



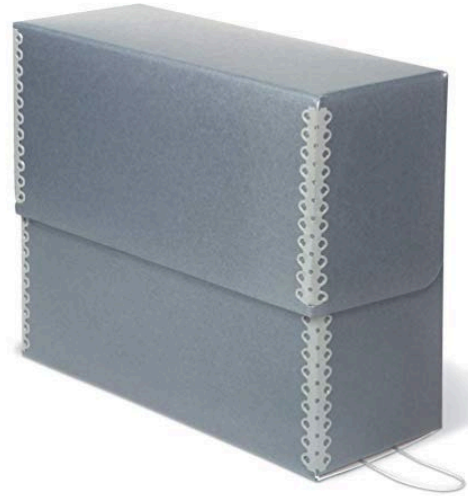
T A G FOUNDATION

2017

Annual Report

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are committed to being a different nonprofit in the urban community. Our projects will be measurable. The community will be directly improved by our efforts. We believe sustainable solutions are the primary answer to urban renewal.



Melissa Traywick



Harvey Adams



Letitia Patterson



Angela Ford

Dear Friends,

In the end, 2017 was the year of Black History Chicago for TAG! Our work with the Chicago Defender Archives turned into the project that took all of the oxygen out of the room and we were fine with that! I did a lot of public speaking and accepted invites to be on a few panels to talk about all of the history we uncovered with our work at this prestigious paper. It is arguably one of the most important Newspapers in the history of Black America.

At first we thought there were 10,000 images in The Chicago Defender Archives. We ended up unearthing 250,000 images. I tell people: "You cannot see 250,000 images of yourself and ever really be the same."

We learned that we needed very expensive equipment to even view some of the vintage materials. We had to raise additional capital. We learned that most Black Legacy Newspapers around the country had not moved forward in a meaningful way with their own archives. For that reason, I have started ANOTHER nonprofit organization called The Obsidian Collection Archives. It will focus on Black American History across the country. Most of the work we have done for Black History and the Chicago Defender will move forward with the new organization, but TAG Foundation will continue to preserve Chicago's Black History and elevate Chicago's Black narrative whenever possible.

Black Chicago faces many challenges. The narrative promoted and supported by Chicago's municipal leaders is not favorable towards Black Chicago. It's very uncomfortable, because I am a Chicago native. I grew up in a time it would have been impossible to berate Black Chicago this way. The only reason ANYONE came to Chicago was because of two Black people. The men came to see Michael Jordan and the women came to see Oprah Winfrey! Whatever Chicago's shortcomings were, they weren't laid at the feet of Black people.

Things have to change from the top. You cannot run faster than your leaders. In 2017, Chicago did not have good leaders. We, at TAG will keep doing our part. I'm optimistic.



Angela Ford

Executive Director





YEAR IN REVIEW

We unearthed over a quarter of million images and helped make a lot of these images available to the world. These year we reminded the world how important and impactful The Chicago Defender Newspaper was to Black America. Through collaboration and licensing, a lot more stories were told.

CHICAGO DEFENDER ARCHIVES

This project took up the majority of our year. With a very small team, we discovered how much The Chicago Defender and the community needed our work to connect our past with our present!

There are a lot of original newspapers that are in various conditions from good to rapid disintegration. There are negatives, loose microfilm, books and many other miscellaneous items in the room. Cleaning up the room took far more time and labor than initially projected. We protected images and sorted them by major categories like: Politics, Schools, Arts, Athletics and Health.

CHICAGO DEFENDER
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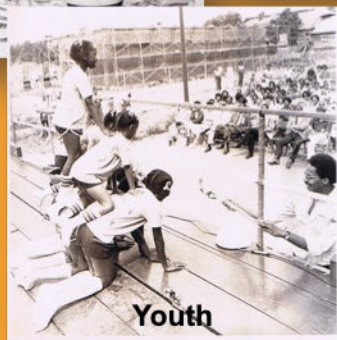
JOURNEY TO EMPOWERMENT

In a partnership with DuSable Museum, The Chicago Defender puts up an exhibit of images every year during Black History Month called Journey to Empowerment. This year, the theme was Men of Excellence. We installed the exhibit and helped host the opening ceremony of this event.



FIRST SET OF IMAGES DIGITIZED

Our initial plan was to digitize thousand of images immediately. What happened instead was the drastic increase in the number of photographs needing to be sorted and protected. The details for many of the photos were not included with the images directly. Some of the categories (and images) are below:



DEDICATED WEBSITE FOR LICENSING AND PERMISSION

We did not anticipate the demand of images for licensing and permissions from all around the world. For expediency we created a website to provide preliminary information for those interested in licensing and using Chicago Defender archives. The site identifies locations where microfilm is available and how to move forward with securing permissions. This process taught us a lot about the demand for accurate Black History. We learned a great deal and we are still learning.



*AFRICAN-AMERICAN JOURNALISM ARCHIVES

bringing history to life

SEARCH

LICENSE

Founded in 1905 by Robert S. Abbott, The Chicago Defender Newspaper has long served as one of the most recognized voices of African – Americans. When mainstream newspapers did not cover the Black experience, The Chicago Defender was there.

The Chicago Defender Archives are being reintroduced to the world for study, review and revisit. The majority of these images have never been available to the public. We invite you to look at what is available online, and to contact us for access to what is in our archives. We are committed to sharing

The Chicago Defender Forever!

112

Years in publication

250,000+

Actual Photographs

15,000+

Newspaper Editions



LICENSES & PERMISSIONS



NEWSPAPERS ON MICROFILM



ARCHIVE RESEARCH



GALLERY EXHIBITS

*IMAGES

The people and places and things:

The Chicago Defender Archives are a work in progress. We are in the process of sorting the collection into specific categories and then formally cataloging them for future reference. Soon, a significant number of the images will be available online. For now, please contact us about specific image use. Some of the categories are below:



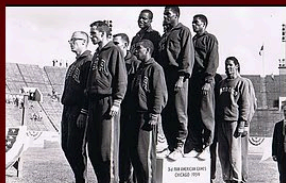
Leaders



Events



Entrepreneurs



Athletes



Community



Wellness

*CONTACT

Over the phone or at their offices

chicagodefenderarchives.org

NEW FRIENDS OF TAG

THE DREIHAUS FOUNDATION

The TAG Foundation benefitted tremendously from this grant. As a small newer nonprofit organization, our organic growth with small grants from prestigious organizations helps us establish validity in the community. We have been able to show the philanthropic community that TAG Foundation has crossed a threshold of acceptability in the eyes of prestigious foundations. Since being awarded the grant, the fact that we have demonstrated the importance of this archive project to Driehaus Foundation is huge.

Our indicators of success have been really tangible. Prior to purchasing the microfilm reader, we had to take the microfilm downtown to The Harold Washington Library, reserve a machine (at 30 minute increments), download the images to flash drives and take them back to the office for review and use. Now we do not have to take any of those actions.



SHOREFRONT

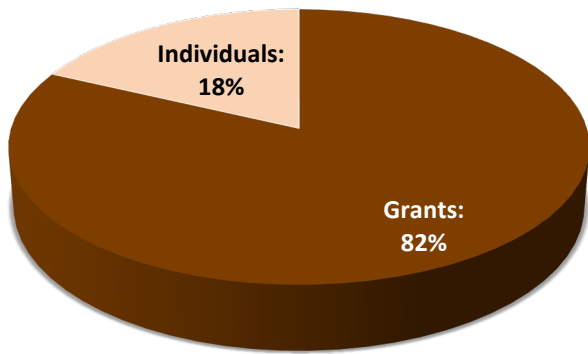
Collect | Preserve | Educate

Our Founder and Executive Director, Angela Ford met the Founder and former Executive Director of Shorefront Legacy, Dino Robinson. This is a 20+ year old organization that has done a tremendous job actually collecting the archives of African Americans in Chicago's Gold Coast and city of Evanston.

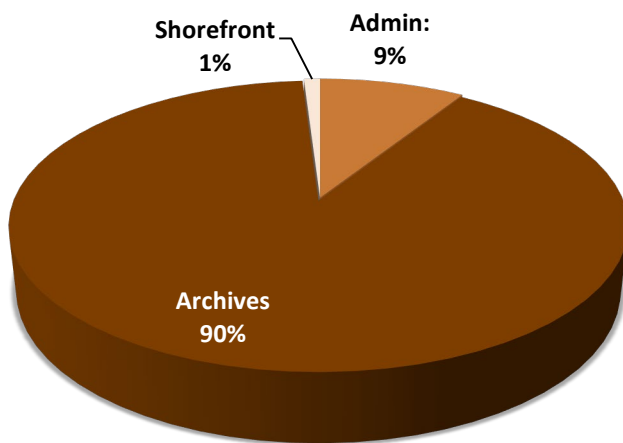
As they had immediate affinity for each organization's efforts to preserve Black history, Angela Ford joined the Board of Directors of the organization. There are collaborations planned between the organizations. We are excited about the future opportunities.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS



ACTIVITY PERCENTAGES

EXPENDITURES

Archive Project	\$34,454
Internet	\$1,047
Office and Admin	\$3,650
Transportation	\$1,269
Miscellaneous	\$306
Bank Fees	\$167
	<u><u>\$40,892</u></u>

Cash on Hand	\$25
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PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS

ROBERT R.
MCCORMICK
FOUNDATION



DRIEHAUS
FOUNDATION



For more information on T A G Foundation, our social enterprises and events,
please visit our website at www.thisistagfoundation.com

Cover photo: Chicago Defender Newspaper Archives, Chicago, IL taken by Angela Ford



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