

## FACT SHEET

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### **CUNY Dominican Studies Institute**

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### **WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO**

Founded in 1992 and housed at The City College of New York, the Dominican Studies Institute of the City University of New York (CUNY DSI) is the nation's first, university-based research institute devoted to the study of people of Dominican descent in the United States and other parts of the world.

CUNY DSI's mission is to produce and disseminate research and scholarship about Dominicans, and about the Dominican Republic. The Institute houses the Dominican Archives and the Dominican Library, the first and only institutions in the United States collecting primary and secondary source material about Dominicans. CUNY DSI is the locus for a community of scholars in the field of Dominican Studies. It is home to pioneering research projects, lectures, conferences, exhibitions, and a rigorous doctoral fellowship program in Dominican Studies.

### **THE DOMINICAN LIBRARY**

The Library of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute officially opened in 1994. It is a unique reference collection whose mission is to identify, acquire, organize, preserve and make available bibliographical sources documenting the Dominican experience in the United States and in the rest of the world. The Dominican Library houses approximately 6,000 books, 850 doctoral and master's degree dissertations; 13,000 newspaper clippings and journal articles, and 250 audio visual resources including film and music CDs.

### **THE DOMINICAN ARCHIVES**

The Dominican Archives, established in 2002 with financial support from the New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program, is a repository of archival materials that document the experience and contributions of Dominicans in the United States. Its mission is to identify, appraise, accession, process, preserve and provide access to archival materials that have historical research or other value. The Dominican Archives houses 73 collections, amounting to 1,200 cubic ft.

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

### FIRST BLACKS IN THE AMERICAS / LOS PRIMEROS NEGROS EN LAS AMÉRICAS

[www.firstblacks.org](http://www.firstblacks.org) (English) // [www.primerosnegros.org](http://www.primerosnegros.org) (Spanish)

This bilingual academic digital platform presents the story of the first black-African inhabitants to arrive in the Americas. This digital tool has a collection of seventy-one archival packages containing documents and manuscripts from sixteenth-century La Española. It is the first platform to make this kind of collection of sources available on the internet to the larger public.

### SIXTEENTH CENTURY LA ESPAÑOLA: GLIMPSES OF THE FIRST BLACKS IN THE EARLY COLONIAL AMERICAS

<http://ccnydigitalscholarship.org/dsi-blacks-in-america/>

A groundbreaking exhibit featuring manuscripts about one of the earliest ancestral groups of Dominicans, tracing their origins to black Africans. This exhibit is a subset of the *First Blacks in the Americas* website.

### THE SPANISH PALEOGRAPHY DIGITAL TEACHING AND LEARNING TOOL

<http://spanishpaleographytool.org/>

This NEH-sponsored project is an open source, interactive digital educational platform. It intends to teach researchers how to decipher and read the handwriting styles of 16th and early 17th century manuscripts from La Española.

### FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY: DOMINICAN VETERANS FROM WORLD WAR II

<http://ccnydigitalscholarship.org/dominican-veterans-wwii/>

This exhibit highlights the experience of Dominican veterans in World War II, tracing their stories from their arrival to the U.S., their incorporation into the war, and their post-war experience.

### A HISTORY OF DOMINICAN MUSIC IN THE UNITED STATES

<http://dominicanmusicusa.com/>

This NEH-funded project is the first educational website regarding the history of Dominican Music in the United States. The website features an interactive, multimedia platform that documents Dominican artists, venues, and genres spanning from 1910 to 2010.

### DOMINICAN ARTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

<https://library.artstor.org/#/collection/87732367:collId=87732367:size=72>

This project disseminates the work of artists of Dominican descent living in the United States.

### DOMINICAN LANDMARKS

<http://www.dominicanlandmarks.com/>

This online interactive resource provides information on a variety of landmarks that document the presence and actions of people of Dominican descent in the United States.

### CUNY DSI PUBLICATIONS

<https://academicworks.cuny.edu/dsi/>

This website hosts CUNY's institutional repository. It provides full text access to all CUNY DSI publications.