Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs Research Guide

Overview of THNOC Collections and Purpose of Guide
The archives of The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC) are located at the Williams Research Center at 410 Chartres Street, where the Reading Room is open to the public Tuesday–Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. To maintain safe distancing for all during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Reading Room is currently open by appointment only. The Reading Room is not a circulating library, which means that you cannot check things out and take them home, but you can view books and objects in person. This guide provides information on THNOC’s holdings related to social aid and pleasure clubs (SAPC) and will help you learn how to use our online catalog. If you have questions, please email us at reference@hnoc.org or call (504) 598-7171, and we will be happy to assist you and schedule your appointment.

Main Collections Featuring Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs
There are five main collections which contain the bulk of the material at THNOC relating to social aid and pleasure clubs. For each collection, we have noted the social aid and pleasure clubs and other parading organizations that are featured, as well as the accession/ID numbers, types of materials, and dates that the items were created. (For information on how to best find materials using the search function of our online catalog, see the section titled “THNOC’s Online Catalog” below.) We continue to build our holdings related to social aid and pleasure clubs, and we welcome community support for our efforts to add materials relating to clubs that are underrepresented in our holdings. If you have items to contribute to our SAPC holdings, please visit www.hnoc.org/support/material-donation or reach out to Curator Eric Seiferth, Eric.Seiferth@hnoc.org, (504) 598-7178.

Jules Cahn Collection
  Dates: 1960–74
  Materials: photographs, videos, ephemera
Michael P. Smith Collection
Accession/ID Numbers: 2007.0103
Dates: 1960s–80s
Materials: photographs
Organizations: Avenue Steppers Marching Club, Bucket Men, Original New Orleans Buckjumpers, Scene Boosters, Sixth Ward High Rollers, Sudan, Treme Sports, Young Men Olympian Jr., Zulu

John Bernard Collection
Accession/ID Numbers: 99-29-L.4
Dates: 1956–61
Materials: photograph albums, ephemera
Organizations: Jolly Bunch, Masonic organizations, Young Men Olympian Jr., Zulu

William Russell Jazz Collection
Accession/ID numbers: 92-48-L.331
Dates: 1945–68
Materials: photographs
Organizations: Eagle Eyes, Elks fraternal organization, Lions Club, Odd Fellows, Prince Hall Masons and other Masonic organizations, Young Men of Oakdale, Young Men Olympian Jr., Young Men’s Protective Organization of Algiers, Zulu

Charles M. Lovell Collection
Dates: 2009–17
Materials: photographs
Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs Represented at THNOC

This is a complete list of the social aid and pleasure clubs for which we have materials at the Williams Research Center. Search for them in our online catalog to find specific items and collections (instructions below). Please note that there are variations in the spelling of club names in the catalog. This list provides the name spellings that will pull up the most records for each club.

Avenue Steppers
Bayou Steppers
Black Men of Labor
Bucket Men
Calliope High Steppers
C.T.C. Steppers
Devastating Ladies
Double Nine
Downtowners
Dumaine Street Gang
Eagle Eye
Family Ties
Furious Five
Golden Trumpets
Good Fellas
Jolly Bunch
Just Stepping
Ladies of Essence
Ladies Zulu
Lady and Men Rollers
Lady Jetsetters Marching Club
Lady Sequence
Lady Wales
Money Wasters
New Generation
Nine Times
Nkrumah Better Boys
North Side Skull and Bone Gang
Odd Fellows
Ole & Nu Style Fellas
Original Big 7
Original Four
Original Gentlemen Steppers
Original New Orleans Buckjumpers
Perfect Gentlemen
Pigeon Town Steppers
Prince of Wales
Revolution Rollers
Scene Boosters
Second Line Jammers
Second Line Tradition Coalition
Single Ladies
Sixth Ward Diamonds
Sixth Ward High Rollers
Sixth Ward High Steppers
Soul Steppers
Sudan
Tambourine and Fan
Treme Sports
Untouchables
Valley of Silent Men
VIP Ladies
Westbank Steppers
Young and True Friends
Young Men of Oakdale
Young Men Olympian Jr.
Young Men’s Protective Organization of Algiers
Zulu

Additional Resources

Other Organizations with Holdings Related to Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs
Hogan Archive of New Orleans Music and New Orleans Jazz, Tulane University
Louisiana Digital Library
Louisiana Division/Special Collections, New Orleans Public Library
Louisiana Research Collection, Tulane University
Neighborhood Story Project
New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation Archive
New Orleans Jazz Museum
Suggested Reading and Listening

*Dancing in the Streets: Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs of New Orleans* by Judy Cooper, with essays by Rachel Carrico, Freddie Williams Evans, Matt Sakakeeny, and Michael G. White (THNOC, 2021).


*In the Spirit: The Photography of Michael P. Smith from The Historic New Orleans Collection* (THNOC, 2009).


WWOZ’s *Takin’ It to the Streets*, www.wwoz.org/programs/inthestreet.

**THNOC’s Online Catalog**

THNOC maintains an [online catalog](#) that you can use to search for items and collections within our archives, from the comfort of your home. From our website, www.hnoc.org, the online catalog is located under the “Research” tab and is titled “Catalog.” Each item and collection has a name and an accession number, or ID number, and either or both are helpful for letting the Reading Room staff know what items you are interested in viewing.

**Search and Browse**

Think of the search bar like your favorite search engine, but with a few more advanced options. Here are a few helpful search tips to get you started:

- The keyword box searches across multiple fields (title, subject, etc.). It will return all items related to the word or words you have searched for. You can then narrow down your results using the criteria on the left side of the page. Example: “Pigeon Town Steppers” will return all items featuring that club. You can then select “Photography” under “Collection Type” on the left side of the page and it will show just the photos.
• When searching an accession/ID number, be sure to include an asterisk (*) to see all the items within that collection. Example: 2007.0103*.
• “Advanced Search” allows you to search based on specific criteria, such as the accession/ID number and a specific name or word you’d like to search for within the collection. Example: “2007.0103*” and “brass band” will return all items in the collection that include a brass band.

**Helpful search terms for social aid and pleasure clubs:**
“brass bands”; club names; and specific people (like Gregg Stafford), places (like Faubourg Treme), and organizations (like Tambourine and Fan)

**Browse**
If you don’t have any specific terms you’d like to search for, you can also choose to browse our collections using themes, under the section “Browse Collection Themes.”

**Helpful browse terms for social aid and pleasure clubs:**
“Local Life and Customs”—“Jazz Funerals and Second Lines”
“Social History”—“Death and Burial Customs”
“Churches and Clergy”
“New Orleans Neighborhoods”

**Tip:**
You can also combine multiple browse terms by using “Refine Search” on your search results page.

**Further Information**

**How to Schedule an Appointment**
To maintain safe distancing for all during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Reading Room is only available by appointment, and appointments must be made at least 24 hours in advance. To schedule an appointment, email reference@hnoc.org or call (504) 598-7171. If you have a specific collection or item you would like to view, supply the accession/ID number or title. If you have a general question, the reference staff would also be happy to help you search the catalog and find interesting items and collections.
How to Request a Reproduction

To request a reproduction of a photograph or item within our collection, please email reference@hnoc.org or call (504) 598-7171. The staff can help you to access the appropriate request form at www.hnoc.org/research/requests-reproductions. Some fees may apply.