promote racial understanding, build community, and foster an appreciation for and increase knowledge of Black people, Black history, Black culture, and the vast contributions of people of the African Diaspora. We provide programs and services which contribute to the successful academic and personal development of Black students at Duke University and positively impact the lives of all those whom they encounter. We seek to be a hub for information and activity related to Black students, alumni, and other Black members of the Duke community. We welcome all who seek to engage with and be empowered by a greater understanding of Black experience."

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Arrangement

Organized into the following series: Administrative, Programming/Events, and Leon Dunkley papers.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

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Materials have not been screened for sensitive or restricted content. Staff will need to screen materials before use. Please contact Research Services for more information.

Use Restrictions

Copyright for Official University records is held by Duke University; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

Acquisition Information

The Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture Records were received by the University Archives as a transfer in 1997-1998, and 2018.

Processing Information

Processed by Sally Sullivan, July 2008

Encoded by Sally Sullivan, July 2008

Addition UA2018-0059 processed by Jasmine Alexander-Greene and Alice Poffinberger, December 2019

Accessions UA97-87, UA98-2, and UA2018-0059 were merged into one collection, described in this finding aid.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Black Student Alliance records, 1969-2006. University Archives, Duke University. Black History at Duke Reference Collection, 1948 - 2001 and undated. University Archives, Duke University. University Archives Photograph Collection, 1861-ongoing. University Archives, Duke University.

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Names and Subjects

- African American college students -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Black-and-white photographs
- African Americans -- Education (Higher) -- North Carolina -- Durham
- African Americans -- Education (Higher)
- Jazz -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Poetry, Modern -- 20th century
- Special events -- Planning
- Williams, Mary Lou, 1910-1981
- Dunkley, Leon Latimer

Collection Inventory

Administrative

Scope and Contents

The Administrative Files Series contains materials regarding the general origins, development, and oversight of the Mary Lou Williams Center, along with materials documenting its staffing. There are also subject files related to programming, especially at other black culture centers and in higher education in general. Among the materials are articles; plans; Board of Directors meeting minutes, agendas, and draft policies; event and exhibit flyers; black-and-white photographs; mailing and contact lists; correspondence, reports, and budgets; and reservations.

Access Restrictions:

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General

Arranged chronologically.

Access Restrictions:

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Articles, 1979-1994	Box 1
Planning and Organizing Info., 1981-1983	Box 1
Event and exhibit flyers, 1981-1998	Box 1
Reservations for the Mary Lou Williams Black Cultural Center, 1982-1985	Box 1
Board of Directors, Minutes and Agendas, 1983-1987	Box 1
Invitations and Programs for MLWC Opening Ceremonies, 1983-2004	Box 1
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Physical Description: 2 folders	
Correspondence, Edward Hill, 1984-1995	Box 1
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Photos, 1988 and undated	Box 1
Minority List, 1991	Box 1
Humanities Council Mary Lou Williams Center Proposal, 1991-1992	Box 1
Mailing List, 1991-1997	Box 1
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Stationary and Business Cards, 1993-1997	Box 1
Maureen Meetings, 1996-1997	Box 1
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Access Restrictions:

Administrative restriction until 2026.

Assorted Correspondence, Notes, Reservation Requests, 1996-2002 Box 1

Physical Description: 3 folders

Access Restrictions:

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Campus Community Development, 1997 Box 1

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Access Restrictions:

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Website, 1998-2004 Box 1

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Access Restrictions:

Administrative restriction until 2025.

Panhellenic, 1999-2000 Box 1

Access Restrictions:

Administrative restriction until 2025.

Media, 1999-2002 Box 1

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Comm. ASAP Lists, 2006-2008 Box 1

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Staff Manual, 2007 Box 1

Access Restrictions:

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Brochures and Resource Guides, 2008-2017 Box 1

Contacts, undated Box 1

Subject Files

Arranged alphabetically.

Access Restrictions:

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ABCC 9th Annual Conference, 1999 Box 2

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Association for Black Culture Centers, 2003 Box 2

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Stanford, 2003-2004 Box 2

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Cultural events, 1985-2003 Box 2

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Access Restrictions:

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Access Restrictions:

Administrative restriction until 2025.

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Programming/Events

Scope and Contents

The Programming/Events Series chronicles activities hosted by, or sponsored by the Center, including its jazz festival, poetry readings by individuals, as well as plans and proposals for film, exhibit, and poetry series and other programs. Includes planning documents, flyers and programs, resumes of artists and presenters, expense reports, and published articles and advertising.

Access Restrictions:

Materials have not been screened for sensitive or restricted content. Staff will need to screen materials before use. Please contact Research Services for more information.

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Jazz on the Green

Arranged chronologically.

Access Restrictions:

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Arranged alphabetically.

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Administrative restriction until 2027.

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Planning and meetings

Arranged chronologically

Access Restrictions:

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Event calendars, 1997 Box 4

Timothy Taylor, 1998-2001 Box 4

Access Restrictions:

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Art show, 1999 Box 4

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Duke Institute of the Arts, 1999-2004 Box 4

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Proposals, 2000-2003 Box 4

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Race, Sex, and God, 2002 Box 4

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Administrative restriction until 2028.

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Physical Description: 3 folders	
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Arranged alphabetically

Access Restrictions:

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Access Restrictions:

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Access Restrictions:

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Access Restrictions:

Administrative restriction until 2027.

South Africa, 1984-1985	Box 5
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Speakers for 1999-2000, 1999-2000	Box 5
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Access Restrictions:

Administrative restriction until 2025.

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Leon Dunkley papers

Scope and Contents

Leon Latimer Dunkley, Jr., was the director of the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture from 1999-2005. The Leon Dunkley Papers Series documents

courses Dunkley offered from 1999-2002, and also contains an undated planning notebook, and other personal and planning notes and poetry.

Course materials: Race and music in the 20th century, 2000	Box 5
House course Spring 99-00, 1999-2000	Box 5
House course 2002-Fall, 2002	Box 5
Notes, undated	Box 5
Permission number for class 99-00, 1999-2000	Box 5
Personal, 2001	Box 5
Untitled notes and poetry, 1999	Box 5

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