



# Uncovering CUNY's Audiovisual Heritage

*2022 Digitizing Hidden Collections Symposium*



# Introduction

- Location: Northern Queens, the ancestral lands of the Mantinecock, an Algonquin people
- Presenter: Kelly Haydon (She/Her), Project Manager, Uncovering CUNY's Audiovisual Heritage
- Accessibility: Images in the accompanying slides contain alt-text and will be described; videos are captioned

# City University of New York

*The Public University System of New York City*

- Largest urban university network in the United States
- 25 campuses, most with a library and an archive
- 200,000 students
- Began as a free school in the 19th century



Bronx Community College Library. Photo by Peter Aaron.  
<https://cbbld.com/project/bronx-community-college-north-hall-and-library/>.

# Audiovisual Archives & Special Collections

Archival documents recorded on videotape can't be viewed by the naked eye. They require an obsolete playback device called a Videotape Recorder (VTR).

Videotape technology is obsolete. Content is difficult to access due to hard-to-find and costly resources.



# CUNY-TV

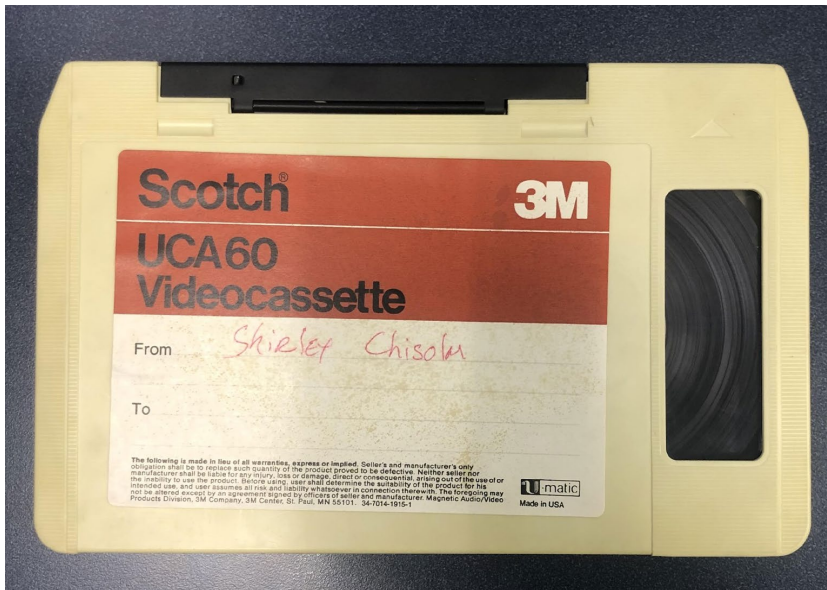
*CUNY's public access television station*



- Since 1985, CUNY-TV has produced, broadcast, and streamed educational programming to residents of New York City and beyond.

# Uncovering CUNY'S Audiovisual Heritage

*A campus-wide, shared-resources model for tape preservation*



An unseen tape from Medgar Evers College Archives.



CUNY TV Engineer, Flip, is posing in front of the videotape digitization rack in the station's master control room.

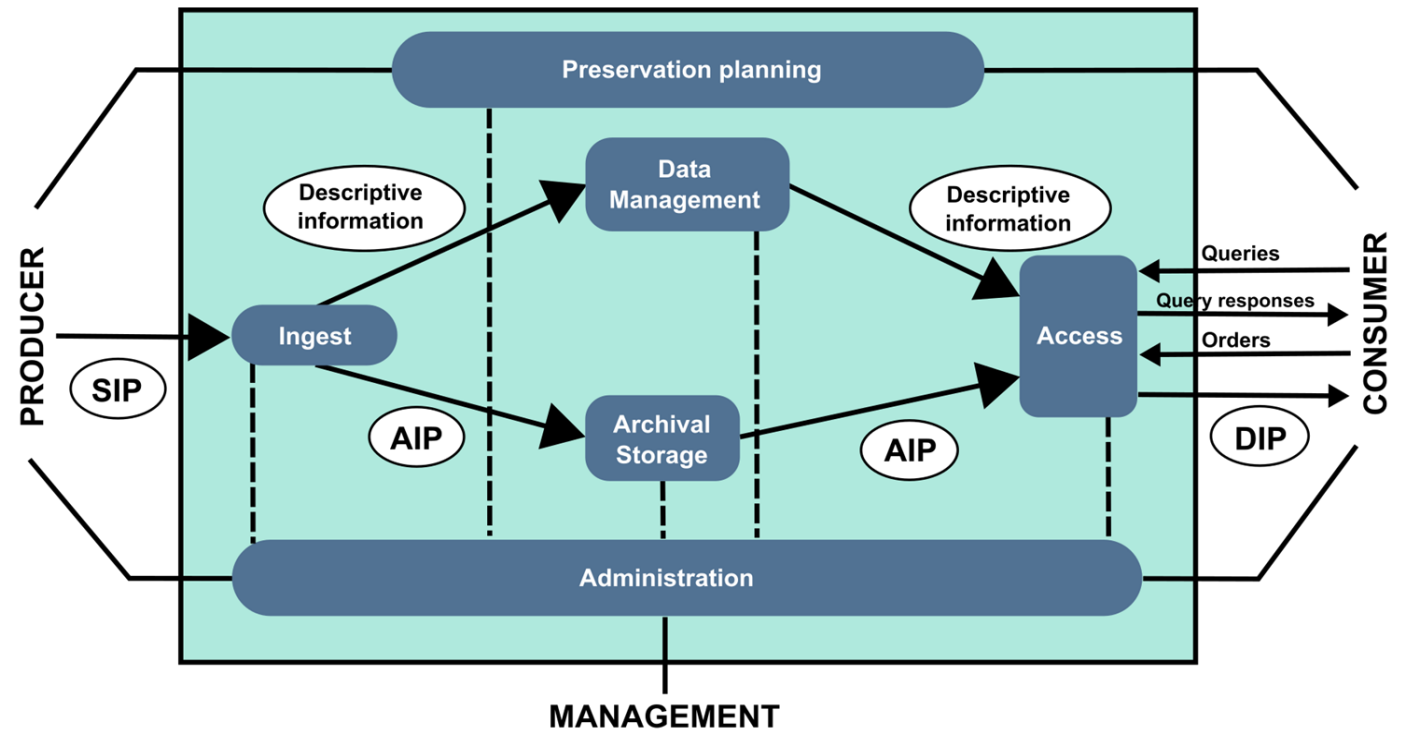


Content of "Shirley Chisholm" tape revealed from digitization.

# Digital Preservation @ CUNY TV

*Robust, reliable, ever-evolving to new technologies*

- Digital preservation workflows are closely based on the OAIS (Open Archival Information System) functional model.



# Digital Preservation @ CUNY TV

*Robust, reliable, ever-evolving to new technologies*

- Long term storage on duplicated, geographically dispersed LTO tape



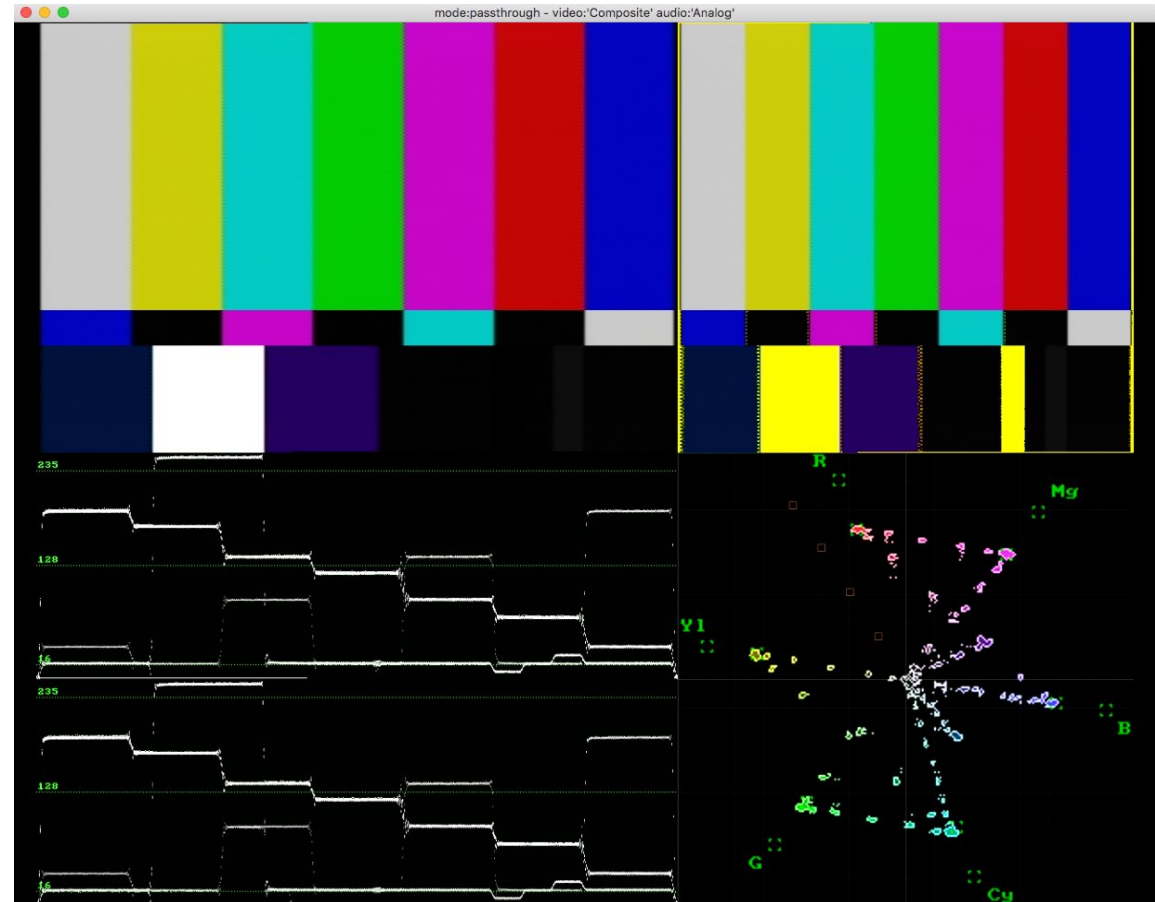
Photos by Dinah Handel



# Digital Preservation @ CUNY TV

*Robust, reliable, ever-evolving to new technologies*

- Open source command line tools used throughout the process (BASH microservices, QTools, vrecord, MediaINFO, and more)



Screen shot from vrecord, an open source digitization software tool



# Bronx Community College

Hall of Fame for Great Americans

# College of Staten Island

Cinema Then, Cinema Now

# Medgar Evers College

Medgar Evers Audiovisual Archives

# Hunter College

Center for Puerto Rican Studies Records, HoMoVISIONES

# Baruch College

City Club of New York, Baruch College Specials



# Uncovering CUNY Achievements

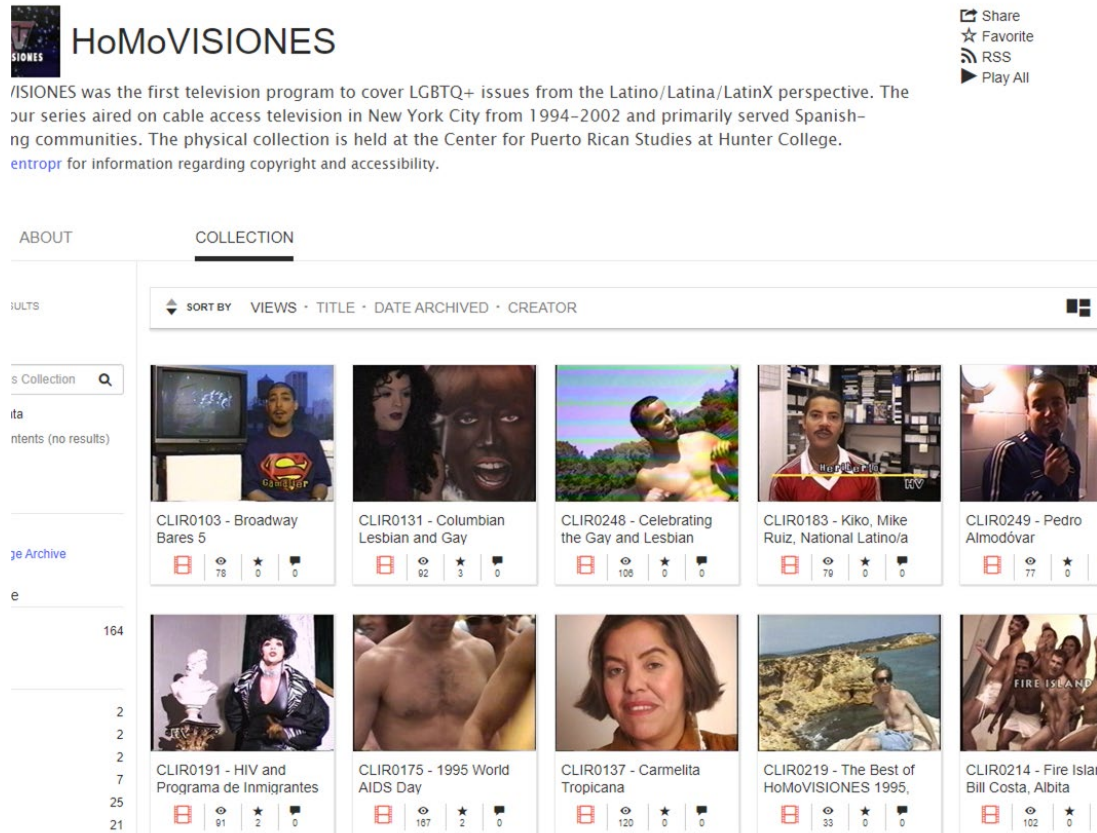
**Over 1,000 media objects digitized,  
captioned, described, ingested into  
long term digital storage**

**70% of assets accessible  
online via Internet Archive**

CUNY-TV/College of Staten Island



# Access!













**HoMoVISIONES**

VISIONES was the first television program to cover LGBTQ+ issues from the Latino/Latina/LatinX perspective. The series aired on cable access television in New York City from 1994–2002 and primarily served Spanish-speaking communities. The physical collection is held at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College. [entrop](#) for information regarding copyright and accessibility.

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ABOUT COLLECTION

SORT BY VIEWS · TITLE · DATE ARCHIVED · CREATOR

 <p>CLIR0103 - Broadway Bares 5</p> <p>78 0 0</p>	 <p>CLIR0131 - Columbian Lesbian and Gay</p> <p>92 3 0</p>	 <p>CLIR0248 - Celebrating the Gay and Lesbian</p> <p>108 0 0</p>	 <p>CLIR0183 - Kiko, Mike Ruiz, National Latino/a</p> <p>79 0 0</p>	 <p>CLIR0249 - Pedro Almodóvar</p> <p>77 0 0</p>
 <p>CLIR0191 - HIV and Programa de Inmigrantes</p> <p>91 2 0</p>	 <p>CLIR0175 - 1995 World AIDS Day</p> <p>167 2 0</p>	 <p>CLIR0137 - Carmelita Tropicana</p> <p>120 0 0</p>	 <p>CLIR0219 - The Best of HoMoVISIONES 1995</p> <p>33 0 0</p>	 <p>CLIR0214 - Fire Islar Bill Costa, Albita</p> <p>102 0 0</p>

- [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org), search "Uncovering CUNY's Audiovisual Heritage" in the subject tag.
- [www.archive.org/details/homovisiones](http://www.archive.org/details/homovisiones)
- [tv.cuny.edu](http://tv.cuny.edu)
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/cunytv75>
- @cunytvarchives on Twitter and Instagram
- [archive@tv.cuny.edu](mailto:archive@tv.cuny.edu)