

ARCHIVING

A behind-the-scenes to the Harlem Place Memory Culture Archive

101

2:00-3:00PM Archiving

3:00-4:00PM Collective memory

Archiving 101 workshop


PLACE MEMORY & CULTURE INCUBATOR

AT THE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The Place, Memory & Culture Incubator &
Harlem Place Memory & Culture Archive

2023 – 2025

follow us @pmci_ssa!



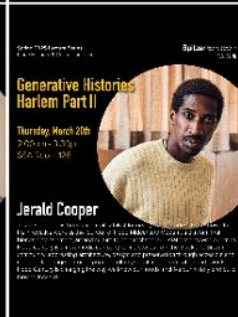

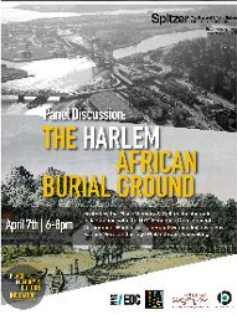



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Place, Memory & Culture Incubator
An interdisciplinary architecture program at @spitzerschool_ccny focused on the intersection of Design, Humanities, and... more
@ssa.ccny.cuny.edu/centers/the-place-memory-and-culture-incubator + 3

Followed by demanera_slena, archipelagic_estates + 47 more

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Spitzer

The Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture

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THE PLACE, MEMORY, AND CULTURE INCUBATOR



What is the Place, Memory, and Culture Incubator?

CENTERS

J. Max Bond Center for Urban Futures

The Place, Memory, and Culture Incubator

CONNECT

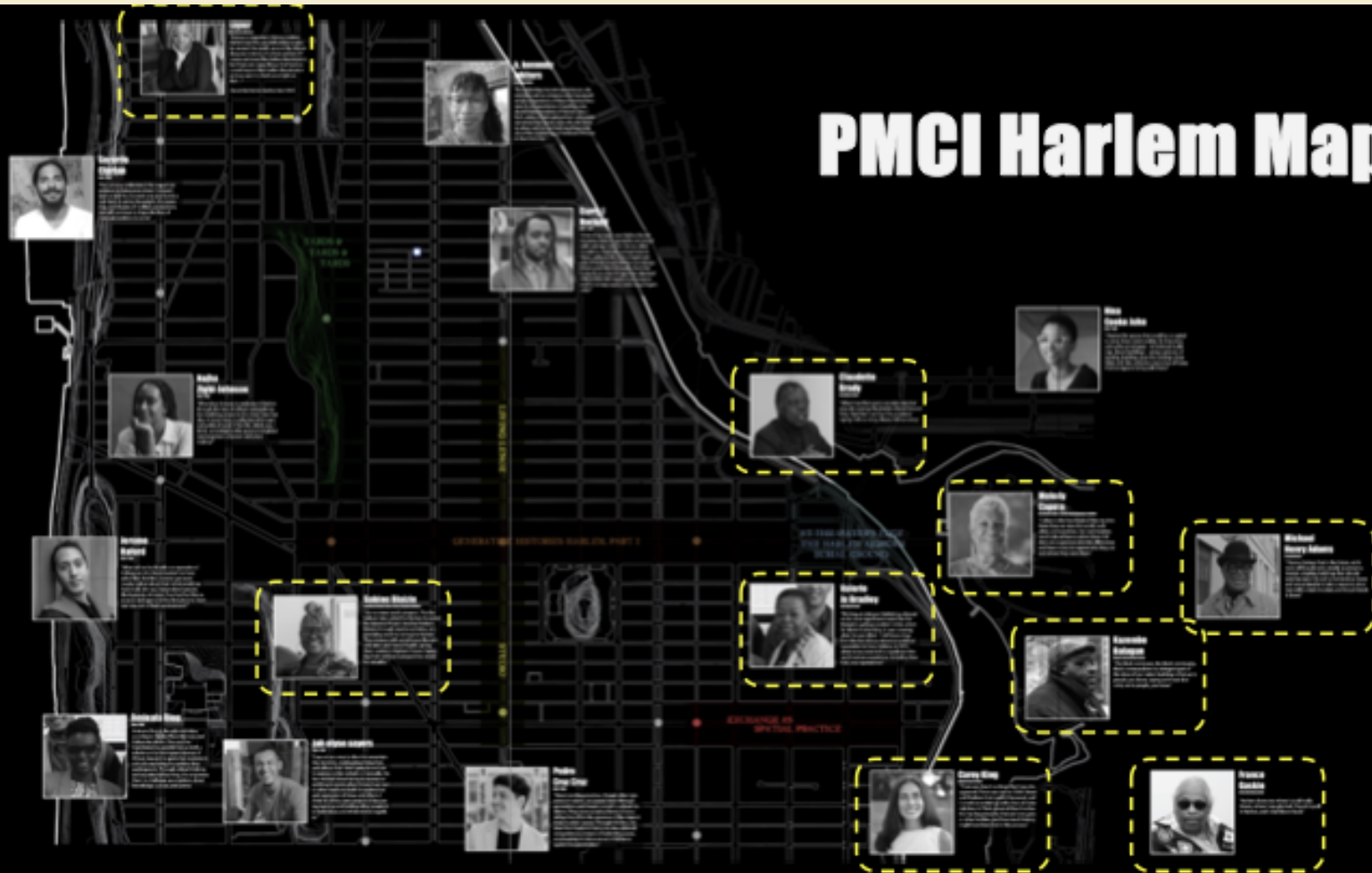
f t in Request Info

Want to know what's on at Spitzer?
Join our email list!

EVENTS

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

PMCI Harlem Map





HARLEM
SAVE IT NOW!
Preserving Our History & Architecture



ARCHIVE

(noun)

What is an archive?

ARCHIVING

(verb)

What is archiving?



Archives



Department of Records
& Information Services

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Complete Archive

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Title

▲ ▼ Description



1890 New York City Police Census

This collection consists of the original police census volumes that record the name, age, and address of residents of the city. Due to the destruction of nearly all of the 1890 federal census, the police census is uniquely valuable in bridging the crucial gap between 1880 and 1900.



1940s Tax Department photographs

Between 1939 and 1941, the Works Progress Administration, in conjunction with the New York City Department of Taxation, organized teams of photographers to photograph every building in the five boroughs of New York City. The photographs were taken to improve the process of determining and recording property value assessments.

Archives



Archives



Archives

1970



The Acudetox program is organized by the Young Lords, Black Panthers, and other groups at Lincoln Hospital.

RES

TFCM

DRUG

ICM

◀ SCROLL LEFT

1850

1910

1950

1985

2010

SCROLL RIGHT ▶



Volume 2, Issue 7 of newspaper from the Young Lords Organization.
(Photo: Special Collections and Archives, DePaul University Library)

The Young Lords, Black Panthers, the Republic of New Afrika (RNA), and Students for a Democratic





MANHATTAN ARCHIVES



Manhattan, 1990s.



Dyckman, Manhattan, 1989.



Chinatown, Manhattan, 1964.



Washington Heights, Manhatta...



Harlem, Manhattan, 1980s-199...



42nd Street, Manhattan, 1998.



Central Park, Manhattan, 1980s.



El Barrio, Manhattan, 1950s-19...



Manhattan, 1990s.



Central Park, Manhattan, 1955.

Place-based archives

Cafe Society



1945

Cafe Society Opens

On East 105th Street, its circular bar becomes a mainstay of the local jazz scene.

1945

World War II Ends

1946

The H
to 1208 Ea

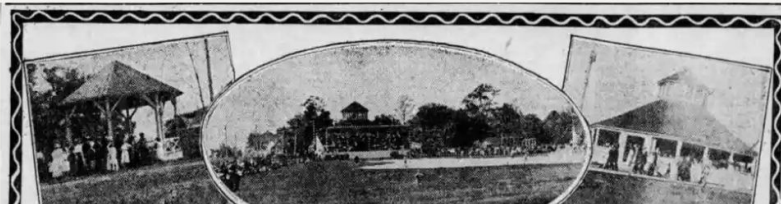


BEACHES AND DOCKS

Willow Beach Park

BY GREEN BOOK CLEVELAND TEAM

Willow Beach Park (originally spelled Willough Beach or Willoughbeach Park) was located along Lake Erie on Route 283 in Willowick and, until 1926, was primarily an amusement park that relied on its location on the Cleveland, Painesville & Eastern electric interurban line that ran past it. It is not known whether African Americans visited the amusement park, but there is evidence that Black groups picnicked there between the 1900s and 1930s. It featured ball diamonds and picnic groves, as well as a dancing pavilion large enough to accommodate several hundred people. Olympic medalist Jesse Owens was honored at an Elk's Club-sponsored track and field meet at the park in 1938.



**GREEN BOOK
CLEVELAND**

SEARCH ...

- AMUSEMENT PARKS
- BARBER SHOPS & BEAUTY PARLORS
- BEACHES AND DOCKS
- BOWLING ALLEYS & SKATING RINKS
- COUNTRY CLUBS & GOLF COURSES
- FARMS & COUNTRY HOMES
- GARAGES & SERVICE STATIONS
- HOTELS & TOURIST HOMES
- LAGOONS, LAKES, & PONDS
- MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES
- MUSIC CLUBS & NIGHT CLUBS
- PICNIC GROVES
- RANCHES & RIDING CLUBS
- REGIONAL PARKS
- RESORTS
- RESTAURANTS & TAVERNS
- SUMMER CAMPS

Place-based archives



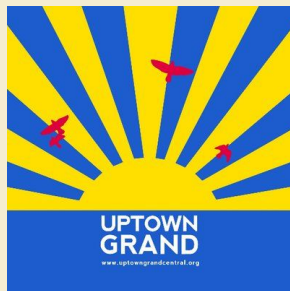
PMCA MISSION & GOALS:

Empower Harlem grassroots culture makers to **Document, Share, Access,** and **Connect**

Resist archival gatekeeping practices via an accessible platform

Host digitized cultural assets related to Harlem place, memory, and culture – especially assets from communities of color

Seed and steward in the Harlem community



Partners	Contributions
CCCADI	- Interviews with archive team
HCA	- Oral History videos - Interviews of Harlem architects
SHN!	- Harlem church archives
UGC	- Small Business Histories project
PMCI	- Interviews with partners - Studios: syllabi, lectures, student work

Partner contributions

HARLEM PMCA (BETA)

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Exhibits

Collections

Items



HARLEM PMCA (BETA)

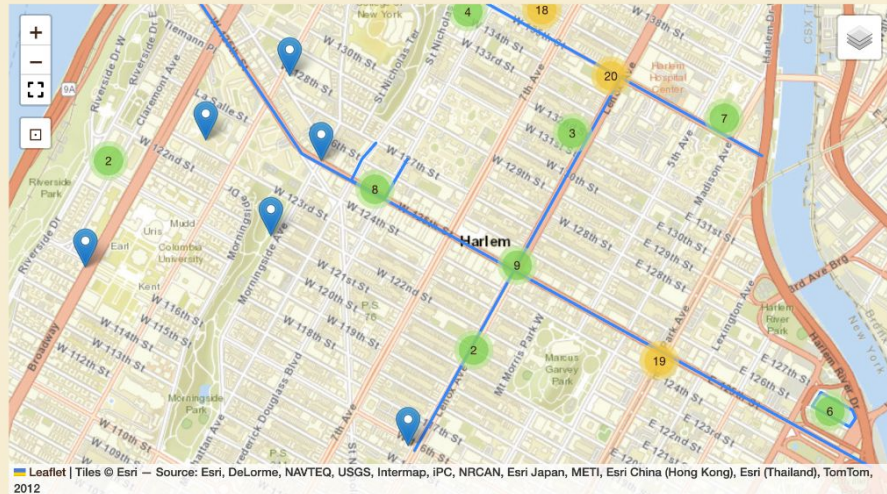
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Map





COLLECTIONS



PMCI Oral History series

This interview series highlights the labor of place-based cultural preservation and the experiences that have brought the people behind that work to where they are. All interviews are conducted by Place, Memory & Culture Incubator staff, faculty, and students.



Harlem Cultural Archives

Interviews & events led by Harlem Cultural Archives, an historical society that aims to create, maintain and grow a remotely accessible, online, interactive repository of audio-visual materials documenting Harlem's remarkable and varied multicultural legacies, including its storied past as well as its continuing contributions to the City and State of New York, the nation, and the world.
[harlemcultural.org]



Save Harlem Now!

Save Harlem Now! is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and celebrating Harlem's irreplaceable heritage. Save Harlem Now! advocates for the designation of individual landmarks and historic districts in Harlem, for contextual zoning in Harlem, and educates the public about Harlem's built heritage, history, and culture.





ITEMS



Discovering HarlemStage: "The Gatehouse"

Item



Title	Discovering HarlemStage: "The Gatehouse"
Creator	Harlem Cultural Archives
Description	An exploration of the backstory of HarlemStage and its distinctive showplace, "The Gatehouse," as told by HarlemStage's execs Pat Cruz and James King.
Language	English
Contributor	Harlem Cultural Archives
Subject	HarlemStage

MY ITEMS | MY COLLECTIONS

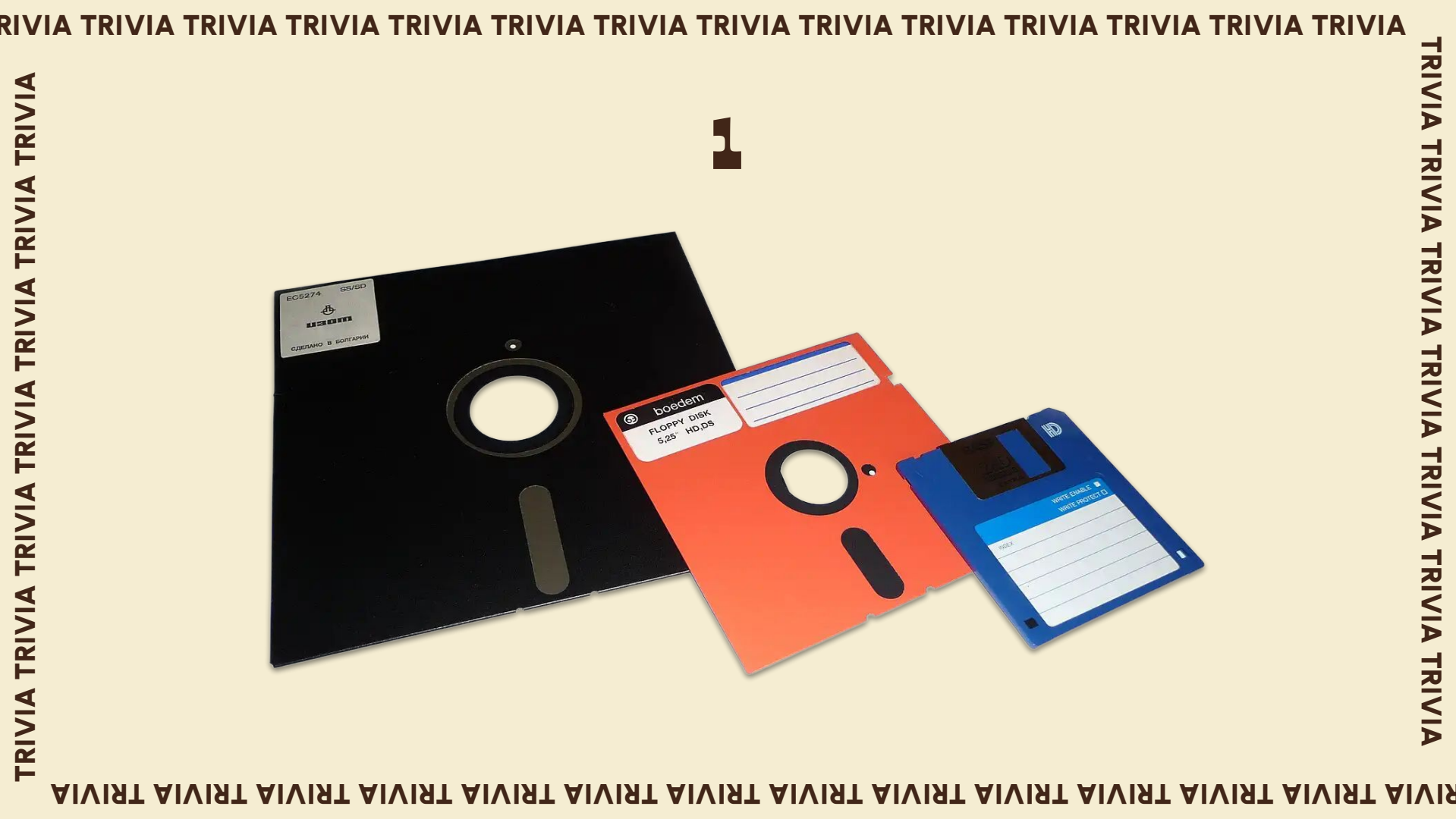
Free write (5 mins)

What do you want to gather, organize, preserve?
How far along are you in that process?



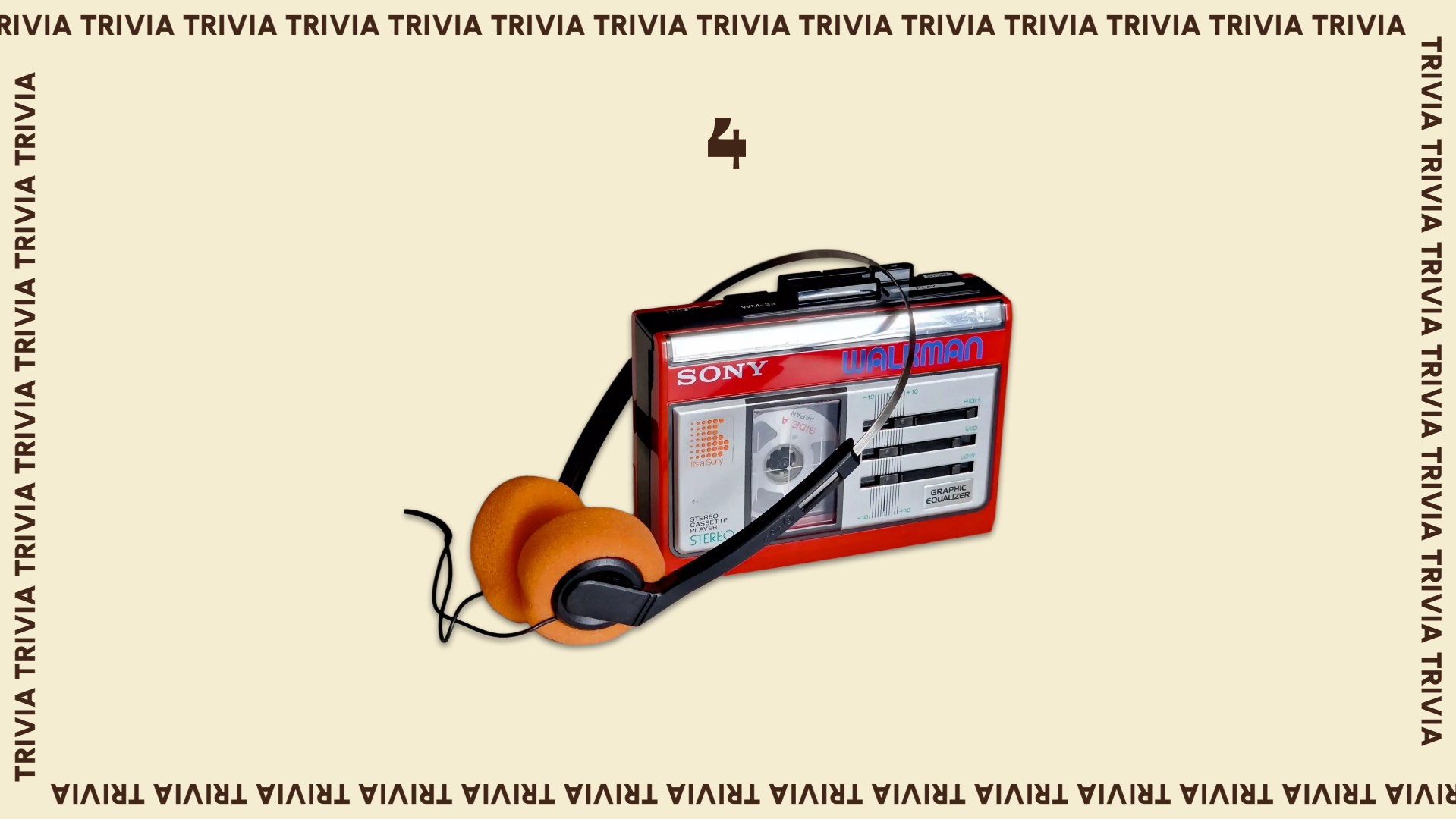
TRIVIA!







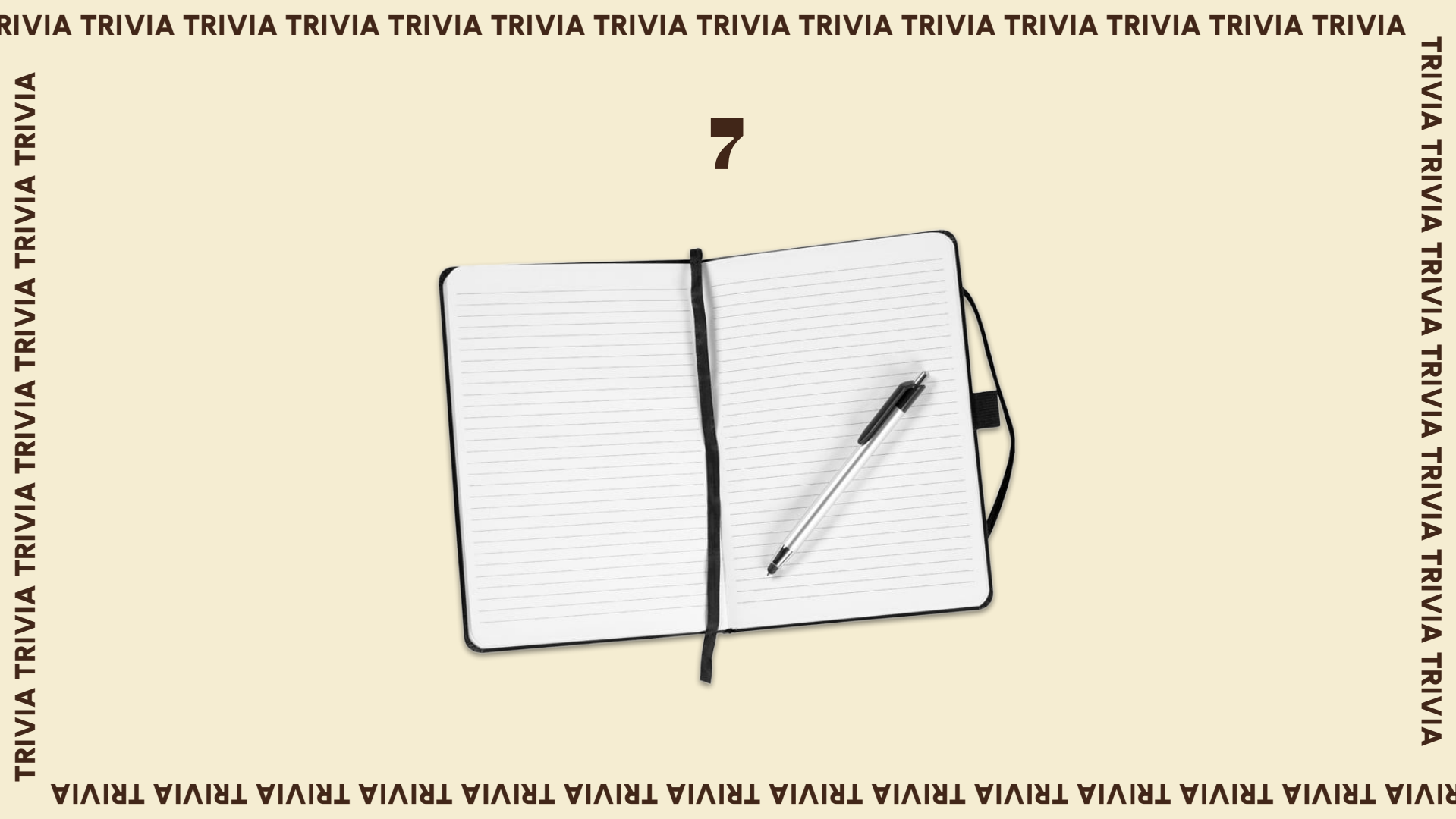




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6

STORAGE & DATA BACKUP

Where do you keep your materials now?
What space(s) do you have?
Physical vs digital

3 copies
*in case copies are
corrupted or compromised*

2 media
*eg. local storage,
cloud, disk, or tape*

1 off-site
*isolate backup data from
any single point of failure*



...
more ownership
ease of use
maintenance
storage costs
physical space

Shelves
Hard Drive
Cloud

Social
media
Omeka

Folders
Desktop

Notebooks
Boxes, crates

Boxes, crates

Shelves

Folders Notebooks

Hard Drive

Desktop

Cloud

Social

media

Omeka

private

public

...

more ownership

ease of use

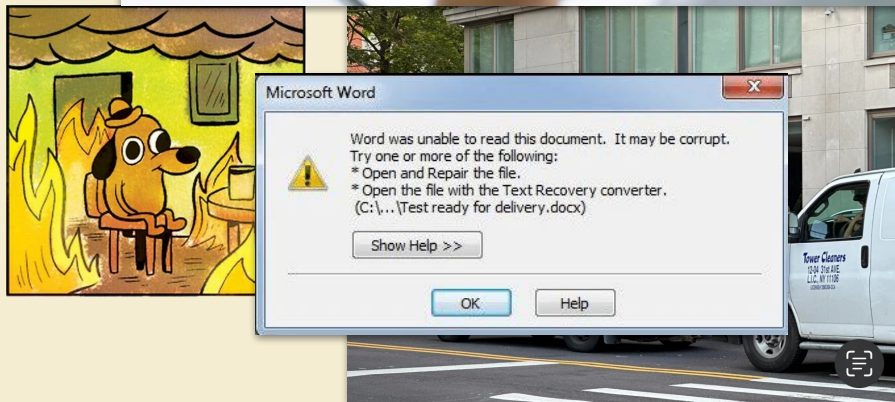
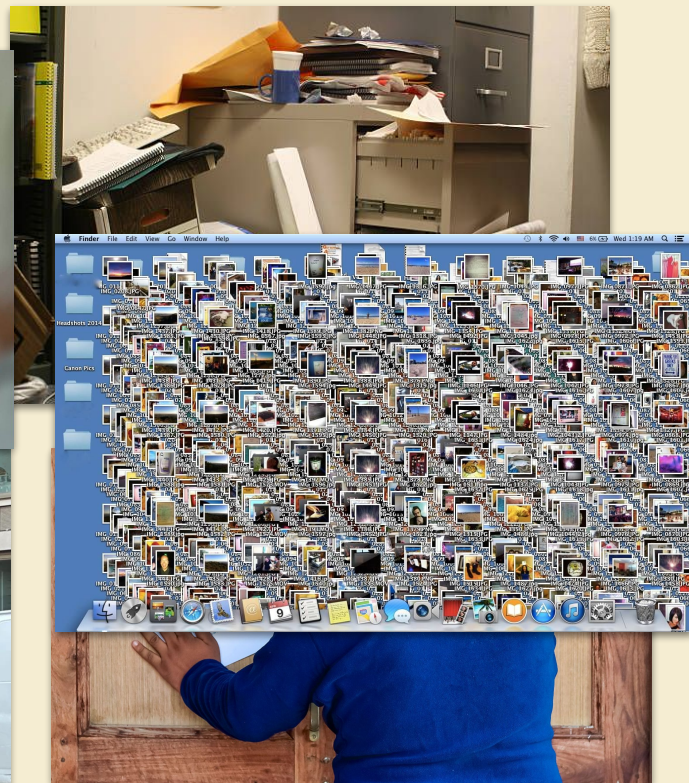
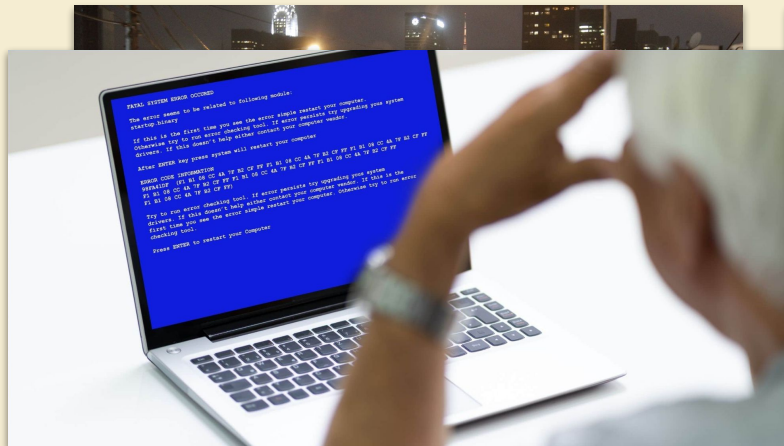
maintenance

storage costs

physical space



Vulnerabilities



Vulnerabilities



Vulnerabilities

Herb Boyd - On Harlem Cultural Archives' "Lasting Legacies" series

Item



Title	Herb Boyd - On Harlem Cultural Archives' "Lasting Legacies" series
Language	English
Publisher	Harlem Cultural Archives
Subject	Tuskegee Airman Avakian, Bob Luciano, Felipe

Documenting stories



Changarrito del Barrio, "Small Business Histories", Carey King (Uptown Grand Central) with Pedro Cruz Cruz and Ariadna Vazquez

Find a photo you took in Harlem, if you have one.

**Imagine it is 2225,
what would you want
to know about the
photo?**

**What would you want
someone in 2225 to
know about your
photo?**

Metadata example	Title	Interview with Valerie Jo Bradley
	Description	jah elyse sayers interviews Valerie Jo Bradley
	Date	07-22-2025
	Language	English
	Publisher	Place, Memory & Culture Incubator
	Rights Holder	Valerie Jo Bradley
	Rights	CC BY-NC-SA 4.0
	Subject	Valerie Jo Bradley Indianapolis, Indiana
	interviewer	jah elyse sayers
	knows	Jackson, Musa Lynch, Bill ...

THANK YOU

www.harlemdigitalarchive.com

SELECT RESOURCES

"Questions for Building an Archive":

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KA+VgyLLogvfIBFxtgJEM514wOR4Z-ueWD6R4kYAmQ/edit?usp=sharing>

"Archival Research," in *Transformative Justice Toolkit*:

<https://belonging.berkeley.edu/transformative-research-toolkit/archival-research>

Build Your Archive: <https://www.buildyourarchive.com/getting-started>

Collections Care guide, Library of Congress:

<https://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/index.html>

Omeka Vocabulary and Tipsheet: <https://omeka.org/files/docs/OmekaWorkshopTipSheet.pdf>

Request the resources above at harlemdigitalarchive@gmail.com.

Omeka installation: folders and files packaged together in one main directory on your server that work together to build an Omeka website.

Item: the basic unit of an Omeka site. An item can be anything: a photograph, a work of art, a person, an idea. You'll describe each item, and you can upload files to represent it, too. You'll build your Omeka site by assembling items.

Collection: a set of items that you've grouped together. Your Omeka site can have multiple collections, but an individual item can only belong to one collection at a time.

Exhibit: a tour of your items, which can be organized thematically, chronologically, or however you want. Each exhibit has pages, which can be nested. A page can have text, a group of items, or a group of items with text. You can have multiple exhibits, and items can belong to multiple exhibits.

Item Type: an item can be many different things, like a photograph, a website, a book, or a person. An "item type" is the kind of thing the item is – still image, audio recording. You can choose from a built-in list of item types, or you can create your own.

Simple Page: a web page on your Omeka site that isn't part of an exhibit or item. For example, you can add an "About" page using Simple Pages.

Vocab sheet