



# SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE

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# Schomburg Center

- **Founded in 1925, part of the New York Public Library system.**
- **Holds more than 11 million items documenting global Black experiences.**
- **Named after Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, Afro-Puerto Rican scholar and activist.**
- **A vital hub for research, exhibitions, and cultural programming in Harlem.**
- **In 2017 it was named a National Historic Landmark.**



**Location: 515 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY 10037**

# WHY IT MATTERS?

- **The Schomburg Center is Harlem's intellectual and cultural heart.**

- **Preserving it safeguards the memory of diasporic Black struggles and achievements.**

- **At stake: ongoing gentrification and market pressures that threaten community ownership.**

- **Radical preservation resists reducing it to 'heritage' tourism and insists on living, evolving memory.**



# Radical Preservation: Themes

- **The Schomburg Center is Harlem's cultural heartbeat.**
- **Preserves diasporic Black struggles and intellectual achievements.**
- **Gentrification and market pressures threaten community ownership.**
- **Radical preservation resists reducing it to static 'heritage.'**



# WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- **Losing the Schomburg means losing a living archive of Black thought and struggle.**
- **Radical preservation demands resisting displacement and commodification.**
- **Ensuring access for Harlem's future generations is essential.**
- **It is not just about preserving buildings, but sustaining memory, community, and creativity.**