

Workshop Description

As members of the Documenting the Now (DocNow) training team, Micha Broadnax and Jessica C. Neal, will engage participants in a co-learning workshop. Participants will identify personal and collective documentation creation habits, utilization, dissemination, and stewardship practices. The primary objective of the workshop is to facilitate a dialogue on record creation as a way of evidencing and memorializing student activism—protests, experiences, social justice initiatives, and dissent. Utilizing a term coined by Neal and Broadnax, “digital legacy-making,” participants will consider ways to disrupt analog memory work barriers and archival silences. Digital legacy making is intentionally centering the individual and group(s) responsible for creating, curating, owning, and preserving personal and ephemeral memories, experiences, and histories in the digital space. Through dialogue, we hope to stimulate thinking on the necessity to create tools that are accessible for folks present and not present in this space.

Bios



History enthusiast and nuance appreciator, Micha Broadnax is an archivist currently residing on the land once occupied by Nonotuck people. Informed by Black feminist imaginations, Micha entered the library profession interested in the ways archiving could serve as a practice of self-care, as well as the potential praxis of community building through archival spaces. Micha earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Brandeis University and a Master's in Library and Information Science from Simmons University. With a wealth of experience improving access to information in academic, research, corporate, and government libraries and archives, Micha serves as the Reference and Digital Projects Archivist at Mount Holyoke College. Entrenched in queer and students of color activism, she has strengthened relationships and strategies for collaboration between students and institutional archives at Emerson College, Harvard Law School, Brandeis University, and Mount Holyoke College. In acknowledgement of

the limits of the academy, Micha invests in opportunities that center collective memory, documentation and knowledge retention in movement organizing and legacy making. In accordance with these values, Micha serves as a community workshop trainer with Documenting the Now. She is an archivist and researcher for the personal collection of legal and policy scholar Professor Anita F. Hill. And last but certainly not least, Micha is the co-founder of an innovative archival and records management business Rememory Consulting with dear friend Jessica C. Neal.



Jessica C. Neal (Jes) is a creative and millennial from Mobile, AL. As a Black and queer scholar archivist, and by applying tenets of the Black intellectual tradition, her work seeks to identify alternative and inclusive entry points for marginalized and underrepresented groups by bringing a descriptive, corrective, and prescriptive focus to countering traditional archival practices. Specifically, she is committed to partnering with communities of color to recover, document, and maintain autonomy over the processes in which their narratives and narrative art are preserved and accessed, particularly through the oral history tradition. She embodies this passion as a community workshop trainer with Documenting the Now. In addition to rendering the history of communities within the African diaspora, Jessica is also passionate about documenting student action toward social justice, organizing, and protests and has developed oral history collections in academic institutions that have centered these efforts. Deeply committed to the practice of remembering, recollecting, and reassembling in all spaces, Jessica co-founded Rememory Consulting— an homage to the late Toni Morrison—with fellow archivist and beloved friend Micha Broadnax.

Jessica received her B.A. in African World Studies from Dillard University, and her MLIS degree in Archival Studies from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. She is currently based in Western Massachusetts, where she is the College Archivist at Hampshire College.