

CONSERVATION
CENTER

for Art & Historic Artifacts



▶ CCAHA ARCHIVE:

The Year in Review

2021-2022

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* FELLOWS & INTERNS LISTED ON PAGE 10

Jason Henn / *Editor*
Danielle L. Lyons / *Designer*

All photos courtesy of the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts unless otherwise noted

LETTER

from the acting director

Dear Friends,

It goes without saying that the past few years presented extraordinary challenges for most organizations. While the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) was no exception, we're excited to report that we are in a stronger position today than when the pandemic began, and CCAHA continues to fulfill its mission thanks to the vision of our board and the creativity and flexibility of our staff. We're pleased to present some of the standout moments of 2021-22.

Our latest and biggest change is the departure of Executive Director Laura Hartz Stanton, who served here for 17 years, starting in our Preservation Services Office. While the news is bittersweet, we sent Laura off with best wishes as she begins a new chapter as Director of Collections for our friends at the Penn Museum at the University of Pennsylvania. We thank Laura for all that she did to transform CCAHA and are sure there will be many opportunities to reconnect and collaborate in the future.

I am pleased to serve as Acting Director, working with our expert team as we entered our fall season. It's an active time of year when we participate in a full slate of national conferences, including meetings of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC), as well as present our own annual Open House, which returned as an in-person event at our Philadelphia lab on October 27.

Let's look back together at some of the many milestones that made 2021 and 2022 remarkable years for CCAHA.

Sincerely,



Michelle Eisenberg / *Acting Director*

The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts is a nonprofit, full-service facility with experts in a range of disciplines. We have been providing conservation and preservation services since 1977. Our mission is to provide expertise and leadership in the preservation of cultural heritage. Our conservators repair and stabilize works of art, books, photographs, and documents. Our preservation services staff works in the field, providing education programs and helping institutions plan for the future of their collections. We offer a wide range of digitization and reproduction services, as well as housing and framing, fundraising assistance, and more.

 [Learn more at www.ccaha.org/membership.](http://www.ccaha.org/membership)

THE YEAR *in* REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WORK IN THE FIELD AND IN THE LAB



The Philadelphia Stewardship Program Turns 20



As a regional conservation lab, CCAHA has a commitment to the Greater Philadelphia Area. With that in mind, the Philadelphia Stewardship Program was introduced in 2002 to provide comprehensive preservation planning for local institutions, and in 2022 the program celebrated its 20th Anniversary by relaunching after a brief hiatus.

In the two decades since the Philadelphia Stewardship Program started, CCAHA has assisted nearly 100 Philadelphia institutions with surveys, assessments, preservation planning, and more. The final reports have been used to apply for grant funding, to aid in strategic development, and as support for preservation planning conversations. Additionally, recipients have noted the benefits of written documentation

during periods of staff turnover, when consistency in practice is most at risk.

Generously funded by the William Penn Foundation, the Stewardship Program is open to nonprofit cultural collecting institutions in six counties: Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Camden (New Jersey). CCAHA works with accepted applicants over time to assess their preservation needs and develop long-range plans to address them, while centering the ideas of accessibility, feasibility, and sustainability.

You can learn more about CCAHA's regional projects at ccaaha.org/initiatives.

CCAHA PARTNERS WITH ARCHIVES FOR BLACK LIVES IN PHILADELPHIA

To help advise the relaunch of our Philadelphia Stewardship Program, CCAHA partnered with Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia (A4BLiP). The group is a loose association of Philadelphia-area archivists, librarians, and allied professionals responding to the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement. A4BLiP is a volunteer-run alliance inspired by Jarrett Drake, formerly Digital Archivist at Princeton University, and his work to end Black erasure in archives.

The goal of this partnership is to combine the archival and records management expertise of A4BLiP with the materials-based preservation knowledge of CCAHA staff. Together, we aim to educate and strengthen collections that may lack institutional infrastructure and support. Additionally, the cohort-based network hopes to connect like-minded peers facing similar collection challenges.



A Panorama of Louis I. Kahn's National Assembly Building

Last winter, our staff worked closely with the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania, longtime friends of CCAHA whose collections include items from celebrated Philadelphia architect Louis I. Kahn (1901–1974). Coincidentally, February 20 marked Kahn's 121st birthday, as well as the opening of the exhibit *The Project of Independence: Architectures of Decolonization in South Asia, 1947–1985* at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. While the exhibit focused on work by South Asian architects and designers, it also included an impressive 1969 photo panorama by American photographer Neil Thompson that was treated at CCAHA by Senior Photograph Conservator Barbara Lemmen (pictured). The panorama, which consists of 11 photographs, shows Kahn's National Assembly Building under construction in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The assembled image, originally thumb-tacked and taped together on the wall of Kahn's Philadelphia office, consists of eleven separate 17" x 24" photographs taken during construction in 1969.

"Thompson wanted to convey to his colleagues in Philadelphia the immensity of what he saw," William Whitaker, Curator and Collections Manager at the Architectural Archives, told us last spring. "Kahn's Dhaka Capital Complex is remarkable on many levels, but probably the most stunning fact was that it is largely a handmade thing, and possibly one of the last major public buildings in the world to be so."

In the treatment photos shown here, you can see the separate parts of the curved panorama, which measures 127½" x 36" total. While conservation treatment aimed to clean, mend, and generally stabilize the prints, much of the charming physical evidence of its previous display has been retained.

"In the case of the Dhaka panorama," Whitaker added, "it projects—loud and clear—a message about the nobility of work, the nobility of labor. We see a single image, but it is actually made up of a dozen or so frames that were assembled, one by one, like a course of bricks. At a distance, the panorama appears to show a large construction site on a day of rest. But moving closer in, figures emerge."



CCAHA PARTICIPATES IN HUMANITIES ADVOCACY DAY

Each spring, CCAHA sends a delegation of senior staff to participate in the National Humanities Alliance's Annual Meeting and Humanities Advocacy Day. On On March 15, 2022, Executive Director Laura Hartz Stanton and others spent the day contacting local legislators, thanking them for their support of the 2022 omnibus bill that increased NEH funding, while also encouraging them to support more robust funding in 2023.



M.C. Escher's *Another World II*

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of artist M.C. Escher's death, and in the spring, CCAHA Paper Conservator Chloe Houseman treated this 1947 Escher print. The piece, *Another World II*, expanded on Escher's *Another World (Other World Gallery)* from the previous year. The woodblock print depicts one of the artist's classic paradoxical structures, in this case a series of archways housing a bird with a human face.

"I hadn't had the chance to work on an Escher print before," Chloe said when interviewed in February. "It's always interesting to see the original of an artwork that has been widely

reproduced. Copies are never quite the same, in my opinion, and getting to interact with this piece has been so rewarding."

The print arrived at CCAHA with surface grime and a few areas of mold on the back. In the pictures to the right, taken after mold remediation and surface cleaning were complete, Chloe washes the print to reduce discoloration.

"As far as being one of the most famous artists whose work I've treated, it's somewhat subjective, but I'm personally a big fan of his, so it was really thrilling to work on this object."

CONTINUING OUR IMPRESSIVE TRACK RECORD OF FUNDRAISING

If you follow our work at CCAHA, you will notice that many major projects—including those highlighted here—would not be possible without the fundraising expertise of our Director of Development, Lee Price. In 2021, Lee received the Spotlight Award from the Society of American Archivists (SAA), an honor that recognizes the contributions of individuals working for the good of archival collections. For 20 years, Lee has collaborated with museums, libraries, archives, and historic sites on fundraising strategies to preserve their special collections, leveraging an estimated \$100 million in grant funding, including 24 successful applications to the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures program. This work sometimes goes unrecognized by the public, but it is essential for the health of collections and essential to our mission at CCAHA. **To learn how CCAHA can help you fundraise for your next project, reach out to Lee directly at lprice@ccaha.org.**

Count Basie's Family Scrapbooks

In April 2022 we commemorated Jazz Appreciation Month by celebrating one of the art form's most renowned figures, Count Basie (1904-1984). Born William James Basie, Count Basie was a pianist and bandleader for nearly seven decades, spanning the 1920s to the 1980s, rising to prominence during the swing era of the '30s and '40s. In his prime, Basie's performances were a showcase for blues singers such as Billie Holiday, and his group was a proving ground for other jazz greats such as saxophonists Lester Young and Ben Webster.

For much of 2021-22, CCAHA staff worked on a large assortment of Count Basie's scrapbooks and other personal items from the collections of the Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) located on the Newark campus of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. This project was truly a team effort involving most of the lab, as the scrapbooks required treatment by paper, photograph, and book conservation staff.

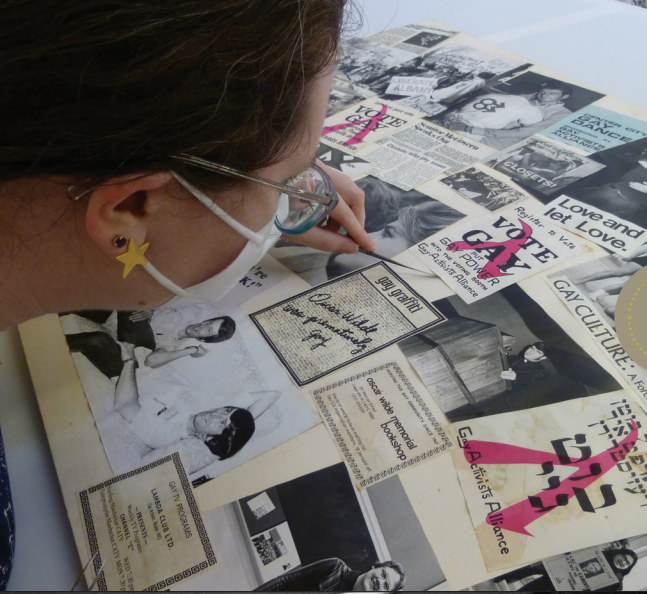
Basie's scrapbooks arrived at CCAHA with the kind of wear recognizable to anyone with an aging collection of family photo albums—tears, creases, weakened bindings, discoloration, rusty metal fasteners. While your family albums may not include a get-well telegram from Frank Sinatra, there was a comforting familiarity to the kinds of items Basie saved and the way he organized them. The collection documents an exceptional music career, but also a rich private life.

"I'm looking forward to what researchers discover and share once they have access to the collection," Senior Photograph Conservator Barbara Lemmen said at the time, anticipating how the treatment will impact jazz scholarship.

Once the project was completed, IJS Archivist Elizabeth Surles echoed the excitement of CCAHA staff at the outcome.

"The Basie collection is the Institute's most significant recent acquisition," she said, "and we're thrilled to partner with CCAHA to ensure it remains accessible and preserved for generations to come."





The Work of LGBT Rights Pioneer Barbara Gittings

In the 1970s, LGBT rights pioneer Barbara Gittings (1932–2007) created a series of exhibition booths for conferences of the American Psychiatric Association and American Library Association. The purpose of the displays was to advocate for change, as well as change hearts and minds about what it meant to be gay or lesbian. Now, they stand as a tribute to Gittings’ phenomenally successful work in shaping the American social landscape.

The five historically significant conference exhibition booths include 36 display boards and signs. The most important of them, according to John Anderies, Archives Director at the William Way LGBT Community Center in Philadelphia, was the 1972 exhibition booth Gittings and her partner, Kay Tobin Lahusen, designed for the APA conference. It worked in tandem with a panel co-hosted by Gittings, famously featuring the masked “Dr. H. Anonymous,” who described the frustrations of his life as a closeted gay psychiatrist. Challenged by this activism, the APA officially removed the classification of homosexuality as a “mental disorder” in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM), the standard reference used by mental health professionals, Anderies wrote.

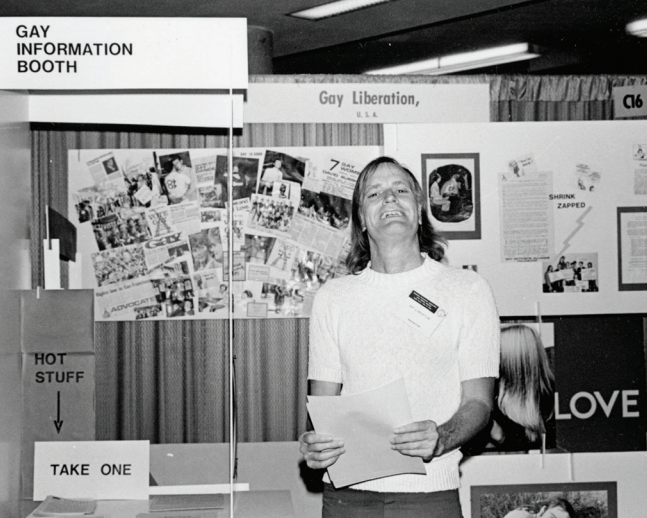
“It occurred to me that this national story would connect well to a Save America’s Treasures grant,” Anderies said, so he ran the idea by Lee Price, CCAHA’s Director of Development. With information shared by Anderies, Price wrote the grant narrative.

“I think he just did a masterful job. It was so wonderful to work with him,” Anderies said. “It was a lovely process putting that together, and then we were just tickled when we found out that we received it.” Chloe Houseman, a Paper Conservator at CCAHA, also contributed by providing the assessment.” Anderies said.

The two-year, \$29,000 grant, is supporting work to conserve, digitize, and create housing for the collection. “Things that certainly we consider to be national treasures, but even things that we consider to be community treasures, are really deserving of being preserved, to tell a community story into the future, so that is extraordinarily important,” Anderies said.

Black and white photos:

Archival photos courtesy of William Way LGBT Community Center



CCAHA MILESTONES: 2021-2022

40%

Increase in Monthly Newsletter Readership Our redesigned email newsletter saw a sharp increase in readership between 2021 and 2022.



In 2022 **Laura Hartz Stanton** left CCAHA after **17 years**, including eight as Executive Director.



DHPSNY and PSO Staff in One Location Our growing Preservation Services Office and DHPSNY staff includes remote workers in several states. This June 2022 photo captured a rare in-person meeting of the whole team.



38

In 2021-22, CCAHA presented **38 public programs**, including webinars, community dialogues, and hands-on workshops.

In that time, our programs reached a total of **2,137 participants** from **183 institutions**

20
22

DHPSNY Returns to the Field In fall 2022, DHPSNY began offering in-person assessments for the first time since early 2020.



In just the past year, our Preservation Services Office provided survey and consultation services to **36 collecting organizations**, including preservation needs, digital preservation, risk and emergency preparedness, and environmental assessments.

CCAHA's Preservation Services Office serves the cultural heritage community and helps its work by:

- ▶ **ENGAGING & SUPPORTING** / *We offer collection surveys and assessments, as well as disaster response and emergency planning services.*
- ▶ **EDUCATING & EMPOWERING** / *We present educational programs and provide resources and online tools.*
- ▶ **BUILDING & STRENGTHENING** / *We offer professional development opportunities and present educational conferences. Our staff members serve on advisory boards and regional advocacy groups.*

▶ CCAHA'S COMMITMENT TO EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESPONSE

Every September, CCAHA takes part in National Preparedness Month, FEMA's annual effort to encourage Americans to be ready for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. At CCAHA, where Emergency Planning & Response is an important component of our preservation services program, we use this opportunity to highlight our offerings to help institutions safeguard their collections. Year-round, CCAHA's Preservation Services Office collaborates with libraries, archives, museums, and other organizations to develop emergency response guidelines and detailed emergency plans so they will be ready before disaster strikes. Learn more about this and other preservation planning services at ccaah.org/services.

▶ DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE AND PRESERVATION SERVICES FOR NEW YORK

Since 2016, CCAHA has administered the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) program in partnership with the New York State Archives and New York State Library. The program's mission is to provide free planning and education services to archives, libraries, historical societies, museums, and other organizations in New York State that safeguard and ensure access to historical records and research materials.

In the past year, DHPSNY awarded free services to 33 new sites, bringing the program's total to 206. DHPSNY staff also presented 19 free webinars with a total of 1062 attendees. Recordings of DHPSNY's webinars are available to view at dhpsny.org/webinars.

▶ COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT POLICY TOOLKIT

The Collections Management Policy Toolkit (CMPToolkit) is a free online tool that allows one to build a custom Collections Management Policy for their institution. Developed with help from nationally renowned experts in the collections management field, the CMPToolkit guides users step-by-step through the process to create a policy that is uniquely tailored to their collection and designed to meet professional, ethical and legal standards.

Geared towards small and mid-level institutions without an active Collections Management Policy (CMP) in place, the CMPToolkit aims to simplify the process of developing a CMP and offer professional support for developing this crucial document. CMPT is a project of CCAHA funded with generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as part of a National Leadership Grants for Museums. Visit cmptoolkit.org.





LEFT TO RIGHT: KATARINA STILLER/CONSERVATION INTERN, LYDIA AIKENHEAD/KRESS FELLOW, NYLAH BYRD/NEA FELLOW

Training the Next Generation of Conservators & Cultural Heritage Professionals

For decades, CCAHA has connected emerging conservators with a highly skilled staff deeply committed to their education and success. In nearly 45 years, CCAHA staff has hosted more than 70 fellows and dozens of interns, in partnership with several programs.

CONSERVATION FELLOWS

JOANNA HURD

NEA Fellow, graduate of Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

LYDIA AIKENHEAD

Kress Fellow, graduate of Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

NYLAH BYRD

NEA Book Conservation Fellow, graduate of Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

CONSERVATION INTERNS

KAELEY FERGUSON

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

KATARINA STILLER

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

NATASHA KUNG

Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

PRESERVATION INTERN

MARGALIT SCHINDLER

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

In 2022, CCAHA also hosted interns from Arcadia University and the Museum Studies program at Drexel University.





CCAHA thanks the following partners and donors for their generous support.

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done.**

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Learn more at www.ccaha.org/donate