



## 2023 Fact Sheet

The [HBCU Library Alliance](#) is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to providing an array of resources designed to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. Created in 2002 by deans and directors of HBCU libraries, and incorporated in 2006, the HBCU Library Alliance is governed by a Board comprised of five elected directors and two appointed directors. Loretta Parham, CEO and Library Director, Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library (GA), is the founding Board Chair. Adrienne Webber, Dean, Digital Library, Grambling State University (LA) is the current Board Chair.

### **Mission**

The HBCU Library Alliance works to transform and strengthen its membership by developing library leaders, preserving collections, and planning for the future.

### **Institutional Members**

1. Libraries at HBCUs so designated by the White House Initiative on HBCUs, schools of library and information science at HBCU institutions, and
2. Libraries of organizations that are not HBCUs, which may be admitted only by invitation of the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors. Potential non-HBCU members are those libraries that have previously partnered with or have supported the HBCU Library Alliance's mission. Diversifying the membership base will continue to enhance opportunities to develop meaningful collaborative relationships and forge new strategic partnerships.

### **Benefits of Membership**

The HBCU Library Alliance is committed to advocating for library services. Benefits include access to programs designed specifically to strengthen communities of HBCU libraries in service to their constituents, programs designed to address needs within HBCU institutions, and access to workshops and training opportunities.

### **HBCU Library Alliance Programs**

#### **[Accelerating Financial Growth for the HBCU Library Alliance](#)**

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this five-year program is designed to develop and implement a new infrastructure model that can sustainably support existing programs while nurturing the growth of new programs. The \$1M investment offers needed support through the addition of new staff members and the contributions of technical consultants. The expertise investments emphasize the need for stability and retention through competitive wages, professionalization of fundraising strategies, targeted development of earned revenue through new corporate and academic partnerships, and improved communications strategies to support marketing to a variety of audiences.

#### **[Building Capacity for Humanities Special Collections at HBCUs](#)**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funds this five-year to seven-year Challenge Grant program that aims to address preservation and conservation needs of special collections located at member libraries. The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts is the project partner on this grant. Member libraries competitively request funding for preservation planning documents, collection surveys, treatment and rehousing services, and educational programs. Through this outreach, the HBCU Library Alliance assists

member libraries in building capacity for fundraising for special collection initiatives, documenting cultural heritage materials, increasing accessibility of special collection items, and promoting the humanities significance of their broad collections of rare materials and their irreplaceable cultural heritage artifacts.

## **Partnerships**

### **Summer Conservation/Preservation Internship Program**

The Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation and the HBCU Library Alliance received funding to coordinate a sixth round of fully funded, six-week summer internships in library and archives preservation at recognized library preservation/conservation laboratories. HBCU undergraduate students interested in the humanities, arts and sciences are given the opportunity to learn and practice library preservation skills for this full-time internship under the mentorship of professional conservators and library staff at a host site. The Library of Congress participates in this project and coordinates two fully funded six-week summer internships in library conservation and preservation.

### **Material Memory Podcast**

The Council on Library and Information Resources and the HBCU Library Alliance entered into a long-term [partnership](#) that seeks to develop collaborative solutions to build community, cultivate leadership, and preserve, make accessible, and advocate for the rich cultural heritage held within HBCUs.

The [Season Three Material Memory Podcast](#) showcases our hidden treasures, priceless possessions, and unique contributions to human development. The podcast explores themes related to why and how cultural memory is preserved and focuses on HBCU collections and the staff that care for them.

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