The University of California-Irvine (UCI) Libraries were awarded a $36,531 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), to expand projects that provide an essential underpinning for scholarship, education, and programming in the humanities. The grant will allow the UCI Libraries Research Resources division to work strategically with other library divisions, university academic units, faculty, and community partners to further facilitate student use of cultural materials, rare collections, and digital technology. The UCI Libraries has created a task force—headed by John Renaud, assistant university librarian for research resources, and with oversight from an NEH program manager—around the implementation of programs and resources funded by this grant.

The University of Miami’s Cuban Heritage Collection (CHC) has received a $2 million gift from The Goizueta Foundation. In 2010, Anita Casavantes Bradford, a doctoral student at the University of California-San Diego, went to Miami to conduct historical research as part of the inaugural class of the Graduate Fellowship Program. Her work, and that of many other emerging scholars who have taken part in the program, inspired the gift from The Goizueta Foundation that will lead to the program’s expansion and permanent establishment at CHC. A part of Momentum2: The Breakthrough Campaign for the University of Miami, $1 million of this gift will endow The Goizueta Foundation Graduate Fellowship Program, allowing CHC to continue awarding research opportunities to doctoral candidates from across the United States. Additionally, The Goizueta Foundation has challenged the University of Miami to raise $500,000 in support of CHC. Once these funds are secured, the foundation will match with a gift of $1 million for the second endowment to support the continued growth of CHC’s collections through acquisitions, preservation, and digitization.

Acquisitions

Frederick Fried Coney Island Collection, an array of memorabilia, photographs, blueprints, and other resources that document the rise and decline of one of New York City’s most iconic entertainment destinations, as well as a laboratory for modern commercialized urban culture, has been acquired by Columbia University Libraries/Information Services Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The Coney Island collection—already processed and in use by researchers—consists of material created and collected by Frederick Fried (1908–94) and William F. Mangels (1867–1958) in the course of documenting and writing about the history of the amusement industry and the public culture of Coney Island, in Brooklyn. It includes 32 feet of photographic materials, drawings, blueprints, newspaper and magazine clippings, research notes, published and unpublished writings, brochures, printed advertisements, correspondence, trade literature, sheet music, and ephemera. The photographic content ranges from “Bathing Beauties” to “Amusements” to “Freakshow” performers. Blueprints and architectural drawings in the collection give detailed designs for rollercoasters, carousels, miniature railroads, and other amusement rides and pleasure pavilions.

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