



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Other Countries records**

1982-2002

Sc MG 627

Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016.

## Summary

**Creator:** Other Countries

**Title:** Other Countries records

**Date:** 1982-2002

**Size:** 11.5 linear feet (29 boxes); 329.6 kb (15 computer files)

**Source:** Donated by Bert Michael Hunter on behalf of Other Countries Inc., 1997; and John Manzon-Santos, executor of the estate of Bert Hunter, 2001.

**Abstract:** Other Countries is a not-for-profit organization formed by a collective of black gay male writers in New York City, organized with the purpose to develop, promote, communicate and cultivate literary, cultural, and social endeavors and pursuits relevant to the experience of black gay men. The collection mostly contains material relating to and generated by the activities of Other Countries; but also by affiliated organizations and individuals; and LGBTQ and AIDS advocacy groups.

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**Preferred citation:** [Item], Other Countries records, Sc MG 627, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016. Box 29 (SCM 12-12), and the electronic media were integrated into the rest of the collection in October, 2016.

## Creator History

Other Countries is a not-for-profit organization formed by a collective of black gay male writers organized with the purpose to develop, promote, and cultivate literary, cultural, and social endeavors

and pursuits relevant to the experience of black gay men. These goals are achieved through publishing, live performances, guided writing and educational workshops, and outreach to underserved communities.

The collective was founded in New York City by Daniel Garrett, growing out of a weekly writing workshop for black gay men that met at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center in Greenwich Village, in 1986. The name of the group was inspired by the works of James Baldwin. The collective is also known as "Other Countries: Black Gay Expression."

Other Countries functioned as a program of the Cultural Council Foundation (CCF), which was created under the auspices of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs to provide administrative services to new art groups. The CCF provided the organizations with its tax-exempt status, as well as fiscal management, consulting, and training services. Other Countries also received grants from other arts funding bodies, such as the North Star Fund. The group was administered by a board of directors, whose functions included fundraising and writing grant proposals, communicating with the membership, and overseeing publications.

In addition to the writers' workshops and live performances, a major function of the organization is periodically publishing a journal. Its first edition, *Other Countries: Black Gay Voices*, an anthology of poetry, essays, plays, and art of 32 black gay writers, was published in 1988. In 1993, responding to the AIDS epidemic, the collective published its second anthology *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of Aids*. In 1996, the foundation celebrated its tenth anniversary at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture with readings and performances. The group broadened its focus to include members of the black LGBT community into their workshop, publications, and board in the late 1990s. It published its third anthology, *Voices Rising: Celebrating 20 Years of Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Writing* in 2007. A number of notable writers have been associated with Other Countries, including Assotto Saint (Yves Lubin), Cary Alan Johnson, Melvin Dixon, Essex Hemphill, Donald W. Woods, Joseph Beam, and Samuel R. Delany.

Members of the Other Countries board of directors, such as chairs B. Michael Hunter and Colin Robinson, were also active in other cultural, social, and political advocacy groups that organized around the multiple oppressions associated with belonging to communities marginalized by racism and homophobia. A number of these activities were characterized by their engagement with advocacy and support surrounding the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Examples of these groups are Gay Men of African Descent, The Audre Lorde Project, Gay Men's Health Crisis, and The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, all of which are still active.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Other Countries records date from 1982 to 2002 and document the group's writing, performance, and publishing activities, while providing insight into the reception of their publications by readers and contributors. The majority of the files were compiled by two members of the board of directors, B. Michael Hunter and Colin Robinson, and show the intersections of their activities as Other Countries members, their participation in other advocacy groups, and their personal lives. The devastating impact of HIV and AIDS on the black gay community is evident in the focus of the group's writings, especially for their 1993 publication, *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS*, their poetry readings, and performances.

Administrative files contain correspondence, internal memoranda, membership information, financial and fundraising records, and organizational files such as reports and board election documents. These

trace the development and formalization of the Other Countries' structure, mission, and functioning. B. Michael Hunter's files include correspondence, minutes, and printed matter from both Other Countries, and organizations in which Hunter was active. These also contain teaching, study, and employment-related records, some literary compositions, research material, and personal and financial records

The Organizational records encompass discussion on the structure of the group; and planning and reporting of the organization from its genesis as a development of the Other Countries writing workshop. Also present are newsletters produced by the group, board and committee election information, and some internal communications.

The Financial Records concern journal printing and sales; mailing and events; and workshop costs. They also contain activity reports and statements; balance sheets; and other documents generated for Other Countries by the Cultural Council Foundation.

The Performances, Workshops and Events files include publicity, planning documents, and scripts from the poetry readings and presentations made by Other Countries members and in collaboration with other artists. These include materials for presentations at the Schomburg Center.

Subject Files include research on HIV/AIDS, and a large amount of printed matter generated by numerous social justice, advocacy, and special interest groups. They include handbills, newsletters, magazines, posters, party invitations, and other publicity materials.

A major function of the collective was publishing anthologies of literary works. This is evidenced in the Writings files which include journal committee minutes and agendas; planning documents; reports; published and unpublished manuscript submissions; and iterations of the final works in varying stages, including galleys and mockups with annotations. These files also contain letters from people across the country expressing support and requesting information on Other Countries, and copies of the journal.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged into the following categories: Administrative Files; Performances, Workshops and Events; Subject Files; and Writings.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American authors  
African American gays -- Literary collections  
African American Men -- Literary collections  
AIDS (Disease) -- Literary collections  
Gay liberation movement  
Gays  
Lesbians

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Correspondence  
Galley proofs  
Photographs  
Posters  
T-shirts  
Video recordings

**Occupations**

Editors (assembling, revising)  
Performances (creative events)  
Poets

**Names**

Hunter, B. Michael  
James, G. Winston  
Robinson, Colin  
Gay Men of African Descent, Inc.

## Container List

### Administrative Files

#### Board of Directors

##### B. Michael Hunter

b. 1 f. 1-11 1982-1996

b. 2 f. 1-6 1989-1997

Includes an invitation from Schomburg Center inviting material from the Blackheart Collective and related matter (1984).

b. 2 f. 7-9 Colin Robinson 1987-1992

#### Correspondence and Memoranda

Includes meeting notes and business records.

b. 2 f. 10-13 1985-1992

b. 3 f. 1-8 1987-1996

b. 29 f. 1 2003-2006

b. 3 f. 9 Brinkley, Sidney S 1988  
Blackheart Press.

b. 3 f. 10 Clarke, Cheryl 1987

b. 3 f. 11 Delany, Samuel R 1987

b. 3 f. 12 Garrett, Daniel 1987

b. 3 f. 13 Hunter, B. Michael circa 1992

b. 3 f. 14 Jackson, Reginald T 1988

b. 3 f. 15 Johnson, Cary Alan 1986-1988

b. 3 f. 16 Jordan, June 1987

b. 3 f. 17 Pouncy, Charles R. P 1989

b. 3 f. 18 Riggs, Marlon 1992

b. 3 f. 19 Smith, Barbara 1988

b. 3 f. 20 Smith, Jamez L 1993

b. 3 f. 21 Woods, Donald 1989-1992

b. 3 f. 22 Wright, Allen 1987, 1992-1993

b. 4 f. 1-7 Mailing Lists 1980-1989, undated

#### Financial Records

b. 4 f. 8-10 1985-1988

b. 5 f. 1-9 1987-1995

b. 29 f. 2 1998-1999

#### Grants and Fundraising

b. 5 f. 10-11 1987-1997

b. 29 f. 3 1997

b. 5 f. 12 Arts Forward Fund 1993

b. 5 f. 13 Chicago Resource Center 1988-1989

b. 5 f. 14 Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines 1987-1989

#### Cultural Council Foundation

b. 5 f. 15 1985-1992, 1996

Administrative Files (cont.)

Grants and Fundraising (cont.)

Cultural Council Foundation (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 1-4 1987-1992
- b. 6 f. 5-6 Department of Cultural Affairs 1988-1990
- b. 6 f. 7 Funding Exchange
- b. 6 f. 8 New York Foundation for the Arts 1995  
Provided some funding to Other Countries during the 1990s.
- b. 6 f. 9 New York State Council on the Arts 1988
- b. 6 f. 10-11 North Star Fund 1988-1993
- b. 6 f. 12 Resist 1988

Meetings

- b. 6 f. 13 1987-1988
- b. 7 f. 1-8 1988-1996

Organizational Files

- b. 7 f. 9-14 1986-1994
- b. 8 f. 1-5 1989-1997
- b. 29 f. 4 1994
- b. 8 f. 6 By-Laws 1987-1988
- b. 8 f. 7 Elections 1988-1989
- b. 8 f. 8 Letterhead 1980s
- b. 8 f. 9 Membership Records 1987-1990
- b. 8 f. 10 Narrative History of Other Countries undated  
Draft.

Newsletters

- b. 25 f. 1 1992
- b. 8 f. 11 1992-1996
- b. 8 f. 12-14 Planning Committee 1988-1990

Performances, Workshops, and Events

- b. 9 f. 1-7 1983-1996
- b. 29 f. 5 2003-2004  
"Acquired Visions: Seeing Ourselves Through AIDS"  
Performance at the Studio Museum in Harlem as part of the "Visual AIDS" program, focusing on education and remembrance, 1989 December 1.
- b. 9 f. 8-10 1989
- b. 25 f. 2 1989
- b. 10 f. 1 Bay Area Event 1988?
- b. 10 f. 2-3 "Behavioral Change: Prescriptive Performance for the Second Decade of HIV" 1991-1992
- b. 10 f. 4 "Coming Home" 1988  
Featuring Other Countries member Donald W. Woods.
- b. 10 f. 5 Disco Party/Reading Mid-town 43 1987
- b. 10 f. 6 "Feelin' Like" 1990
- b. 10 f. 7 Giovanni's Room Presentation 1988
- b. 10 f. 8 "Grown Men in Love" 1989  
Poetry reading.

Performances, Workshops, and Events (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 9 "In Our Own Write" 1988
- origsr.252378 Initiation by Yves [Lubin] undated  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- b. 10 f. 10-11 Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebrations 1987-1990
- b. 10 f. 12 "Libido Lit. 101" 1988
- b. 10 f. 13 "Lifeforce" 1990-1991
- b. 10 f. 14 "Livin' My Life (A Work in Progress)" 1992
- b. 10 f. 15 "The Long Read: A Literary Marathon Event" 1991
- b. 10 f. 16 "Multiple Voices" circa 1989
- b. 10 f. 17 "Other Countries: Making OURstory" 1997  
Dedication of the Other Countries archives at Schomburg, 1997 October 25.
- b. 10 f. 18 "The Pride of Summer" Party 1987
- b. 25 f. 3 "Rage and Desire" circa 1993  
List of exhibited works.
- b. 10 f. 19 "Roots and New Rituals" and "In Celebration of Martin Luther King" 1987
- b. 10 f. 20 Schomburg Center 1988  
Poetry Reading.
- b. 10 f. 21 "Servin' it Up" 1988  
Part of "Ways in Being Gay" series of events, Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Buffalo, New York.
- b. 10 f. 22 Solstice Poetry Readings 1989, 1997
- b. 10 f. 23 "Veteran Voices" late 1990s
- b. 10 f. 24 Writing Workshop 1987-1992

Subject Files

- b. 10 f. 25 1987-1996
- b. 11 f. 1-8 1987-1997
- b. 12 f. 1-10 1989-1997
  - b. 25 f. 4 1991-1992, 1996
  - b. 13 f. 1 ADODI Philadelphia 1995
  - b. 13 f. 2-5 AIDS/HIV Research 1989-1995
  - b. 13 f. 6 Associated Organizations Information 1987-1991
- The Audre Lorde Project
  - b. 13 f. 7-9 1995-1997
  - b. 29 f. 6 1999
  - b. 14 f. 1 *BêG: A Different Point of View* 1990-1992
  - b. 14 f. 2 *Black Enterprise* 1990-1991
  - b. 14 f. 3 Black History Celebrations, City of New York 1991
  - b. 14 f. 4 Black Leadership Commission on AIDS 1989-1990
  - b. 14 f. 5 Black Lesbian and other Women's Groups 1989-1997  
Includes some publications.
  - b. 14 f. 6 Black Men's Association 1984
  - b. 14 f. 7 The Blackheart Collective 1982-1983
- b. 14 f. 8-10 *BLK* 1989-1991

Subject Files (cont.)

- b. 15 f. 1 *The Body Positive* 1989-1992, 1985
- b. 15 f. 2 Business Improvement District 1990  
Church Avenue merchant's group.
- b. 15 f. 3 Caribbean-American Trade Connection 1990
- b. 15 f. 4-5 The Center 1988-1997  
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Services Center. Includes the publication, *The Center Voice*.
- b. 15 f. 6 *Color Life* 1982-1994
- b. 15 f. 7 Craig Harris 1988-1990  
GHMC (Gay Men's Health Crisis) AIDS prevention programs coordinator.
- b. 15 f. 8-9 Directories 1989-1993  
Lesbian and Gay services and resources contact information.
- b. 15 f. 10 The Encore Social Club 1990
- b. 15 f. 11 Foundation for the Vital Arts 1987-1988, 1993
- b. 15 f. 12 *Gay Community News* 1989-1991
- b. 16 f. 1-6 Gay Men of African Descent 1988-1997  
Includes board meeting agendas and minutes, internal memoranda, administrative documents, and newsletters.
- b. 16 f. 7 *Gaze* 1989
- b. 16 f. 8 *The Guide: The Gay Northeast* 1989
- b. 16 f. 9 Hetrick Martin Institute 1990-1991
- b. 16 f. 10 Jacks of Color 1990
- b. 16 f. 11 *The James White Review* 1990, 1994
- b. 17 f. 1 JUBILATION! Dance Company 1986-1988
- b. 17 f. 2 Lesbian and Gay Committees Retreat undated
- b. 17 f. 3 Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee 1989-1997
- b. 17 f. 4 Listing of Street Level Stores and Businesses in CAMBA Area 1990
- b. 17 f. 5 *The Malebox!* 1996
- b. 17 f. 6 Mamma Doesn't Know! Productions 1988-1990
- b. 17 f. 7-8 Management Resources 1987-1988
- b. 17 f. 9 Marjorie Hill and the City of New York Office of the Mayor 1990
- b. 17 f. 10 Mediation Training 1980s
- b. 17 f. 11 Men of All Colors Together 1987-1993
- b. 17 f. 12 Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc 1990
- b. 18 f. 1 National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference 1989-1990
- b. 18 f. 2 National Coalition of Black Gay Men and Women 1985
- b. 18 f. 3 Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York 1989-1990
- b. 18 f. 4 Other Organizations 1985-1989
- b. 18 f. 5 People of Color in Crisis 1980s-1990s
- b. 18 f. 6 Publication Resources-Intercultural Press 1990
- b. 18 f. 7 Rainbow Repertory Theatre 1988-1990
- b. 18 f. 8 *Rising Spirit News* 1995-1996
- b. 18 f. 9 Safe Sex and Art 1992-1993  
Clippings and notes.



Subject Files (cont.)

- b. 18 f. 10 *Sojourner: The Women's Forum* 1989
- b. 18 f. 11 *Southern Voice* 1990
- b. 25 f. 5 Vito Russo 1990  
Commemorative poster.
- Other Countries**  
Clippings, press and other material about Other Countries' workshops, publications and performances.
- b. 18 f. 12-13 1984-1994
- b. 19 f. 1-2 1987-1993
  - b. 26 T-Shirts Undated  
Two t-shirts; one printed with the cover of the second anthology, and the other with the words "Other Countries."
- Tributes and Memorials**
- b. 19 f. 3-4 1987-1992
  - b. 19 f. 5 Assotto Saint 1994
  - b. 19 f. 6-7 Joseph Beam 1989, 1992  
Contains program and script for "An Evening to Remember Joe Beam", 1992 June 26.
  - b. 19 f. 8 Roy Gonsalves 1993
  - b. 19 f. 9 "Tribute: Baldwin, Nugent, Rustin" 1988
- Writings**
- b. 19 f. 10-16 1988-1995
  - b. 19 f. 17 Assotto Saint 1992, 1994  
Contains the compilation of poems *Wishing for Wings*.
  - b. 19 f. 18 *Day Dreams by Doyle F. Jolly* 1983
  - b. 19 f. 19 Donald Woods 1985  
Poems.
  - b. 20 f. 1 Eric Stephen Booth undated  
Play.
  - b. 20 f. 2 *Gray Was Comfort by Robert E. Penn* 1992  
Short Stories.
  - b. 20 f. 3-4 Joseph Long 1989-1990
    - b. 20 f. 5 Reginald T. Jackson undated
    - b. 20 f. 6 Tyler St. Mark circa 1993
- Journals**
- b. 20 f. 7-10 1986-1995
  - b. 21 f. 1-7 1989-1995
  - Other Countries: Black Gay Voices*
  - b. 21 f. 8-12 1986-1987
  - b. 25 f. 6-7 1987-1988
  - b. 22 f. 1-7 1987-1989
    - b. 27 Galley 1988
  - b. 22 f. 8-9 Submissions and Workshop Material 1987-1988
  - Submissions Not Used
  - b. 22 f. 10-11 1987

- Writings (cont.)
- Journals (cont.)
- Other Countries: Black Gay Voices (cont.)
- Submissions Not Used (cont.)
- b. 23 f. 1 1987  
*Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS*
- b. 23 f. 2-8 1991-1996
- b. 23 f. 9 Submissions 1992-1993
- Manuscripts
- b. 23 f. 10-12 1993
- b. 24 f. 1-5 1993, undated
- b. 28 Reviewed Submissions and Manuscript circa 1993  
*Voices Rising: Celebrating 20 Years of Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Writing*
- b. 29 f. 7-9 2001
- er. 1 2001  
(39.6 KB (15 computer fields))
- b. 29 f. 10-12 Submissions 2000-2002