American Black Journal
A National Treasure

Documenting Detroit & American History from African American Perspectives

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Stevie Wonder
Pop icon

Eartha Kitt
singer, dancer, and actress

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
1984 Nobel Peace Laureate from South Africa

Bobby Seale
co-founder of Black Panther Party

Arthur Mitchell
founder of Dance Theatre of Harlem

Martha Jean "The Queen" Steinberg
radio broadcaster

Cornel West
professor, public intellectual, & author of nearly 20 books

Lena Horne
singer

Darryl Wood
program host, 1988-1998
Our Mission

To preserve and publish the complete collection of American Black Journal television shows.

American Black Journal

American Black Journal is an historic television program that has been presenting issues and events from African American perspectives since 1968.

A production of Detroit Public Television, the show features interviews, round-table discussions, rare footage shot on location, and musical performances.

The complete collection of American Black Journal programs represents a national treasure. Until recently, these shows were in danger of being lost forever.

Michigan State University together with Detroit Public Television has embarked on a mission to preserve and publish the complete collection of American Black Journal television shows.

Preserving

- Build Video Digitization Lab
- Find & Restore Obsolete Videotape Players
- Digitize 1,420 Videotapes
- Preserve Original & Digital Masters
- Remaster Every Show
- Scan Production Documents
- Archive Original Materials

Publishing

- Build & Launch Web Site
- Put All Programs On Line
- Annotate All Materials
- Link Production Documents with Videos
- Develop Educational Materials
- Build Educational Web Portal
- Develop Research Web Portal

Coretta Scott King
civil rights activist and widow of Dr. Martin Luther King

Alex Haley
historian and author of Roots

Nelson Mandela
first democratically elected President of South Africa

Rev. Jesse Jackson
civil rights leader and Baptist minister

Jackie Joyner-Kersee
Olympic track champion

Berry Gordy
founder of Motown Records

Dave Bing
mayor of Detroit, businessman, & former Detroit Pistons basketball star

Nikki Giovanni
poet and author

Julian Bond
chairman of the NAACP and former Georgia legislator

Earl Graves
publisher of Black Enterprise magazine

Dick Gregory
comedian and activist

James Brown
"Godfather of Soul"