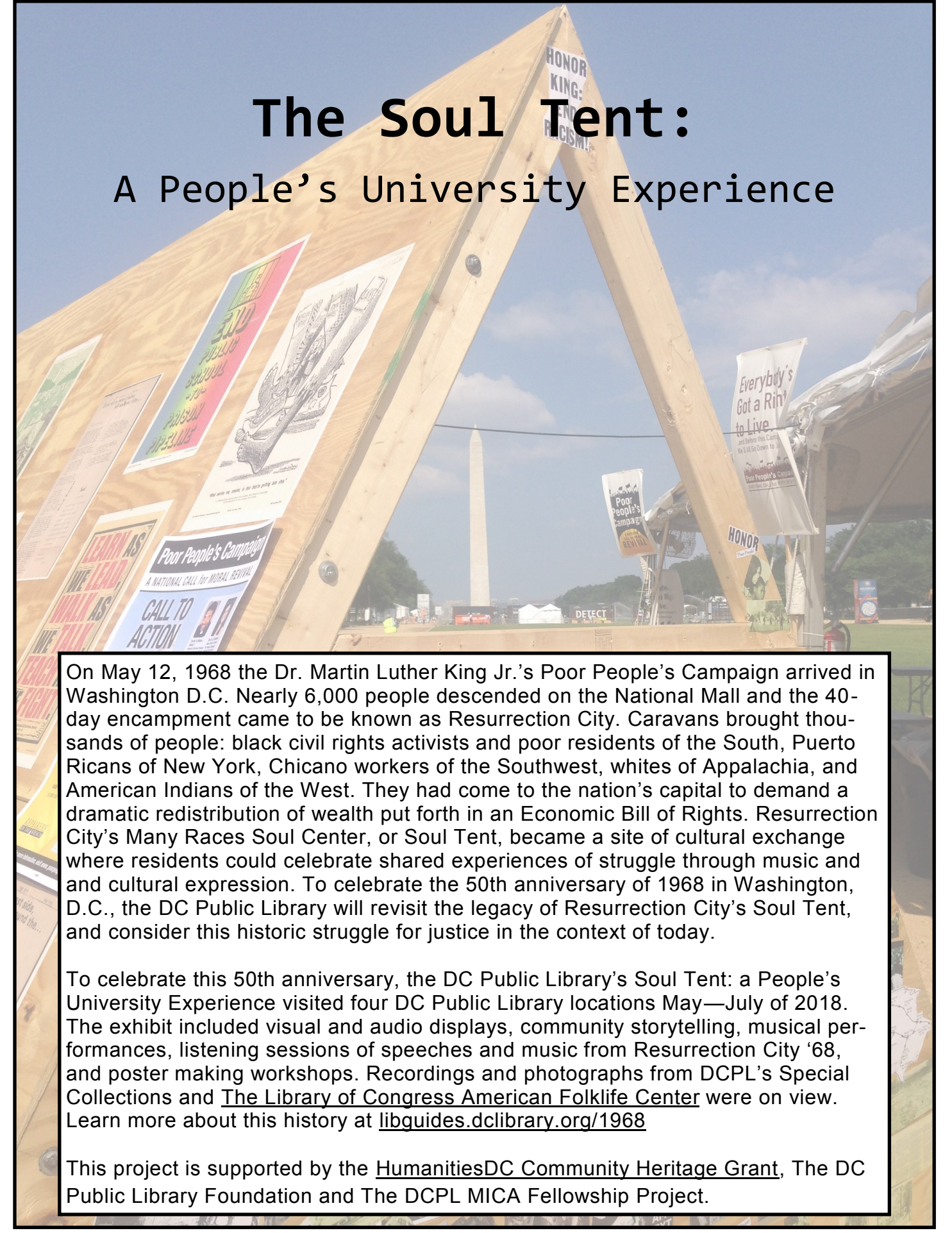




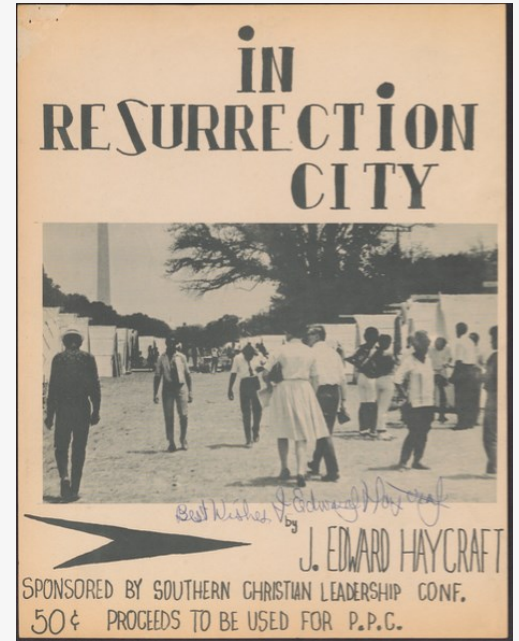
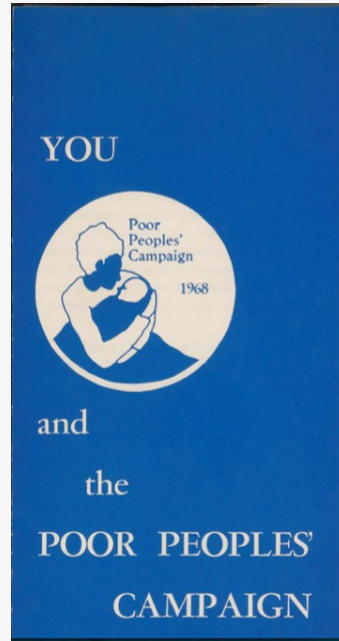
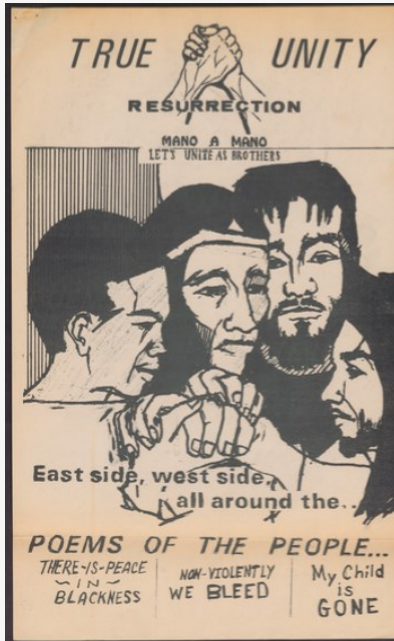
The Soul Tent:

A People's University Experience

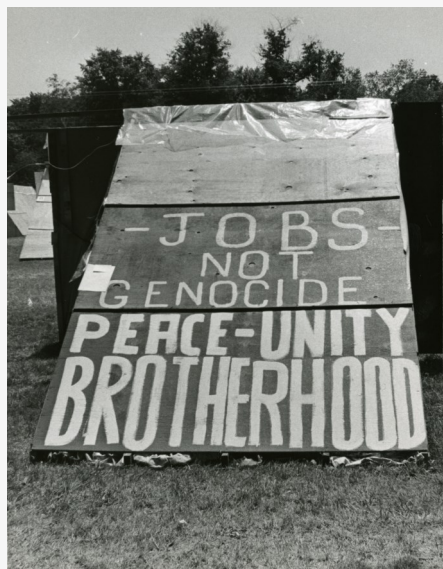
On May 12, 1968 the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign arrived in Washington D.C. Nearly 6,000 people descended on the National Mall and the 40-day encampment came to be known as Resurrection City. Caravans brought thousands of people: black civil rights activists and poor residents of the South, Puerto Ricans of New York, Chicano workers of the Southwest, whites of Appalachia, and American Indians of the West. They had come to the nation's capital to demand a dramatic redistribution of wealth put forth in an Economic Bill of Rights. Resurrection City's Many Races Soul Center, or Soul Tent, became a site of cultural exchange where residents could celebrate shared experiences of struggle through music and cultural expression. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of 1968 in Washington, D.C., the DC Public Library will revisit the legacy of Resurrection City's Soul Tent, and consider this historic struggle for justice in the context of today.

To celebrate this 50th anniversary, the DC Public Library's Soul Tent: a People's University Experience visited four DC Public Library locations May—July of 2018. The exhibit included visual and audio displays, community storytelling, musical performances, listening sessions of speeches and music from Resurrection City '68, and poster making workshops. Recordings and photographs from DCPL's Special Collections and The Library of Congress American Folklife Center were on view. Learn more about this history at libguides.dclibrary.org/1968

This project is supported by the HumanitiesDC Community Heritage Grant, The DC Public Library Foundation and The DCPL MICA Fellowship Project.



The idea to create an exhibit to celebrate the lesser known history of 1968's Poor People's Campaign was rooted in the need to promote DCPL's Poor People's Campaign Collection, being digitized for the first time during the 50th anniversary year. Libraries and archives are continually generating new ways to display and make accessible the incredible content within these institutions, so the Soul Tent project became another example of the unique creative approach. The Poor People's Campaign Collection is now available on digdc.dclibrary.org.

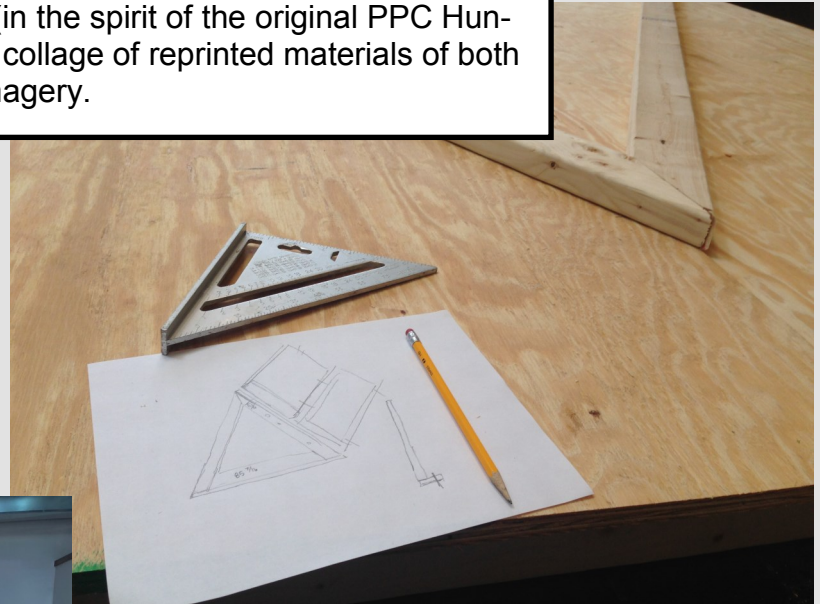


The Structure of DCPL's Soul Tent :

The Soul Tent is a moveable plywood, open wall structure symbolic of the A-frames utilized for residents of resurrection city, originally designed by a team of architects led by John Wiebeson.

Inside are speakers and headphones for audio, a screen for images and video and a small library of books relating to Resurrection City and The Poor People's Campaign. There were usually free Peoples University Hunger Wall Posters.

The exterior was wheat pasted with Just Seeds posters, posters from the Hunger Wall poster project and reprints from DC Public Library's Poor Peoples Campaign Collection. One side has a chalk wall for people to leave their thoughts and comments (in the spirit of the original PPC Hunger Wall) and the opposite side is a collage of reprinted materials of both PPC and other protest movement imagery.



The Soul Tent visited four DC Public Library Locations, and partnered with other events and organizations.

It's debut was May 12, 2018 at the Funk Parade on U St.

It then traveled to:

The Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Library

The Anacostia Neighborhood Library

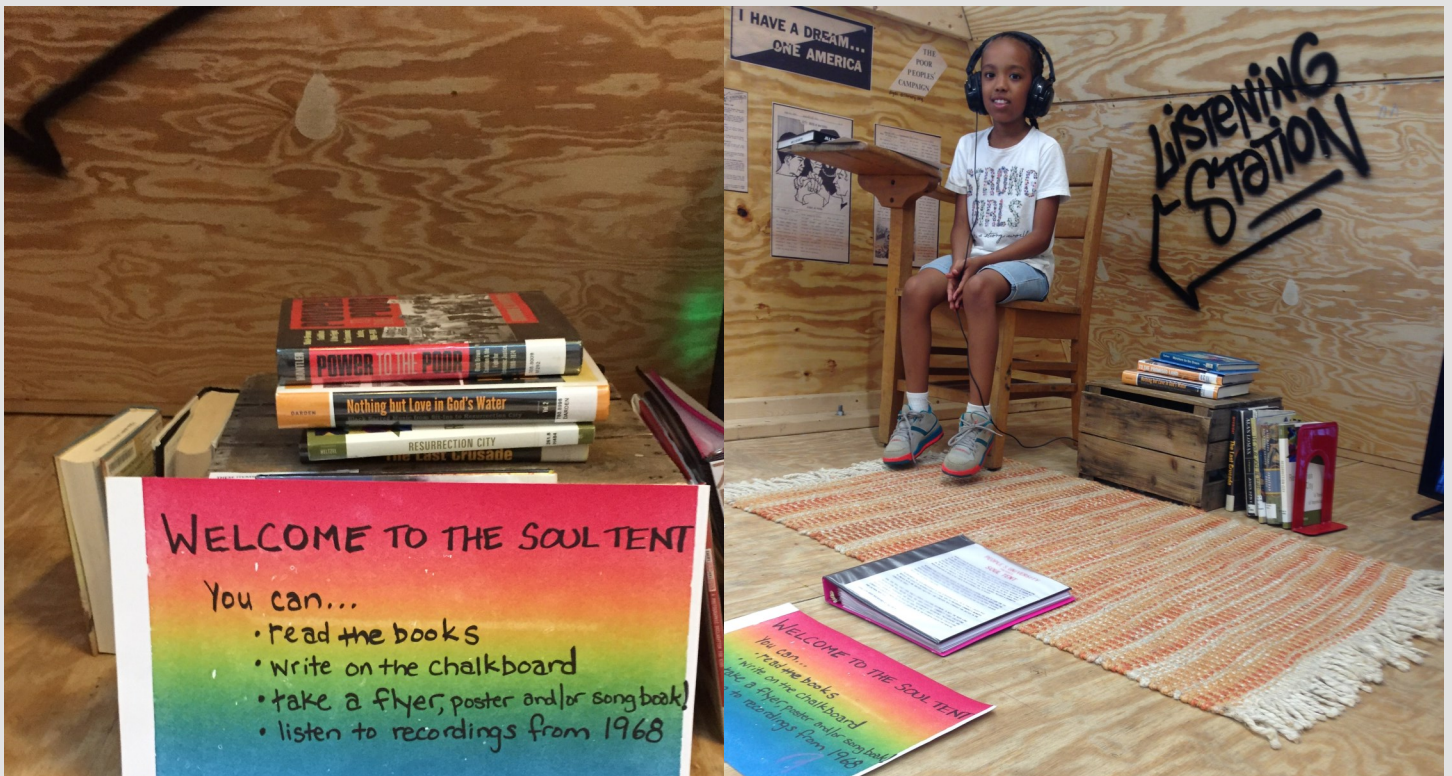
The Woodridge Neighborhood Library

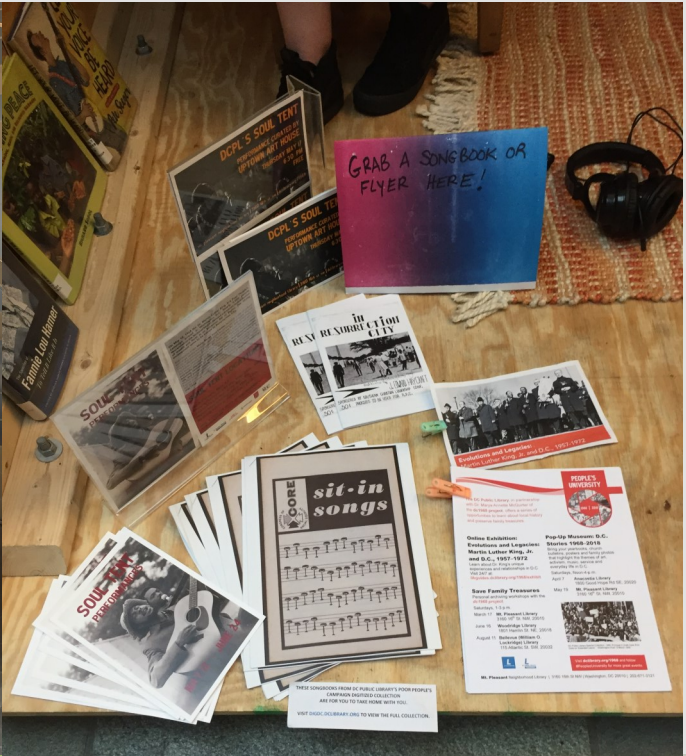
The Benning/Dorothy I. Height Neighborhood Library

The NEW Poor People's Campaign activation on the National Mall

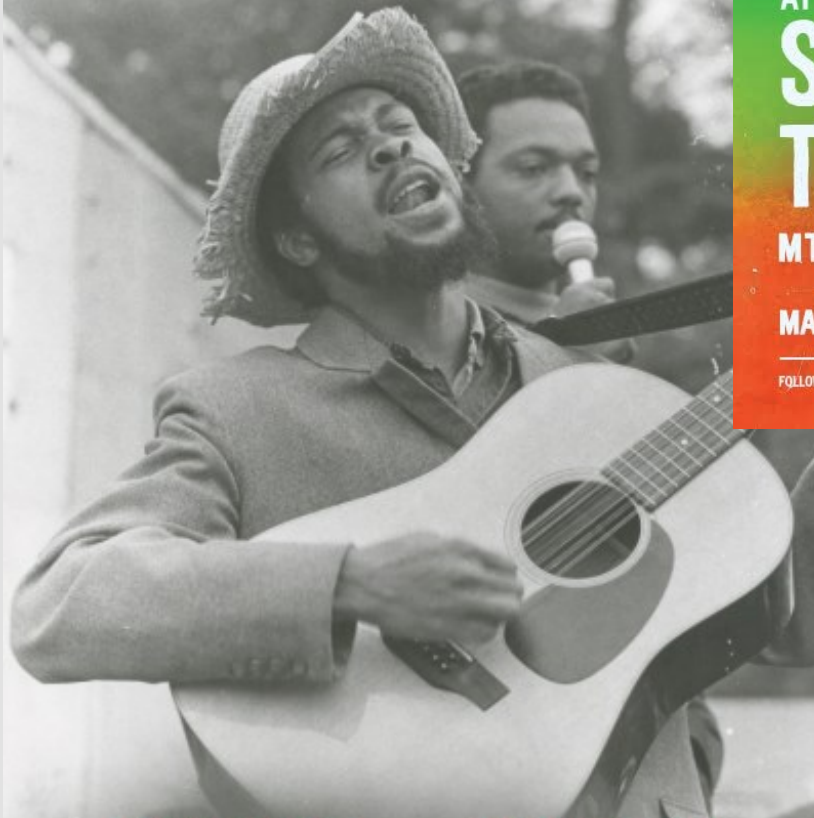
Blind Whino SW Arts Club

And we look forward to continued installations in future spaces!





SOUL TENT PERFORMANCES



MAY 12 - JUNE 24

COURTNEY DOWE

1968 ✕ THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN ✕ 2018

Performing **LIVE**
AT THE
**SOUL
TENT**



MT. PLEASANT NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

3160 16TH ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20010

MA

FOLLOW

SOUL TENT UPCOMING EVENTS

MT. PLEASANT NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY
3160 16TH ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20010

5/17

STORY COLLECTING w/ artist in residence **ANU YADAV**

“

5/17, 6:30pm

PERFORMANCE NIGHT curated by **UPTOWN ART HOUSE**

5/19, 12-4pm

POP-UP MUSEUM, DC stories 1968-2018 w/ **DC1968 PROJECT**
come and share your photos and other memories, or just learn
about **1968** in DC

American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress Symposium

Before and After '68: The Poor People's Campaign - Then and Now

50th Anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign (PPC),
Dr. King's last mass action for human rights and justice



(Photo: Gula Shankar, 2018)

Panel discussions featuring PPC
participants (1968 & 2018),
scholars, cultural workers, and
documentarians: Yara Allen, Maggie
Gilmore, Lenneal Henderson, Charon
Hribar, Bruce Jackson, Reginald
Jackson, Gordon Mantler, Marya
McQuirter, Nick Petr, Marc Steiner &
Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis



(Photo: Bruce Jackson, 1968)

Thursday, June 14, 2018
10:00am-2:00 pm

Whittall Pavilion
Ground Floor
Thomas Jefferson Building,
Library of Congress
10 First Street SE, Washington, DC

Co-sponsored by the
District of Columbia Public Library

Free and open to the public; limited seating

For more information contact Gula Shankar (gshankar@loc.gov)
Request ADA accommodations 5 days in advance- 202-707-6362
or ADA@loc.gov

DCPL's SOUL TENT

**PERFORMANCE CURATED BY
UPTOWN ART HOUSE**

Thursday, May 17
6:30 pm
FREE



Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Library | 3160 16th St. NW | dclibrary.org/1968

The Soul Tent Project Participants and Contributors:

Margaret Gilmore, DC Public Library

Nick Petr, Maryland Institute College of Art

Natalie Campbell, Curator & Exhibit Coordinator

Josh Gamma, MICA Media Intern

Anu Yadav, artist and cultural advocate

Bruce Jackson, Cultural Documentarian

John Fenn and Guha Shankur, Library of Congress
American Folklife Center

Courtney Dowe, Performer

Jamal Gray, Performer and Curator

Luke Stewart, Curator

Vernard Gray, Curator

Sandra Butler-Truesdale, Curator

The Uptown Arthouse Crew

Maplehouse Collective

Freddie Dunn Duet

Copper Rose and Bone

Janet Gilmore, performer



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities



National Trust for
Historic Preservation®



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