

Call for Applications:
Inheritance Baltimore Dean's Undergraduate Research Award (DURA)

Deadline: April 4, 2022 by 11:59 p.m

The Inheritance Baltimore DURAs are available for undergraduates working on independent research projects that draw on Africana primary source materials in the [rare book, manuscript, and archival collections](#) of the Sheridan Libraries, with preference given to topics that examine dimensions of Black experience in Maryland. Awardees may supplement this research by consulting other archives and libraries across Maryland and/or conducting their own original oral history interviews.

The award, in the amount of \$5000, supports research conducted from May 2022-April 2023 and the development of project based on this research, e.g. an academic essay, online exhibition, film, or other deliverable. The awardee must submit their final project no later than April 18, 2023 and give a brief presentation about their research with other DURA awardees at a public event in April 2023. DURA awardees will receive half the funds at the beginning of their research and half at completion.

The fellowships are restricted to JHU freshman, sophomore, and juniors. Seniors are eligible to apply if their proposed project will be completed prior to their graduation. Applicants must identify a faculty mentor who can help them identify materials, formulate project proposals, and conduct research.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are encouraged to contact DURA coordinator [Dr. Joseph Plaster](#) in advance to discuss proposals. Students should submit via email to Dr. Plaster, at jplaster@jhu.edu, by April 4, 2022:

1. A two- to three-page, single-spaced proposal that addresses each of the following:
 - the specific topic to be explored and question(s) you want to investigate
 - specific rare book, manuscript, oral history and/or archival materials that you propose to examine
 - qualifications for conducting the research (e.g., your undergraduate status, general academic interests, related classes, personal or work experience, and relevant research experience)
 - expected outcome(s) of the project (e.g. developing an honors thesis topic, research paper, exhibition, digital application, film, etc.)
 - your timeline for completion of the project, including how often you and your mentor(s) will meet to discuss the project

2. One letter of recommendation from a faculty or librarian mentor indicating their support and commitment to your project. Recommenders should submit their letter by e-mail, to Dr. Plaster, by April 4, 2022.

Applicants will be notified of our decisions by April 13, 2022.

Searching JHU's Collections and Library Guides

Begin your search for relevant collections by consulting our search engines and library guides:

Search JHU Archives & Manuscripts: <https://aspace.library.jhu.edu/>

Africana Studies Library Guide: <https://guides.library.jhu.edu/africana>
Baltimore Library Guide: <https://guides.library.jhu.edu/baltimore>

Black Baltimore Relevant Collections at JHU

Below is a list of archival collections at Johns Hopkins University of relevance to Black Baltimore history. This list is not exhaustive. Additional archival materials can be found by searching [ArchivesSpace](#); rare books and periodicals can be found in [Catalyst](#), our library catalog.

[William Worthy Papers](#)

William Worthy (July 7, 1921 – May 4, 2014) was an African-American journalist, civil rights activist, and frequent critic of the United States. The collection includes the following topics and genres: correspondence, biographical information, writings, newspaper clippings, advocacy, teaching, travel (specifically Cuba, the USSR, China and Iran), notes, files, and printed matter.

[Housing Our Story: Towards Archival Justice for Black Baltimore oral history collection](#)

This collection consists of twenty-two oral history interviews conducted in 2018 as part of a project titled Housing Our Story: Towards Archival Justice for Black Baltimore.

[John Clark Mayden Photograph Collection](#)

This collection contains 100 large black-and-white photographic prints made from film negatives by the Baltimore photographer John Clark Mayden, showing scenes of everyday life in Black Baltimore. Please contact special collections to request the collection.

[Johns Hopkins University Collection of Black Americana Materials](#)

This collection primarily consists of postcards, broadsides, and other printed ephemera from the 1870s through the 1950s that depict African American people in ways that are often racist and caricatured.

[Johns Hopkins University Collection of African American History and Culture](#)

This collection of printed materials, diaries, photographs, and other items document African American experiences from the 18th century through the 20th century.

[Johns Hopkins University Collection of Maryland African American History and Culture](#)

The Johns Hopkins University collection of Maryland African American history and culture includes letters, legal documents, photographs, and other materials documenting African American history and culture in Maryland from the 18th to the 20th century.

[Johns Hopkins University Collection of African American Political Activism](#)

This collection contains broadsides, photographs, and newspaper clippings, primarily created between the 1950s and the 1970s, that document African American political activities.

[Johns Hopkins University African American Real Photo Postcard Collection](#)

This collection contains over 1000 "real photo" postcards--made from actual photographs, rather than commercially published reproductions--that portray African-American subjects. They date from approximately 1905 to approximately 1946. The collection is organized generally by subject matter.

[The Baltimore Civil Rights History Project](#)

The Baltimore Civil Rights History Project was primarily a project to record the oral histories of participants in the Baltimore civil rights movement. The project was overseen by Francois Furstenberg when he was a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University. The collection primarily features oral histories, recorded in 1999 and 2000, conducted with Baltimore civil rights movement participants.

[The History of African Americans at Johns Hopkins University](#)

Oral history recordings, transcripts, notes, and related material pertaining to "The History of African Americans at Johns Hopkins University" project, active from 2003-2008, which interviewed alumni, faculty, medical professionals, and staff affiliated with Johns Hopkins University. Notable figures interviewed for this project include Ben Carson, Levi Watkins, and Frederick I. Scott.

[James Birney Anti-Slavery Pamphlets Collection](#)

The collection contains materials gathered by James Birney in the course of his anti-slavery labors, and items gathered by William Birney while preparing a biography of his father. Over the years the collection has been augmented and now includes both anti- and pro-slavery material; printed speeches; African colonization; politics and campaign biographies; and black education.

Need Help? Contact JHU Librarians and Archivists

Do you have questions about locating JHU collections, researching at the university, or any other matter? Please reach out to the following experts:

Heather Furnas, PhD, Librarian for History and Africana Studies, hfurnas1@jhu.edu

Tonika Berkley, JHU Africana Archivist, tberkl1@jhu.edu

Joseph Plaster, PhD, DURA coordinator and Tabb Center director, jplaster@jhu.edu