

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.hnoc.org/support/material-donation) or reach out to Curator Eric Seiferth, [Eric.Seiferth@hnoc.org](mailto:Eric.Seiferth@hnoc.org), (504) 598-7178.

### Jules Cahn Collection

*Accession/ID numbers:* 1996.123, 2000.78, 2003.0177

*Dates:* 1960–74

*Materials:* photographs, videos, ephemera

*Organizations:* Downtowners, Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Jolly Bunch, Ladies Zulu, Masons, Odd Fellows, Original Four, Original New Orleans Buckjumpers, Perfect Gentlemen, Prince of Wales, Scene Boosters, Second Line Jammers, Second Line Tradition Coalition, Sixth Ward Diamonds, Sixth Ward High Steppers, Soul Steppers, Sudan, Treme Sports, Valley of Silent Men, Westbank Steppers, Young and True Friends, Young Men Olympian Jr., Zulu

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

*Accession/ID numbers:* 2015.0508, 2016.0336, 2017.0001, 2018.0143.1

*Dates:* 2009–17

*Materials:* photographs

*Organizations:* Avenue Steppers, Bayou Steppers, Black Men of Labor, C.T.C. Steppers, Dumaine Street Gang, Family Ties, Furious Five, Good Fellas, Hot 8 Brass Band, Ladies of Unity, Lady Buckjumpers, Lady Wales, Original New Orleans Buckjumpers, Money Wasters, New Generation, Nkrumah Better Boys, Ole & Nu Style Fellas, Original Big 7, Pigeon Town Steppers, Revolution, Single Ladies, Sudan, Valley of Silent Men, VIP Ladies and Kids, Young Men Olympian Jr.

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

### 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).

*Freedom's Dance: Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs in New Orleans* by Eric Waters and Karen Celestan (LSU Press, 2018).

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

*Negro Benevolent Societies in New Orleans: A Study of Their Structure, Function, and Membership* by Harry Joseph Walker (Master's thesis, Fisk University, 1937).

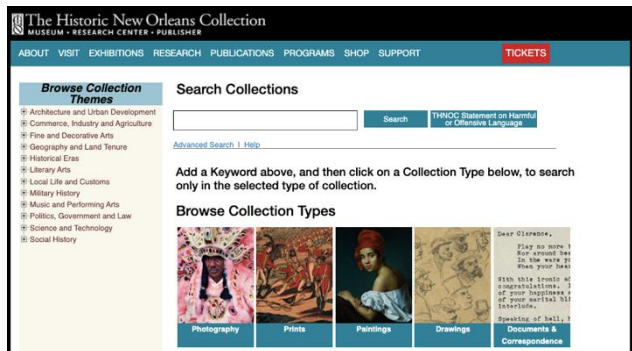
*Roll With It: Brass Bands in the Streets of New Orleans* by Matt Sakakeeny (Duke University Press Books, 2013).

WWOZ's *Takin' It to the Streets*, [www.wwoz.org/programs/inthestreet](http://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](http://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



## Search

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 Tremé), 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”

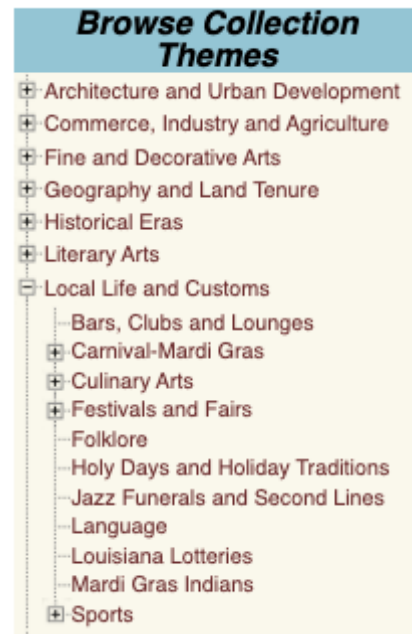
“Social History”—“Death and Burial Customs”

“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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.hnoc.org/research/requests-reproductions). Some fees may apply.