



# *Your Bridge to the Past*

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



## Salute to Spring

Our photo of the month shows the Salute to Spring festival in 1963. Costumed performers entertained New Yorkers on Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. The program aimed not only to entertain, but also to solicit contributions for tree planting in the city. This photo is drawn from our Mayor Robert F Wagner (RFW) Collection, which contains 3,273 images of the 102nd Mayor of the City of New York, his family and staff. Many photographs in the collection were originally sent to the mayor as souvenirs of his attendance at an event. Check out almost 2 million more photos, maps and documents by visiting our [Online Gallery](#).

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Historical Vital Records

#### The NYC Historical Vital Records Project

The New York City Municipal Archives is undertaking a mass digitization project to provide online access to 13.3 million historical birth, death, and marriage records.

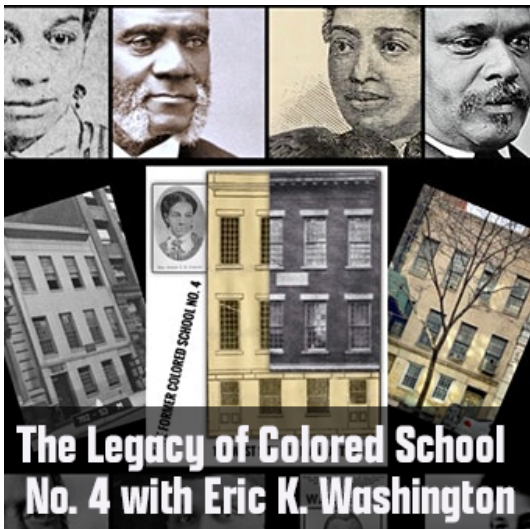
The screenshot displays the user interface for the NYC Historical Vital Records Project. It is divided into two main sections: 'Browse' and 'Search'. The 'Browse' section on the left includes dropdown menus for 'Certificate Type' (set to 'ALL') and 'Borough' (set to 'ALL'), a 'Year Range' slider (set to '1855 to 1949'), and a 'Browse' button. The 'Search' section on the right includes a 'Certificate Number' dropdown, dropdowns for 'Certificate Type\*' (set to 'Birth Certificate') and 'Borough' (set to 'Kings (Brooklyn)'), and a 'Year' dropdown (set to '1904'). A 'Search' button is located at the bottom right of the search section. The background of the interface features a dark blue overlay with faint, historical-style text and signatures.

The Department of Records and Information Services recently launched [Historical Vital Records of NYC](#). The site features more than nine million birth, death, and marriage records, all freely available to browse, search and download. Within the first 24 hours after launching, people from across the globe visited the site - the United Kingdom, Australia, China, New Zealand, Argentina, Jamaica, Hong Kong, Fiji and across Europe - to name just a few places. The Municipal Archives has been working to increase access to its collections and continues to build and sustain industry-standard plans to manage its physical and digital collections. It is to the credit and expertise of archivists, conservators, and reference and research professionals at the New York City Municipal Library and Archives, that these collections will survive for future generations, and continue to enrich the research experience of people and communities around the world. Learn more about the journey in this interview with digitization technician Amalca Alexander:



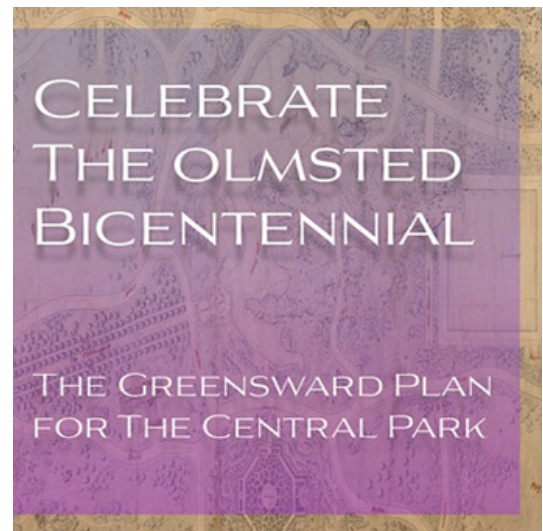
Amalca Alexander shares the challenges & triumphs involved in digitizing millions of vital records for our Historical Vital Records Portal.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Lunch & Learn: The Legacy of Colored School No. 4 with Eric K. Washington

Join author Eric K. Washington to learn about the abiding legacy of the former Colored School No. 4, a 19th-century Black heritage site in NYC's Chelsea neighborhood. Drawing from documentary resources in the city's Municipal Archives and elsewhere, historian Eric K. Washington will discuss a curiously idle schoolhouse which has stood on West 17th Street for more than 150 years. Learn more about the notable teachers, students and visitors associated with this remarkably surviving, yet forlorn, Black heritage site, which is prompting a



### Celebrate Olmsted Bicentennial: The Greensward Plan for The Central Park

In honor of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday, the NYC Department of Records & Information Services will host a pop-up exhibition at [31 Chambers Street](#) featuring the rarely seen original Greensward plan - the winning master plan submitted in 1858 by Olmsted and Calvert Vaux as part of the proposal for the Central Park design competition. Rarely seen in public, the plan is considered a masterpiece of 19th century landscape architecture. The Greensward plan will be shown alongside Egbert Viele's 1855



considerable number of community voices to urge the city to designate it as an individual landmark. Free tickets on April 12, 1:00-2:00pm are available.

topographic map of the site. Original architectural drawings will also be presented. Free tickets for 30-minute slots on April 22nd, 11am - 7pm and April 23rd, 10am - 4pm are available.

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

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## RECENT BLOG

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The first Women's History Day was held in NYC on February 28th, 1909. Organized by the Socialist Party of America, it corresponded with rising action to achieve women's suffrage in the United States. In the following years, the celebration evolved into International Women's History Day, observed every March 8th. Check out our [BLOG](#) to learn about the history of Women's History Day, Week and Month!

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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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Join [WomensActivism.NYC](#) in celebrating International Women's Month by submitting the story of a woman who inspires you today! Her story will be permanently preserved by the Municipal Archives as part of our #herstory campaign. [Share your story!](#)



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The mission of the NYC Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) is to foster civic life by preserving and providing access to the historical and contemporary records of New York City government, to ensure that City records are properly maintained following professional archival and record management practices and to make materials available to diverse communities both online and in person.

**NYC**  
Department of Records  
& Information Services

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**PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE!**