

Finding aid for

Minority Coalition's *At What Cost?: Black Representation in the Arts* Campaign and the Ars

Nova Production of *Underground Railroad Game* Records

Date range: 2000 - 2018 [date range represented by the items themselves]

Finding Aid created by John Rodríguez, 2018

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Summary Information

Extent: 133 MB (Google Drive) and 2 linear feet (1 archival collection box)

Storage location: Williams College Archives: Digital drive in online preservation server and collection box in Special Collections, 4th floor of Sawyer Library

Language(s): The material is in English

Abstract: The records of the Minority Coalition's *At What Cost?: Black Representation in the Arts* campaign include e-mail correspondence, advertising and programming for the *Underground Railroad Game* performance and other shows, meeting minutes, newspaper articles, photographs, and oral interviews.

Background Information

History: The Minority Coalition's *At What Cost?: Black Representation in the Arts* campaign was started as a result of the performance of the Ars Nova show *Underground Railroad Game*. The campaign was run by Zeke King Phillips with the help of other MinCo members and close friends. The campaign was executed through posters, digital communications, conversations, and panels. This collection was created through the College Archives with the hope of preserving student activism for future conversation. By creating an institutional memory around the campaign, this collection aims to create a body of history that recognizes the need for continued conversation, organizes materials for future action, and acknowledges the work that remains to be done in order to improve the experiences of Black students. These records were generated by Zeke (as co-chair of MinCo) and by other departments, committees, or individuals on campus in

response to the campaign and the performance. The records were organized and entered into the College Archives by John Rodríguez.

Scope, Content, and Arrangement

Scope and Content: The records of the Minority Coalition's *At What Cost?: Black Representation in the Arts* campaign include e-mail correspondence, advertising and programming for the *Underground Railroad Game* performance and other shows, meeting minutes, newspaper articles, photographs, and oral interviews. The strength of the collection is found in the digital communications, interviews, and older events series. These series give a contextual overview of the impact and response to the *Underground Railroad Game* performance, the history of representation on campus, and the impact of representation on students.

The *campaign posters* series contains digital files of all the original posters produced by the campaign as well as the response posters produced by the campaign after the appearance of parody and anonymous posters. Of particular note are the images of the parody and anonymous response posters that began to appear anonymously next to the original campaign posters in various buildings throughout campus. In addition, there exist a handful of original campaign posters on which anonymous individuals handwrote responses to the content.

The *panel discussion* series contains advertising for a panel discussion on Black representation, meeting minutes from the discussion, and e-mail correspondence surrounding the panel.

The *college policies* series contains existing policies at Williams College which were addressed during the campaign due to their relation to student activism. Of particular note is the banner

policy which underwent revisions as a result of the campaign's posters. There is selected e-mail correspondence about college policies in this series as well.

The *digital communications* series contains a wide range of e-mail correspondence resulting from *Underground Railroad Game*, the departmental and campus response, and the campaign response to the performance. The series also includes a couple of images sent over social media.

The *interviews* were recorded with several students involved or affected by the campaign and the *Underground Railroad Game* performance.

The *older events* series contains e-mail correspondence, advertising, announcements, and newspaper articles about historical events about representation of students of color on campus in artistic spaces.

The *Record articles* included are directly related to *Underground Railroad Game* and include a review of the performance by a student writer and a letter-to-the-editor from the committee apologizing for the performance.

The *URG Show Posters and Advertisements* series contains advertising and e-mail correspondence used to announce the performance of *Underground Railroad Game* before it was presented at Williams.

Subject Terms and Keywords

Subjects:

- Ars Nova—Underground Railroad Game

- At What Cost
- Interview—students—activism
- Minority Coalition—campaign
- Student activism
- Arts—visual
- Arts—performing
- Black students—representation
- Departments—theatre
- Responses—anonymous
- Committee—CenterSeries

Works Cited

FOLDER 1: “At What Cost?” Campaign Posters

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King Phillips, Zeke. “*At What Cost? Original Campaign Posters.*” Minority Coalition. Williams College, Williamstown. March 2018. Posters on campus.

Rodríguez, John. *Anonymous Linked Response Poster #1.* 5 May 2018. Photograph.

Rodríguez, John. *Anonymous Linked Response Poster #2.* 5 May 2018. Photograph.

Rodríguez, John. *Anonymous Linked Response Poster #3.* 5 May 2018. Photograph.

Rodríguez, John. *Anonymous Response Poster #1.* 29 April 2018. Photograph.

Rodríguez, John. *Handwritten Response Poster #1.* 5 May 2018. Photograph.

Rodríguez, John. *Handwritten Response Poster #2.* 5 May 2018. Photograph.

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Rodríguez, John. *Parody Poster #3.* 29 April 2018. Photograph.

Rodríguez, John. *Parody Poster #4.* 29 April 2018. Photograph.

Rodríguez, John. *Parody Poster #5.* 29 April 2018. Photograph.

Rodríguez, John. *Parody Poster #6.* 8 May 2018. Photograph.

FOLDER 2: “At What Cost?” Panel Discussion

Advertisement for *At What Cost? A Panel Discussion on Black Representation in the Arts*. Minority Coalition, 10 April 2018. Poster.

Awad, Amina. ““At What Cost?” Panel, Tuesday 4pm.” E-mail to Susan Engel and Zeke King Phillips. 7 April 2018.

Cleghorn, Cassandra. “thanks.” E-mail to Zeke King Phillips, Kimberly Love, VaNatta Ford, Danielle D’Oliveira, and Rashida Braggs. 10 April 2018.

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FOLDER 3: College Policies

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Williams Campus Messages. "Daily Messages for Wednesday, April 18, 2018." E-mail to Williams students. 18 April 2018.

FOLDER 4: Digital Communications (about or resulting from campaign and URG]

Anonymized Student. *Snapchat Received #2*. Sent to John Rodriguez, Snapchat, April 2018. Photograph.

Bi, Kathy. "sorry this is weird I just wasn't sure if I would see you around the house....." E-mail to Zeke King Phillips. 15 April 2018.

Braggs, Rashida. "Apology from Prof. Braggs." E-mail to Students in AFR 440. 5 March 2018.

Bryant, Corissa. "Theatre Department Season Suggestions." E-mail to Williams students. 16 April 2018.

Burton, Sandra. "Today's meeting." E-mail to CenterSeries Committee and Zeke King Phillips. 16 March 2018.

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Cleghorn, Cassandra. "Apology from the CenterSeries Committee." E-mail to Williams students. 17 March 2018.

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Gerry, John. "Apologies from the CenterSeries Programming Committee." E-mail to Zeke King Phillips. 8 March 2018.

Holzappel, Amy. "Checking my notes from yesterday's meeting." E-mail to Zeke King Phillips. 6 March 2018.

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Holzappel, Amy. "Front of House Sign for Tartuffe." E-mail to Tartuffe Production Staff. 7 March 2018.

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FOLDER 5: Interviews

D'Oliveira, Danielle. Personal interview. 7 May 2018.

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FOLDER 6: Older Events that are Influential/Historical/Contextual

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