The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) has awarded The Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation and the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library a grant in the amount of $87,400 to process the Coleman A. Young Mayoral Papers. The Council administers The Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Program with the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Since the program began in 2008, the Mellon Foundation has invested over $16 million in revealing previously hidden collections of high scholarly value. > continued on page 2
Coleman A. Young (1918-1997) was the first African American mayor of Detroit and its longest serving mayor elected to five consecutive terms from 1973-1993. The collection consists of over 1200 linear feet of material, the largest of the mayoral collections housed in the Burton Historical Collection. “It has remained unprocessed primarily due to its size and scope of coverage,” said Mark Bowden, Coordinator of the Special Collections of the Detroit Public Library. “We are at long last going to fulfill a tremendous gap in the historical record of Detroit. Researchers will be allowed insights into the racial, social, and economic dynamics of a major metropolitan area and a seminal figure in 20th century political history.”

Kevin Boyle, a native Detroiter and author of *Arc of Justice*, wrote, “There is no more appropriate place to hold the Young papers than the Detroit Public Library’s Burton Historical Collection. For generations the Burton has been the repository of Detroit history.” He further noted that “The Young Papers are going to have a major impact on historical scholarship, deepening and shaping our understanding of some of the greatest challenges our nation faced in the last quarter century – challenges that we continue to face in the twenty-first.” Noted urban scholar Thomas Sugrue stated, “This is a collection of national significance: Young’s papers will shed light on many key issues in the history of the United States and its cities in the 1970’s, 1980’s and 1990’s.” Libraries, archives, and cultural institutions hold millions of items that have never been adequately described. This represents a staggering volume of items of potentially substantive intellectual value that are unknown and inaccessible to scholars. *The Hidden Special Collections Program* seeks to address this problem by awarding grants for supporting innovative, efficient description of large volumes of material of high value to scholars.

The Friends’ grant award was selected from 100 initial proposals submitted from across the country. The two-year processing endeavor will begin in January 2013 with assistance from Wayne State University students enrolled in its Archival Administration Program. “Partnerships such as this enable our students to have “hands on” experience with original documents. The fact that this is such a prestigious collection makes this experience a unique and challenging opportunity for our students,” stated Sandra Yee, Dean of University Libraries and the School of Information and Library Science.

It is anticipated that the Collection will be open to research in January 2015, corresponding with the DPL’s celebration of its 150th anniversary. DPL Executive Director Jo Anne Mondowney stated, “The opening of the Coleman A. Young Mayoral Collection will provide further insight into the urban renewal efforts and community empowerment occurring throughout the nation during the 1960’s. The Detroit Public Library is honored to be the recipient of this grant that allows us to chronicle that chapter in American history not only for Detroit but for the world.”

“Courage is one step ahead of fear.”

Coleman A. Young | 1918-1997
Mayor, City of Detroit | 1973-1993
Coleman Young’s legacy lives on.

Thanks to an $87,400 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources in Washington, D.C., the Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation will begin cataloging the former mayor’s papers.

There are 1,175 boxes of documents from Young’s 20-year tenure that will now be indexed and cataloged, making this the largest mayoral collection housed in the Main Library’s Burton Historical Collection.

“These papers have never been available before for researchers,” says Mark Bowden, coordinator of the Detroit Public Library’s special collections. “These will be important because you really can’t write the history of Detroit without them. It can’t be adequately told without these papers.”

Bowden says the size and scope of material is what caused the foundation to apply for the grant. In order to process the collection, additional staff needs to be hired.

“The kinds of things you will find are correspondences with government departments, speeches and also some fun items,” says Patrice R. Merritt, executive director of the Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation’s board of directors.

“We found artwork from children congratulating him for being elected mayor,” Merritt says. “It was endearing and charming, because (it) shows a side of Coleman Young that people may not think about, which is why we are excited to share this with everyone.”

The Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation is one of only 22 institutions in the United States selected to receive the Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Award.

“I think the thing that made Mark and I most excited, besides the fact that we are filling this critical gap in history, is the council historically awards academic institutions, which really is a testament to the Detroit Public Library and puts it on the map,” Merritt says.

DetroitPublicLibrary.org
There is only one film archives in the Midwest, at Indiana University. Few archives that we know of are transferring their films, even their most important ones. There are many concerns at AMIA with major long-term film companies like Kodak and Fuji ceasing to make motion picture film. It will become more difficult in the future to save films.

Tressa is now working part-time at the Clarke to do the majority of the physical work with the film preservation project. While at AMIA, we were approached by people leading the film preservation programs at NYU and UCLA about sending some of their student's interns. We are currently pursuing the possibility of getting interns for our project. We hope by the end of 2014, when Tressa graduates, to have most of our current film collection in better shape than it is now. Students in CMU's Public Broadcasting program on campus are interested in volunteering. We are also happy to hear that MSU is beginning to consider what to do about its film preservation issues. It will be nice to have another nearby university considering these same issues.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me at 989-774-3990 or marian.matyn@cmich.edu or talk to us at MAA-Ann Arbor this June.

Submitted by Marian Matyn

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**Detroit Public Library**
**Burton Historical Collection**
5201 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48202
(313) 481-1401
Email: bhc@detroitpubliclibrary.org
Website: [http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/featuredcollection/burton-historical-collection](http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/featuredcollection/burton-historical-collection)
Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.;
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation Secures Grant to Archive Coleman A. Young Mayoral Papers**

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 8 – The Detroit Public Library has announced that its Friends Foundation is one of only 22 institutions in the United States selected by the Council on Library and Information Resources to receive a prestigious Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Award for 2012.

Created in 2008 and funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives program supports the identification and cataloging of difficult-to-locate special collections and archives of great scholarly value. Award recipients create web-accessible records according to standards that enable the federation of their local catalog entries into larger groups of related records, enabling the broadest possible exposure to the scholarly community.

Other 2012 recipients of the award include the American Museum of Natural History, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, and the Museum of the City of New York.


The $87,400 Detroit Public Library grant will be used to catalog the vast collection of mayoral papers of Coleman A. Young, who served as Mayor of Detroit for 20 years, beginning in 1974. Young, who is widely considered to be one of this nation’s most significant African American mayors, served as vice-chairman of the Democratic National
Committee from 1977-1981. In 1980, he led the Democratic Conference of Mayors. Young's papers, which consist of 1,175 boxes of documents from his administration, will provide insights into the racial, economic, and urban political history of the era.

In response to the award announcement, Friends Foundation Executive Director Patrice Merritt stated: “The processing of the Young Collection will fill a tremendous gap in the historical record of Detroit. Mayor Young was one of the first and foremost African American mayors in the United States. We are humbled that the Council and the Mellon Foundation have acknowledged the legacy of Mayor Young by supporting this important archival initiative.”

The work of two archivists will begin immediately and is expected to take two years to complete. The archivists will blog as they work, posting online any particularly interesting discoveries. The permanent collection will be housed in the Main Library.

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**Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum**

**National Archives and Records**

**Administration**

1000 Beal Avenue

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

(734) 205-0555

Fax: (734) 205-0571

Email: ford.library@nara.gov

Website: [http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library)

Hours: Monday through Friday 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.; closed Federal Holidays.

**Systematic Digitization**

While the Library continues to make progress in all program areas, for this issue I have chosen to feature one of our newer efforts — systematic digitization. Although the staff has been digitizing selected items and posting them to our website since the 1990s, it was not until June 2009 that we launched a program of systematic digitization — digitizing entire series or collections to make them easier for scholars to research. This program is headed by archivist Stacy Davis, working closely with archivist Bill McNitt.

From the beginning, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation has provided us with funding to buy scanning equipment and hire staff. This program has proved so popular among Foundation trustees that last year they increased funding to hire a second digitization technician;

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**About the Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation**

The Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation is one of the oldest, largest, and most successful Friends groups in the nation. Its purpose is to maintain an association of people who are interested in promoting Detroit's cultural growth, enhancing all types of literacy, and increasing public awareness of the activities and services of the Detroit Public Library. The foundation acts as trustee for the receipt, management, investment, and disbursement of money and goods received for the use and benefit of the entire Detroit Public Library System. Additional information about the Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation is available at [http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org/friends-foundation](http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org/friends-foundation)

- Detroit Public Library Contact: Laura L. Rodwan, lrodwan@sbcglobal.net, 313-477-2750
- Friends Foundation Contact: Patrice R. Merritt, pmerritt@detroitpubliclibrary.org, 313-481-1357

Submitted by Patrice Merritt

their current fundraising campaign includes a goal of raising one million dollars for digitization work.

The first collection that we digitized under this program was the Library's most popular one — the National Security Adviser Memoranda of Conversations, which provide transcripts of White House meetings on foreign affairs and national security matters. Since then we have completed a mix of already popular collections and those that we feel are important but underutilized because of a lack of indexing.

Each folder is scanned into a separate PDF file with Optical Character Recognition (OCR) making them text searchable (most of our key documents are typed rather than handwritten). As our digitization technicians, Rebecca McNitt and Amy Stilgenbauer, complete the scanning of folders, the files are uploaded to our web server and linked both to our online finding aids and to the folder description records in the National Archives' Archives Research Catalog (ARC). Online search engines such as Google read and index the folders.

Recently completed collections available through our Digital Library ([http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/docs.asp](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/docs.asp)) include the following:

- **National Security Council Meetings File** — 1,057 pages
- **White House Press Releases** — 27,197 pages
- **Frances K. Pullen Files** (First Lady's speechwriter) — 2,328 pages

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*Open Entry Spring 2013  19*
**Member News**

The Detroit Public Library Begins Coleman A. Young Mayoral Papers Project

A grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources, the Library Friends Foundation, and Burton Historical Collection has made it possible for the Coleman A. Young Mayoral Papers—a collection of 1,755 documents from the former mayor's 20-year administration—to be digitized and made available to the public. To learn more about the project, visit their blog at [www.detroitpubliclibrary.org/blogs/young-mayoral-papers-project](http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org/blogs/young-mayoral-papers-project).

The blog's prelude, “As we were first introduced to the work that lay before us, the magnitude of the task began to sink in. It is one thing to be ‘told’ of a project involving 1,000 boxes of materials—it is quite another to ‘see’ it... It is a world of documents that reveal the trials and treasures associated with chief executive of the nation's fifth largest city.”

Elected in 1973, served the city until 1993, and was considered by many to be “one of the greatest mayors our country has ever had.”

**Zibiwing Center Welcomes American-Indian Quilting Exhibit**

An exhibit devoted to Northern Michigan quilting in the Great Lakes region is currently on display at Michigan State University's Zibiwing Center for Native American Culture & Lifeways. The exhibit includes 16 quilts, biographical sketches of contemporary quilters, and a display showcasing the diversity of Native American quilting. It examines the historical context of quilting as well as the contemporary use and meaning of quilts made by the Oneida, Odawa, Potawatomi, Ojibwa, and Mohawk quilt makers living in Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes region.

The public is also invited to join the “Stitches of the Great Lakes” Quilting Group, create an “Honoring, Healing, Remembering” Quilt in memory of the former students of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School. The group meets from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and 4-6 p.m. on Thursdays through August 1.

To obtain more information, visit [www.zibiwing.org/zibiwing](http://www.zibiwing.org/zibiwing) or (989) 775-4750.

**Rockford Area Historical Museum Moves into Courthouse**

The Rockford Area Historical Museum, located at 40 years in the Rouge River Electric Light & Power Building (b. 1903), is moving to its new home: the former 63rd District Courthouse on South Street.

I find that the location isn’t the only plus aspect of the new museum. It has several artifacts that were previously kept in storage. There are open house hours. (Something that hasn’t been available in the past.) I think it’s a wonderful space—just asking for financial and other help, but it’s a thrill to see it happen.

Information call (616) 485-4144 or visit [www.urm.org](http://www.urm.org).

As of February 2013, the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm has initiated Phase I of the adaptive reuse of the 1927 Car Barn on its site. The building has been without a roof for 20 years. When renovations are complete, the building will be used as an archival/collection facility. Its short-term use will include a multipurpose space to support a wide range of museum programs.