ALEXANDER, JIM, 1935 AUGUST 7-
Jim Alexander photographs, circa 1960-2022

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Collection Stored Off-Site
All or portions of this collection are housed off-site. Materials can still be requested but researchers should expect a delay of up to two business days for retrieval.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Alexander, Jim, 1935 August 7-
Title: Jim Alexander photographs, circa 1960-2022
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1317
Extent: 107.5 linear feet (94 boxes), 2 oversized papers folders (OP), and 1 extra-oversized paper (XOP)
Abstract: Photographs by African American photographer Jim Alexander documenting African American politicians, athletes, activists, artists, and authors.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

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All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source
Gift of and purchased from Jim Alexander in 2014. Additions were donated by and purchased from Alexander in 2016 and 2018. Series 2 additions were purchased from Alexander in 2022.

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Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Jim Alexander photographs, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Appraisal Note
Acquired by Curator of African American Collections, Pellom McDaniels III, as part of the Rose Library's holdings in African American culture and history. Curator of African American Collections, Clinton R. Fluker, acquired the material in series two. Archivists removed duplicate printed material and personal financial and medical records from those additions and returned them to Alexander. Appraisal decisions were made by Head of Collection Processing, Sarah Quigley, in consultation with Fluker and Alexander.

Processing
Arranged and described at the file and item levels by Sarah Quigley, November 2014. Sarah Quigley also arranged and described the 2016 and 2018 additions at the file and item levels. In March 2022, Quigley added series two and provided series level description.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Jim Alexander was born on August 7, 1935 in Waldwick, New Jersey to David Alexander and Frances James Alexander. He served in the Navy from 1952-1956; during this time he obtained his first camera and apprenticed with the base photographer in Charleston, South Carolina. It was not until 1964 when Alexander began his professional career as a freelance photographer in Ridgewood, New Jersey. In 1967, he received a certificate in business management from Rutgers University and in 1968, he earned a degree in commercial photography from the New York Institute of Photography. That same year, following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Alexander began a project he calls Spirits/Martyrs/Heroes, an examination of the impact of African Americans on politics, art, and culture. He has continued to add to this project for more than forty years.

In the 1970s, Alexander worked for the Yale University School of Art and Architecture's Black Environmental Study Team; established the Freedom Arts Communications Team (FACT), a black artists' collective in New Haven, Connecticut; and eventually joined the Atlanta (Georgia) Office of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives. In 1977, he became photographer in residence at the Atlanta Neighborhood Arts Center and was photographer in residence at Clark College from 1984-1990. Alexander was the first artist chosen by the city of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs as an "Atlanta Master Artist," and was given the "Artist of Distinction" award by the Paul Jones Family Fund in 2004.
Alexander is a member of the Atlanta Photography Group, Black Artists in America, National Alliance of Artists from HBCUs, and African Americans for the Arts. His photographs have been featured in numerous exhibitions and can be found in the holdings of institutions such as the Smithsonian (Washington, D.C.); The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History (Atlanta, Georgia); the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa); the University of Delaware (Newark); the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, Atlanta Airport Collection (Georgia); the Hammonds House Museum (Atlanta, Georgia), and the Harvey B. Gantt Center (Charlotte, North Carolina).

**Scope and Content Note**
The collection consists of photograph prints, negatives, slides, and contact sheets of images taken by Jim Alexander from circa 1960-2022, including images of prominent African American politicians, athletes, activists, authors, and artists. The collection contains photographs of Romare Bearden, Pearl Cleage, Angela Davis, Michael Lomax, Edwin Moses, Andrew Young, and Jean Childs Young, among others. The photographs also document significant events such as African Liberation Day in Washington, D.C. (1970s); the March for Sisterhood and Brotherhood in Forsyth County, Georgia (1987); a march in support of the Wilmington 10 (1976); a 1969 anti-apartheid rally; and a march in support of school desegregation in Boston, Massachusetts (1974). Many of the photographs were taken at the Atlanta Neighborhood Arts Center. The collection also includes subject files and printed material documenting Alexander's career.

**Arrangement Note**
Organized into two series: (1) Photograph prints and (2) Additions.
Description of Series

Series 1: Photograph prints, 1969-2008  
Series 2: Additions, circa 1960-2022
Series 1
Photograph prints, 1969-2008
Boxes 1 and 94

Scope and Content Note
The series consists of photographs taken by Jim Alexander from 1969-2008, including images of prominent African American politicians, athletes, activists, authors, and artists. The collection contains photographs of Romare Bearden, Pearl Cleage, Angela Davis, Michael Lomax, Edwin Moses, Andrew Young, and Jean Childs Young, among others. The photographs also document significant events such as African Liberation Day in Washington, D.C. (1970s); the March for Sisterhood and Brotherhood in Forsyth County, Georgia (1987); a march in support of the Wilmington 10 (1976); a 1969 anti-apartheid rally; and a march in support of school desegregation in Boston, Massachusetts (1974). Many of the photographs were taken at the Atlanta Neighborhood Arts Center.

Arrangement Note
Arranged in alphabetical order by subject.
Candle in the Dark Awards: T.M. Alexander, Sr., Dr. Asa Yancey, Sr., Calvin O. Butts, Sr., Spike Lee, Asa Hilliard, Hank Aaron, and Denzel Washington, Morehouse College (Atlanta, Georgia), 1990

Carruthers, Jacob and Asa Hilliard (Atlanta, Georgia), 1989

Cleage, Pearl (Atlanta, Georgia), no date [1 of 2]

Cleage, Pearl (Atlanta, Georgia), no date [2 of 2]

Cleage, Pearl, portrait (Atlanta, Georgia), 1979

Cleage, Pearl, seated at speaking event (Atlanta, Georgia), 1979

Cleage, Pearl and Zaron Burnett (Atlanta, Georgia), no date

Davis, Angela (New Haven, Connecticut), 1975

Davis, Angela and Nikky Finney (Atlanta, Georgia), 1985

Farrakhan, Louis (Atlanta, Georgia), 1980

Free Southern Theater Project reunion (New Orleans, Louisiana), 1985 [includes photographs of Tom Dent, Doris Derby, Betty Jean Jones, and John O'Neal] [11 photographs]

"Free the Wilmington 10" march (Wilmington, North Carolina), 1976

Jackson, Jesse (Atlanta, Georgia), 1986


Killens, John Oliver (Atlanta, Georgia), 1981 [3 photographs]

Lawrence, Jacob (Atlanta, Georgia), no date

Lemon, Meadowlark (Atlanta, Georgia), 1982

Lomax, Michael (Atlanta, Georgia), 1993

Lomax, Michael, Nanette Bearden and Romare Bearden, viewing photographs (Atlanta, Georgia), 1978

Lomax, Michael, Nanette Bearden and Romare Bearden, walking down a hallway (Atlanta, Georgia), 1978

Long, Richard (Doctor) and Leslie King-Hammond (Atlanta, Georgia), 1978

Lovelace, Alice and Jiki Riley at the Neighborhood Arts Center (Atlanta, Georgia), 1982

March for Sisterhood and Brotherhood (Forsyth County, Georgia), 1987

March for Sisterhood and Brotherhood, Hosea Williams speaking a press conference (Forsyth County, Georgia), 1987

Moses, Edwin (Atlanta, Georgia), 1984

Moses, Edwin, barefoot (Atlanta, Georgia), 1984

Moses, Edwin, running (Atlanta, Georgia), 1984

Moses, Edwin with unidentified man (Atlanta, Georgia), 1984

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People offices with flyer displaying a swastika and the words "white power" on the door (New Haven, Connecticut), 1973

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People school desegregation march (Boston, Massachusetts), 1974
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>&quot;Protest of the Whitney Museum's Bicentennial Exhibit which Featured No Blacks and Only One Woman&quot; (New York, New York), 1976 [includes photographs of Benny Andrews and Richard Mayhew]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Robinson, Jackie, Rachel Robinson and Mayor Bart Guida (New Haven, Connecticut), 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Run-D.M.C. (Atlanta, Georgia), 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Simon, Jewel, Elizabeth Catlett, Lois Mailou Jones and two unidentified women (Atlanta, Georgia), no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>SisterLove: Louise Meriwether, Pink Gordon Lane, Johnnetta Cole, Paula Giddings, Pearl Cleage, Gwendolyn Brooks, Toni Cade Bambara, Sonia Sanchez, Nikki Giovanni, and Mari Evans (Atlanta, Georgia), 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Southern Christian Leadership Conference, unidentified march, circa 1980s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Universal Negro Improvement Association, 125th Street, Harlem (New York, New York), 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Young, Andrew and Jean Childs Young, Andrew Young for Atlanta press conference (Atlanta, Georgia), 1980 [1 of 2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Young, Andrew and Jean Childs Young, Andrew Young for Atlanta press conference (Atlanta, Georgia), 1980 [2 of 2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Young, Andrew and Ossie Davis at Black Writers Tribute, Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia), 1980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 2
Additions, circa 1960-2022
Boxes 2 - 93, OP 1 - 2, and XOP 1

Scope and Content Note
The series consists of prints, negatives, slides, and contact sheets of photographs by Jim Alexander, as well as printed material and subject files documenting his career from circa 1960-2022. Notable subjects of Alexander's photography include music and musicians, particularly jazz musicians; Atlanta, Georgia, area politicians and public figures; the Neighborhood Arts Center (Atlanta, Georgia); protests, particular a series titled "Street Signs;" and portraiture. Proof prints are primarily color, grocery store prints that Alexander made in lieu of more expensive contact sheets from the 1980s-2000s.

Arrangement Note
Arranged in alphabetical order by record type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Audiovisual material: Black Enterprises, In Our Footsteps Video Collection, Dreams of Obama, 2010 [originals: DVD]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Audiovisual material: Funeral services for Leroy Baskin, 1992 [original: VHS]</td>
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<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Audiovisual materials: Salem Bible Church Celebrates Black History Month, guest speaker Al Sharpton, 2013 [original: DVD]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: 3rd National Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: African American Jazz Caucus (AAJC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: African American Jazz Caucus Research Institute (NAJRI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: AIDS Quilt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Amnesty International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Art shows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (CSCAC)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (CSCAC)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Atlanta, Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Atlanta, Georgia, missing and murdered children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Atlanta, Georgia, political figures</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Atlanta, Georgia, political figures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Atlanta, Georgia, political figures</td>
</tr>
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<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Atlanta Tribune (Georgia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Atlanta Tribune (Georgia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Atlanta University (Georgia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Negatives: Black rodeo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
71 - Negatives: Black Writers Conference
71 - Negatives: Cable ATL (Georgia)
16 - Negatives: "Chi Town kids with dad"
5  - Negatives: Clark Atlanta University (Georgia)
17 - Negatives: Clark Atlanta University (Georgia)
18 - Negatives: Clark Atlanta University (Georgia)
20 - Negatives: Clark Atlanta University (Georgia)
21 - Negatives: Clark Atlanta University (Georgia)
22 - Negatives: Clark Atlanta University (Georgia)
23 - Negatives: Clark Atlanta University (Georgia)
71 - Negatives: Cumming, Forsyth County, Georgia
16 - Negatives: Dance
5  - Negatives: Democratic National Convention (Atlanta, Georgia), 1988
25 - Negatives: Downhome Blues
23 - Negatives: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
13 - Negatives: Events
17 - Negatives: Events
19 - Negatives: Events
21 - Negatives: Events
22 - Negatives: Events
18 - Negatives: Events (church, graduations)
25 - Negatives: Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (East Point, Georgia)
22 - Negatives: First World Book Store (Atlanta, Georgia)
16 - Negatives: Hartford Arts Center (Connecticut)
20 - Negatives: High schools
19 - Negatives: Houses
13 - Negatives: International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE)
8  - Negatives: Just Us/Lolita
25 - Negatives: Kwame Toure (Stokely Carmichael)
22 - Negatives: The Links, Inc.
25 - Negatives: Maynard Jackson
21 - Negatives: Miss Black Teen America
20 - Negatives: Morehouse College (Atlanta, Georgia)
25 - Negatives: Morehouse Men calendars (Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia)
22 - Negatives: Morris Brown College (Atlanta, Georgia)
11 - Negatives: Music
12 - Negatives: Music
13 - Negatives: Music
14 - Negatives: Music
15 - Negatives: Music
19 - Negatives: Music
27 - Negatives: Music N-Z
21 - Negatives: NALA
25 - Negatives: Nation of Islam
13 - Negatives: National Association of Jazz Educators (NAJE)
25 - Negatives: National Association of Landowners
11 - Negatives: National Black Arts Festival (Atlanta, Georgia)
25 - Negatives: National Black Musicians Coalition
8 - Negatives: National Black United Fund (New Jersey)
16 - Negatives: National Black United Fund (New Jersey)
15 - Negatives: Neighborhood Arts Center (Atlanta, Georgia)
2 - Negatives: New Haven, Connecticut
7 - Negatives: New Haven, Connecticut
26 - Negatives: New Orleans, Louisiana
28 - Negatives: New York
13 - Negatives: Nile Valley Conference
28 - Negatives: NMA, 1981
16 - Negatives: Parents and kids
5 - Negatives: Portraits
16 - Negatives: Political figures
13 - Negatives: Portraits
16 - Negatives: Portraits
17 - Negatives: Portraits
18 - Negatives: Portraits
19 - Negatives: Portraits
20 - Negatives: Portraits
21 - Negatives: Portraits
22 - Negatives: Portraits
23 - Negatives: Portraits
16 - Negatives: Prison fire
20 - Negatives: Queen of the Nile
27 - Negatives: Roy Innis
16 - Negatives: SAE
21 - Negatives: Shay Youngblood
23 - Negatives: Spelman College (Atlanta, Georgia)
24 - Negatives: "Street Signs"
27 - Negatives: Tupelo, Mississippi
5 - Negatives: Weddings
8 - Negatives: Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut)
16 - Negatives: Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut) Black Student Union
79 - Negatives and contact sheets: New Haven, Connecticut
10 - Negatives and slides: Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (Atlanta)
10 - Negatives and slides: Joseph E. Lowery Institute (Atlanta, Georgia)
9 - Negatives and slides: Neighborhood Arts Center (Atlanta, Georgia)
10 - Negatives and slides: Neighborhood Arts Center (Atlanta, Georgia)
10 - Negatives and slides: Romare Bearden
10 - Negatives and slides: Sisters Network (Houston, Texas)
10 - Negatives and slides: Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation (Sausalito, California)
10 - Negatives and slides: VSA Arts of Georgia (Atlanta)
3 - Negatives, contact sheets, and prints: New Haven, Connecticut
80 - Negatives, prints, and slides: CHC
80 - Negatives, prints, and slides: Jomandi Theater Productions (Atlanta, Georgia)
87 - Periodicals
87 - Printed material
93 - Printed material
92 - Printed material
85 - Prints: Alexander family
36 - Prints: Art
34 - Prints: Arts
85 - Prints: Black art
59 - Prints: Children
84 - Prints: Children
47 - Prints: Civil rights leaders
35 - Prints: Community events, music, arts
52 - Prints: Dance
31 - Prints: Events
36 - Prints: Events
50 - Prints: Events
60 - Prints: Events
45 - Prints: Events (arts, culture)
46 - Prints: Events (arts, culture)
34 - Prints: Fashion and Modeling Enterprises (FAME)
39 - Prints: Fashion and Modeling Enterprises (FAME)
84 - Prints: Fashion and Modeling Enterprises (FAME)
36 - Prints: Ku Klux Klan
36 - Prints: Locations
OP2 - Prints: Motorcycle club
34 - Prints: Music
38 - Prints: Music
48 - Prints: Music
49 - Prints: Music
51 - Prints: Music
52 - Prints: Music
53 - Prints: Music
54 - Prints: Music
55 - Prints: Music
56 - Prints: Music
OP1 - Prints: Music
58 - Prints: Music (Atlanta, Georgia; New Orleans, Louisiana; New York City, New York)
40 - Prints: Neighborhood Arts Center (Atlanta, Georgia)
OP2 - Prints: Neighborhood Arts Center (Atlanta, Georgia)
41 - Prints: Political figures and gatherings
42 - Prints: Political figures and gatherings
57 - Prints: Political gatherings
85 - Prints: Politics
31 - Prints: Portraits
34 - Prints: Portraits
37 - Prints: Portraits (individual, group, children)
57 - Prints: Protests
84 - Prints: Protests
43 - Prints: "Street Signs"
44 - Prints: "Street Signs"
XOP1 - Prints: "Street Signs"
52 - Prints: Theatre
92 - Prints: Unidentified
67 - Prints and negatives: Duke Ellington
67 - Prints and negatives: New Haven, Connecticut
61 - Proof prints: Arts and culture
29 - Proof prints: Community events
30 - Proof prints: Community events
32 - Proof prints: Community events
33 - Proof prints: Community events
61 - Proof prints: Community events
72 - Proof prints: Community events
76 - Proof prints: Community events
77 - Proof prints: Community events
82 - Proof prints: Community events
83 - Proof prints: Community events
28 - Proof prints: Music
33 - Proof prints: Music
39 - Proof prints: Music
72 - Proof prints: Music
76 - Proof prints: Music
77 - Proof prints: Music
78 - Proof prints: Music
73 - Proof prints: Unidentified
74 - Proof prints: Unidentified
75 - Proof prints: Unidentified
68 - Slides: CHC
26 - Slides: Israel
68 - Slides: Jomandi Theater Productions (Atlanta, Georgia)
4 - Slides: Music
4 - Slides: Unidentified
6 - Slides: Unidentified
68 - Slides: Unidentified
65 - Subject files and printed material, circa 1978-2006
88 - Subject files and printed material, circa 1990-2000
89 - Subject files and printed material, circa 1990-2000
90 - Subject files and printed material, circa 1990-2003
70 - Subject files and printed material, circa 1990-2007
69 - Subject files and printed material, circa 1990-2008
91 - Subject files and printed material, circa 1995-2003
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86 - Subject files and printed material, circa 1995-2000
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81 - Subject files and printed material, 2000-2020