

**For your consideration: Best Poster to Promote 2009 Archives Month/Week in the “Make an Impact Contest”.**

The archival repository of the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library (BCL) houses more than 150 collections that come from an array of sources. The paper, audio, and visual materials include manuscripts, photographs, organizational records, broadsides, oral histories, and scrapbooks.

The Archive Space also includes:

- Video and audiotape histories and listening/viewing areas
- Papers and doctoral theses on microfilm
- A research area of 2,700 square feet with study space
- Over 1,900 linear feet of archival storage space

BCL is an important part of the Denver Five Points community as well as a vibrant branch of the Denver Public Library system. BCL strives to provide access not only to scholars and researchers but also to local community members.

We plan to use our poster titled “Did You Know Your Grandmother Was a Beauty Queen” to increase archival access and awareness for those who may not know about the rich history, culture and life of the African-American community in Denver. In addition the poster will publicize historical collections that the library archive possesses. By using our poster, we will attempt to use a playful and youthful “catch” to pull or draw in our audience. Highlighting the beauty contests of the 1930’s and 40’s will show today’s youth the vibrancy of Five Points during an earlier era and perhaps pique their curiosity and attempt to find out whether their family members or friends participated in beauty contests and other activities during this time.

Increasing public participation and access to archives is many times difficult, especially among minority populations. It is our hope that this poster will increase the curiosity of African-American youth not only in the Five Points neighborhood, but also throughout Denver. By providing a playful and unique idea we hope to draw users into the archive at BCL. This will not only instill pride in the community and neighborhood, but also emphasize and demonstrate the importance of the library and archive itself.

Due to a limited budget we are proposing to print approximately 5 posters, to be shown at the Denver Public Library’s central location as well as BCL during American Archives Month 2009. In addition we will provide a link to the Denver Public Library Western History and Genealogy Department’s (WHG) Flickr page showcasing photographs of the Five Points neighborhood recently digitized for the IMLS funded project “Creating Communities” as well as inform the public on the WHG blog.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/dplwesternhistory/sets/72157621404145244/>

James W. Rogers  
Digitization Coordinator

Western History/Genealogy Dept.  
Denver Public Library  
10 West 14th Avenue Parkway  
Denver CO 80204-2731  
720.865.1907  
[JRogers@denverlibrary.org](mailto:JRogers@denverlibrary.org)