

TRANSCRIPT

Opening Remarks

Sharon M. Burney, Program Officer, CLIR

Greetings. Greetings. We want to welcome everyone to the Digitizing Hidden Collections Symposium. I am Sharon Burney. I am Program Officer on the CLIR grants team. I am elated that we are able to come together today to celebrate this important occasion.

We would like to respectfully acknowledge and recognize the original and current caretakers of the land we are on today. Baltimore is the ancestral, unceded territory of the Susquehannock and Piscataway Peoples, and is still home to many Native American people, including those who belong to the Lumbee, Piscataway, and Cherokee nations.

The Piscataway Peoples and the Susquehannock Indian Tribes have worked with the Maryland State Arts Council to craft appropriate land acknowledgements.

For the Piscataway Peoples:

We acknowledge that the Piscataway Indian Nation continues to maintain a relationship with the lands where we gather today. Along with the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, the Piscataway Indian Nation received recognition by the State of Maryland in 2012. We acknowledge their long-standing kinship with these lands and waters and acknowledge that we are uninvited visitors on Indigenous lands. To make this statement more meaningful, we invite you to learn more about the Piscataway Indian Nation and about land acknowledgement statements via resources available at MSAC.org and elsewhere, to consider donating or making institutional resources available to tribal peoples, and to reconsider in what ways you can improve your relationship with the lands you steward.

For the Susquehannock Indian Tribe:

We acknowledge that the places today known as Baltimore County, Harford County, and Cecil County exist as the result of duress. In 1652, Susquehannock leaders unwillingly transferred these lands to the English in an unsuccessful effort to stop English settlers encroaching up the Susquehanna River. We acknowledge that these places and their Indigenous inhabitants exist without rigid political borders and boundaries maintained by settlers and settler governments. We acknowledge the social, physical, spiritual, and kinship relationships this land continues to share with Indigenous nations of the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay; we acknowledge that these relationships have been displaced, damaged, and dispelled by colonists' insatiable thirst for acquisition and domination. We acknowledge a place out of balance with its true purpose in being. We acknowledge our occupation of Susquehannock lands. We acknowledge the continuing presence of Indigenous nations, and the shelter and nourishment that this place continues to provide all Native peoples who live here today. We acknowledge our responsibility to Indigenous nations to repair unhealthy relationships and to steward all life.



May this acknowledgement and our ongoing work demonstrate CLIR's commitment to beginning the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.

We encourage you to learn more about land acknowledgements and the history and culture of the Indigenous inhabitants of Maryland—and of the land where you live—through one of these links.

- Visit <https://msac.org/resources/land-acknowledgements> to learn about the MSAC Land Acknowledgement project guide and to look through the resources it provides.
- Visit native-land.ca or <https://land.codeforanchorage.org/> to begin learning about the Indigenous lands you live on.

I would like to acknowledge that we are all here due to universal design, and none of us could create this moment without one another. We also could not put together the DHC Symposium without the many volunteers who help to plan and organize the program and make this a successful event:

- The Planning Committee and its various subcommittees, who worked not just on the call for proposals, the review of proposals, and the creation of the program, but also supported sponsorship and community-related content.
- The presenters, who will be sharing their knowledge and experience.
- And to all of you as attendees to the various sessions!

We also want to extend our gratitude to the DHC Symposium Planning Team; CLIR staff both past and present, who provided enormous support, especially with logistics; and to acknowledge the work of hotel staff—both those we see and those behind the scenes.

And a reminder to thank housekeeping with a huge tip during your stay in Baltimore ... and please leave a note—they may not take your tip if you don't.

We are fortunate to have many sponsors supporting our events this week. Please show your appreciation by taking the time to stop by their tables and find out more about their work.

We are extremely grateful to the Mellon Foundation for their continued and benevolent support of the Digitizing Hidden Collections program and this Symposium, including the travel awards that have helped so many of you to attend.

Since 2015, with the generous support of the Mellon Foundation, CLIR's Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program has awarded approximately 4 million dollars annually to archives, historical societies, and other collecting organizations in support of the digitization of rare and unique materials that hold significance for research, learning, and the public good.

Today we convene to share lessons and ask, "What's next?" from a few of the project teams awarded funding from the Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program. This symposium, originally scheduled for November 2020, was postponed due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

On November 13, 2020, CLIR held a day of free virtual programming, entitled 5 for 5: Conversations on Five Years of Digitizing Hidden Collections.

In a quest to continue our mission of advancement, the Digitizing Hidden Collections program undertook a new iteration of the program, entitled Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices. This new call for applications focused on projects that propose to digitize materials that deepen public understanding of the histories of people of color and other communities and populations whose work, experiences, and perspectives have been insufficiently recognized or unattended.

The DHC: Amplifying Unheard Voices coheres around five core values: Public Knowledge, Broad Representation, Authentic Partnerships, Sustainable Infrastructures, and Community Centered Access. This new iteration also expanded the call geographically, inclusive of the United States and Canada.

Now, let's go through a few housekeeping items.

The Resources for Attendees page that's on the website has the details, but I'd like to summarize a few things that can help make your Symposium experience safe and successful.

The DHC Program is committed to creating and supporting an inclusive, diverse, and equitable community of practice. Our Code of Conduct applies to all activities organized through the DHC Program, whether in person or online.

As the COVID pandemic continues, we have established health protocols to make the Symposium as safe as possible, including wearing an N or KN95 mask. Please note that the Code of Conduct has been updated to include adherence to these health protocols for in-person events.

For your colleagues—and other interested parties—who are unable to attend the Symposium, we encourage you to tweet about the goings on. You can use hashtag d-i-g-H-C.

Here is the WiFi information:

- The network name is **CLIR_conference**
- The password is **2022CLIR**

The program for the DHC Symposium is on Sched. It's a great tool: You can find out more about the sessions, and create your own schedule and access it, all from either iPhone or Android apps.

We've also created shared notes documents for all sessions. Find out more about sessions you aren't able to attend and provide notes for those you can. You'll find the documents at <https://bit.ly/2022CLIR>. The title of each document corresponds to the session code on the schedule.

We also encourage you to ask questions at the sessions you attend. Use the mic so everyone can hear you clearly.

Restrooms near the Baltimore Ballroom on the 5th floor are all gender and wheelchair accessible. Restrooms near the elevators are single gender.

The Quiet Room is one floor up, in James. The nearby restrooms are single gender.

A baby changing station is on the lobby floor in the women's restroom.

We also have a private nursing room available. If you would like to use it, stop by the registration desk to check out a key. Please know you are welcome to feed your baby wherever you feel comfortable.

If you have any questions or problems we can help with during the Symposium, please visit the Registration tables for assistance.

It is now my great pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker, Dr. Michelle Caswell. Dr. Caswell is a Professor of Archival Studies in the Department of Information Studies at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), where she also holds a joint appointment with Asian American studies. Her work in critical archival studies engages how individuals and communities activate archives to forge identities, to produce feelings of belonging, and to organize against oppression.

Her talk today will look toward the radical politics of independent, minoritized identity-based community archives to envision new liberatory possibilities for memory work. Please welcome Dr. Caswell.

Note: The video corresponding to this transcript is located at https://youtu.be/aFXkxN_6KrU.