This brochure is one in a series of pamphlets that collectively list and briefly describe more than 140 items in this evolving collection.

Donations from Robert C. Hayden inspired the collation of books celebrating African American arts, political activities, historical movements, and significant figures. Hayden was a senior Lecturer at U MASS Boston, Northeastern University, Boston College, and Lesley University, spanning from 1978 to 2006 and is President Emeritus of the local branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), established in 2002.

The collection does not contain fiction or autobiographical titles nor is it exhaustive of the library’s existing holdings related to this special collection.

The town of Oak Bluffs has a rich history as a time-honored black summer community, supporting African American arts & culture. Continuing to pique the interest of both historians and members of the general public, some materials within this collection describe local historic sites and tours, which juxtapose the contributions of and the injustices suffered by African Americans on the island dating back to the 1700s. The bulk of the collection allows for cultural connections between the island and Black America.
AFRICAN AMERICAN 387.5 BOLSTER
*Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail* (Bolster, Jeffrey W.)
Reveals the critical role sailors played in helping forge new identities for black people in America. Also examines how common experiences drew black and white sailors together even as deeply internalized prejudices drove them apart.

AFRICAN AMERICAN 973 FREEDOM
*Freedom On My Mind* (Marable, Manning)
Uses a treasure trove of documents to reveal the richly diverse and complex experience of black people in America in their own words, from the Colonial era of Benjamin Banneker to the present world of Kweisi Mfume and Clarence Thomas.

AFRICAN AMERICAN 973 HAKIM
*Freedom: A History Of Us* (Hakim, Joy)
Companion book to the 10-part PBS mini-series, follows the thread of the programs while providing a more complete picture of the people and events that shaped the 13 colonies into a great nation of 50 states.

AFRICAN AMERICAN 973.05 MELTZER
*The Black Americans: A History in Their Own Words* (Meltzer, Milton)
A living history of African Americans from 1619 to the present, told in the words of voices forgotten and famous, through letters, speeches, memoirs and testimonies.

AFRICAN AMERICAN 973 JOHNSON
*Africans In America: America's Journey Through Slavery* (Johnson, Charles & Smith, Patricia)
Tells the shared history of Africans and Europeans, seen through the lens of slavery, featuring a four-part history by poet and performance artist Patricia Smith and a dozen fictional narratives by award-winning novelist Charles Johnson.

AFRICAN AMERICAN 973 REISS
*Blacks In Colonial America* (Reiss, Oscar)
Examines the lives of blacks, both slave and free, as they struggled to make homes for themselves among the white European settlers in the New World. Topics include colonial slavery, emancipation, Christianity, and service in the American Revolution.

AFRICAN AMERICAN 973.02 HARRIS
*The Black Book African American History: 35th Anniversary Edition* (Harris, A Middleton)
Encyclopedic look at the black experience in America from 1619 through the 1940s, illustrated with nearly 500 images and edited by Toni Morrison. A vital link to the richness and diversity of African American history and culture.

AFRICAN AMERICAN 973.04 GATES
*And Still I Rise: Black America Since MLK* (Gates Jr, Henry Louis)
Details the most important events and untold stories in African American history from 1965 to 2015, tracing the political and social evolution of black America and celebrating the accomplishments of black artists, musicians, writers, comedians, and thinkers.