



# ARCH

ARCHIVES FOR RACIAL  
AND CULTURAL HEALING

APRIL  
2022

"If you stick a knife in my back nine inches and pull it out six inches, there's no progress. If you pull it all the way out, that's not progress. The progress is healing the wound that the blow made. And they haven't even begun to pull the knife out, much less heal the wound. They won't even admit the knife is there."

Malcolm X

# THE CHARLES H. CHIPMAN CULTURAL CENTER

Ten years after the Tulsa Massacre and following the stock market crash of 1929, white mobs of thousands began to terrorize Black Communities across Maryland's Eastern Shore. In 1931, a young man named Matthew Williams was stabbed, hanged, mutilated, and burned beyond recognition in Salisbury, Maryland.

Following the lynching of Williams, a less apparent —yet no less harmful—massacre was levied on the entire Black neighborhood of Georgetown. Georgetown, where Williams lived, was a Black community with businesses, schools, several churches, and a number of residences: 19 structures in total. Today only one building remains; John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, which Williams attended. In 1838, John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church was built by five local freedmen who purchased the surrounding property. Re-opened in 1994 as the Charles H. Chipman Cultural Center, it is the only structure left representing a successful Black community. Instead of using direct violence, the white community of Salisbury implemented a government-sponsored land displacement strategy, stripping the Black community of wealth, financial stability, resources, and educational opportunities. Today, the Black community of Salisbury has yet to recover from this systemic assault.





# THE CHARLES & JEANETTE CHIPMAN ARCH

## WHAT DOES RADICAL COMMUNITY ARCHIVING LOOK LIKE?

The Chipman ARCH will be a reflection of the people and places—both past and present—that comprise Georgetown and surrounding Black neighborhoods in Salisbury, MD. Chipman Board Members and descendant Georgetowners have direct and final say in all matters related to the development and distribution of the Chipman ARCH; this project will be empowering, and it will cultivate a sense of belonging and sanctuary within a community that was nearly destroyed by anti-Blackness. We reject problematic archival practices that have traditionally seen universities and institutions extracting from—rather than deferring to and enriching—Black cultural institutions. Materials will be housed at the Chipman Center with the permission of their creators, who will retain ownership of their records. Indeed, these histories will be preserved in a location—and processed in a language—that is meaningful to the community, by the community.

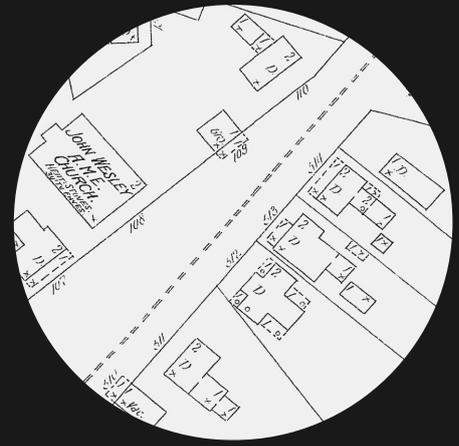
## WHY ARE WE DOING THIS WORK?

The Chipman ARCH will preserve the stories of survivors and descendants in Black Georgetown, while reaffirming that these histories belong to the community. The story of Black Georgetown—woven from joy, terror, pain, kinship, and persistence—was never lost to its keepers. It was marginalized, silenced, and nearly erased by the same white Salisburians and white-dominated systems that bear responsibility for the lynching of Matthew Williams and the subsequent displacement and dispossession of his family and community.

# FIRST YEAR ROADMAP

The Chipman ARCH will feature materials belonging to, as well as processed and curated by, the Georgetown community. These materials will speak to the stories of racial terror in Salisbury and on Maryland's Eastern Shore, the thriving Black business districts and cherished Black neighborhoods that once were, and the people and places of the historic Black neighborhoods of Georgetown, Cuba, California, and Jersey. Digital resources will include:

- 3D Model and Digitally Recreated, Interactive Map
  - Georgetown, Cuba, California, and Jersey Neighborhoods
- ID Cards: Profiles of Victims, Survivors, and Descendants
- Place as Power: The Homes, Businesses, and Community Spaces of Black Salisbury
- Oral History Interviews: Stories of Tragedy and Triumph
- Timeline Documenting Dispossession and Destruction of Georgetown
- Reading Lists & Curriculum Lesson Plans



**DIGITAL MAPS**



**IDENTIFICATION  
CARDS**



**ORAL HISTORIES**

# NATIONAL MOVEMENT



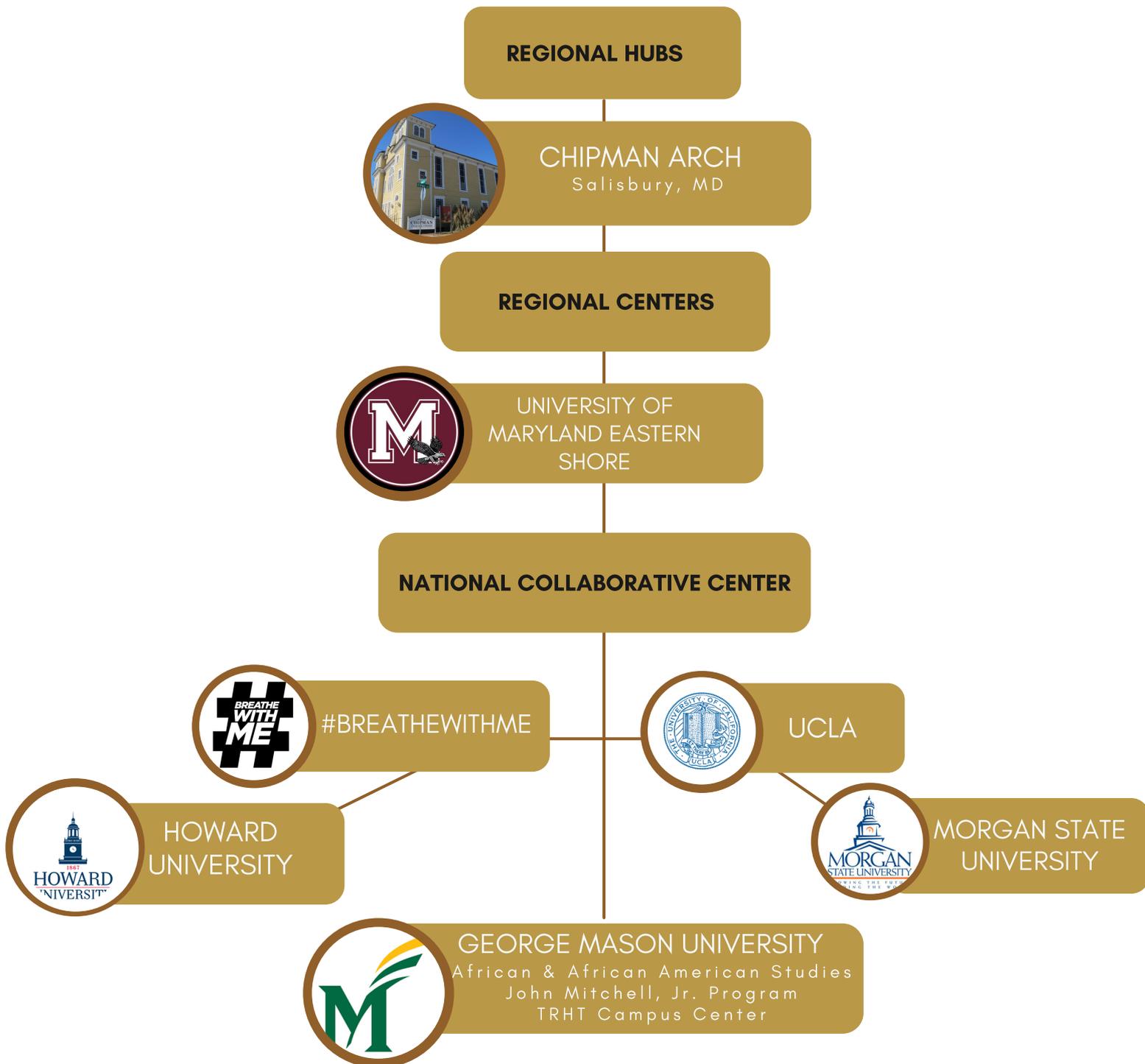
# A.R.C.H.

ARCHIVES FOR RACIAL & CULTURAL HEALING

The ARCH will be a centralized landing—curated by those who have mourned and persisted in the face of racial terror violence—where the full weight of the truth is experienced through an accurate and thorough national history. At once a digital archive, public history resource collaborative, and grantsmanship center, the ARCH will support local and regional Black cultural institutions throughout the United States at no cost.

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

## ARCHIVES FOR RACIAL & CULTURAL HEALING





**THE #BREATHEWITHME REVOLUTION**



# ARCH DONORS



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