

Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor
Anchor Site: Michigan Street Baptist Church
Site-specific Sampling Inventory, Assessment and Recommendations
June 28, 2024



Executive Summary

Primarily located in the east side of Buffalo, the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor is a historic neighborhood that serves as the focal point for learning about Buffalo's rich African American history and culture. The Heritage area encompasses locations across Buffalo, with a concentrated portion along Michigan Avenue. The Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor (MSAAHC) includes the following Black heritage institutions: the **Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission** (Corridor) and four Anchor Sites: the **Michigan Street Baptist Church** (owned by the Buffalo Niagara Freedom Station Coalition), **The Nash House Museum** (owned by the Michigan Street Preservation Corporation), the **Historic Colored Musicians Club and Jazz Museum**, and **WUFO Black Radio History Collective**.

This project evaluated, recorded, and researched the collections, stories, and experiences embodied in the Heritage Corridor and its four Anchor Sites, in order to create a plan to properly care for and interpret existing collections and expand access to content Corridor-wide. The project builds the capacity for these five Buffalo, New York African American institutions to develop and expand public programs and exhibitions. The outcome of this project is documented in the following three reports:

MSAAHC: Thematic Development Report

The Proun Team began the project by meeting with the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission and Anchor Site members. The meeting participants reviewed and discussed project goals, existing and desired audience groups, school group programs, and school curriculums. Additionally, a brainstorming session was held to identify key stories, themes, and aspirations for the four Anchor Sites. Three additional sessions with the Commission and Anchor Site members were held to allow for feedback during the development of the Report. The outcome of these discussions is the Thematic Development Report which identifies three interpretive themes relevant to each Anchor Site's stories as well as to the Corridor:

- **Black Agency** speaks to the free will, collective and individual power, and independent ownership of the land and structures along the Corridor.
- **Black Mobility** represents the movement of African Americans to, from, and within the Corridor.
- **Black Messaging** acknowledges the dissemination of ideas, thoughts, and ways of being of the Corridor's inhabitants.

These themes are to be used as a meta-organizing approach in the development and interpretation of the Corridor-wide experience. The Thematic Development Report also details stories unique to each site that fit within the interpretive themes. These stories are not all encompassing but serve as a solid foundation that allows the Corridor and Sites to develop interpretive information for its programs and exhibits, now and into the future.

MSAAHC: Anchor-Specific Inventory Sampling & Assessment Reports

An object sampling inventory was conducted for each Anchor Site's collection. A sampling inventory details artifacts by type, condition, and location within the institution. Each Anchor Site's Sampling Inventory & Assessment Report is based on their unique collection and provides best practices information for:

- Object display techniques
- Conditions assessment considerations
- Methods for implementing proper storage, handling, climate control, and appropriate materials and supplies to prevent deterioration.

The intent of the report is to aid each Anchor Site in making informed decisions about their entire inventory based on the characteristics and conditions of the sampled items.

MSAAHC: Collections Management Manual

The Collection Management Manual details best practices for the development and management of an institution's collection, including documentation, conservation and care, accessioning and deaccessioning, related staff training, and resources for successful implementation and ongoing preservation. Each institution should prepare a unique collection policy for their site informed by their institution's vision, mission and goals. The development of the policy should include key members of the institution's board and staff. The intent of this Collection Management Manual is to serve as a long-term resource for institutions in the on-going care and preservation of their collections.

To conclude, this scope of work builds on prior development by the Corridor and the four Anchor Sites, including the MSAAHC Strategic Plan, Anchor sites' collections lists and databases, and the Michigan Street Historic Structure Report, among other research and planning documents and resources. The intent of this project's reports is to provide the Corridor and Anchor Sites with resources that can be implemented overtime to both manage and maintain collections, and provide site-specific stories related to the Corridor-wide interpretive themes.

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Michigan Street Baptist Church

Collection Sampling Inventory and Assessment

Site-specific Sampling Inventory, Assessment and Recommendations

An object sampling inventory was conducted in November 2023 of this site's objects. The sampling inventory details artifacts by type, condition, and location within the institution. The Sampling Inventory & Assessment addresses the RFP task of providing information on best practices for:

- object display techniques
- conditions assessment considerations
- methods for implementing proper storage, handling, climate control, and appropriate materials and supplies to prevent deterioration.

The intent of the report is to aid the anchor site in making informed decisions about the entire inventory based on the characteristics and conditions of the sampled items.

Collection Sampling Inventory and Assessment by Area within Anchor Site

Michigan Street Baptist Church Sampling Inventory		
Location: Basement		
Object Type	Examples	Condition Issues (if noted)
Books	Bible Hymnal books	
Furniture	9 Oak Pews 2 red upholstered arm chairs Empire style oak table Metal file cabinet	
Fine Art	Framed print signed Thorpe Framed print by Paul Collins	
Ephemera	Several copies of vintage Life Magazines Loose paper in file folders	
Musical Instrument	Organ Black Kawai grand piano	
Small Electronics	5 channel mixer Microphone Speakers	
Miscellaneous	Stained Glass Articles from an archeological dig near the church	

Example of Select Object Type with Condition Conservation Considerations



Stained glass windows

UV Damage: Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from sunlight can cause fading, discoloration, and deterioration of the pigments and materials used in stained glass windows. UV damage is cumulative and irreversible and can affect the vibrancy and clarity of the window's colors.

Regular Cleaning: Clean stained glass windows periodically to remove dust, dirt, and grime that can accumulate on the surface. Use a soft brush or lint-free cloth to gently wipe away debris, avoiding abrasive cleaners or harsh chemicals that can damage the glass or lead cames.

Michigan Street Baptist Church: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Books

Books: Display Considerations

Handle books with clean hands or gloves when arranging or dusting. Be mindful of the environment to ensure the long-term preservation of the collection.

Bookshelves:

Use well-constructed, sturdy bookshelves to display your collection. Adjustable shelves allow you to accommodate books of different sizes.

Organize by Theme or Size:

Arrange books on shelves based on a theme, author, genre, or size. This enhances the visual appeal and makes it easier to locate specific books.

Avoid Direct Sunlight:

Place bookshelves away from direct sunlight to prevent fading and damage to the book covers and pages. Consider having UV filter film on windows and use window coverings to control sunlight exposure.

Support Bookends:

Use decorative or functional bookends to keep books upright and prevent them from leaning. This helps maintain the integrity of the spines and overall appearance.

Use Book Stands:

Display particularly valuable or visually striking books on individual book stands. This allows you to showcase specific volumes while protecting them from potential damage.

Rotate Displays:

Rotate displayed books periodically to prevent prolonged exposure to light and dust. This also provides an opportunity to showcase different books and keeps the collection fresh.

Protective Covers:

Use clear, archival-quality dust jackets or covers to protect valuable books from dust and handling. These covers can be removed easily for reading while keeping the books in good condition.

Showcasing Spine and Cover Art:

Display books with visually appealing spines and cover art facing outwards. This can add aesthetic value to your bookshelves and allow you to appreciate the design of the books.

Display in Glass Cabinets:

To provide extra protection, display books in glass-fronted cabinets. This helps shield them from dust, light, and potential physical contact.

Create Groupings:

Arrange books in visually appealing groupings based on size, color, or theme. This can add a decorative element to your display.

Maintain a Controlled Environment:

Keep the display area at a controlled temperature and humidity level to prevent damage to the books. Avoid extreme fluctuations in these conditions.

Books: Condition Considerations**Foxing:**

Foxing refers to the development of brown or reddish-brown spots on the pages of a book. It is often caused by mold, mildew, or exposure to high humidity.

Mold and Mildew:

Damp and humid conditions can lead to the growth of mold and mildew, which can cause staining, discoloration, and deterioration of paper and bindings.

Brittle Pages:

Over time, paper can become brittle due to the breakdown of the cellulose fibers. This makes pages fragile and prone to tearing.

Yellowing or Browning:

Exposure to light, especially sunlight, can cause the paper in books to yellow or brown over time. This is often accelerated by the presence of acids in the paper.

Insect Damage:

Insects such as silverfish, bookworms, and beetles can damage books by feeding on paper, bindings, and dust jackets.

Spine Damage:

The spine of a book is particularly vulnerable to damage. Issues such as cracked spines, detached boards, or missing parts can occur due to age, improper handling, or poor binding.

Dust Jacket Damage:

Dust jackets are often fragile, and their edges can be easily damaged. Tears, creases, and missing portions are common issues.

Water Damage:

Exposure to water, whether through floods, leaks, or spills, can cause significant damage to books. Water can warp pages, stain covers, and promote mold growth.

Ink Fading or Bleeding:

Inks used in older books may fade or bleed over time, affecting the readability of the text.

Loose or Missing Pages:

Improper handling or binding issues can lead to pages becoming loose or falling out. In extreme cases, entire sections of a book may be missing.

Leather Deterioration:

Leather-bound books may experience deterioration, including cracking, peeling, or a loss of suppleness, especially if not properly cared for.

Acidic Paper:

Acidic paper can lead to the degradation of the book over time, causing brittleness and yellowing. This is a common issue in books produced before the widespread use of acid-free paper.

Books: Storage and Materials Guidance

Acid-Free Boxes:

Store books in acid-free boxes to protect them from dust, light, and physical damage. These boxes are made from materials that do not contain acids, preventing acid migration to the books.

Acid-Free Folders and Sleeves:

For individual items or documents within books, use acid-free folders or sleeves. These protect against direct contact with other materials and help prevent yellowing or deterioration.

Acid-Free Book Covers:

Transparent archival book covers made from acid-free materials provide an extra layer of protection for dust jackets and book covers. They shield against dust, light, and handling.

Archival-Quality Bookbinding Cloth:

When repairing or rebinding books, use archival-quality bookbinding cloth. This material is free from harmful acids and ensures durability without compromising the book's integrity.

Acid-Free Paper:

Interleave books with acid-free paper to protect pages from sticking together and to prevent acid migration. Acid-free paper is essential for long-term preservation.

Mylar or Polyester Film:

Use Mylar or polyester film for encapsulation or as protective covers for individual documents or entire books. These materials are stable, clear, and do not release harmful gases.

Cotton Gloves:

Wear clean cotton gloves when handling books to prevent oils and dirt from your hands transferring to the pages. This is especially important when dealing with rare or delicate materials.

Archival-Quality Adhesives:

If repairs are necessary, use archival-quality adhesives that are reversible and do not contain harmful substances. Avoid using regular glues or tapes.

Micro-Chamber Paper:

Micro-chamber paper contains zeolites that absorb pollutants and gases that might contribute to the deterioration of books. It is often used as interleaving material.

Archival-Quality Pens/Pencils:

Label books or write on archival-quality paper with pens or pencils that are free from acids. This helps prevent damage to the book or documents.

Storage in Archival-Quality Bookshelves:

Place books on sturdy, well-constructed bookshelves made from materials that do not emit harmful gases. Avoid shelves made from materials like particleboard that may contain acids.

Michigan Street Baptist Church: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Furniture

Furniture: Display Considerations

Display Pedestals:

Display pedestals come in various sizes and materials, such as wood, metal, or acrylic, and are used to elevate and showcase individual pieces of furniture. They provide a stable and visually appealing platform for displaying furniture in galleries or exhibition spaces.

Display Risers:

Risers are adjustable platforms or supports that can be used to elevate specific parts of furniture, such as legs or arms, to enhance visibility and highlight intricate details. They can be customized to accommodate different shapes and sizes of furniture.

Platform Trucks:

Platform trucks or dollies are used to transport and maneuver large or heavy pieces of furniture safely within museum galleries or storage facilities. They feature sturdy platforms and wheels for easy mobility without causing damage to the furniture.

Display Cases:

Display cases with glass or acrylic panels are used to protect and showcase delicate or valuable furniture pieces, such as miniatures or decorative objects. They provide a barrier against dust, light, and handling while allowing for clear visibility.

Lighting Fixtures:

Lighting fixtures, such as track lights or spotlights, are used to illuminate furniture displays and enhance their visual impact. Proper lighting helps highlight details, textures, and finishes while creating an inviting atmosphere for viewers.

Textile Supports:

Textile supports, such as padded cushions or fabric-covered mounts, are used to support and protect upholstered furniture pieces during display. They help distribute weight evenly and minimize stress on delicate upholstery materials.

Furniture: Condition Considerations

Surface Damage:

Scratches, dents, and gouges on the surface of furniture are common signs of wear and tear. These can detract from the appearance of the piece and may require repair or refinishing.

Structural Instability:

Weak joints, loose or missing hardware, and warped or split wood can compromise the structural integrity of furniture, making it unstable or unsafe to use.

Woodworm Damage:

Wood-boring insects such as beetles and termites can cause extensive damage to wooden furniture by burrowing into the wood and feeding on the cellulose fibers. This can result in holes, tunnels, and weakened structural components.

Wood Rot:

Exposure to moisture and humidity can cause wood to rot, leading to decay, mold growth, and structural weakness. Rot typically occurs in damp or poorly ventilated environments and can spread quickly if not addressed.

Finish Loss:

The loss of finish or surface coatings, such as varnish, lacquer, or paint, can leave furniture vulnerable to damage from moisture, stains, and UV radiation. This can result in discoloration, fading, and deterioration of the underlying wood.

Insect Infestation:

Furniture can be infested by a variety of insects, including beetles, moths, and carpet beetles, which feed on organic materials such as wood, upholstery, and textiles. Infestations can cause damage to the furniture's structure, finish, and upholstery materials.

Upholstery Damage:

Tears, rips, stains, and fading in upholstery fabrics and materials are common issues with upholstered furniture. This can detract from the appearance and comfort of the piece and may require repair or replacement.

Mechanical Damage:

Moving or handling furniture improperly can result in mechanical damage such as broken legs, loose joints, or bent hardware. This can affect the functionality and stability of the piece and may require repair or reinforcement.

Fading and Discoloration:

Exposure to sunlight and UV radiation can cause fading and discoloration of furniture finishes, upholstery fabrics, and wood surfaces. This can result in uneven coloration, loss of vibrancy, and deterioration of the materials over time.

Environmental Factors:

Fluctuations in temperature and humidity levels can cause wood to expand and contract, leading to warping, splitting, and distortion of furniture components. Exposure to high levels of humidity can also promote mold growth and decay in organic materials.

Furniture: Storage and Materials Considerations

Climate-Controlled Storage:

Museums typically store furniture in climate-controlled environments to maintain stable temperature and humidity levels. This helps prevent fluctuations that can lead to wood warping, mold growth, or other damage.

Custom Storage Racks: Custom-built storage racks are designed to safely support and store furniture pieces while minimizing the risk of damage. These racks can be adjustable to accommodate different sizes and shapes of furniture.

Padding and Cushioning:

Furniture is often wrapped or padded with archival-quality materials, such as acid-free tissue paper or polyethylene foam, to provide cushioning and protection during storage. This helps prevent scratches, dents, and other surface damage.

Vertical Storage:

Some furniture pieces, such as chairs or tables, are stored vertically to save space and minimize stress on joints and structural components. Custom racks or shelving units are designed to support furniture in an upright position securely.

Support Blocks and Spacers:

Support blocks and spacers are used to distribute weight evenly and prevent stress on delicate or fragile areas of furniture during storage. They help maintain structural integrity and minimize the risk of warping or distortion.

Protection from Light:

Store furniture away from direct sunlight and other sources of UV radiation to prevent fading, discoloration, and deterioration of finishes. Light-blocking covers or curtains may be used to further protect furniture from light exposure.

Regular Inspection and Maintenance:

Conduct regular inspections of stored furniture to check for signs of damage, pest infestation, or deterioration. Any necessary maintenance or conservation treatments are performed promptly to preserve the integrity of the furniture.

Pest Control Measures:

Implement pest control measures, such as regular cleaning, monitoring, and treatment with insecticides or fumigants, to prevent damage from pests such as insects or rodents. Keep storage areas clean and free of food sources that may attract pests.

Security Measures:

Furniture storage areas are equipped with security measures such as alarms, surveillance cameras, and restricted access controls to prevent theft or unauthorized handling of objects. Valuable or high-risk furniture pieces may be stored in locked cabinets or vaults for additional security.

Documentation and Inventory:

Maintain detailed documentation and inventory records of stored furniture, including photographs, descriptions, condition reports, and location data. This information helps track the whereabouts and condition of each piece and facilitates retrieval for exhibition or research purposes.

Michigan Street Baptist Church: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Fine Art

Fine Art: Display Considerations

Picture Rails:

Picture rails mounted on walls allow for flexible and secure hanging of artwork, mirrors, or decorative objects above furniture displays. They provide a versatile solution for showcasing complementary pieces without the need for additional holes or mounting hardware.

Art Hanging Systems:

Art hanging systems consist of rails, cables, and hooks designed to securely hang artwork or decorative elements above furniture displays. They offer flexibility in arranging and rearranging displays without damaging walls or furniture surfaces.

Adjustable Easels:

Adjustable easels are used to display smaller pieces of furniture, such as decorative screens or tabletop accessories, at optimal viewing angles. They can be adjusted to accommodate different heights and angles, allowing for versatile display options.

Fine Art: Condition Considerations

Dirt and Surface Soiling:

Accumulation of dirt, dust, and other pollutants on the surface of the artwork can obscure details, alter colors, and diminish the overall aesthetic appeal. Surface soiling can be particularly problematic for works with delicate or porous surfaces.

Fading and Discoloration:

Exposure to light, especially ultraviolet (UV) radiation, can cause fading and discoloration of pigments and dyes used in paintings, prints, photographs, and textiles. This can lead to changes in color intensity, loss of contrast, and overall degradation of the artwork's appearance.

Cracks and Flaking:

Paintings on canvas or panel may develop cracks or flaking due to fluctuations in temperature and humidity, improper handling, or inherent structural weaknesses. Cracks can compromise the integrity of the paint layer and lead to loss of pigment and support.

Tears and Rips:

Tears and rips in canvas paintings, paper-based artworks, and textiles can occur as a result of mishandling, improper storage, or accidents. These damages can be visually distracting and require careful repair by a professional conservator.

Mold and Mildew:

High humidity or moisture can promote the growth of mold and mildew on the surface of artworks, particularly those made from organic materials such as paper, wood, and textiles. Mold and mildew can cause staining, discoloration, and structural damage if left untreated.

Insect Infestation:

Insects such as beetles, moths, and silverfish can infest artworks made from organic materials such as wood, paper, textiles, and fur. Insect damage can include holes, feeding trails, and frass (insect waste), which can compromise the structural integrity of the artwork.

Foxing:

Foxing refers to the appearance of small brownish spots or stains on paper-based artworks caused by fungal growth or oxidation of impurities in the paper. Foxing can be difficult to remove and may require specialized treatment by a conservator.

Varnish Discoloration:

Varnishes applied to paintings as a protective coating can yellow, darken, or become cloudy over time due to aging or exposure to environmental pollutants. Discolored varnish can alter the appearance of the artwork and may need to be removed and replaced by a professional conservator.

Canvas Sagging and Stretcher Bar Issues:

Canvas paintings may sag or become loose on their stretcher bars over time due to changes in humidity or improper stretching techniques. Stretcher bars can also warp or become loose, affecting the tension and support of the canvas.

Loss of Original Materials:

Loss of original materials, such as paint, gesso, or substrate, can occur due to physical damage, chemical reactions, or inherent vice. Missing or damaged areas can compromise the integrity and authenticity of the artwork and may require careful restoration.

Fine Art: Storage and Materials Considerations

Climate-Controlled Environment:

Store fine art in a climate-controlled environment with stable temperature and humidity levels. Ideal conditions are around 65-70°F (18-21°C) and 40-50% relative humidity. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity can cause damage to artworks over time.

Archival-Quality Materials:

Use archival-quality materials for storage containers, packing materials, and display supports to ensure the preservation of fine art. Archival materials are acid-free, lignin-free, and pH-neutral, reducing the risk of deterioration and chemical reactions.

Custom Storage Solutions:

Design custom storage solutions tailored to the specific needs of each artwork, taking into account its size, medium, and fragility. Custom crates, boxes, or shelving units can provide optimal protection and support for artworks during storage.

Vertical Storage:

Store artworks vertically rather than horizontally to minimize stress on the support and prevent warping or bending. Use adjustable shelving or racks to accommodate artworks of different sizes and formats.

Padding and Cushioning:

Use archival-quality padding and cushioning materials such as acid-free tissue paper, foam, or bubble wrap to protect artworks from physical damage during storage. Wrap fragile or delicate artworks carefully to prevent scratches, tears, or abrasions.

Isolation from Harmful Elements:

Store artworks away from sources of light, heat, moisture, and pollutants that can cause damage over time. Keep artworks off the floor to protect them from water damage and pests, and use protective covers or enclosures as needed.

Proper Handling and Transport:

Handle and transport artworks with care to prevent damage from mishandling or accidents. Use gloves when handling delicate or sensitive materials, and support artworks from underneath to distribute weight evenly and prevent stress on the support.

Security Measures:

Implement security measures such as alarms, surveillance cameras, and restricted access controls to protect artworks from theft, vandalism, or unauthorized handling. Store valuable or high-risk artworks in secure locations or vaults for additional protection.

Regular Monitoring and Inspection:

Conduct regular monitoring and inspection of stored artworks to check for signs of damage, deterioration, or pest infestation. Address any issues promptly to prevent further damage and ensure the long-term preservation of the artworks.

Documentation and Inventory:

Maintain detailed documentation and inventory records of stored artworks, including photographs, descriptions, condition reports, and location data. This information helps track the whereabouts and condition of each artwork and facilitates retrieval for exhibition or research purposes.

Michigan Street Baptist Church: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Ephemera

Ephemera: Display Considerations

Ephemera are often paper-based, printed items, including such items as menus, ticket stubs, newspapers, postcards, posters, sheet music, stickers, and greeting cards. Because of the fragility of paper overtime, it is best to create replicas of the item for displays. The following are display considerations for replica ephemera:

Shadow Boxes:

Use shadow boxes to display ephemera collections in a three-dimensional format. Arrange items within the shadow box, layering them to add depth and visual interest. Shadow boxes protect items from dust and handling while allowing them to be easily viewed.

Bulletin Boards:

Pin or clip replica ephemera to a bulletin board for a casual and versatile display option. Bulletin boards can be easily customized to fit the size and shape of the items, and they allow for quick rearrangement and updating of the display.

Vintage Crates or Boxes:

Use vintage crates or boxes as display shelves for ephemera collections. Arrange items on the shelves, stacking them to create depth and visual interest. Vintage crates add rustic charm to the display while providing a unique backdrop for the items.

Floating Shelves:

Install floating shelves on a wall to create a minimalist and modern display for ephemera collections. Arrange items on the shelves in an organized manner, alternating between different sizes and types of items for visual contrast.

Photo Albums or Scrapbooks:

Create themed photo albums or scrapbooks to showcase ephemera collections in a cohesive and curated format. Arrange items chronologically or thematically, adding captions or annotations to provide context and information.

Hanging Mobiles:

Create hanging mobiles using wire, string, or dowels to suspend ephemera items in the air. Hang the mobiles from the ceiling or a wall-mounted hook to create an eye-catching display that adds movement and visual interest to the space.

Magnetic Boards:

Use magnetic boards or panels to display ephemera collections using magnets or magnetic clips. Arrange items on the board in a grid or collage format, layering them to create depth and texture.

Vintage Suitcases or Trunks:

Repurpose vintage suitcases or trunks as display cases for ephemera collections. Line the interior with fabric or padding and arrange items inside, stacking them to create a visually appealing arrangement. Vintage suitcases add character and charm to the display while providing a unique storage solution.

Ephemera: Condition Considerations

Fading and Discoloration:

Exposure to light, particularly ultraviolet (UV) radiation, can cause fading and discoloration of ephemera items. This can lead to changes in color intensity, loss of contrast, and overall degradation of the item's appearance.

Creases and Folds:

Folding or creasing of ephemera items, such as posters or pamphlets, can result in visible creases, wrinkles, and weakening of the paper. Creases can be particularly problematic for items that were originally intended to be flat or unfolded.

Tears and Rips:

Tears and rips in ephemera items can occur due to mishandling, improper storage, or accidents. Tears can compromise the integrity of the item and may require careful repair by a professional conservator.

Staining and Foxing:

Staining and foxing refer to the appearance of spots or stains on paper-based ephemera items caused by mold, mildew, or oxidation of impurities in the paper. Stains can be visually distracting and may require specialized treatment to remove.

Brittleness and Fragility:

Over time, paper-based ephemera items can become brittle and fragile, especially if exposed to high temperatures, low humidity, or acidic conditions. Brittle paper is prone to tearing and may require careful handling to prevent damage.

Adhesive Residue:

Adhesive residue from tape, glue, or stickers applied to ephemera items can cause staining, discoloration, and damage to the paper. Adhesive residue can be difficult to remove and may require specialized treatment by a professional conservator.

Insect Damage:

Insects such as beetles, moths, and silverfish can infest ephemera items made from organic materials such as paper or cardboard. Insect damage can include holes, feeding trails, and frass (insect waste), which can compromise the structural integrity of the item.

Water Damage:

Exposure to water or moisture can cause staining, warping, and mold growth on paper-based ephemera items. Water damage can be particularly problematic for items that were not originally intended to be water-resistant.

Loss of Original Features:

Loss of original features, such as text, images, or graphics, can occur due to damage, deterioration, or intentional alterations. Missing or damaged areas can compromise the integrity and authenticity of the item and may require careful restoration.

Handling and Storage Damage:

Improper handling and storage practices can contribute to damage and deterioration of ephemera items over time. Items that are mishandled, improperly stored, or exposed to harmful environmental conditions are at greater risk of damage and degradation.

Ephemera: Storage and Materials Considerations

Archival-Quality Storage Materials:

Use archival-quality storage materials such as acid-free folders, boxes, and sleeves to protect ephemera from deterioration caused by acidic materials. Archival-quality materials are pH-neutral and lignin-free, reducing the risk of damage to the items over time.

Flat Storage:

Store ephemera items flat rather than folded or rolled to minimize stress on the paper and prevent creasing, tearing, or warping. Use flat storage boxes or portfolios with acid-free interleaving paper to support and protect the items.

Individual Enclosures:

Store each ephemera item in its own protective enclosure, such as an acid-free sleeve or envelope, to prevent physical contact and minimize the risk of damage from handling, dust, and light exposure.

Climate-Controlled Environment:

Store ephemera in a climate-controlled environment with stable temperature and humidity levels to prevent damage from fluctuations in environmental conditions. Ideal conditions are around 65-70°F (18-21°C) and 40-50% relative humidity.

Dark Storage:

Store ephemera items in dark or low-light conditions to minimize exposure to light, particularly ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which can cause fading and discoloration over time. Use opaque storage containers or cabinets to protect items from light exposure.

Proper Handling Procedures:

Handle ephemera items with clean hands and avoid touching the surfaces of the items directly to prevent oils, dirt, and moisture from transferring to the paper. Use gloves or clean cotton gloves when handling delicate or valuable items.

Vertical Storage:

Store ephemera items vertically rather than horizontally to minimize stress on the paper and prevent creasing or bending. Use acid-free folders or boxes with dividers to support and organize items within storage containers.

Labeling and Cataloging:

Label and catalog ephemera items to facilitate identification, retrieval, and organization. Use archival-quality labels and markers to avoid damage to the items, and maintain detailed records of each item's provenance, condition, and storage location.

Regular Inspection and Maintenance:

Conduct regular inspections of stored ephemera items to check for signs of damage, deterioration, or pest infestation. Address any issues promptly to prevent further damage and ensure the long-term preservation of the items.

Security Measures:

Implement security measures such as locked storage cabinets, surveillance cameras, and restricted access controls to protect ephemera items from theft, vandalism, or unauthorized handling. Store valuable or high-risk items in secure locations or vaults for additional protection.

Michigan Street Baptist Church: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Musical Instruments

Musical Instruments: Display Considerations

Wood:

Wooden display stands or mounts are commonly used to support musical instruments such as stringed instruments (e.g., violins, guitars, lutes). Wood is chosen for its strength, stability, and natural appearance, which complements the instruments without detracting from their visual appeal.

Acrylic or Plexiglass:

Clear acrylic or plexiglass is often used to create custom display cases or stands for musical instruments. These materials provide visibility while offering protection from dust, light, and handling. Acrylic is lightweight, durable, and easy to shape, making it suitable for a variety of display applications.

Metal:

Metal display stands or mounts may be used for larger or heavier instruments, providing stability and support. Metals such as steel, aluminum, or brass are chosen for their strength, corrosion resistance, and aesthetic versatility.

Velvet or Felt:

Soft materials such as velvet or felt may be used as padding or lining for display cases or stands to protect delicate surfaces of musical instruments. These materials help prevent scratches, abrasions, and other damage during display and handling.

Leather:

Leather straps or harnesses may be used to secure musical instruments in place within display cases or stands. Leather is chosen for its durability, flexibility, and ability to conform to the shape of the instrument without causing damage.

Foam or Padding:

Foam inserts or padding may be used to cushion and support musical instruments within display cases or stands, providing protection against impacts and vibrations. Foam is lightweight, shock-absorbent, and can be customized to fit the contours of each instrument.

Glass:

Tempered glass or safety glass is commonly used for display cases or panels to provide visibility and protection for musical instruments. Glass panels may be treated to reduce glare and UV transmission, helping to preserve the instruments over time.

Fabric:

Fabric panels or backdrops may be used to create visually appealing displays for musical instruments. Fabrics such as velvet, silk, or brocade can enhance the aesthetic presentation while providing a soft background that complements the instruments.

Plastic:

Plastic components such as hooks, clips, or brackets may be used to secure musical instruments in place within display cases or stands. High-quality plastics are chosen for their durability, stability, and resistance to corrosion or degradation.

Museum-Grade Materials:

Museums often prioritize the use of archival-quality materials, including acid-free papers, adhesives, and coatings, to ensure the long-term preservation of musical instruments. These materials are chosen for their inertness, stability, and compatibility with conservation standards.

Musical Instruments: Condition Considerations

Cracks and Splits:

Wooden instruments such as guitars, violins, and woodwind instruments are susceptible to cracks and splits due to changes in temperature and humidity, impacts, or stress on the wood. Cracks can affect the structural integrity of the instrument and may worsen over time if left untreated.

Warped or Twisted Components:

Warping or twisting of wooden components, such as guitar necks, piano soundboards, or violin tops, can occur due to fluctuations in humidity or improper storage conditions. Warping can lead to tuning instability, buzzing, or loss of tone quality.

Loose Joints and Fittings:

Musical instruments with joints, hinges, or fittings, such as brass instruments, percussion instruments, or pianos, may develop looseness or play in these components over time. Loose joints can affect the instrument's performance, responsiveness, and overall stability.

Corrosion and Oxidation:

Metal components of musical instruments, including strings, keys, valves, and hardware, may experience corrosion or oxidation due to exposure to moisture, sweat, or environmental pollutants. Corrosion can affect the instrument's playability, tuning stability, and appearance.

Damage to Finish:

Surface damage to the finish of musical instruments, such as scratches, dents, or discoloration, can occur due to mishandling, impacts, or contact with abrasive materials. Damage to the finish can detract from the instrument's visual appeal and may require refinishing or repair.

Instrument Deformation:

Instrument deformation, such as bending, twisting, or sagging, can occur due to improper storage, handling, or environmental conditions. Deformation can affect the instrument's playability, intonation, and structural integrity.

Fret and Key Wear:

Frets on stringed instruments and keys on woodwind and brass instruments may experience wear and indentation over time due to contact with strings, fingers, or reeds. Wear can affect the instrument's playability, intonation, and response.

Internal Damage:

Internal components of musical instruments, such as braces, linings, or structural supports, may experience damage or deterioration due to age, humidity, or stress. Internal damage can affect the instrument's tone, resonance, and structural stability.

Pest Infestation:

Musical instruments made from organic materials such as wood, leather, or felt are susceptible to pest infestation by insects such as woodworms, termites, or carpet beetles. Pest infestation can cause structural damage, wood degradation, and loss of material integrity.

Environmental Damage:

Exposure to extreme temperatures, humidity, sunlight, or environmental pollutants can cause damage to musical instruments over time. Environmental damage can affect the instrument's materials, finishes, and overall condition.

Musical Instruments: Storage and Materials Considerations

General**Climate-Controlled Environment:**

Store musical instruments in a climate-controlled environment with stable temperature and humidity levels. Ideal conditions are around 65-75°F (18-24°C) and 40-50% relative humidity. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity can cause damage to instruments over time.

Instrument Cases:

Use instrument cases or gig bags to store individual instruments when not in use. Cases provide protection from dust, moisture, and physical damage during storage and transportation. Choose cases with padding, cushioning, and a snug fit to ensure proper protection.

Instrument Stands:

Use instrument stands or racks to store instruments that are frequently played or accessed. Stands keep instruments readily accessible while providing support and stability. Avoid storing instruments on stands in areas prone to temperature fluctuations or direct sunlight.

Wall Mounts:

Install wall mounts or hooks to store instruments vertically on walls, maximizing space and visibility. Wall mounts keep instruments off the floor and provide a secure and organized storage solution. Use padded mounts or hooks to prevent scratches or damage to instruments.

Instrument Hangers:

Use instrument hangers or hooks to hang stringed instruments, such as guitars, violins, or ukuleles, on walls or ceilings. Hangers keep instruments securely suspended while minimizing contact with surfaces. Ensure that hangers are installed securely to support the weight of the instrument.

Instrument Racks:

Use instrument racks or shelving units to store multiple instruments in a compact and organized manner. Racks provide dedicated storage space for instruments of different sizes and types, keeping them separated and protected from damage.

Vertical Storage:

Store instruments vertically whenever possible to minimize stress on necks, strings, or other vulnerable components. Use adjustable shelving or racks to accommodate instruments of varying sizes and shapes. Avoid stacking instruments on top of each other to prevent damage.

Humidifiers and Dehumidifiers:

Use humidifiers or dehumidifiers to maintain stable humidity levels in storage areas, especially in regions with extreme climate conditions. Humidifiers add moisture to the air in dry environments, while dehumidifiers remove excess moisture in humid environments.

Protective Covers:

Use protective covers or cloth wraps to cover instruments when not in use, providing an additional layer of protection from dust, sunlight, and airborne pollutants. Choose breathable materials that allow air circulation to prevent moisture buildup.

Regular Inspection and Maintenance:

Conduct regular inspections of stored instruments to check for signs of damage, deterioration, or pest infestation. Address any issues promptly, and perform routine maintenance tasks such as cleaning, lubricating, and tuning to keep instruments in optimal condition.

Piano Storage**Climate-controlled environment:**

The most important factor in piano storage is maintaining a consistent temperature and humidity level. Extremes in either can damage the wood and other components. Aim for a room with a stable temperature between 60-70°F (15-21°C) and humidity around 40-45%.

Avoid direct sunlight:

Keep the piano away from windows or areas where it might be exposed to direct sunlight, as UV rays can fade the finish and cause damage to the internal components.

Cover the piano:

Use a cover or cloth to protect the piano from dust, dirt, and scratches. Make sure the cover is breathable to prevent moisture buildup.

Keep it away from heaters and air conditioners:

Placing the piano near heating or cooling vents can subject it to temperature fluctuations and uneven drying, which can harm the wood and tuning stability.

Elevate the piano:

Store the piano on a platform or dolly to keep it off the ground. This helps prevent moisture from seeping into the piano and protects it from potential flooding.

Maintain proper humidity levels:

Consider using a piano dehumidifier or humidifier, especially in areas with extreme weather conditions. These devices help regulate humidity levels, preventing damage from dryness or excessive moisture.

Tune the piano before storage:

It's a good idea to have the piano tuned before storing it. This ensures that it's in good condition when it's brought out of storage.

Regular maintenance:

Even when stored, pianos need some level of maintenance. This includes occasional inspections for pests, checking humidity levels, and ensuring the cover is intact.

Professional storage:

If you're storing the piano for an extended period or if you're unsure about maintaining it yourself, consider professional storage services. These facilities often provide climate-controlled environments and regular maintenance.

Avoid drastic changes:

When moving the piano into or out of storage, try to avoid sudden temperature or humidity changes. Let the piano acclimate gradually to its new environment.

Organ storage**Climate-controlled environment:**

Like pianos, organs should be stored in a stable environment with controlled temperature and humidity. Aim for a room with a temperature between 60-70°F (15-21°C) and humidity around 40-45%. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity can damage the wood and metal components of the organ.

Cover and protect:

Cover the organ with a breathable cloth or tarp to protect it from dust, dirt, and potential scratches. Ensure that the cover doesn't trap moisture, as this can lead to mold or mildew growth.

Keep it away from direct sunlight and moisture sources:

Avoid placing the organ near windows or in areas prone to moisture, such as basements or near leaky pipes. Exposure to sunlight can cause fading and damage to the finish, while moisture can lead to warping and corrosion.

Elevate the organ:

Store the organ on a raised platform or pallets to keep it off the ground. This prevents moisture absorption and protects it from potential flooding.

Disassemble if necessary:

If the organ is being stored for an extended period or if space is limited, consider disassembling it into smaller, manageable parts. Label and store each part carefully to ensure easy reassembly later.

Protect pipes and fragile components:

If the organ has exposed pipes or delicate components, wrap them in bubble wrap or foam padding to prevent damage during storage and transportation.

Regular maintenance:

Before storing the organ, ensure it is properly maintained. Clean any dust or debris, and check for any signs of damage. It's also a good idea to tune the organ before storage.

Professional storage:

If possible, consider professional storage services that specialize in musical instruments, especially for larger organs. These facilities often provide climate-controlled environments and specialized equipment for safe storage.

Secure the space:

Ensure that the storage area is secure and protected from potential theft or vandalism. Lock the doors and consider installing security cameras if necessary.

Regular inspections:

Even when in storage, it's essential to periodically check on the organ. Inspect for pests, mold, or any signs of damage. If any issues are found, address them promptly to prevent further damage.

Michigan Street Baptist Church: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Small Electronics

Small Electronics: Display Considerations

Wall-Mounted Display Cases:

Install wall-mounted display cases with glass fronts to showcase small electronics in a secure and visually appealing way. These cases can be illuminated with LED lights to highlight the devices.

Themed Display Areas:

Create themed display areas dedicated to specific types of small electronics. Use themed signage to enhance and provide interpretive information.

Digital Interactives:

Use touchscreen interactives where visitors can explore information more deeply.

Demonstrations:

Host live demonstrations or workshops to showcase the capabilities of small electronics in action.

Transparent Display Cases:

Use transparent acrylic or glass display cases to showcase small electronics while keeping them protected from dust and handling. These cases provide a clear view of the devices and can be customized with branding or product information.

Small electronics: Condition Considerations

Screen Damage:

Screens on devices such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops and other electronics are prone to scratches, cracks, and other damage from impacts, pressure, or abrasive materials.

Battery Degradation:

Small electronics with rechargeable batteries may experience degradation over time, leading to reduced battery life, poor performance, or issues with charging.

Water Damage:

Exposure to water or moisture can cause corrosion, short circuits, and malfunctioning in small electronics. Water damage is a common issue with smartphones, smartwatches, and other portable devices.

Dust and Debris Accumulation:

Dust, dirt, and debris can accumulate inside small electronics, obstructing airflow, and causing overheating or mechanical issues.

Component Failure:

Components such as microchips, capacitors, and connectors can fail due to manufacturing defects, wear and tear, or environmental factors, resulting in device malfunction or failure.

Software Malfunctions:

Software issues such as glitches, freezes, crashes, or compatibility problems can affect the performance and usability of small electronics, requiring troubleshooting or software updates.

Physical Wear and Tear:

Small electronics may exhibit signs of physical wear and tear over time, including scuffs, dents, worn buttons or switches, and faded or peeling paint or coatings.

Exposure to Extreme Temperatures:

Exposure to extreme temperatures, both hot and cold, can damage small electronics by causing thermal expansion, contraction, or internal component damage.

Electrostatic Discharge (ESD):

Electrostatic discharge from handling or static electricity can damage sensitive electronic components, leading to device malfunction or failure.

Environmental Factors:

Environmental factors such as humidity, dust, sunlight, and pollutants can affect the condition of small electronics, leading to corrosion, discoloration, or deterioration of materials.

Small Electronics: Storage and Materials Guidance

Original Packaging:

Whenever possible, store small electronics in their original packaging, as it is designed to provide protection during storage and transportation. Original packaging often includes custom-fit inserts and padding to cushion the device and prevent damage.

Protective Cases:

Use protective cases or sleeves specifically designed for each type of small electronic device, such as smartphones, tablets, or laptops. These cases provide shock absorption, impact resistance, and protection from scratches, dust, and debris.

Dedicated Storage Containers:

Use dedicated storage containers, such as bins, boxes, or drawers, to organize and store small electronics. Choose containers with dividers, compartments, or customizable inserts to keep devices separated and prevent them from shifting or bumping into each other.

Cable Management Solutions:

Use cable organizers, cable ties, or cable management sleeves to keep charging cables, power cords, and other accessories neatly organized and tangle-free. This helps prevent damage to cables and makes it easier to locate specific accessories when needed.

Shelving Units:

Install shelving units or racks with adjustable shelves to store small electronics vertically, maximizing space and visibility. Use clear storage bins or baskets to corral smaller items and keep them organized within the shelves.

Climate-Controlled Storage:

Store small electronics in a climate-controlled environment with stable temperature and humidity levels to prevent damage from fluctuations in environmental conditions. Avoid

storing devices in areas prone to extreme temperatures, moisture, or humidity, such as basements or attics.

Dust Covers:

Use dust covers or dust-resistant cases to protect small electronics from dust, lint, and other airborne particles. Dust covers can be made from breathable fabric or clear plastic and should fit snugly over the device to provide full coverage.

Labeling and Organization:

Label storage containers, shelves, or drawers to clearly identify the contents and facilitate easy retrieval of specific devices or accessories. Use color-coded labels or tags to categorize items by type, brand, or usage.

Secure Storage:

Store valuable or sensitive small electronics in secure storage locations, such as locked cabinets, drawers, or safes, to prevent theft, tampering, or unauthorized access. Use digital locks or security systems for added protection.

Regular Maintenance:

Perform regular maintenance tasks, such as cleaning, inspecting, and updating software, to ensure the optimal condition and functionality of stored small electronics. Remove dust and debris from devices, check for signs of wear or damage, and install software updates as needed.

Michigan Street Baptist Church: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Stain Glass Windows

Stained Glass Windows: Condition Considerations

Cracked or Broken Glass:

Cracks or breaks in the glass can occur due to physical impact, structural stress, or temperature fluctuations. Cracks may propagate over time and compromise the stability of the entire window.

Missing or Lost Pieces:

Sections of stained glass may be missing or lost due to damage, deterioration, or vandalism. Missing pieces can disrupt the design and coherence of the window and may require careful restoration or replication.

Deterioration of Lead Comes:

Lead comes, the metal strips that hold individual glass pieces together, can deteriorate over time due to corrosion, fatigue, or environmental exposure. Deteriorated lead comes can weaken the structural integrity of the window and lead to glass displacement or breakage.

Sagging or Bowing Panels:

Stained glass panels may sag or bow due to structural stress, inadequate support, or improper installation. Sagging panels can cause uneven distribution of weight and stress on the glass and lead comes, leading to further damage or deformation.

Water Damage:

Moisture infiltration through cracks, gaps, or deteriorated seals can cause water damage to stained glass windows. Water damage can result in staining, discoloration, and deterioration of the glass, lead comes, and supporting structure.

Loss of Paint and Enamel:

Painted or enameled details on stained glass windows can deteriorate or flake off over time due to exposure to light, pollutants, or physical wear. Loss of paint or enamel can diminish the visual impact and legibility of the window's design.

Biological Growth:

Biological growth such as mold, mildew, or lichen can develop on the surface of stained glass windows, particularly in humid or damp environments. Biological growth can cause staining, discoloration, and degradation of the glass and lead comes.

UV Damage:

Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from sunlight can cause fading, discoloration, and deterioration of the pigments and materials used in stained glass windows. UV damage is cumulative and irreversible and can affect the vibrancy and clarity of the window's colors.

Structural Instability:

Poorly supported or inadequately reinforced stained glass windows may experience structural instability over time. Structural instability can result in shifting, bowing, or buckling of the window, increasing the risk of breakage or collapse.

Vandalism and Theft:

Stained glass windows are vulnerable to vandalism, graffiti, or theft, particularly in public or accessible locations. Vandalism can cause irreparable damage to the glass and lead comes, requiring extensive restoration or replacement.

Stained Glass Windows: Care and Maintenance Considerations

Regular Cleaning:

Clean stained glass windows periodically to remove dust, dirt, and grime that can accumulate on the surface. Use a soft brush or lint-free cloth to gently wipe away debris, avoiding abrasive cleaners or harsh chemicals that can damage the glass or lead comes.

Avoid Direct Sunlight:

Limit exposure to direct sunlight, especially during peak hours, to reduce the risk of UV damage and fading of colors in the stained glass. Install UV-filtering window films or protective glazing to block harmful UV radiation while still allowing natural light to illuminate the window.

Monitor Humidity Levels:

Maintain stable humidity levels in the environment surrounding stained glass windows to prevent condensation, moisture infiltration, and mold growth. Use dehumidifiers or humidifiers as needed to regulate indoor humidity levels within the recommended range of 40-60%.

Inspect for Damage:

Regularly inspect stained glass windows for signs of damage, deterioration, or structural instability, such as cracks, breaks, sagging panels, or loose lead comes. Address any issues promptly to prevent further damage and deterioration.

Protective Coverings:

Install protective coverings or screens on the exterior of stained glass windows to shield them from environmental elements, such as wind-blown debris, hail, or bird droppings. Protective coverings can help prevent physical damage and reduce the need for frequent cleaning and maintenance.

Reinforce Structural Support:

Ensure that stained glass windows are adequately supported and reinforced to prevent sagging, bowing, or shifting of panels over time. Reinforce structural elements such as frames, mullions, and support bars to distribute weight evenly and reduce stress on the glass and lead comes.

Pest Prevention:

Implement measures to prevent pest infestations by sealing gaps, cracks, or openings around stained glass windows that may provide access points for insects or rodents. Use insect screens, traps, or repellents as needed to deter pests from nesting or feeding on the window's materials.

Conservation Treatments:

Consult with qualified conservators or restoration specialists to perform conservation treatments as needed to stabilize, repair, or restore stained glass windows. Conservation treatments may include cleaning, repairing damaged glass or lead comes, and applying protective coatings or consolidants to prevent further deterioration.

Document and Record:

Maintain detailed records and documentation of the history, condition, and maintenance of stained glass windows, including photographs, drawings, and written descriptions. Keep records of any conservation treatments or repairs performed to track changes in condition over time.

Educate and Engage:

Educate stakeholders, caretakers, and visitors about the significance, history, and care of stained-glass windows through educational programs, signage, or guided tours.

Michigan Street Baptist Church: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Blueprints

Blueprints: Display Considerations

Framed Displays:

Blueprints can be framed behind glass, providing protection while allowing visitors to view them up close.

Wall-mounted Displays:

Blueprints may be mounted directly onto walls using clips or other mounting systems, allowing for easy viewing without taking up floor space.

Interactive Touchscreens:

Some museums utilize touchscreen displays where visitors can digitally explore blueprints, zoom in on details, and learn more about the structures.

Projection Mapping:

Using advanced technology, museums can project blueprints onto large screens or even onto the walls or floors of exhibit spaces, providing an immersive experience.

Digital Displays:

Blueprints can be displayed digitally on monitors or screens, rotating through different designs or providing detailed explanations alongside the images.

Scale Models:

Museums often accompany blueprints with scale models of buildings or structures, offering a tangible representation of the design.

Overlay Displays:

Transparent overlays can be placed on top of blueprints, highlighting different features or changes over time.

Rotating Exhibits:

Museums may rotate blueprints on display periodically, offering visitors a chance to see different designs or historical documents.

Interactive Workstations:

Some museums provide interactive workstations where visitors can explore digital archives of blueprints, allowing for deeper engagement and research.

Themed Exhibits:

Blueprints may be incorporated into themed exhibits, such as architecture retrospectives or exhibitions focused on specific architects or engineering feats.

Blueprints: Condition Considerations

Fading:

Over time, exposure to light and environmental factors can cause blueprints to fade, making the lines and details less visible.

Brittleness:

Older blueprints may become brittle due to degradation of the paper or other materials, increasing the risk of tearing or crumbling.

Tears and Rips:

Improper handling or storage can lead to tears and rips in blueprints, particularly along folds or creases.

Staining:

Water damage, mold, or exposure to contaminants can cause staining on blueprints, obscuring important details and affecting legibility.

Foxing:

Foxing refers to the appearance of brownish spots or stains caused by mold or fungal growth, which can degrade the paper and compromise the integrity of the blueprint.

Creases and Folds:

Folding and unfolding blueprints repeatedly can cause creases and folds, weakening the paper and increasing the risk of tears.

Insect Damage:

Insects such as silverfish or booklice may feed on paper materials, leading to holes, nibbled edges, or other damage to blueprints.

Acidic Paper:

Blueprints printed on acidic paper may suffer from acid migration, which can cause yellowing, embrittlement, and degradation over time.

Ink Fading or Bleeding:

Poor-quality ink or exposure to moisture can cause ink on blueprints to fade or bleed, making the lines and text less legible.

Mold and Mildew:

High humidity levels or improper storage conditions can promote the growth of mold and mildew on blueprints, posing health risks and causing damage to the paper.

Blueprints: Storage and Material Guidance

Flat Storage:

Lay blueprints flat to prevent creasing and distortion of the paper. Use acid-free folders or archival-quality sleeves to protect them from dust and light.

Vertical Storage in Tubes:

Roll blueprints tightly and store them vertically in acid-free cardboard tubes. Label the tubes clearly to identify the contents and keep them in a cool, dry environment to prevent damage.

Flat File Cabinets:

Store blueprints in flat file cabinets designed specifically for large-format documents. Use acid-free folders or sleeves within the drawers to organize and protect the blueprints from damage.

Plan Racks:

Install plan racks or drawing stands designed for large-format documents. These racks allow blueprints to be stored vertically, keeping them organized and easily accessible.

Hanging Storage:

Hang blueprints using specialized racks or hangers designed for architectural drawings. Ensure the hangers provide adequate support to prevent creasing or tearing.

Archival Boxes:

Store blueprints in archival-quality boxes made from acid-free materials. Place interleaving sheets between each blueprint to prevent them from sticking together or transferring ink.

Climate-Controlled Environments:

Store blueprints in climate-controlled rooms or storage facilities with stable temperature and humidity levels. Extreme fluctuations in temperature and humidity can accelerate deterioration.

Digital Archives:

Create digital scans or photographs of blueprints and store them in electronic archives. Digital storage provides easy access and reduces the need for handling fragile originals.

Remote Storage Facilities:

Utilize off-site storage facilities equipped with climate control and security measures to store blueprints safely. Ensure proper labeling and documentation for easy retrieval when needed.

Conservation Treatment:

If blueprints are fragile or damaged, consider consulting a professional conservator for conservation treatment. This may include repair, cleaning, and stabilization to ensure long-term preservation.

Michigan Street Baptist Church: Display, Condition, Storage Guidance

Object Type: Textile

Textile: Display Considerations

Hanging:

Textiles such as tapestries, quilts, and clothing are often displayed by hanging them from rods or hooks. This method allows viewers to see the full extent of the textile while minimizing handling and stress on the fabric.

Mounting:

Mounting textiles onto rigid backing boards or panels provides support and stability for display. Use conservation-grade materials and techniques to ensure the long-term preservation of the textiles.

Frames and Cases:

Some smaller textiles, such as embroidered samplers or handkerchiefs, are displayed in frames or exhibition cases. This protects them from dust, light, and handling while allowing viewers to see them up close.

Mannequins:

Clothing and costumes are often displayed on mannequins to convey their original shape and form. Use specially designed mannequins and supports to ensure proper support and fit without causing damage to the textiles.

Flatbed Display Cases:

Flatbed display cases with adjustable covers are used to showcase delicate textiles, such as fragile textiles or those with intricate surface details. Covers protect the textiles while allowing them to be viewed without direct handling.

Rotating Displays:

Rotate displays of textiles to showcase different pieces from the collection and to help preserve the textile.

Interactive Displays:

Use interactive displays or touchscreen interfaces to engage visitors with textiles. This can include virtual exhibitions, digital archives, or interactive educational content related to the textiles on display.

Textile: Condition Considerations

Fading and Discoloration:

Exposure to light, especially sunlight, can lead to fading and discoloration of textiles. This is a common issue for items displayed in open areas without UV protection.

Staining:

Stains can result from exposure to liquids, food, or environmental pollutants. Some stains may be challenging to remove, and improper cleaning methods can exacerbate the problem.

Mold and Mildew:

High humidity and poor ventilation can contribute to the growth of mold and mildew on textiles. These biological agents can cause discoloration, weakening of fibers, and an unpleasant musty odor.

Insect Infestation:

Insects, such as moths and carpet beetles, can damage textiles by feeding on natural fibers. Larvae can leave behind holes and silk webbing, leading to irreversible damage.

Tears and Rips:

Wear and tear, as well as improper handling, can result in tears and rips in textile materials. These issues may compromise the structural integrity and aesthetics of the textile.

Fraying and Loss of Fibers:

Over time, fibers in textiles can become weak, leading to fraying and the loss of fibers. This is particularly common in areas that experience frequent friction or stress.

Weak or Damaged Seams:

Seams can weaken over time, leading to structural issues in garments or textiles with stitched components. This can result in the unraveling of seams and the overall deterioration of the textile.

Shrinkage:

Exposure to moisture or improper cleaning methods can cause textiles to shrink. This is especially problematic for items that have not been pre-shrunk or for delicate fabrics.

Chemical Deterioration:

Exposure to pollutants, chemicals, and airborne contaminants can contribute to the deterioration of textiles. This can manifest as changes in color, texture, or strength.

Creasing and Folding Damage:

Prolonged folding or creasing can cause permanent damage to textiles, resulting in creases that are difficult to remove. Improper storage can contribute to this issue.

Loss of Elasticity:

Elastic fibers in textiles, such as spandex or rubber, can lose their elasticity over time. This is common in undergarments and stretch fabrics.

Tape Residue:

Previous repairs or the use of adhesive tapes can leave residue on textiles, which may be challenging to remove without causing further damage.

Loss of Original Finish:

Certain textiles, especially those with special finishes or coatings, may experience a loss of their original finish over time. This can affect the appearance and protective qualities of the material.

Environmental Factors:

Fluctuations in temperature and humidity levels can contribute to the deterioration of textiles. Extreme conditions may accelerate the aging process and cause irreversible damage.

Textile: Storage and Materials Guidance

Conserving textiles involves proper storage, handling, and, in some cases, professional intervention. By addressing these conservation issues and adopting proper care practices, you can extend the lifespan of textiles and preserve their cultural, historical, or personal significance. Here are some conservation practices for textiles:

Proper Cleaning:

Clean textiles using appropriate methods, avoiding harsh chemicals and aggressive washing. Consult with a conservator for delicate items.

Storage in Controlled Environments:

Store textiles in a controlled environment with stable temperature and humidity levels. Use archival-quality materials for packaging and storage.

Pest Prevention:

Implement preventive measures to protect textiles from insect infestations. This may include regular inspection, proper storage, and, if necessary, the use of insect-repelling materials.

Gentle Handling:

Handle textiles with care, especially fragile or delicate items. Use supports when moving or displaying textiles to minimize stress on fibers and seams. **Avoid Sunlight Exposure:** Minimize exposure to direct sunlight to prevent fading and discoloration. Use UV-filtering materials for display cases or curtains.

Regular Inspection:

Conduct regular inspections of textiles to identify issues early. Address any signs of damage promptly to prevent further deterioration.

Conservation and Restoration:

Consult with professional conservators for the conservation and restoration of valuable or historically significant textiles. They can provide expertise in handling and treating specific issues.

Cotton Garment Bags:

Cotton garment bags are breathable and provide protection against dust and light. They are suitable for long-term storage and can be used for hanging garments.

Moth-Proof Garment Bags:

Garment bags with moth-proof features provide an additional layer of protection against moth damage. Look for bags with integrated moth repellents or use separate moth deterrents like sachets.

Acid-Free Boxes:

Acid-free boxes are suitable for folded items or accessories. These boxes help prevent acid migration, which can lead to yellowing and deterioration of textiles. Use archival-quality boxes for long-term storage.

Plastic Storage Bins with Lids:

While acid-free boxes are most suitable for textiles, if conditions necessitate, plastic storage bins with secure lids can be used to protect textile objects from dust and pests. If used, opt for bins made from polypropylene or polyethylene, as they are less likely to release harmful chemicals.

Muslin Cloth Bags:

Muslin cloth bags provide a breathable and dust-resistant storage option. They are suitable for items that need protection but still require air circulation.

Hanging Wardrobe Storage:

Hanging wardrobe storage units with shelves and compartments are ideal for organizing and protecting clothes. They often come with zippered covers for added protection.

Drawer Liners:

Line drawers with acid-free or cedar drawer liners to create a protected environment for clothes. Make sure the liners are clean and free from contaminants.

Silk and Satin Garment Bags:

Silk and satin garment bags are suitable for delicate items like evening gowns or formal wear. They offer a smooth and protective surface that minimizes friction.

Canvas Storage Bags:

Canvas storage bags are sturdy and breathable, making them suitable for long-term storage. They often come with zippers and handles for easy access.

Wardrobe Boxes:

Wardrobe boxes are tall boxes with a hanging bar, allowing you to store clothes on hangers. They are suitable for short-term storage during moves or renovations.

Fabric Storage Baskets:

Fabric storage baskets are suitable for organizing smaller items like scarves, gloves, or accessories. Opt for baskets made from breathable and non-reactive materials.

TYVEK Rolls:

Protective lining for artwork, textiles and fragile valuables.

UV-Filtered Containers:

If storing clothes in an area with exposure to sunlight, use containers with UV filters to protect fabrics from fading and discoloration.

Remember these general tips when storing clothes:

- Clean garments before storage to prevent stains and odors.
- Avoid plastic bags for long-term storage, as they can trap moisture.
- Store clothes in a cool, dark, and dry environment.
- Check stored items periodically for signs of pests or damage.

Ultimately, the choice of container depends on the type of clothing, the storage duration, and the specific conservation needs of the items.