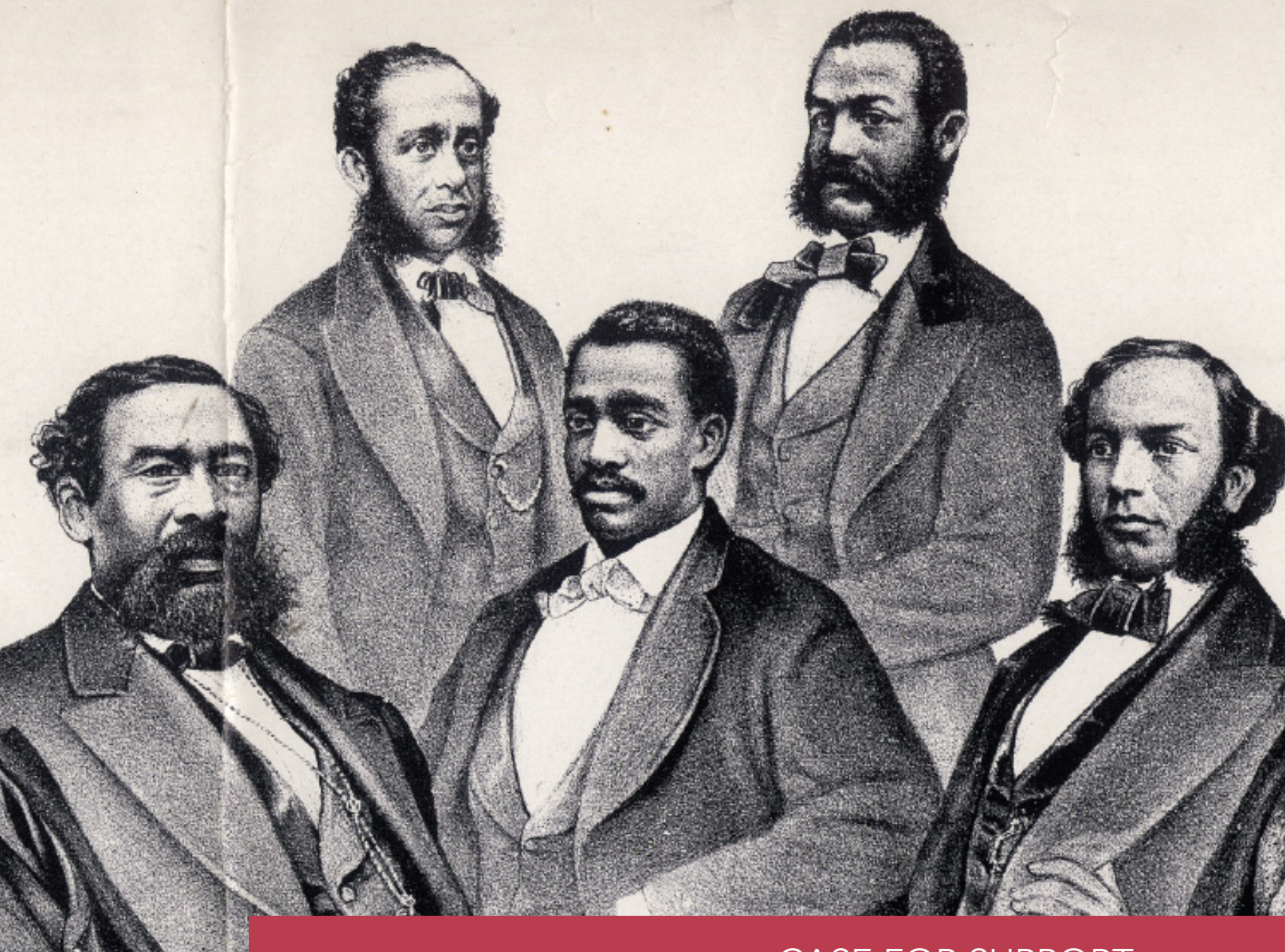


AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER



CASE FOR SUPPORT

**AMISTAD'S
50TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**





**HISTORY IS NOT THE PAST.
IT IS THE PRESENT.
WE CARRY OUR HISTORY WITH US.
WE ARE OUR HISTORY.**

-JAMES BALDWIN

“BLACK ENGLISH: A DISHONEST ARGUMENT”

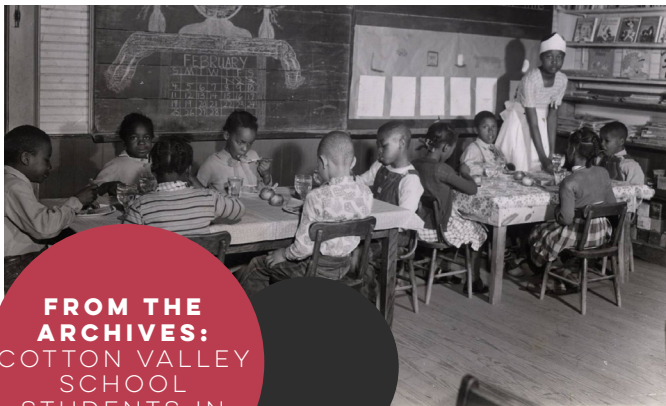
Amistad Research Center, located in Uptown New Orleans, is the nation's preeminent source of historical records chronicling the rich cultural background of minority groups in the United States. The mission of Amistad is to collect, preserve, and provide open access to original materials that reference the social and cultural importance of America's complex ethnic and racial history. With collections ranging from personal and family papers of politicians, artists, writers, laborers, educators and organizations, **there is no story in America that Amistad can't tell.**

Amistad is not simply a repository for historical records - it is a vibrant, versatile community center, where every individual, regardless of socioeconomic background, race or ethnicity, has equitable access to the information that documents America's diversity. While 60 percent of the individuals who utilize Amistad's collections are academically-affiliated,

the remaining 40 percent are members of the general public from all walks of life - teachers, genealogists, K-12 students, lawyers, members of the press, and public historians. Via the Amistad's array of intergenerational programming, all of which is designed to advance the Center's mission and appeal to a broad community audience, Amistad has a unique capacity to serve as a catalyst for meaningful social change.

As Amistad enters its fifth decade of service as one of the country's largest and most prestigious organizations of its kind, its leadership has a vision: **to deliver on Amistad's mission more broadly and deeply than ever before.** In service of this vision, Amistad is seeking to invest in its future while also preserving its proud legacy and the storied contents of its landmark holdings.

Amistad is now seeking enhanced investments from the community that will enable the organization to strengthen its internal staff capacity, enhance the content of its collections, embrace new technologies, and expand its public-facing programming, bringing its archives to life for the countless individuals who access Amistad's holdings as a means to illuminate and understand the world in which we live.



**FROM THE
ARCHIVES:
COTTON VALLEY
SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN
ALABAMA**

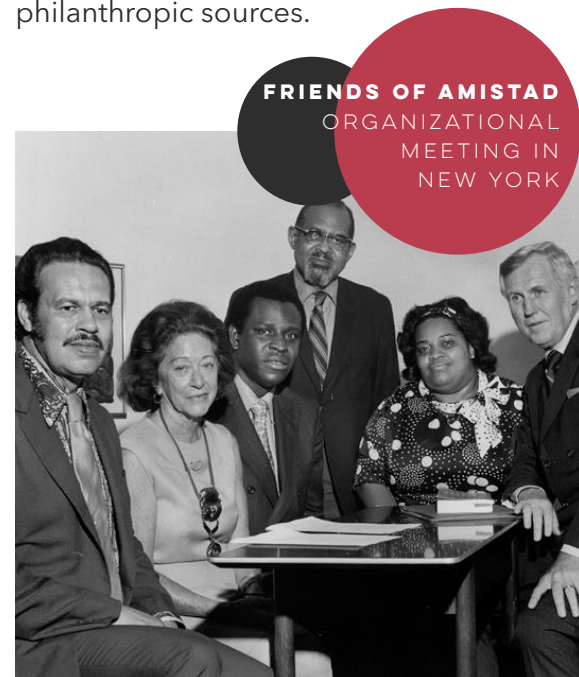
HISTORY & BACKGROUND

Amistad was founded in 1966 as a division of the race relations department at Fisk University. By 1969, Amistad – now incorporated as an independent, nonprofit institution – had become the official repository for the archives of the American Missionary Association (AMA), a group established in the wake of the *La Amistad* U.S. Supreme Court decision and dedicated to the abolition of slavery and the promotion of racial equality. Since 1987, Amistad has been housed on the campus of Tulane University.

Amistad is a standalone 501(c)(3) organization governed by a diverse 14-member Board of Directors, with members hailing from both New Orleans and across the country. The organization's lean nine-person staff is led by Dr. Kara Tucina Olidge, who previously served as Deputy Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a division of the New York Public Library. Tulane University provides support to Amistad in the form of facilities management and support, but the organization is financially separate and independent from the University.

Amistad is bolstered by the presence of a robust, \$3 million endowment, the earnings from which fund a large portion of the Center's annual operating needs;

this endowment lends Amistad a degree of organizational stability that similar institutions do not often enjoy. Amistad raises the bulk of the remaining monies needed for annual programming and archival acquisition efforts via public and philanthropic sources.



“Organizationally, Amistad is positioned for immediate growth – not just in terms of its collections, but also in terms of the scope of the Center's outreach efforts, community collaborations, and programmatic offerings. With additional resources, there is no limit to what Amistad can accomplish in service of its mission.

-KIM M. BOYLE, ESQ
PARTNER, PHELPS DUNBAR LLP
PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR,
AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER

AMISTAD'S COLLECTIONS: UNLIKE ANY OTHER

Today, Amistad houses more than 800 manuscript and archival collections comprising more than 15 million historical documents from the 1790s to the present, more than 250,000 photographs dating from 1860 to the present, and 8,000 individual moving image and sound recordings. Amistad's library collections include 30,000 books and pamphlets from as early as the 18th century and more than 2,000 periodicals, including newspapers, scholarly journals, literary magazines, organizational newsletters and general magazines.

Via its substantial collections, Amistad provides invaluable and unmatched resources to scholars, students and other interested parties in a secure, freely accessible environment. Collection efforts have traditionally focused on civil rights and race relations, along with the cultural and social contributions of underrepresented peoples, including African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, Jewish Americans, and Appalachian whites. Amistad, through collecting practice, considers the gay liberation movement as an important experience to document as a

civil rights movement, therefore LGBTQ materials are sought for collection as well.

The majority of the contents of Amistad's collections have been donated throughout the years, though a small percentage of the organization's materials have been purchased; these collections serve as the foundation of the Amistad's public programming. Once procured, archival holdings are "processed" by Amistad's team of highly-skilled archivists, ensuring that the new holdings are properly organized, stored, and posted to Amistad's online finding aid database.

While Amistad's doors are open to any and all individuals who wish to explore the vast contents of its collections, a variety of Amistad's historical records are also presented digitally, allowing for even greater ease of access. Amistad's digital collections in the Tulane University Digital Library and the Louisiana Digital Library received 7,701 page views in 2017 alone.

Open access to Amistad's collections is at the heart of the Center's mission. Last year, 435 registered researchers visited the Center for the sole purpose of consulting Amistad's collections, and nearly 1,100 more researchers requested information from the Center's archives from a distance; thousands more individuals were exposed to contents from the collections via programming, tours or exhibits.

TELLING AMERICA'S STORY THROUGH INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMING

While much of Amistad's efforts are focused on preserving the past, the leadership of the organization recognizes the role that Amistad can singularly play in terms of education and community building, and continues to actively seek new and innovative ways to impact the present through the power of pioneering programming for persons of all ages.

AMISTAD ON THE GO! & K-12 OUTREACH

In 2016, Amistad launched a groundbreaking new educational program designed to organize and create standards-based curricula for K-12 students based on primary source documents: Amistad on the Go!, the only program of its kind in the Southeast. After years of fielding inquiries from educators seeking resources to assist in teaching complex subjects in the classroom, Amistad's professional staff utilized content from the organization's archival holdings to create instructional digital and print tools tackling three pilot units: Slavery & Abolition, the Reconstruction Era, and the Modern Civil Rights Movement. Participating schools and instructors can access these toolkits, along with personal assistance from Amistad's education specialist, for a small fee. Currently, the Amistad on the Go! program is offered to several schools in greater New Orleans, with an intent to grow the program – both in terms of reach and units offered – as resources are made available.

In addition, Amistad staff members track hundreds of hours each year working side-by-side with educators and K-12 students, teaching students how to use primary resources with funding provided by the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation and Sherry and Alan Leventhal. Amistad also hosts K-12 teacher workshops on site at the Center, familiarizing educators with Amistad and helping them understand how to utilize primary sources in the classroom.



From a national perspective, Amistad is respected and revered – not only for the contents of its collections, but also for its unique array of public-facing programming. Amistad is adept at identifying the needs of the larger community, offering up fresh and innovative new ways to highlight the relevance of its archives while also engaging the citizenry at large.

-JACKLYN MONK

EXECUTIVE EDITOR, *ESSENCE AND INSTYLE*
BOARD MEMBER, AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER

CONVERSATIONS IN COLOR

In 2016, Amistad launched Conversations in Color, a free, cultural education speaker series that illuminates key social topics in the context of Amistad's collections. Each Conversations in Color event features

thought leaders who range from journalists to authors to activists; the series is meant to provoke discussion, dialogue, and social change within the broader community.

EXHIBITIONS

Amistad presents three on-site exhibitions in the center's mezzanine space per year, each of which is thematically planned and designed by Amistad's archival staff. The exhibits provide a "window" into the organization's archives, enabling visitors to experience curated presentations on diverse topics ranging from public school desegregation to slavery to African American civic engagement. Last year, more than 1,700 individuals visited Amistad to view its exhibitions or tour the Center.

In partnership with the Google Cultural Institute, a non-profit initiative that enables cultural organizations to present virtual exhibits online, Amistad has digitally recreated six of its exhibitions, enabling a greater reach beyond the walls of the center itself. These digital exhibitions explore a wide array of topics, from the print culture of the civil rights movement, to the intersection of art and activism from the Free Southern Theater, to the AMA's commitment to the education of African Americans in the post-Civil War South. Since 2016, there have been 31,727 page views of Amistad's digital exhibitions in the Google Cultural Institute, demonstrating the power - and popularity - of this online resource.



The Amistad Research Center's recent projects have been precisely the kind of work that the Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives program was created to support. Through applying the best professional standards and practices, their archivists and students have been making entirely unique collections wholly accessible to scholars for the first time. Because of their efforts, it is now possible for scholars to understand critical aspects of American and African histories in their full complexity.

-CHRISTA WILLIFORD

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT
COUNCIL ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

A NATIONAL TREASURE WITH A LOCAL FOCUS

While Amistad's holdings and influence are national in scope, the Center recognizes the unique and important role it plays in forming the cultural fabric of greater New Orleans. In addition to its natural alliances with Tulane University-affiliated entities, Amistad routinely serves as a lead collaborator amongst other New Orleans-based non-profit organizations, helping advance state- and community-wide initiatives and projects that align with the Center's mission. Currently, Amistad is

serving as the fiscal agent and central organizer of the New Orleans Arts & Culture Coalition (NOACC) is a collective of local arts, education, and cultural nonprofit organizations that serve as a coordinated voice for the recognition and promotion of civil and human rights, history, and culture in New Orleans. And, Amistad is heading the newly forming New Orleans Preservation Coalition, a collaborative effort aimed at properly conserving and preserving smaller, community-held collections.

Within these various collaborations, Amistad partners with a broad cross-sector of arts, culture, academic, and preservation organizations, including the New Orleans Jazz Museum, Louisiana Museum of African American History, Louisiana Civil Rights Museum, Dillard University's Ray Charles Program Center, Preservation Resource Center, the Historic New Orleans Collection and New Orleans Public Library.

WWII BOND PARADE
CANAL & RAMPART
NEW ORLEANS, 1945



“

We had the privilege to work with the team at the Amistad Research Center when we collaborated with them on the digitisation of the Race Relations Department archive, to create the Race Relations in America online resource. The archivists were helpful and enthusiastic throughout the project, contributing not just advice on the collection but a blog, which was featured on the Adam Matthew company website, and a webinar presentation to aid in promoting the resource.

-SOPHIE HEATH

ASSISTANT EDITOR
ADAM MATHEW DIGITAL, UNITED KINGDOM

INVEST IN THE FUTURE, PRESERVE THE PAST

Now more than ever, Amistad's work is critically important. No matter the audience, Amistad's collections have the power to elucidate, explain and inform. But perhaps more importantly, the Center's holdings and programming also have the power to nurture the minds and well-being of individuals from every generation; to drive community engagement; to catalyze lasting social change. As America's story evolves, Amistad must evolve as well, ensuring that the Center will be there for the next fifty years to tell the tales of those who might not otherwise have a voice in the nation's narrative. With an eye toward this necessary evolution, Amistad is now seeking to have a greater impact on the community, nation and world that it serves, and is working to procure donor investments dedicated to several key initiatives:

EMBRACING NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

Technology has the power to amplify Amistad's mission - particularly as it relates to open access - while preserving artifacts for a worldwide audience to enjoy. Donor investment will enable Amistad to digitize more key pieces of its archives, allowing a broader swath of constituents to access the Center's collections. Charitable funding would also provide Amistad with the resources to procure sorely needed server space to digitally store additional collections.

ENHANCING AMISTAD'S PROGRAMMING & COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS.

Philanthropic support will be re-invested in the community, funding an expansion of several facets of Amistad's programmatic offerings. Specifically, financial resources will be used to grow the Amistad on the Go! program, developing educational units on additional topics for students and teachers to utilize and widening the program's footprint to include schools outside the greater

New Orleans area. Donor investment will also enhance the Conversations in Color speaker series, enabling Amistad to host more events annually, including events in cities around the country.

BUILDING CAPACITY.

Amistad currently relies on a small but mighty staff of professionals to conduct the multitude of activities that keep the Center operating. However, in order to process new collections - a complex and highly specialized activity - Amistad must add staff to its roster, enabling the Center to take on additional archival projects. Moreover, Amistad continually receives requests from community stakeholders to join or lead collaborative efforts that would further the Center's mission; however, current staffing constraints often make these collaborations impossible. Additional staff capacity would allow Amistad to pursue and implement new partnerships and alliances at both the local and national levels.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As federal budget cuts threaten to decimate public funding for archives and special collections libraries like Amistad, philanthropic engagement is more important than ever. Your charitable gift will support Amistad's preservation efforts, the ability to embrace new technology that expands access to Amistad's collections, new acquisitions, collaborations with partners, and exhibitions and programming that foster Amistad's goals.

For fifty years, Amistad has been telling the story of America through the eyes of those who have been historically marginalized. Now more than ever, Amistad can play a leading role in transforming the past we have inherited into the present in which we want to live – but we need your help.

JOIN US. BE A PART OF AMISTAD'S STORY.





As we look toward the future, we see opportunities for Amistad to open its doors even wider, engaging a broader swath of the New Orleans community, the Gulf South region, and the nation in meaningful dialogue about how our history impacts and shapes our current reality. Amistad strives to not only educate and inform, but also catalyze real social changes that will have a ripple effect far beyond the walls of the Center.

-KARA TUCINA OLIDGE, PHD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER



FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING
GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AT
AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER,
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