

The AFRO Archives at the Upton Mansion

Baltimore, Maryland

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Located in West Baltimore's Upton community, the Upton Mansion is a nationally registered historic structure originally built in 1838 as the primary residence of a prominent Baltimore family. Afro Charities, an affiliated nonprofit to the AFRO American Newspapers, will renovate the Mansion and its adjacent carriage house, and construct a new annex at the rear of the Mansion. This campus will serve as the headquarters for Afro Charities and the AFRO American Newspapers, and most importantly, will become the new permanent home for the AFRO American Newspapers Archives. Upton Mansion, which will be certified LEED Gold, will also feature a gallery and exhibit space, recording studio, research and digitization space, leasable offices for similarly aligned organizations, community events space, and a green roof. The redevelopment will transform the Upton Mansion into an international destination for the study and celebration of African American history and culture.

The Project will be a major step forward in establishing Upton as a cultural tourism destination by creating a pre-eminent archival and research center for the study of Black culture and history. The redevelopment of the Upton Mansion will help the community actualize its community vision, which commits to "reclaim[ing] the vestiges of its distinct African American heritage and be[ing] the hub of a cultural revitalization where the memory of the great entertainers, artists and civic leaders who proudly proclaimed Upton as their neighborhood will serve as a beacon by drawing investments back into the community."

The redevelopment of the Upton Mansion into the permanent home for the AFRO Archives represents both a homecoming for the AFRO as well as a renewed commitment to the community's vibrant future. ■



AFRO
CHARITIES

cross
street
PARTNERS



CLIENT / DEVELOPER

AFRO Charities and
AFRO American Newspapers

ARCHITECT

Sulton Campbell Britt & Associates

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Commercial Construction

CSP ROLE

Development Consultant
Owner's Representative

PROJECT TYPE / USES

Adaptive Reuse, Archival Storage and
research, art and cultural exhibition,
education and community programming,
journalism

PROJECT SIZE

19,000 square feet
(11K SF historic mansion & 8K SF new annex)

PROJECT COST

\$14MM

START / COMPLETION

Q4 2023 / Q1 2025

2101 E. Biddle Street, Suite 1201
Baltimore, MD 21224

www.CrossStPartners.com

www.afrocharities.org/upton-mansion