

**Finding Aid for the
Alfred L. Bright Collection
1969-1989**



Record Group No. RG 62/06

University Archives & Special Collections
William F. Maag, Jr. Library
Youngstown State University
Youngstown, OH 44555
PH: 330-941-3487
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www.maag.ysu.edu/archives

Descriptive Summary

- Title:** Alfred L. Bright Collection, 1969-1989
- Creator:** Professor Alfred L Bright, Professor Emeritus, Department of Art, Youngstown State University; Founder of the YSU Black Studies Program
- Extent:** 3 boxes (3.45 cubic feet)
- Abstract:** Herein are the papers, works of art, and ephemera relating to the work of Alfred L. Bright, retired professor of art and founder of the YSU Black Studies Program.

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Alfred L. Bright, Youngstown, Ohio
- Preferred Citation:** Alfred L. Bright Collection, RG 62/06, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.
- Restrictions:** None; items containing sensitive information have been redacted.
- Processing:** Processed by Brian K. Brennan, December 2018-January 2019
- Finding Aid:** Written by Brian K. Brennan

Historical Background*

Alfred L. Bright, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, is an internationally renowned artist and educator. He earned his bachelor's degree in art education from Youngstown University in 1964 and his master's degree in painting from Kent State University in 1965.

Mr. Bright was a pioneer at YSU. He was the first African American full service faculty member at Youngstown University in 1965. He was the founding director of the Black Studies (Africana Studies) Program at YSU from 1970-1987. Mr. Bright developed an interdisciplinary program of study and coursework that brought curricular diversity to the university and the greater Youngstown area.

**YSU News Brief*, April 25, 2014, <http://newsroom.ysu.edu/al-bright-john-young-receive-heritage-award-at-facultystaff-banquet>

For over 40 years, Mr. Bright has influenced the artistic careers of many artists with his teaching, knowledge of and passion for art, moral support and nurturing. Mr. Bright has had more than 100 solo exhibits, including shows at the Butler Institute of American Art, Stanford University, Amherst University, Kent State University and the Canton Art Institute. His work also appears in permanent collections, including those at the Butler Institute of American Art, Kent State University Gallery, Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts, Northeastern University, Savannah State University, the Harmon and Harriet Kelly Collection of African-American Art and the Canton Museum of Art. A 2012 performance on Super Bowl Sunday at the Akron Art Museum, in which Professor Bright painted “Portals In Time” to live music by the Jesse Dandy Jazz Trio, drew the largest audience the museum has ever seen in its 90-year history.

Mr. Bright’s awards/honors/listings include: *Who’s Who in American Art*, *Who’s Who in Black America*, three Youngstown State University Distinguished Professorship Awards, Phi Kappa Phi National Artist Award Nominee, and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Outstanding Educators of America Award (1973), Youngstown State University Diversity Leadership Award (2011), and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity Award (2011) for Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership and Service to the Youngstown, Ohio community. Professor Bright served a five-year term on the Ohio Arts Council, is on the Junior Achievement Foundation Board of Directors, and is a member of the Cleveland Museum of Art African American Advisory Committee.

Scope and Content

This collection deals with the career of Alfred Bright from 1969 through 1989. Of particular interest are the files relating to Mr. Bright’s efforts in bringing about the establishment of the Black Studies Program (now Africana Studies) at Youngstown State University. His work with the Ohio Arts Council is well documented. One of Mr. Bright’s paintings, a portrait of the late professor Nellie G. Dehnbostel, is included in the donation.

Colophon

For a time, these files were stored at Mr. Bright’s art studio and gallery in downtown Youngstown. When this facility closed, the records were transferred to a space rented from Barrier Exterminators, also in Youngstown. In 2016, a water pipe running through this storage room burst, soaking some files. Fortunately, the records making up his donation to Archives & Special Collections—offered several weeks later—show little appreciable water damage.

Series Description

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SERIES II: Correspondence
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Index Terms

Africana Studies – Youngstown State University

African-American Studies

Black Studies

Bright, Alfred L.

Cliffe College of Creative Arts & Communication – Youngstown State University

College of Fine & Performing Arts – Youngstown State University

Ohio Arts Council

BOX 1

SERIES I: ACADEMICS

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Black Studies Advisory Committee, 1972 and undated
2	Black Studies at Youngstown State University, undated
3	Black Studies Position Statement on Teaching Minor, 1969
4	(The) Black Studies Program Development and Advisory Committee, undated
5	(The) Black Studies Program – For Major in Black Studies, undated
6	Black Studies Program, 1970
7	Black Studies Research Program Objectives – YSU, undated
8	Bright: The Black Studies Program Report, 1976
9	Career Information: Black Studies – Youngstown State University, undated
10	Course Syllabus – Afro-American Heritage, undated
11	Diagrams – Youngstown State University – Organization, undated
12	Justification – Black Studies Program, Pt. 1, undated
13	Justification – Black Studies Program, Pt. 2, undated
14	Justification – Black Studies Program, Pt. 3, undated
15	Justification – Black Studies Program, Pt. 4, undated
16	Minority Affairs Counseling (M.A.C.), undated
17	Minority Student Recruitment and Program (draft), 1972
18	North Central Association Accreditation – Black Studies, Youngstown State University, 1976
19	Proposals – Black Studies (YSU), 1976
20	Report for Fiscal Year 1974 – The Youngstown State University Development Education Program, 1974
21	Scope of the Counselor, Black Studies, undated
22	Take Home Exam – Black Studies 700, undated
23	Work Assignments for Work Studies Students Assigned to Black Studies Recruitment Program, undated

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
24	General Correspondence, 1975-1977
25	General Correspondence, 1979-1980

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General Correspondence, 1983-1985
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East Ohio Today: United Methodist Review, 1989
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SERIES IV: INTERVIEWS

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Currean, Patrick, 1970
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Moleah, Dr. Alfred, 1970
Pruitt, Dr. Ralph, 1970
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SERIES V: PUBLICATIONS

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ACA Update, 1983
Alternatives (Mahoning County Residential Treatment Center), 1979

Artspace (Ohio Arts Council), 1982-1986
Book Reviews (drafts), undated
Guidelines – Ohio Arts Council, 1980
(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (spiral-bound), Copy 1, 1977
(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (spiral-bound), Copy 2, 1977
(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (loose-leaf), 1977
Newsletter – College of Fine and Performing Arts (YSU), 1979

BOX 2

SERIES VI: SUBJECT FILES

Folder No.

Description

1

Academic Advising Seminar, 1979

2 African Art: A Traveling Exhibit for the State of
Indiana, 1970

3 African Studies Association, 1976 and undated

4 Afrohio Art '78, 1977

5 Allegheny College – Afro-American Heritage, 1975-
1976

6 Alpha Phi Alpha (Beta Rho Lambda, Chapter No. 160),
1980

7 Alpha Phi Alpha (Beta Rho Lambda, Chapter No. 160),
1981

8 Alpha Phi Alpha (Beta Rho Lambda, Chapter No. 160),
1982

9 Alpha Phi Alpha (Beta Rho Lambda, Chapter No. 160),
1983

10 Alpha Phi Alpha (Beta Rho Lambda, Chapter No. 160),
1984 and undated

11 Atlantic City High School – The National Humanities
Faculty, 1969-1975

12 Bing Davis – De Pauw Art Center, 1974-1975 and
undated

13 Black Studies – California, 1970-1971

14 Black Studies Program – Cleveland State University,
1971

15 Black Studies Program – Cleveland State University –
Annual Report, 1970

16 Black Studies Questionnaire, undated

17 Committee on Student Retention (YSU), 1979

18 Creative Arts Festival Committee, 1976-1977

19 Black Studies Program – Howard University, 1970-
1976 and undated

20 Dance Movement Therapy – Daniel Maloney, 1977 and
undated

21 File – Art Organizations, 1978 and undated

22 Flyer - Black Art Show (Valley Art Guild Gallery),
1983

23 Institutional Research – Youngstown State University.
Course Inventory and Program Subsidy Level
Summary, Summer/Fall 1972

24 Institutional Research – Youngstown State University.
Grade Point Averages, Spring Quarter 1972

25 Institutional Research – Youngstown State University.
Grade Point Averages, Winter and Spring Quarters,
1973

26 Institutional Research – Youngstown State University.
Report – Minority Student Groups, 1973

- 27 Institutional Research – Youngstown State University.
Report, Summer 1973
- 28 Institutional Research – Youngstown State University.
Summary of Head-Count Statistics, Fall 1973
- 29 Institute of African American Affairs – Kent State
University. Summary of Annual Report, 1970
- 30 Inventory – Al Bright Collection of African Art,
undated
- 31 Lecture Materials – African Art, 1980 and undated
- 32 Mel Watkins. “Writing in Black and White,” 1979
- 33 “Metaphor” Files, undated
- 34 Minority Group Student Data...Civil Rights
Compliance Report...YSU, 1972
- 35 (The) National Center on Black Aged, 1980
- 36 National Endowment for the Humanities – Materials,
1976-1977
- 37 National Humanities Faculty, 1974
- 38 National Humanities Faculty – Boston Trip, 1980-1982
and undated
- 39 Notes – Al Bright, Pt. 1, undated
- 40 Notes – Al Bright, Pt. 2, undated
- 41 Notes on Black Studies Program – Al Bright, undated
- 42 Ohio Arts Council Files, 1974-1975
- 43 Ohio Arts Council Files, 1976-1977
- 44 Ohio Arts Council Files, 1979-1980
- 45 Ohio Arts Council Files, 1981-1983
- 46 Ohio Arts Council Files, undated\
- 47 Ohio Consortium of Black Studies, 1970-1980 and
undated
- 48 (An) Open Letter to the Carter G. Woodson High
School Humanities Project, undated
- 49 (The) Outstretched Hand...1970-1971
- 50 Photo – Al Bright with Mayor Jack Hunter and
unidentified, 1974
- 51 Proposal – Youngstown Area Creative Arts Camp.
Breath of Fresh Air – Art Apprenticeship Program,
undated
- 52 Proposals for Black Studies Programs, Pt. 1, 1969-1970
and undated
- 53 Proposals for Black Studies Programs, Pt. 2, 1969-1070
and undated
- 54 Proto-Baroque Qualities in the Work of Correggio
Tintoretto (unidentified student paper), undated
- 55 Reading List for Those Interested in African Studies,
undated

BOX 3

SERIES VI: SUBJECT FILES (Continued)

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Publicity Flyer – Black History Manual, 1982-1984
2	Roots and Historical Development of Apartheid and Racism in Southern Africa, undated
3	Student Development Program – Bowling Green State University, undated
4	Student Development Committee, Pt. 1, 1972-1975 and undated
5	Student Development Committee, Pt. 2, 1972-1975 and undated
6	Student Papers, 1977-1980
7	Student Research Files, undated
8	Talking Points – Al Bright, undated
9	Youngstown Playhouse, 1980-19801 and undted
10	Youngstown Urban League, 1977
11	YSU/OEA Contract Negotiations, 1972-1973
12	YSU Survey of Local Organizations, 1979

SERIES VII: MISCELLANEOUS

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
13	(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (draft), Pt. 1, 1977
14	(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (draft), Pt. 2, 1977
15	(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (draft), Pt. 3, 1977
16	(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (draft), Pt. 4, 1977
17	(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (draft), Pt. 5, 1977
18	(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (draft), Pt. 6, 1977
19	(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (draft), Pt. 7, 1977
20	(An) Interdisciplinary Introduction to Black Studies (draft), Pt. 8, 1977

SERIES VIII: ARTIFACTS

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
21	Business Card – The Al Bright Studio & Gallery of Fine Art, undated
22	Children’s Drawings for Al Bright, Pt. 1, undated
23	Children’s Drawings for Al Bright, Pt. 2, undated
24	Children’s Drawings for Al Bright, Pt. 3, undated
25	Children’s Drawings for Al Bright, Pt. 4, undated
26	Pen and Ink Drawings by Al Bright, undated
27	Plastic Desk Name Plate – Alfred L. Bright, undated

Additional Artifact:

One (1) painting by Al Bright commemorating the life and career of Nellie G. Dehnbostel, a member of the YSU music and science faculty. At the time of this writing, it is located in Archives. At a date to be determined, the painting will be exhibited in Maag Library.