



Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection Fact Sheet

THE COLLECTION:

- The Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection consists of 13,000 Items -- handwritten notes, photographs, famous and lesser-known speeches, manuscripts, sermons, personal effects and other historically significant artifacts of Dr. King's life and work from 1944 to 1968. Collection highlights can be found at the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection [website](#).
- The collection is owned by [Morehouse College](#), housed at the [Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library](#) and selections of the collection are on public display at the [National Center for Civil and Human Rights](#).

COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS:

- The King Collection is owned by **Morehouse College** where Dr. King was a student from 1944-1948. As the sole academic library in the Atlanta University Center, the Robert W. Woodruff Library Archives Research Center is the designated archival custodian and conservator of the Collection and the repository for academic research and study. The Library's Archives Research Center provides a full [Collection finding aid](#).
- **The National Center for Civil and Human Rights** (The Center) is the primary public exhibitor of the Collection, featuring thematic rotating exhibitions from the Collection's documents in the Voice to the Voiceless Gallery. The thematic rotations launch twice a year, in January and again, in June. The themes and artifacts for each rotation are selected by mutual agreement and collaboration between the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection Director, the head of Exhibitions at the Center for Civil and Human Rights, and the archival staff at the AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library. In 2024, as part of The Center's expansion, the Voice to the Voiceless Gallery will move from the first floor to the lobby level.

BACKGROUND:

- A coalition of civic and corporate leaders, led by then-Mayor Shirley Franklin, acquired the Collection in 2006 when the group assembled \$32 million to purchase the collection, which was slated to be sold at auction at Sotheby's in New York City. The Collection was donated to Morehouse College, fulfilling Coretta Scott King's original vision. Learn more about the Collection's history at <https://morehouse.edu/life/campus/martin-luther-king-jr-collection/about-the-collection/>

About Morehouse College

Founded in 1867, Morehouse College is a private, liberal arts institution and the only historically Black college dedicated to educating men. Morehouse is the nation's top producer of Black men who go on to receive doctorates and the top producer of Rhodes Scholars among HBCUs. The College was named to the list of U.S. institutions that produced the most Fulbright Scholars in 2019-2020. As the epicenter for thought leadership on civil rights, Morehouse is committed to helping the nation address the inequities caused by institutional racism, which has created social and economic disparities for people of African descent. Prominent Morehouse alumni include: Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General; Shelton "Spike" Lee, Academy Award-winning American filmmaker; Maynard H. Jackson, the first African-American mayor of Atlanta; Jeh Johnson, former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security; Louis W. Sullivan, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services; Bakari Sellers, attorney and CNN political analyst; Randall Woodfin, elected as the youngest mayor of Birmingham in 120 years; and Raphael Warnock, the first Black Senator from Georgia. For more information, visit: <https://morehouse.edu>.

About the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center (AUC), Inc.

Incorporated in 2004, the AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library partners with the nation's largest consortium of historically Black colleges and universities which includes Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College, and Spelman College to provide information management, instruction, and access to a variety of global information resources acquired and organized in support of teaching and learning, scholarship, and cultural preservation of the Atlanta University Center.

The Library's Archives Research Center is noted for its extensive holdings of materials on the African American experience. In addition to the aesthetic benefits of this state-of-the-art learning facility, the Library has evolved into a model repository of information resources and is a front-runner in the innovative delivery of digital resources. The AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library is the winner of the 2016 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award in the university category from the Association of Collegiate and Research Libraries (ACRL). Library CEO Loretta Parham was named the ACRL 2017 Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. These top honors recognize academic libraries and librarians for delivering exemplary services and resources in support of their institutional missions. In July 2022, the AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library became the 127th member of the Association of Research Libraries, becoming the second HBCU in its history to achieve this distinction. For more information, visit www.auctr.edu.

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