

HOWARD UNIVERSITY: A CAPITAL ASSET



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From its post Civil War origins in 1867, when the intellectual capacity of the “Negro” was widely questioned, through the 144 years of its history, Howard University has surpassed even the most ambitious plans of its founders in becoming an unparalleled contributor of African American professionals locally, nationally and globally. Among its faculty, staff and alumni are individuals who have distinguished themselves in the fields of medicine, law, engineering, the physical, social, military and political sciences, the arts and humanities, architecture, education, communications, and business. Its faculty, staff and graduates have been on the front lines of the struggle for civil and human rights, have made outstanding contributions in military service and have become heads of state and prominent leaders throughout the Caribbean and African Diaspora.

Locally, the University became the center of what came to be called Washington’s “black intelligentsia” in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. District of Columbia Mayors, Councilmembers, School Board Members, Judges and heads of city agencies, Boards and Commissions among the city’s governing leadership were trained at Howard. Freedmen’s Hospital, later named Howard University Hospital, cared for the health and well-being of generations of the city’s underserved populations for almost 150 years.

On the approach to its sesquicentennial anniversary (2017), Howard University’s leadership is once again adjusting its vision to meet the contemporary challenges before it. Its central campus plan (covering the years 2011-2021) reflects a robust vision that has emerged from rigorous self-examination and responds to the more competitive post-secondary educational marketplace and constrained economic climate of the times. This vision, proposes to deliver an exceptional quality of instructional programming, an enhanced student life experience and world-class research opportunities. These, together with the University’s greater integration into the larger community and contributions to its revitalization will sustain her among the world’s most important academic institutions and keep her as a significant economic presence in the District of Columbia.

A sampling of Howard’s most notable existing and anticipated local contributions are summarized here.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

While Howard University’s success in the training of outstanding African American professionals has been popularly acknowledged, there is no way to gauge the true societal value of having such a unique institution of this stature in the heart of the nation’s capital. Measurable evidence of the University’s economic value specifically to the District of Columbia, however, does exist, though it has received less recognition.

In the research conducted by Dr. Stephen Fuller for the Consortium of Universities’ 2010 Economic Impact Study, some of Howard’s economic contributions are quantified and reported in “The Impact of Howard University on the District of Columbia Economy: Research Summary.” Dr. Fuller’s analysis is based upon spending flows from: “..annual payroll and non-payroll expenditures, student spending, spending in the District of Columbia by out-of-town visitors and spending by retirees from Howard University who have continued to reside in the City.”¹

Many more economic impacts are harder to quantify or supporting data are not available, and therefore are not included in Dr. Fuller’s analysis. These include: the economic benefits of the University’s community development initiatives; “the value of the education and skills transferred to the District’s workforce as a result of Howard University’s presence in the District; the business attraction and interaction linked to the presence of Howard University and its faculty; the intellectual property generated at Howard University that contributes to the City’s business base and competitiveness; the in-kind and voluntary services provided by Howard University and its staff and students to the betterment of the City.”²

¹ Fuller, Stephen. The Impact of Howard University on the District of Columbia Economy: Research Summary. (George Mason University, School of Public Policy, Center for Regional Analysis, June, 2011, p. 1).

² Fuller, p.1.

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EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRACTING

In the Center for Regional Analysis' research on the University's economic activity, Howard's role as an employer, generator of personal and business income, and importance as a source of direct and indirect spending were examined. Of the 6,934³ full-time and part-time workforce, some 28% resided in the District of Columbia as of 2010. Based on payroll disbursements to these employees, salary and wage outlays to District residents totaled \$103.8 million. While data from capital projects that use District-based contractors and employ D.C. residents was not available, the University's expenditures for goods and services to local vendors and contractors for 2010 was estimated to be \$94.5 million, bringing the combined payroll and non-payroll spending total to \$198.3 million. See Table 2-1.⁴

STUDENT, RETIREE AND VISITOR SPENDING

Payroll and contract expenditures were augmented by the spending of Howard University students, retirees who live in the District and non-local visitors who come to the University. The estimated \$44.1 million expended by these groups brought the total economic impact from these sources to \$242.4 million in 2010. In his analysis, Dr. Fuller applies a multiplier of 1.4127 to this \$242.4 million to determine the effect of this spending on the Gross City Product (GCP), to arrive at a \$342.3 million GCP for 2010.

Dr. Fuller's research goes on to describe the estimated 1,198 non-university jobs that this spending supports, of which 773, or 65% are estimated to have been held by District of Columbia residents. New personal earnings amounting to \$42.5 million resulted as a consequence of these District resident-held jobs. See Tables 2-2 and 2-3.⁵

The common wisdom that "eds and meds" (educational and medical institutions) are the rising economic sectors in today's economy is no less true in the District of Columbia.

Howard University represents both sectors, and as such, takes its place among the prominent institutions upon which the District's future economic health will be based. Its direct and indirect support of 2,681 jobs, generating \$146.3 million in personal earnings is a significant contribution. These jobs, together with the University's direct expenditures to District-based businesses of \$94.5 million, and the combined local purchases by students, visitors and retirees of \$44.1 million, represent a substantial source of tax revenue. The value of Howard's economic impacts to the District of Columbia clearly makes it a key player in the city's vitality and growth.⁶

⁵ Fuller, pp. 2,3,5.

⁶ Fuller, p.3.

³ This number includes student employees.

⁴ Fuller, pp. 1,4.

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Table 2-1: Profile of the Howard University, 2010

Metrics	Number/Value
Number of Full and Part-Time Employees	6,934
Full-time	4,632
Part-time	2,302
Number of Employees Residing in	
District of Columbia	1,948
Maryland	4,251
Virginia	652
Other	83
Total	6,934
Total Payroll Outlays to DC residents	\$103,766,837
Total Non-Payroll Outlays to DC Firms	\$94,516,741
Total Capital Outlays to DC Vendors	not available
Total University Outlays in The District	\$198,283,578
Total University Enrollment	
Fall Semester 2009	10,537
Spring Semester 2010	10,118
Summer 2010	2,241
Number of Retirees Residing in DC	750
Non-local Visitors to Campus	16,410

Table 2-2: Distribution of Howard University Spending within the Washington Metropolitan Area, 2010 (percent)

Source	DC	Maryland	Virginia	Other
Payroll	28.1	61.3	9.4	1.2
Non-Payroll	26.4	13.6	12.9	47.1

Sources: Howard University, GMU Center for Regional Analysis.

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Table 2-3: The Economic Impacts Generated by Howard University's Direct and Associated Outlays in the District of Columbia, 2010

(dollars in millions)

Spending Sources	Direct Outlays	Total Output(1)	Personal Earnings(2)	Jobs Supported(3)
<i>University's</i>				
Payroll	\$103.8	\$147.0	\$18.2	537
Non-Payroll	\$94.5	\$133.8	\$16.6	488
Sub-total	\$198.3	\$280.8	\$34.8	1,025
Students	\$39.6	\$55.6	\$7.0	156
Retirees	\$3.8	\$5.0	\$0.6	13
Visitors*	\$0.7	\$0.9	\$0.1	4
Sub-total	\$44.1	\$61.5	\$7.7	173
Totals	\$242.4	\$342.3	\$42.5	1,198

Source: Howard University and GMU Center for Regional Analysis.

Notes: (1) the total value of goods and services generated directly and indirectly as a result of direct spending; (2) the additional earnings generated within the District of Columbia as a result of the direct outlays;

(3) the additional new jobs supported nationwide by the spending and re-spending of direct outlays within the District of Columbia economy.

*does not include Hospital patient or visitor spending.

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REAL ESTATE TAXES

In FY 2010, Howard University paid \$737,177 in real estate taxes.

BONDS PAYABLE

The University owes the District of Columbia \$152,151,000. in repayment for bond financing it has received from the city.

PROCUREMENT POLICIES

The Howard University's Supplier Diversity Program provides a platform for District businesses that are minority-owned, veteran-owned and small-disadvantaged entities. This structured program benefits these businesses with opportunities for economic growth and the practical experience which is crucial to their success. Howard University's experience with these firms has produced long-term partnerships where knowledge is transferred, best practice experience is shared and consulting opportunities are provided. It is projected that in the next two years the University will spend approximately \$40 million on LSBDE contracts as provided for in the terms of the bond financing awarded by the city. The University will continue to implement this program for all Campus Master Plan projects. There are five development projects planned for construction during Phase One of the Campus Master Plan (2011 through 2014).

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Georgia Avenue Development Growth and Enterprise Transformation Center (G.A.D.G.E.T.)

Driven by student energy, with support from a Ford College Community Challenge grant, the G.A.D.G.E.T. Center was launched in 2009. The Center provides access to computers and information resources, consulting and support services, meeting space, and forums for learning and positive interaction between residents, city government, local businesses, property owners, organizations and developers.

The G.A.D.G.E.T. Center empowers the residents in the neighborhoods surrounding Howard University by encouraging entrepreneurship. Its mission is to build community relationships, partner with local government officials and expand the corporate network. Empowered entrepreneurs result in higher incomes, an improved business climate, revitalized neighborhoods and strengthened communities.

The G.A.D.G.E.T. Center provides market research for the Strategic Planning committee for Howard University and acts as a liaison between small businesses and residents of the Georgia Avenue corridor and Howard University. G.A.D.G.E.T. has provided no-cost preparation of 150 tax returns for area residents, and participated in over 200 hours of civic and community meetings relating to development, growth and entrepreneurship.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

In 1995, Howard University became the first and only university in the District of Columbia to establish a public charter school. The Howard University Public Charter Middle School of Mathematics and Science (MS)², now in its sixth year, provides an educational experience based on a curriculum that emphasizes mathematics and science both as core disciplines and as disciplines that are infused within the content of all of the middle school subject areas. Its use of technology-assisted instruction has made it an attraction for schools nationwide and for the U.S. Department of Education.

Strategic partnerships have been made with the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration, the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins and Google, among others. (MS)² students have won first place in the Solar Car Regional competition, first place in the Washington Informer City-wide Spelling Bee, and were the only public school students to advance to the state level competition in MathCounts.

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(MS)² is designed to not only provide an exceptional experience in mathematics and science education for urban youth, but is structured to be able to share its successful approaches to mathematics and science instruction with other schools in the District of Columbia Public School system through teacher training and programs for students in grades lower than the sixth grade. In school year 2009, one of its teachers won the statewide Teacher of the Year award. (MS)² draws students from seven out of eight wards in the city, and has promoted almost 900 eighth graders into some of the most academically rigorous schools in Washington, D.C.

ASSISTANCE TO D.C. RESIDENTS ENROLLED AT HOWARD

In the fall of 2010, 727 District of Columbia residents were enrolled as students. Of this number, 695 students received assistance in covering the costs of their education. Many of these award packages combine grants, loans and scholarships, and student employment opportunities with some including employee benefits. The average financial aid package awarded to District residents for the fall semester of 2010 was \$8,218.11.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTERS

Howard University operates two early childhood learning centers, one on the grounds of its central campus, and one in the adjacent community of LeDroit Park. Combined, these centers employ 20 staff and serve 73 children, most of whom are residents of the District of Columbia, and a majority of whose parents work for Howard University or live in the local community.

HEALTH CARE

Howard University continues to be the largest single trainer of minority health professionals in the country. Its College of Medicine, College of Dentistry, School of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health provide care and services to large numbers of residents in underserved segments of the population who would otherwise have no or very limited access to health care.

In 2010, Howard University Hospital served 148,174 residents of the District of Columbia out of a total number of 194,030. The latest available data on the value of the total amount of uncompensated care provided by the hospital is \$40,583,094 for FY 2009.

The School of Dentistry, which is the only dental school along the east coast corridor between Richmond and Philadelphia, provides affordable dental care to community residents who would not otherwise have such care.

Faculty and students in the School of Nursing have provided care to one of the largest downtown shelters for the homeless in the city (Community for Creative Non-Violence), and provides care to seniors in the surrounding communities near the Central Campus.

RESEARCH

To provide the highest quality of training to medical professionals, students must have exposure to basic biomedical research opportunities needed to complement the medical education program. This requires research in those fields that support clinical practice, such as: neuroscience; biochemistry; computational biology; pathology and microbiology, among others.

BIOMEDICAL

The recently developed "Health Sciences Strategic Plan" is conspicuously targeted to increase the research capacity of the University congruent with areas of investigation that would be beneficial to the District of Columbia and its residents. Its vision and mission specifically address health equality and disparities, and the strategic focus targets diseases such as obesity, HIV/AIDS, diabetes and stroke that disproportionately affect the local population in particular and the broader minority population in general.

To realize this vision, the University must be aligned with the state-of-the-art approach to solving these problems. Since so many health disparities are caused by lifestyle factors, research emphasis will focus on social determinants of health and clinical effectiveness. In addition, basic cellular and molecular approaches to cures for diseases will be complemented by the incorporation of new interdisciplinary research areas, such as bioinformatics, molecular imaging, computational biology, nanotechnology, proteomics and genomics.

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Clinical translational science or the translation of basic science to clinical application is necessary to successfully advance health through research. Convergence, which is the merging of distinct disciplines and technologies for an integrated approach to research, brings together technical tools and designs from engineering, physical sciences and biomedical/life sciences, to speed the process of scientific advancement. It is seen as a “blueprint for innovation”. Collaborative, multimode researchers are more productive based on the impact of their work, external funding and the royalty income they can generate from the patent-protected licensed technology they develop. The University sees this as a pathway to a successful business model that can yield both direct and indirect benefits to the city.

The Howard University Health Sciences Enterprise currently holds five prestigious NIH awards that position it for growth. These awards support the following programs: the Research Centers for Minority Institutions program (with computational biology and bioinformatics, imaging and proteomic cores); the Georgetown-Howard University Center for Clinical Translational Science; the Howard University Cancer Center (with Molecular Genetics, Tissue Repository and Biostatics cores); the Center for Drug Research and Development; and the DC Developmental Center for AIDS Research. These programs will serve as the foundation required for translational and convergence science.

A large number of health care professionals trained at Howard University remain in the metropolitan area and continue to contribute to the quality of health care provided locally.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (ISE)/SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS (STEM)

In the ISE/STEM areas, the strategic direction is the creation of new knowledge that leads to spin-off technology that can be applied to address specific needs. This new knowledge, based in the physical sciences, has unlimited application. Its value can be measured in both financial terms, to the extent that it is patent-protected, licensed and generates royalty income, and in benefits that inure directly to individuals and whole communities.

In all of the research endeavors, the University would want to partner with the District of Columbia to explore how the research being undertaken could be aligned with special challenges confronting the city. At present, research areas underway or being explored include:

- water resources research, including: systematic modeling of water ecology; removal of trace contaminants eluding the conventional wastewater municipal process; and innovation of membrane and electrochemical technology for water recycling;
- stem cell cancer research for early detection and treatment of pancreatic and ovarian cancers;
- rapid drug discovery and screening, design and use of nanoparticles for drug delivery;
- development of diamond devices for use in nanocomposite electrodes for water analysis and in the creation of one dimensional ballistic electronic laminates;
- entry into the highly specialized field of materials sciences and the examination of the targeted delivery of nanomaterials into targeted cancer and related cells;
- development of biofuels, including: the transformation of biomass into alternative energy sources; chemical engineering of wastewater sludge into biofuel feedstock; and
- the formulation of nutritional and flavorful gluten-free food products for diabetics and celiacs (people who cannot eat meat).

To support this enhanced research enterprise, the first phase of the Campus Master Plan envisions the development of two new facilities: the Computational Sciences/Biomedical Sciences; and the Interdisciplinary Sciences/STEM buildings.

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Not only would these facilities immediately impact the production of invaluable research work of benefit to the city, but opportunities for employment of both existing residents and the attraction of new residents would be significant. In addition to job opportunities for researchers in a wide variety of scientific and medical fields including biotechnology, statistics, epidemiology, there will also be a need for laboratory technicians and other support staff. The facilities would themselves require specialized services in operations and maintenance that would generate local business opportunities and employ local labor.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

HOWARD UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Howard University Community Association is the principal administrative liaison between the University and the community surrounding the central campus. It was the locus for the award-winning LeDroit Park Initiative which included: the University-sponsored community planning and development of over 70 mixed-income housing units; infrastructure improvements; and social service facilities renovations undertaken in partnership with Fannie Mae and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Association houses the University's Jumpstart/ AmeriCorps and Project C.H.A.N.G.E. (Connecting Howard And Neighborhoods for Growth and Empowerment) community service programs, where University students are placed in private or DCPS early childhood development centers, schools, after-school programs, low-income health clinics and seniors centers to augment the provision of community services.

Additionally, clearinghouse and referral services are provided by the Association to members of the public who are interested in accessing University-sponsored programs, activities and services offered to the community on campus. Likewise, information is made available to University students, faculty and staff interested in obtaining information about important community events and initiatives. A compendium of over 100 University-sponsored programs activities and services available to the public entitled "Service 2011" is available on line at www.howard.edu.

Direct engagement of community stakeholders is a central function of the Association, where: quarterly meetings of the Community Advisory Committee are convened; staff regularly attend Advisory Neighborhood Commission and Civic Association meetings; and staff participate in workshops, charettes and other gatherings sponsored by developers, city agencies or professional associations to represent the University and engage community members around issues affecting and or involving the University.

The development of the Campus Master Plan is managed from the Howard University Community Association office together with facilities and real estate professionals of the University. The Campus Master Plan exercise prompted two additional consensus-building processes with the formation of the University-wide Campus Master Plan Steering Committee and the Community Campus Master Plan Task Force.

THE LEDROIT PARK INITIATIVE

Howard University has made significant community development contributions to the neighborhoods surrounding its central campus, resulting in more Howard employees living closer to campus, the revitalization of existing properties and an in-migration of new residents.

From 1997 through 2002, the University began implementation of the LeDroit Park Initiative which had three primary phases: housing rehabilitation and new construction; the creation of a Howard Town Center; and the development of a Cultural District.

The first of these is a form of "live-near-work" initiative.

"LIVE-NEAR-WORK" INITIATIVES

FANNIE MAE PARTNERSHIP

A "Live-Near-Work" initiative of housing rehabilitation and in-fill new construction was undertaken in partnership with Fannie Mae. The initiative redeveloped property owned by the University adjacent to the hospital on which 40 mixed-income homeownership opportunities were created for Howard employees, District firefighters, teachers and policepersons and other community members. Two-thirds (26) of the homes were sold to Howard employees who could now walk to work.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

In addition, another 30 units of low- and moderate-income homeowner housing were newly constructed or rehabilitated on sites in close proximity to the redeveloped Howard-owned properties. The University provided assistance to local community development corporations (CDCs) through grants it was awarded from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) set-aside program. Howard employees also live in some of these units and can now also walk to work.

The University's new Campus Master Plan envisions the development of workforce-affordable housing that it can offer to its new faculty and staff as the current faculty and staff begin to retire in larger numbers over the next 5-10 years. The University will explore the possibility of participating in the "Live-Near-Work" program sponsored by the city upon re-examination of the potential for accelerating this aspect of the campus master plan.

HOWARD TOWN CENTER

The second phase of the LeDroit Park Initiative was the Howard Town Center, where neighborhood retail amenities are proposed for the University and the communities surrounding the central campus. The project is the University's first development in support of the Duke Plan.

The Campus Master Plan envisions the Town Center as a mixed use project with a mix of market rate and affordable rental units, retail, including a grocery and two levels of parking on a site opposite the Howard University Hospital. Community members who provided feedback on the LeDroit Park Initiative and worked with the University in its planning and development identified the need for a grocery store shortly after the Safeway closing at Third Street and Rhode Island Avenue in the fall of 1998. This project is poised for development within the next three years.

CULTURAL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT

The cultural district envisioned in the LeDroit Park Initiative falls outside of the campus master plan. It is located to the south of the central campus and encompasses the square where the Howard Theater and Progression Place project are sited, the CVS Pharmacy and the Howard University Research Building #1 sites.

While the role that the University is playing in the development of the cultural district differs significantly from that envisioned over a decade ago, mention is being made of it here because of the recent contribution the University has made. That contribution came in the form of assistance to the Howard Theater Restoration Corporation in the amount of a \$200,000 award it made from a grant the HUD HBCU set-aside CDBG program provided the University in 2008. This assistance enabled the developers of the theater to secure financing more easily and continue their work on a cultural institution of major importance to the District of Columbia.

MARY CHURCH TERRELL HOUSE

Howard University has been entrusted with the home of one of the city's most important educators, authors, suffragists and civil rights champions, Mary Church Terrell. Ms. Terrell willed her home in the LeDroit Park neighborhood to the University in 1951, and in 1975, the home became designated a National Historic Landmark. Robert Heberton Terrell, Mrs. Terrell's husband, was the first black municipal judge in the District of Columbia, and the two were central figures among the city's African American leadership in the last century.

Ms. Terrell's fight to end segregated public facilities in the District of Columbia went all the way to the Supreme Court, and the University intends to preserve this important legacy for city residents and its visitors. Howard University has undertaken a fundraising campaign to restore the Terrell home in partnership with: the National Park Service, the D.C. Office of Historic Preservation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Local Initiative Support Corporation, Fannie Mae and the Robert and Mary Church Terrell House and LeDroit Park Museum and Cultural Center. Efforts to date have resulted in this District and national treasure being made structurally sound. It is the subject of an ongoing campaign to transform it into a neighborhood cultural institution.

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ARTS, CULTURE AND CIVIC PROGRAMMING

Throughout its history, Howard University has always been a significant contributor to the cultural fabric of the District of Columbia in particular and to the nation and world in general. Howard is a destination for cultural events and activities that have become regionally, nationally and internationally recognized. Its success has been achieved through collaborations with various agencies of the District Government, local organizations, schools and neighborhood civic associations and through the University's own effective academic and administrative leadership.

VISUAL ARTS

The Howard University Gallery of Art is an invaluable resource. Established in 1928 by an action of the Board of Trustees, it counts among its treasures paintings, books, sculpture, memorabilia, and approximately 300 pieces of African sculpture and handcrafts which were bequeathed after the death of collector and scholar Dr. Alain Leroy Locke. The Trustees intended for these works to benefit the public and students through revolving exhibitions that could be visited and examined. Over the years, the collection has grown to over 4,500 pieces. The Howard University Gallery of Art also serves as a research and study facility for the University and scholarly community. The Gallery hosts rotating exhibitions of national and international artists, and selections from its permanent collection.

The African American collection, from its first acquisition of Henry O. Tanner's painting titled "Return from the Crucifixion," (still the jewel of the collection), to its most recent donation of a lithograph by Elizabeth Catlett, is one of the most comprehensive representations of black artists in existence. The African Art collection includes major categories such as body ornaments, ceremonial masks and musical instruments, with the dates of the collection ranging from the 18th through the early 20th century.

In this past year, the Gallery of Art has participated with Bank of America (BOA) in the "Mixing Metaphors (The Aesthetic, the Social and the Political in African American Art)" exhibition, an extract of which is featured in a frequent BOA commercial.

An annual spring exhibition features student and faculty work and the Gallery frequently grants the rights to have Gallery material reproduced in various publications, including those of the Smithsonian American Museum of Art. A current project being pursued is the "precious works marketing effort" where selected images from the Gallery's permanent collection can be sold through an online store, and reproductions of featured art can be purchased by the public.

The Department of Art's annual James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora attracts over 400 scholars, artists, collectors, and art enthusiasts from the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa. The Department presents annual student and faculty art exhibitions, along with a commencement-week exhibition highlighting work of graduating BFA seniors and MFA candidates.

THEATER ARTS

The Ira Aldridge Theater serves as the home and major performance space for the Department of Theatre Arts, which has served as a launching pad for award-winning actors, music theatre artists, playwrights, dancers, and choreographers. Every year, the Department presents a mix of productions, classical and contemporary, in its two theatre complex. This year's productions include: A Soldier's Play, Mixed Babies, Isolation, Smoke and Mirrors, The All Night Strut! A Jumpn' Jivin' Jam!, The Spring Dance Concert: Building A Legacy...Hope Healing Resilience, The Power of Dance, and the Howard Players One-Act Play Festival.

MOORLAND-SPINGARN RESEARCH CENTER (MSRC)

The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC) is recognized as one of the world's largest and most comprehensive repositories for the documentation of the history and culture of people of African descent in Africa, the Americas, and other parts of the world. Its collections include more than 175,000 bound volumes and tens of thousands of journals, periodicals, and newspapers. The collections are used by scholars, museums, students, and other researchers from Howard University, the metropolitan region, across the United States and throughout the world. Information provided by the MSRC is regularly used in exhibitions, video productions, news programming, and a wide range of publications.

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In fact, much of the information used by the District's own Cultural Tourism, D.C. to tell the history of the many local neighborhoods in its heritage trail system, was researched at MSRC.

Other University-Sponsored Arts and Cultural Programs

The University also hosts some of the following events that support the arts:

- Teens in Theatre
- DC Jazz Festival
- DC Black Theater Festival
- Project Voice