

# SPEAKING VOLUMES

The Newsletter for Friends of  
Temple University Libraries

Volume XXV • Fall 2020/Winter 2021



## FALL 2020/WINTER 2021

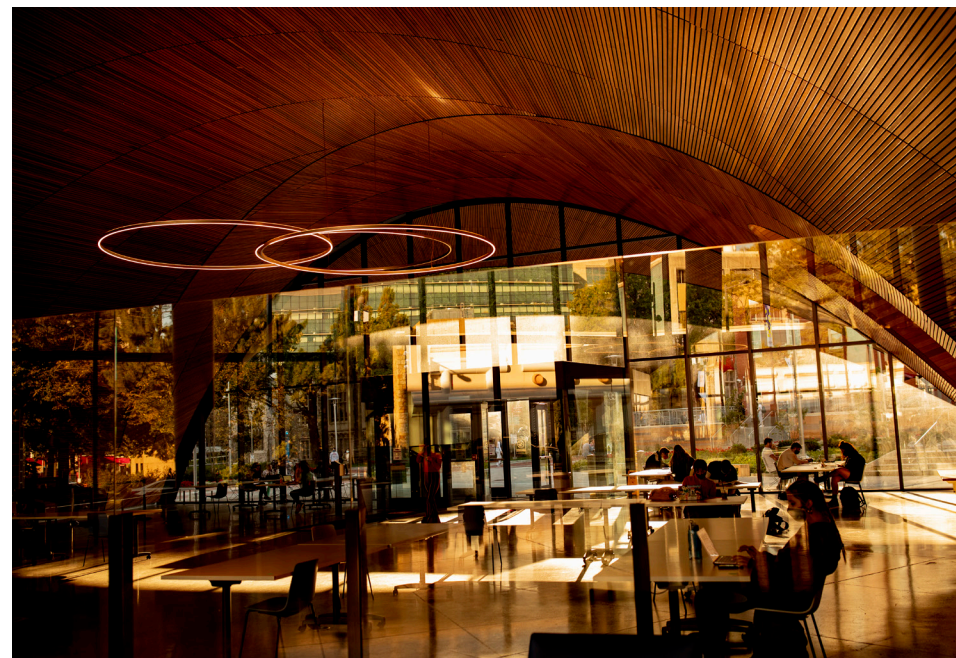
### A Milestone for Charles Library

It's been over one year since the landmark new Charles Library opened on Temple's Main Campus. Named in recognition of a historic \$10 million naming gift from entrepreneur and Temple Trustee Steve Charles, *KLN '80*, Charles Library is a modern day public square. This extraordinary new building has transformed the center of campus and is a popular spot for gathering, studying, and participating in campus and community life.

While all of our library buildings closed in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to reopen in August and were some of the very first campus services to do so.

Despite the challenges presented in its first year, Charles Library has become a vital space and resource for students, faculty, staff, visiting researchers, and community members. We are pleased to share with you these stories and updates in celebration of our first year in Charles.

*(continued on page 3)*



### Update on Library Services and Resources: Ongoing Response to COVID-19

Our summer 2020 issue highlighted the Libraries' response in the initial phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the larger university response, our library buildings were closed from mid-March until the beginning of August. Yet, our commitment to serving our patrons and providing important resources and services was and remains stronger than ever.

Over those first few months, library staff worked quickly to offer expanded access to online journals and databases, moved workshops and reference consultations online, contributed to a universitywide taskforce to produce personal protective equipment for Temple University Hospital, created tutorials and other online learning resources, helped patrons find digital copies of books and articles, and more.

One way the Libraries helped foster community while our physical locations were closed was through launching a creative writing contest over the summer. The theme of the contest was "Interruption," and select works now appear in our Short Édition short story dispenser in Charles Library and also online at [temple.short-edition.com](http://temple.short-edition.com). We also extended due dates and eliminated late fines for library materials during building closures and into the fall semester, and expanded alumni access to digital materials.

*(continued on page 4)*



Top: 24/7 Space in Charles Library, photo by Ryan S. Brandenburg, Temple University  
Bottom: Studying on the fourth floor of Charles Library, photo by Joseph V. Labolito, Temple University

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*Speaking Volumes*, Fall 2020/Winter 2021

Department of Library External Affairs and Advancement

215-204-9305

Written by Beckie Dashiell, Editor

Visit our website at [library.temple.edu](http://library.temple.edu).

### About Temple University Libraries

Temple University Libraries serves the Temple community and beyond, including more than 37,000 students; over 2,000 full-time faculty; and researchers and visitors on Main, Center City, and Health Sciences Center campuses in Philadelphia and on our Ambler and Harrisburg campuses. We are committed to providing research and learning services, offering open access to our facilities and information resources, and fostering innovation and experimentation. Our collections total more than four million physical and digital titles, over 275,000 print and electronic journal subscriptions, and more than 700 research databases. We also collect, preserve, and provide access to a broad universe of special collections, including rare books, manuscripts, archives, photographs, and more. As part of our library enterprise, the award-winning Temple University Press supports our mission to advance learning and scholarship.

## Welcome from the Dean



Dean Joe Lucia

As we all reflect on the difficult year behind us, I send you my best wishes as we navigate the new year ahead. This fall 2020/winter 2021 issue of *Speaking Volumes* takes a look at the ways in which Temple University Libraries is continuing to serve as a constant for our many communities during this challenging time.

We remain focused on our mission to connect people and ideas. While those connections may look a bit different, we have found new and creative ways to offer resources and services amid the COVID-19 pandemic. From our extensive lineup of online public programs and workshops, to a new library service that gathers and freely shares scholarly works produced by the Temple community, we are embracing opportunities to reach a wider audience than ever before.

Of particular note is the special milestone the Libraries reached in August: a year since opening the new Charles Library on Main Campus. Inside this issue, you will read reflections on this first year in Charles Library. We also cover a Temple University Press initiative to highlight its titles exploring racism, updates from the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection and the Special Collections Research Center, a virtual exhibit and programming from the Health Sciences Libraries, and much more.

If you received our summer 2020 digital-only issue, you will have noticed a departure from our usual format. I am pleased we are now back in your mailboxes with this print version, and you can also find a digital issue, along with other back issues, on our library website.

As always, thank you for taking the time to check in with us. Your support of and interest in our work means a great deal to all of us here at the Libraries.

Take care and stay safe,

Joe Lucia  
Dean of University Libraries

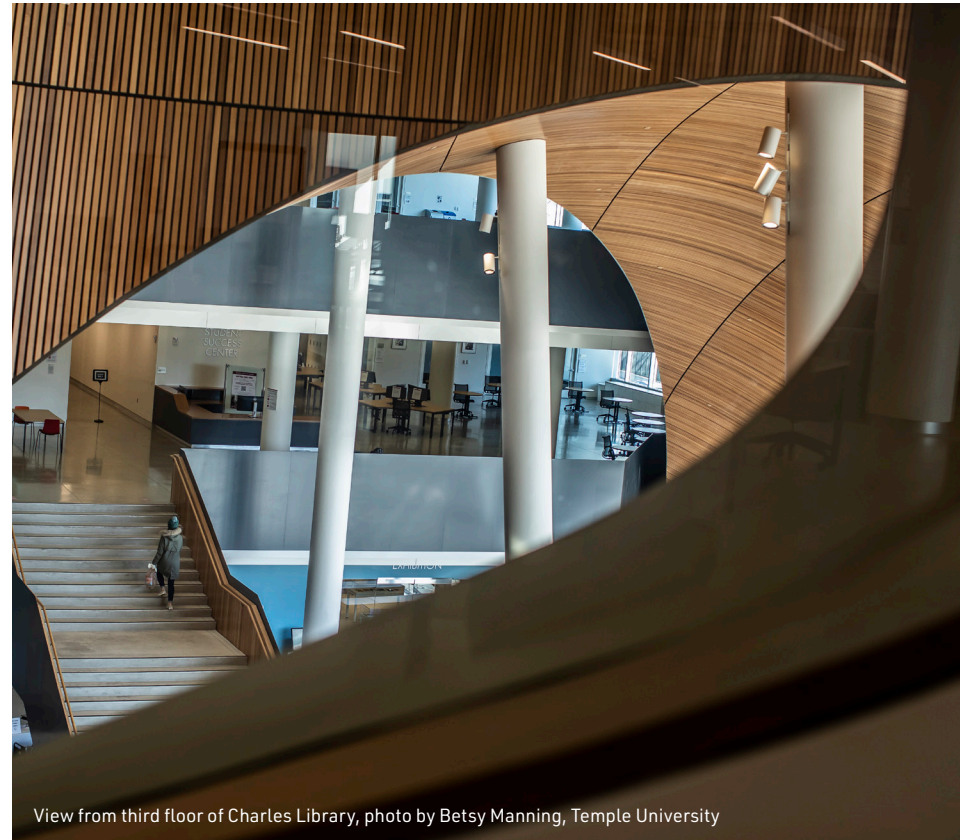
# A Milestone for Charles Library *(continued from page 1)*

## One year anniversary: *Temple Now* feature

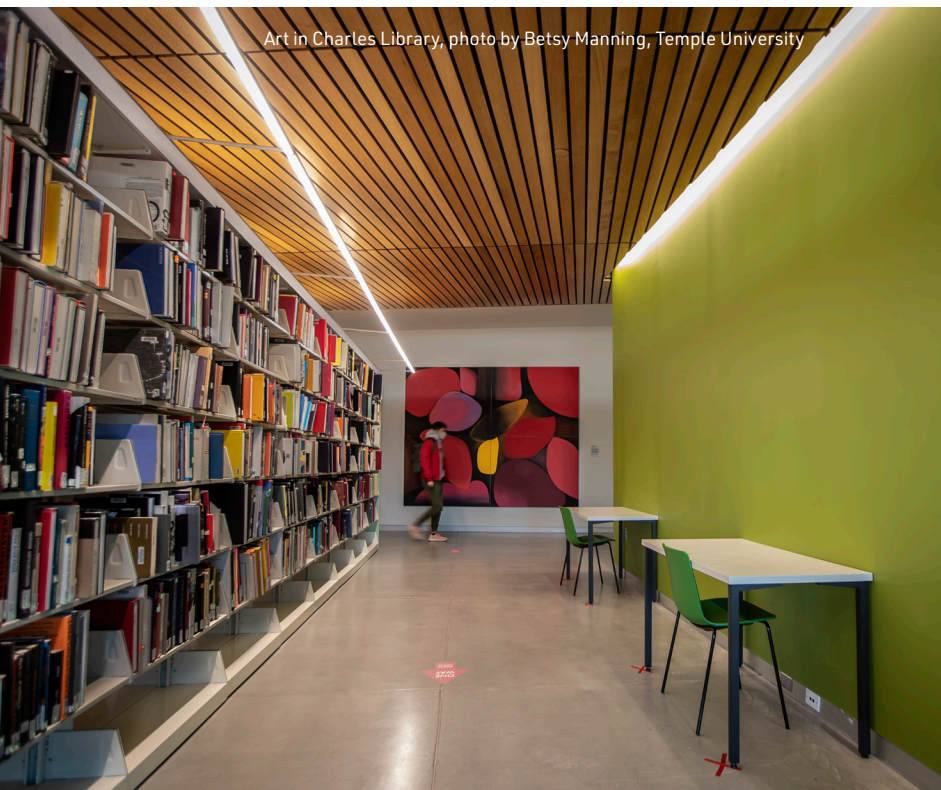
In September, *Temple Now*, the university's weekly email newsletter, published a story celebrating Charles Library's one year anniversary. "[The library where it happens](#)" paid tribute to Charles Library's breathtaking design and the acclaim it has garnered over the last year, while also noting that there is so much more that makes the new library a special place.

The *Temple Now* story highlighted various spaces and events, many of which we've reported on in previous issues, as part of its one year anniversary coverage. The Loretta C. Duckworth Scholars Studio, which serves as a space for student and faculty consultations with librarians and subject matter experts, workshops, and collaborative research in digital humanities, digital arts, cultural analytics, and critical making and is home to our Makerspace, VR/Visualization Studio, and a variety of high tech equipment and software, was featured prominently. Stories covered student and faculty use of 3D printers in the Makerspace, the library's role in a universitywide initiative to make personal protective equipment, and a community clinical nursing class that used the virtual reality lab for empathy training.

Other highlights included the College of Science and Technology's transit of Mercury viewing party on the library's fourth floor terrace, the exceptional *Black Lives Always Mattered!* exhibition from the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, and the Student Success Center. And, no story about Charles Library would be complete without mention of its signature Automated Storage and Retrieval System (the BookBot) and expansive Frederic S. Schroeder and Family Green Roof, named by Libraries' Board of Visitors Chair Sandra Lea Cadwalader, Esq.



View from third floor of Charles Library, photo by Betsy Manning, Temple University



Art in Charles Library, photo by Betsy Manning, Temple University

## Public art and exhibitions

Over the past year, Temple's newest contemporary art collection has begun to pop up on the walls of Charles Library. This growing collection is the gift of artist and philanthropist Dennis Alter, *EDU '66*, and is curated by Susanna Gold, a former faculty member at the Tyler School of Art and Architecture and specialist in contemporary American art. The collection includes works by Philadelphia artists (among them Tyler faculty) as well as artists from the international creative community. According to Dean Joe Lucia, "this aspect of the collection reflects the reality that Temple University itself is rooted in Philadelphia but international in its embrace."

On view throughout the building, these diverse pieces complement Charles Library's stunning architecture and contemporary feel. Lucia notes that the collection reflects "Dennis Alter's wide-ranging interests and appreciation for diverse modes of technical mastery... and enhances the experience of the Charles Library for its visitors and users and is in itself a wonderful educational offering to the Temple community."

Our new, dedicated exhibition space has also received extensive use in the new library's first year. Our inaugural exhibit, *The Architecture of the Book: Design and Structure in Artists' Books*, featured materials from the Special Collections Research Center, while the most recent exhibition previewed the Charles L. Blockson Collection's forthcoming Pew Center for Arts & Heritage-funded graphic novel project, *Black Lives Always Mattered!: Hidden African American Philadelphia in the 20th Century*.

## Awards and accolades

Recent awards Charles Library has garnered include the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2020 Education Facility Design Award, *Interior Design Magazine's* Best of the Year Award, and a feature in *American Libraries* magazine's annual design showcase issue.

Charles Library was also on the shortlist for the 2020 World Architecture News (WAN) Awards in the education category, was profiled in the October issue of *Civil Engineering* magazine, and recently earned LEED Gold certification.

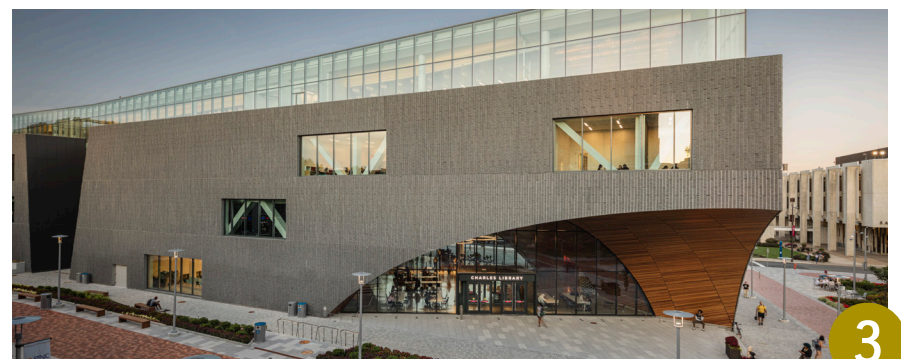
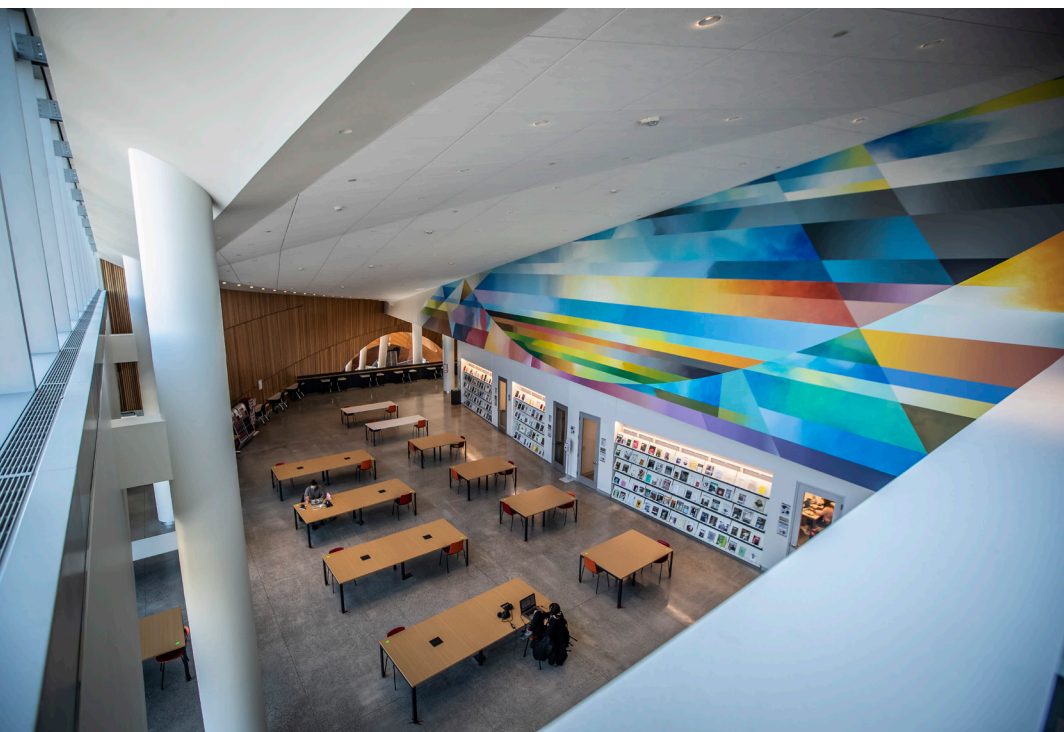


Photo by Michael Grimm

## Update on Library Services and Resources: Ongoing Response to COVID-19 *(continued from page 1)*



Mural by artist David Guinn in Charles Library's third floor reading area, photo by Betsy Manning, Temple University

Now, over a year into the pandemic, we are continuing to adapt as we navigate this new and unpredictable territory together. Since reopening our library buildings in August, we have enacted a variety of measures to ensure the safety of our visitors and staff, including quarantining materials, physical distancing, requiring face coverings, and more.

For the fall and spring semesters, most classes were moved online, and we created a [new webpage](#) for users to explore our fully online library resources, including collections and support. We also launched a new contactless book pickup service at Charles Library, which is available to all Temple affiliates and anyone with a borrowing card, so that we can still safely connect patrons with the materials they need.

Members of the Temple community have also continued to visit the libraries in person, for physically distanced studying and work. And, for much of the fall semester, use of our physical spaces and resources extended beyond students and faculty. In late November, due to city safety guidelines, we had to limit public access to our library locations to Temple students, faculty, staff, and alumni. We were very pleased to welcome back all visitors by mid-January, once the city and university deemed it safe to do so.

## New Library Service Helps Share Temple Scholarship Globally with Annie Johnson, assistant director for open publishing initiatives and scholarly communications, and Alicia Pucci, scholarly communications assistant

This past fall, the Libraries announced the launch of the university's first institutional repository, TUScholarShare. The repository is intended to serve as a place to collect, manage, and provide public access to Temple's research and teaching outputs. Temple now proudly joins other top research institutions in establishing a service for our faculty, researchers, staff, and students to better preserve and share their work with the scholarly community at large.

Professor of Educational Psychology Avi Kaplan was among the first faculty to deposit his scholarship to TUScholarShare. In his experience, "using open access repositories of academic work has contributed tremendously to the wide reach and impact of my scholarship, as well as to broadening my exposure to other scholars' work. Therefore, I was happy to join the beta trial of Temple's own open access repository, TUScholarShare." He notes, "having the good folks

at the library review my CV, upload the open access articles, and guide me in identifying the open access versions of paywall publications was very efficient, and made joining very easy. I'm looking forward to the benefits from this important community resource."

As an interdisciplinary platform, TUScholarShare is designed to allow Temple scholars to publish, share, and preserve a range of creative and scholarly content in any digital format. In addition to accommodating articles, books, and datasets, the repository seeks to identify new genres of research outputs that often require stewardship.

TUScholarShare provides access to cutting-edge Temple research to anyone, regardless of their affiliation with a college or university. With this new service, we will be able to better promote Temple's intellectual output, foster global visibility, and track our scholars' real-world impact.

In the short time since the service has launched, TUScholarShare has already been accessed by readers from across 10 different countries. Some collections you can find in the repository include:

- **COVID-19 Research**—a collection of the most recent articles related to coronaviruses that have been authored by Temple researchers.
- **Teaching and Learning Materials**—a collection that highlights educational contributions, including syllabi and assignments, from Temple faculty and staff.
- **Theses and Dissertations**—the new location for Temple electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), which were previously housed in our Digital Collections.

Visit [scholarshare.temple.edu](https://scholarshare.temple.edu) to view these and other TUScholarShare collections.

# Beyond the Page Programs and Workshops Go Virtual

Over the summer and throughout the fall, the Libraries' *Beyond the Page* public programming series looked and operated a little differently than usual. Rather than gathering in person, we offered our full lineup of lectures, panels, readings, performances, and workshops online via Zoom. These virtual presentations allowed us to reach a wide audience and to continue our mission to provide a variety of high quality academic and cultural programs.

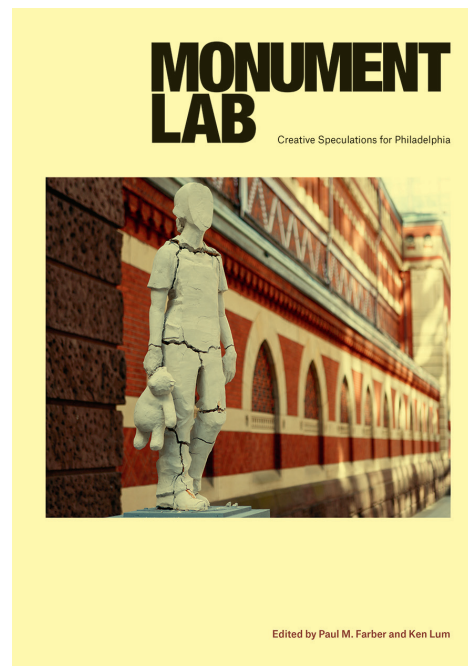
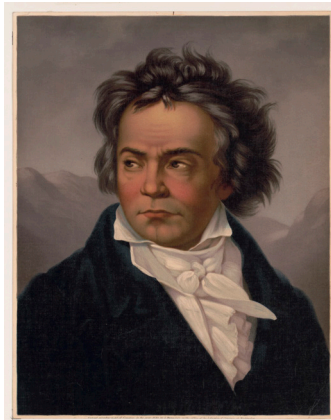
The theme for the fall semester's programming was "Interruption," which acknowledged and explored both the COVID-19 pandemic and the renewed awareness and protests against systemic racism. We examined how Temple researchers and our communities responded in unprecedented times and looked ahead to our future as a university, a city, and a nation.

Programming highlights included our continuing *Beyond the Notes* series. For one of these programs, we celebrated the 250th birthday of Beethoven with Temple faculty, students, and alumni presenting some of his inspiring works from their own homes and studio spaces. The program was broadcast live over a five-hour period, so that audience members could drop in, or stay for the whole concert.

In October, we presented a screening and Q&A with the director of the documentary film *Let the Fire Burn!* (2013), which chronicles the events leading up to and surrounding the May 13, 1985 stand-off and ensuing violence in West Philadelphia between the Black liberation group MOVE and the Philadelphia Police Department. Using archival news coverage and hearing transcripts, much of the film's footage and still photography comes from our Special Collections Research Center.

We continued to collaborate with Temple University Press on a number of programs including a discussion about the future of Philadelphia monuments with the authors and contributors to the Press book, *Monument Lab: Creative Speculations for Philadelphia*. At another program, Temple University Press Editor Shaun Vigil facilitated a conversation with Dr. Amaranth Borsuk about how we conceive of what "the book" is, means, and signifies given the current moment.

We also invited faculty across campuses to join us to discuss their research as it relates to the current public health crisis. Professor Hilary Lowe of the History department along with two former graduate



Clockwise from top left: Ludwig Van Beethoven, c. 1870, Library of Congress; Screenshot from the Blockson Collection's "Noisemakers! The Making of *BLAM!*: Behind the Scenes with *Black Lives Always Mattered!* Curator and Artists" virtual program, October 7, 2020; "Halt the epidemic!," 1918, Special Collections Research Center; *Monument Lab* book cover; *Let the Fire Burn* poster

students discussed their research and work on the history of the 1918 flu in Philadelphia and offered perspective on its special relevance in 2020. In another program, faculty members from the College of Public Health and the Lewis Katz School of Medicine gave lightning talks about their research and work related to COVID-19.

The Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection continued to offer a wide variety of programs, beginning with a virtual Juneteenth celebration honoring the late Philadelphia jazz legend Robert "Bootsie" Barnes. The Blockson Collection also hosted a number of author talks and other programs as part of the *Black Lives Always Mattered!* public program series, which has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

Finally, as we continued to adapt to the current virtual environment, we took this opportunity to expand our workshop series. Librarians and subject matter experts offered online sessions on everything from an introduction to 3D printing to using open textbooks and open education resources to copyright basics.

Our *Beyond the Page* series continues virtually this spring, and programs will explore the theme "Made in North Philly." We invite you to check out the whole season at [library.temple.edu/events](https://library.temple.edu/events).

The **Loretta C. Duckworth Scholars Studio**, with support from the Office of the Vice President for Research, hosted a half-day of virtual talks and discussions this past October to showcase VR-related work and to explore the future of VR at Temple.

## HSL Virtual Exhibit Explores the Politics of Healthcare, from Yellow Fever to COVID-19

This September, staff at the Health Sciences Libraries (HSL) pivoted their thinking, and what was originally planned as a visiting exhibit from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) grew into something more. Before COVID-19, librarians had booked the NLM's touring exhibit: *The Politics of Yellow Fever in Alexander Hamilton's America* for the Ginsburg Health Sciences Libraries from September to October 2020. In light of the pandemic, traveling exhibits were paused, but library staff decided to move forward.

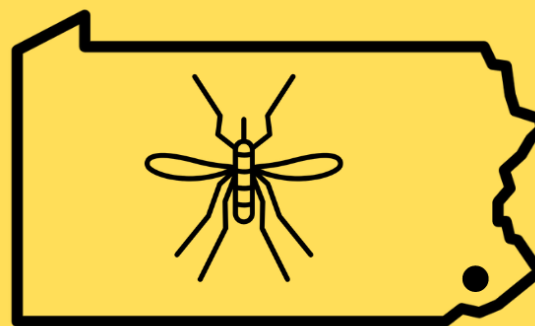
The relevance of the exhibit's focus on yellow fever to our current public health crisis afforded HSL librarians the opportunity to consider the commonalities between the two. In collaboration with the Lewis Katz School of Medicine's Center for Urban Bioethics, the Libraries offered a full week of virtual programming and workshops curated to complement the NLM's virtual exhibit. HSL librarians also created a special Politics of Yellow Fever: Philadelphia Edition website that linked to the NLM's exhibit, highlighted speaker events and workshops, and offered resources for further exploration.

The programs drew over 250 attendees for lectures on the 1793 Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic's continued relevance in our city today, structural racism in the context of epidemic diseases in US history, and philosophical perspectives on COVID-19. There was also a panel on the specific impact of COVID-19 in North Philadelphia and workshops on bias in health sciences research and using special search filters to access health and biomedical sciences literature. About half of those who registered for these programs were not affiliated with Temple, instead joining from other regional universities and medical schools around the country.

For the website, librarians compiled a list of local resources that included a WHYY yellow fever podcast and walking tour, as well as information about local historical societies and special libraries. They also created a recommended reading list for those who want to learn more about the history of yellow fever and the politics of healthcare.

The success of the programming shows that, even during a pandemic, scholars, students, and healthcare providers can reflect on the past to learn how to face the present.

View the website and virtual exhibit at [sites.google.com/temple.edu/yellowfever](https://sites.google.com/temple.edu/yellowfever).



## **The Politics of Yellow Fever in Alexander Hamilton's America (*Philadelphia edition*)**

# Understanding Racism: Resources from Temple University Press

This past summer brought renewed awareness to the systemic racism that continues to pervade our country. There is much work to be done, and here at Temple, the university is investing more than \$1 million in anti-racism education and programming.

As a leading publisher of socially engaged scholarship, Temple University Press has brought together 86 of its titles as part of a new "Understanding Racism" campaign. Launched over the summer, this initiative highlights Press titles that help further conversations about race.

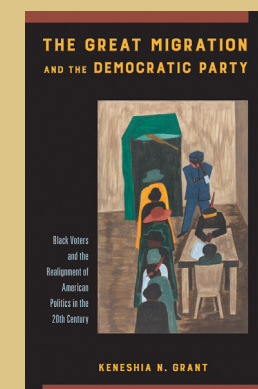
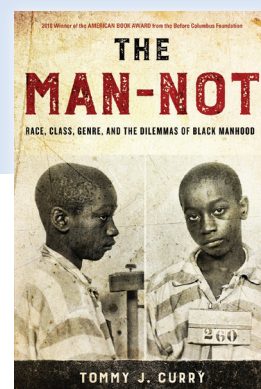
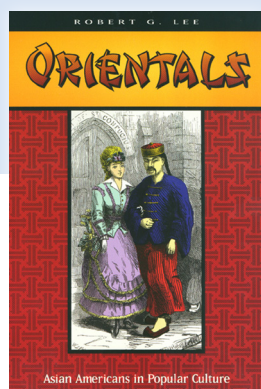
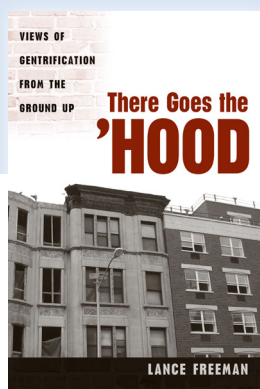
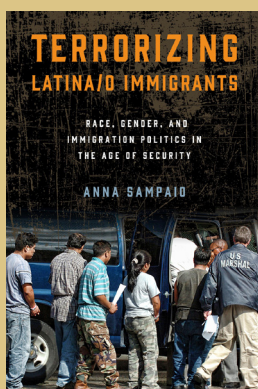
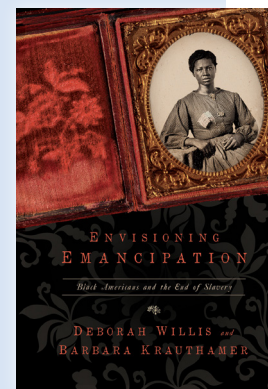
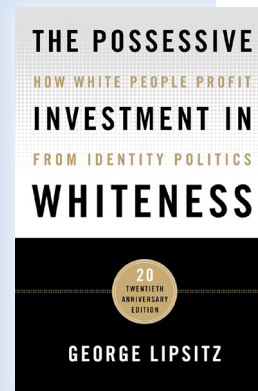
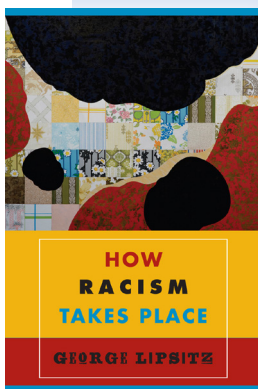
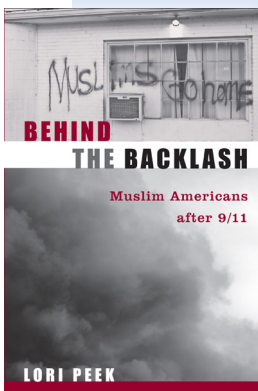
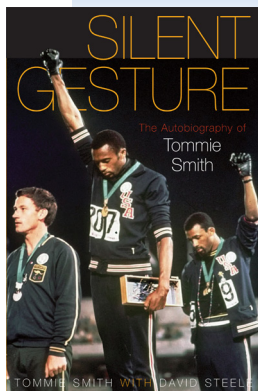
The Press has long been engaged in publishing works that explore racism. In the late 1980s, noted scholar George Lipsitz published his first book with the Press about Black worker and community activist Ivory Perry. Lipsitz went on to publish several other widely influential books with the Press, including 1998's *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics* (and subsequent updated editions) and 2011's *How Racism Takes Place*. Through these and other titles, the Press has helped chronicle revolutionary and cultural nationalism, richness in Black art and cultural production, and diversity in African American identity.

The "Understanding Racism" initiative brings awareness and introduces new readers to the Press's many books on social justice, race, and ethnicity. Some of these award-winning titles include:

- *The Man-Not: Race, Class, Genre, and the Dilemmas of Black Manhood* by Tommy J. Curry
- *There Goes the 'Hood: Views of Gentrification from the Ground Up* by Lance Freeman
- *Oriental: Asian Americans in Popular Culture* by Robert G. Lee
- *Behind the Backlash: Muslim Americans after 9/11* by Lori Peek
- *Terrorizing Latina/o Immigrants: Race, Gender, and Immigration Politics in the Age of Security* by Anna Sampaio
- *Silent Gesture: The Autobiography of Tommie Smith* by Tommie Smith and David Steele
- *Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery* by Deborah Willis and Barbara Krauthamer

The Press continues to publish important scholarship that engages with these vital topics. New releases include Keneshia Grant's *The Great Migration and the Democratic Party* and *Do Right by Me: Learning to Raise Black Children in White Spaces* by Valerie Harrison and Kathryn Peach D'Angelo, both published in 2020.

Visit [tupress.temple.edu](http://tupress.temple.edu) to learn more about the "Understanding Racism" collection and to browse other titles.



## At the Special Collections Research Center: Recognizing the Greenfield Foundation, New Acquisitions

We are pleased to share these updates from the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) that serve to further recognize the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation's incredibly generous \$1 million gift to name and support the Albert M. Greenfield Special Collections Research Center Reading Room in the new Charles Library as well as establish the Albert M. Greenfield Civic History Endowment Fund. This Fund was created to support the SCRC's digital exhibits, teaching, internships, fellowships, research, digitization of materials, and programs using content representing civic life in Philadelphia. The fund also supports the annual operations and resources of the SCRC's reading room, to help ensure that it is functioning at its optimal level.

This spring, the SCRC used endowment income from the fund to present its first public program, which was offered virtually, in connection with Albert Greenfield's interest in city planning. We invited Lynn A. Mandarano, associate professor of City & Regional Planning and Community Development in the Tyler School of Art and Architecture, to speak about the partnership she has developed with community organizations in eastern North Philadelphia and the work students have been doing to support the organizations such as developing historic walking tours that highlight the former businesses that served these neighborhoods. You can view this and all library programs at [library.temple.edu/events](http://library.temple.edu/events).

We have also further enhanced the Albert M. Greenfield Special Collections Research Center Reading Room in recognition of the Greenfield Foundation's generous philanthropic support. New features include a plaque next to the portrait of Albert M. Greenfield that now hangs in the room and recognizes Mr. Greenfield's work as a philanthropist, advisor to U.S. presidents, and board member of many civic and philanthropic organizations nationally and in Philadelphia, including the Temple University Board of Trustees (1927–1947). We have also added signage over the reference desk and glass etching on the reading room doors that denote the space as the Albert M. Greenfield Reading Room.



Glass etching on the Albert M. Greenfield Special Collections Research Center Reading Room doors, photo by Evan Weinstein



New signage in the reading room, photo by Margery Sly

New acquisitions serve to further the SCRC's mission to collect and preserve rare and unique materials. A few of these notable additions include:

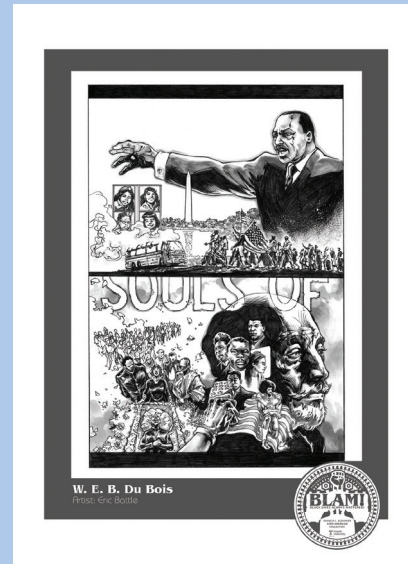
- **Philadelphia Public School Notebook records, 1994–present.** This collection includes administrative records, research files, and print editions of *Notebook*, the independent, reader-supported newsletter documenting education news in Philadelphia. *Notebook* is now partnered with Chalkbeat, a national nonprofit news organization with a similar mission. Its content extends that of the Oakes Newsletter, 1970–1989, in the Helen Oakes Papers in the SCRC, which have been used extensively by College of Education and Human Development and other students to study the history of significant issues in Philadelphia public schools.
- **Elaine Terranova (1939– ) papers, 1954–2020.** Terranova is a poet, writer, editor, teacher, and member of the Temple class of 1961. Documenting Terranova's career, the papers include her notebooks and drafts, copies of her published works, correspondence with fellow poets, and teaching materials. Ms. Terranova's papers join the collections of several regional and national poets in the SCRC, which are used by Temple students and other students and scholars to study poetry, women poets, the poetic form, and small and alternative press printing history.
- **The Pennsylvania Opera Theater records and papers of founder and artistic director Barbara Silverstein (1947– ), 1960s–2000s.** Documenting the history and performances of TPOT (1975–1993) and Silverstein's career in performance and conducting, this collection includes photographs, slides, albums, recordings and tapes of performances, programs and publicity, and scores—most notably Silverstein's translations of works then performed by TPOT. The company, based in Philadelphia, focused on presenting new and rarely performed works in the English language. These archives join a previous donation from Muriel Kirkpatrick of her photographs of TPOT performances.



# Blockson Collection Launches *Black Lives Always Mattered!* Website



BLAM! preview gallery exhibit montage with logo, March 8, 2020, graphic design and photo by Julius Harmon



BLAM! gallery preview page from W.E.B. Du Bois BLAM! profile, by artist Eric Battle, photo by Julius Harmon

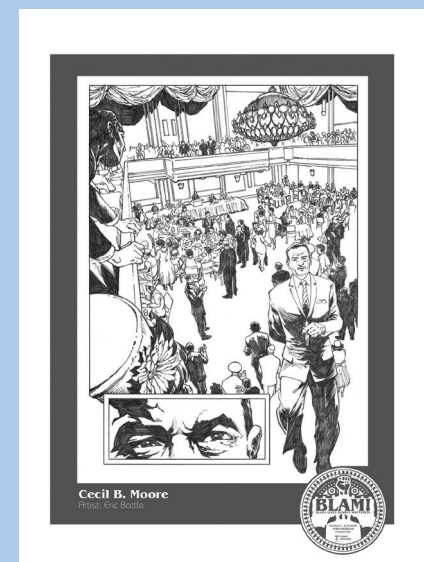
This fall, the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection unveiled a new website, [blackphillymatters.org](http://blackphillymatters.org), dedicated to their forthcoming *Black Lives Always Mattered!: Hidden African American Philadelphia in the 20th Century* graphic novel project. Often referred to by the acronym BLAM!, this project which has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage presents the history and impact of Black Philadelphians through striking illustrations and accompanying stories. The project's curator and art director is Eric Battle and the lead writer is Sheena Howard.

From the 19th century through the 20th century, mainstream media focused on the stereotypes of crime, poverty, and hopelessness of Black life. *BLAM!* offers a counter narrative and antidote to negative stereotypes by focusing on the complex and multi-dimensional stories of talent, courage, and achievement of 14 African American Philadelphians of the 20th century. Their stories are told with vivid illustrations and compelling narratives in a graphic novel format, created using the extensive primary and secondary source materials available in the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection.

The website provides an inside look into the project and profiles the 14 historical figures chosen for inclusion in the novel. The individuals, all of whom were either born in Philadelphia or spent a significant amount of time here, were chosen for the significant achievements and important contributions they made to the city of Philadelphia, the nation, and the world. Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, Marian Anderson, and Cecil B. Moore are among those featured.

The new website includes a gallery of incredible images, which range from illustrations created for the graphic novel by a variety of artists to primary source materials from the Blockson Collection. There is also an events calendar that rounds up all the past and upcoming virtual public programs related to the project.

We invite you to explore the website and look forward to bringing you more information about this important project as it develops.



BLAM! gallery preview page from Cecil B. Moore BLAM! profile, by artist Eric Battle, photo by Julius Harmon



The *Black Lives Always Mattered!* project is supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.



Photo courtesy of Synatra Smith

## Ask TU Libraries: Building a Digital Humanities Project with Synatra Smith

Temple University Libraries is pleased to welcome Synatra Smith, PhD as our new Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Postdoctoral Fellow. In this joint position, she is splitting her time between the Libraries and the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA). While working with the Libraries, Synatra will focus on digital scholarship projects related to African American art history in collaboration with the Loretta C. Duckworth Scholars Studio. She also plans to work with the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection.

Synatra earned her PhD in Global and Sociocultural Studies with a concentration in

Anthropology from the School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University.

The editor of *Speaking Volumes* recently had the opportunity to check in with Synatra and learn more about her research interests and the work she is engaging in at the Libraries and the PMA.

**Beckie Dashiell:** First of all, welcome to Temple Libraries! Can you share with our readers more information about your research interests and ongoing projects?

**Synatra Smith:** My research focuses on the creation, perpetuation, and transformation of the socio-political intersectional Black cultural landscape with special attention to the ways in which virtual and physical space are used as environments to conceptually and practically transform Black identification processes, as well as the material culture that contributes to this phenomenon.

I've been working in the galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (GLAM) field for the past five years officially in museum education, but I've also curated, worked in collections, managed an outreach initiative, etc.

**Beckie:** Can you tell us a little bit about the kind of work you'll be doing here at the Libraries, particularly

in the Duckworth Scholars Studio? What goals do you have for your time here?

**Synatra:** The Scholars Studio offers me an amazing opportunity to learn about a variety of digital tools for data collection and analysis that I intend to apply to my collection and interpretation of Black art, history, and culture. I'm currently participating in a few Zoom workshops to learn photogrammetry, text analysis with Python, and 3D scanning and modeling. I'm kind of creating my Batman utility belt of digital humanities tools that will allow me to develop an interactive exhibition that showcases current local Black art and scholarship through an Afrofuturist lens that reimagines time and space in order to speculate about the future.

**Beckie:** As part of your fellowship, you'll be working jointly with the Libraries and the PMA. What kinds of opportunities do you see this collaboration offering?

**Synatra:** PMA's Library and Archives is working on a Wikidata project to link their collection to those records, and that data can be queried using SPARQL [a coding language] to visualize it in some fascinating ways. We're also creating blog posts about local Black artists in PMA's collection and we'll be conducting oral histories with these artists soon, all of which can be added to Wikidata and linked back to PMA's website. I'd like to do something similar with Temple Libraries' collection so that when a person Googles one of these folks, they'll come across their items in both of these organizations' collections and archives.

Also, both of these institutions are providing a launchpad for my own research project to explore the myriad ways in which Black artists and scholars in Philadelphia reimagine and conceptualize their communities. I am going to be working on capturing a broad spectrum of materials, from murals, zines/comics, posters, fashion/cosplay/textiles, and performance art, to three-dimensional models of sculptures and monuments, and using linked data queries and mapping tools for data visualization.

**Beckie:** Thanks so much, Synatra! We look forward to checking back in with you over the course of your fellowship and seeing how your project continues to develop.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. Read the full interview with Synatra at [sites.temple.edu/librarynews](https://sites.temple.edu/librarynews).

# Our Donors Speak Volumes

We continue to be so grateful for the support of our friends, especially in this time of uncertainty. Their generosity helps sustain our library enterprise, so that we can provide important services, materials, and resources to our many patrons. Here, we highlight just a few of the donors who have helped to make our work possible recently.

Please consider making a gift in support of the Libraries today via the enclosed envelope or at [giving.temple.edu/givetolibraries](http://giving.temple.edu/givetolibraries). For more information, call 215-204-9305 or email [dwash@temple.edu](mailto:dwash@temple.edu).

- Libraries' Board of Visitors member **Audrey Merves** made a gift through the Louis and Bessie Stein Foundation Fund #2 to the Library Endowment Fund, which provides ongoing support for library resources and operations. Chair of the Libraries' Board of Visitors **Sandra Cadwalader, Esq.** also made a gift to this fund.
- **Carol and Richard Lang** made a gift to the Library Annual Fund, which the Libraries will use to support the purchase of furniture for the Carol J. Lang Staff Lounge in the new Charles Library.
- The **Asian Arts Initiative** made a gift of files documenting the work of their organization to the Special Collections Research Center. This gift helps provide a record of the Asian Arts Initiative as a multidisciplinary arts center connecting cultural expressions and social change through offering exhibitions, performances, artist residencies, youth workshops, and a community gathering space.
- Libraries' Board of Visitors member **Mr. John Hurst Livingstone** made a gift to support the Livingstone Undergraduate Research Awards Endowment. These awards, named in his honor, celebrate the excellent work in which Temple's undergraduate students engage. Libraries' Board of Visitors member **Mrs. Estelle R. Alexander and her husband Dr. Gerson J. Alexander** also made a gift to this endowment fund. **Gale, a Cengage company**, continued their support of this endowment as well through sponsoring the Livingstone Undergraduate Research Awards in Diversity & Social Justice and General Education Courses.
- The **Nessa, David, Eleanor, and Solomon Forman Family Fund** made a gift through the Philadelphia Foundation to the Nessa Forman Fund, which helps preserve the papers of Nessa Forman, former writer and editor for the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* and *WHYY*. These papers are housed in the Special Collections Research Center's Urban Archives.
- **Scenic Philadelphia** made a gift of its records, c. 1990-2017, to the Special Collections Research Center. The records include files relating to dozens of advocacy and activist projects/cases in which Scenic Philadelphia fought those seeking to rezone public spaces and/or erect billboards and other types of outdoor advertising in Philadelphia and the surrounding area.
- Libraries' Board of Visitors member **Russell Ring** made a gift to the Ring Temple History Fund.
- **David and Betsy Wice** made a gift to the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection Endowment, which helps ensure the preservation of and access to this important collection documenting local Jewish history and culture.
- **Isabel Maynard** made a gift to the Temple University Press Fund in honor of Temple University Press Editor-in-Chief, Aaron Javicas.
- **Tim and Peggy Walsh** and **Mr. William J. Zimmer, Jr.** made gifts to the Library Annual Fund, which supports daily operations and activities across our library enterprise.
- **The Honorable Frederica Massiah-Jackson** made a gift to the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection Endowment, which supports the ongoing development, preservation of, and access to this important collection documenting African and African American history.
- **Rachel and Robert Duplessis** made gifts to both the Special Collections Annual Fund, which helps ensure the annual preservation, digitization, access, acquisition, and programming needs of the SCRC, and the Library Endowment Fund.
- **Mrs. Helen W. Drutt English** made a gift from her personal collection of art books, pamphlets, and periodicals to the Libraries.
- Libraries' Board of Visitors member **Susan Popkin** made a gift to the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection Endowment and the Library Endowment Fund.

## The Helen Drutt English Book Collection



Helen Drutt English in her library, September 23, 2020, photo by Joseph V. Labolito, Temple University

Recently, the Libraries received a very special gift from Tyler School of Art and Architecture alumna Mrs. Helen W. Drutt English (TYL '52). Drutt donated over 300 art books from her personal collection to the Libraries, furthering her commitment to the modern and contemporary craft movement while enhancing the scholarship and practice of Tyler and Temple students. According to Dean Joe Lucia, "This collection will substantially increase the research opportunities for students and faculty in an area that is of particular strength to Temple."

To celebrate the first section of this new collection, we have created a special website ([sites.temple.edu/helendruttenglish](http://sites.temple.edu/helendruttenglish)) to preview some of the materials in the Helen Drutt English Book Collection, as well as a physical display on the fourth floor of Charles Library.

Looking down Liacouras Walk on Temple's Main Campus with Charles Library on the left, October 10, 2020, photo by Ryan S. Brandenburg, Temple University

