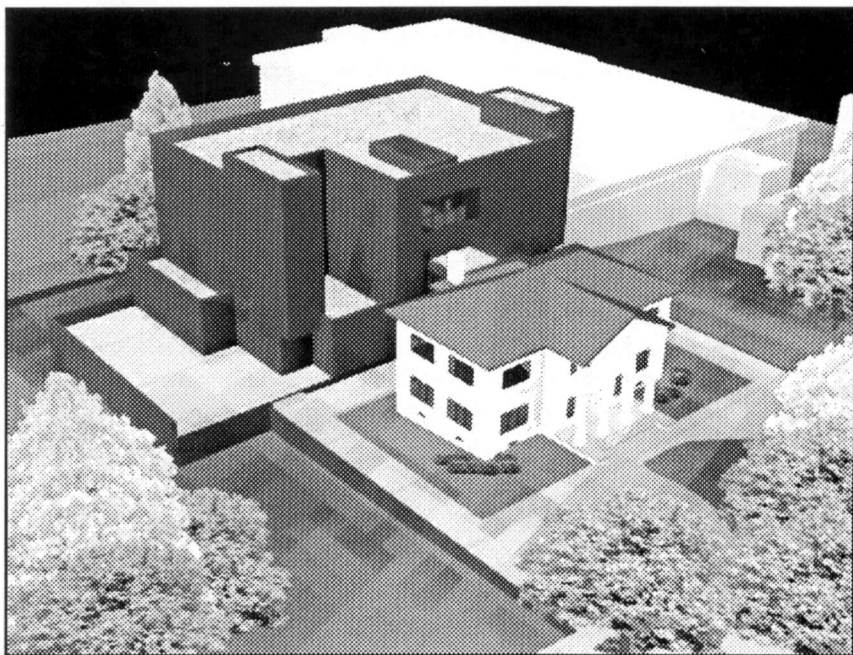


# **GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**

**FOR**



## **Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum**

**Florida A&M University  
Thursday, January 16, 2003**

# **Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum**

## **A Brief History**

Since its founding in 1976, the Black Archives Research Center and Museum continues to render academic support to the University, the State of Florida and the nation.

In 1971, the Florida Legislature mandated the creation of a repository to "serve the state by collecting and preserving source material on and about African Americans from ancient to present times." This mandate gave birth to what would become known as the Black Archives Research Center and Museum, located on the campus of Florida A&M University.



*James Eaton*

Aided by a grant from the Florida Bicentennial Commission, the Winn-Dixie Foundation and the Florida Legislature, James Eaton constructed in 1976 the first exhibits, using historical memorabilia from his own family. Afterward, he petitioned the university and community members to contribute historical material to the repository. His call was answered by the first Black Archives donors and volunteers, who included: Donald Hill, Frank Pinder, John F. Matheus, and a host of other individuals and groups. Thus, the Research Center was chartered in 1976 and was officially opened in 1977.

## **Expansion Plans**

The acquisition of the Black Archives' Union Bank facility is evidence of the tremendous demands for services supplied by the archival and museum programs. These two locations still do not make available the appropriate amount of space needed to properly support the Black Archives' many services. Thus, there is a paramount need for a larger research facility. As part of the solution, in 1998, U.S. Senators Connie Mack and Bob Graham, Congresswoman Carrie Meek and Congressman Allen Boyd successfully maneuvered a bill through Congress that called for \$3.8 million in federal funds to expand the Black Archives into a regional museum and research center. In 2001, these funds were matched with \$2.2 million from the State of Florida. Architectural plans have been completed, and once approved, construction could possibly begin in 2002. The museum's name has been changed to the Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum to reflect the center's new mission, role and scope.

**PROGRAMME**

Presiding  
Larry E. Rivers, Ph.D., D.A.  
*Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences*

INVOCATION ..... Reverend Danny Mitchell  
Trinity Presbyterian Church

WELCOME/OCCASION ..... Armentha Ray  
Black Archives

**REFLECTIONS**

The Honorable Alfred Lawson, Jr.  
*Florida Senate, District 6*

The Honorable Carrie Meek  
*U.S. House of Representatives (Ret.)*

Carmen Cummings-Martin  
Representing The Honorable Congressman Allen Boyd  
*U.S. House of Representatives*

Professor James N. Eaton  
*Director, Black Archives*

REMARKS ..... Fred Gainous, Ed.D.  
*President, Florida A&M University*

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

THE GROUNDBREAKING ..... Leedell Neyland, Ph.D.  
*History Professor Emeritus*

*Refreshments will be served  
immediately following the ceremony*



## **Groundbreaking Participants**

Lucille C. Alexander  
Laura Branker (for Florida Governor Jeb Bush)  
Leonard Bruton  
Ada Burnett, Ph.D.  
Gary Goodwin  
Andre Hammel  
Don Hill, Ph.D.  
Rev. R.B. Holmes  
Gladys Lang, Ph.D.  
Senator Alfred Lawson, Jr.  
Henry Lewis III, PharmD  
Leedell Neyland, Ph.D.  
Florida Parker  
Larry Rivers, Ph.D., D.A.

## **Black Archives Staff**

Professor James N. Eaton, *Director*  
E. Murrell Dawson  
Johnathan Hutchins  
David McCaskill  
Armentha Ray  
Doris Smith

## **Architectural Firm**

Carl Thorne & Associates, Inc.  
Gainesville, Florida