



## PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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### **The HBCU Library Alliance Receives \$1,000,000 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Grant to Transform Leadership and Preserve History**

The HBCU Library Alliance is proud to announce the award of a \$1,000,000 [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#) grant to support its innovative program, "Empowering HBCU Libraries with Civil Rights Preservation, Digital Innovation, and Transformative Professional Development." This funding will enable the organization to enhance the capabilities of HBCUs in preserving civil rights history and promoting digital literacy.

This initiative aims to empower HBCU libraries to serve as vital resources for their communities by focusing on three key areas:

1. The **Student Protest Archives Oral History and Digitization Project** will document, preserve, and digitize student-led protests that have impacted HBCUs. Projects at 10-20 HBCUs will capture firsthand accounts of civil rights activism, social justice movements, and campus protests, contributing to the rich legacy of these institutions.
2. The **Lifting as We Climb Fellowship Program** will assist ten paraprofessionals at HBCUs in earning master's degrees in library and information sciences. By providing financial support and mentorship, the project aims to cultivate leadership potential among individuals who provide essential library services but need more formal qualifications, thereby increasing diversity within the library profession.
3. The **On-Demand Leadership Curriculum** will be a tailored initiative for HBCU librarians, accessible via [hbculibraries.org](http://hbculibraries.org). This program will offer flexible and high-quality leadership training to address the diverse needs of library professionals across HBCUs.

“We are honored to receive a \$1M award from the [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#),” said Executive Director Sandra Phoenix. “At this critical time in history, these funds will allow us to continue and create services that advance our mission of strengthening our membership by developing library leaders, preserving collections and planning for the future.”

"This \$1M grant for HBCU libraries from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation creates opportunities to authentically preserve vital narratives of campus engagements in civil rights history," said Adrienne C. Webber, HBCU Library Alliance Board Chair. "Such a significant investment will empower our libraries and their leaders while ensuring that future generations have access to their rich heritage. It also provides the tools necessary to continue delivering content and context as we train the next generation of librarians and library leaders to succeed in an increasingly digital landscape."

### **About the HBCU Library Alliance**

The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the work of the information professionals at the libraries, archives, and special collections of the country's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Guided by the historic significance of HBCUs, the strength and voice of the HBCU Library Alliance is evident through its ongoing involvement and connection to its membership of libraries serving HBCU institutions. Since its founding, the HBCU Library Alliance has provided an array of resources and programs to transform and strengthen its member libraries by developing library leaders, preserving member collections and making them more accessible, and planning for the future.

### **About the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation boldly invests in creative solutions to urgent challenges, sparking hope for the future. They work on a few big bets that strive toward transformative change in areas of profound concern, including the existential threats of climate change and nuclear risk, the challenges of criminal justice reform and revitalizing local news in the U.S. and corruption in Nigeria.

In addition, they maintain enduring commitments in their hometown Chicago, where they invest in people, places, and partnerships to build a more inclusive Chicago and in journalism and media, where they invest in more just and inclusive news and narratives.

They also make awards to extraordinarily creative individuals through the MacArthur Fellows program and for solutions to critical problems of the time through 100&Change.

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