# From Dusty Ephemera to Digital Archives





Records created today will be research materials in 50-100 years. Learn how a records manager and archivist implemented a digital asset management program, transitioning content from network drives, paper, and third-party systems into SharePoint and a Trusted Digital Repository for permanent archival records.



# Goals today



Understand the core differences between an archive and Archives.



Address challenges of working together with ostensibly opposing goals.



Learn how AH went from paper to digital in both RIM and Archives.



Cover some of the requirements and questions to ask when selecting Archives Management Systems that work with existing RIM systems.



Photograph of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ebenezer Baptist Church signing an agreement with Edwin L. Sterne, AH board chairman to develop a low-income housing complex, 1967

# What is Atlanta Housing?

- Public Housing Authority (PHA), Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta, Georgia
- Funded 90% through HUD, rest is public/private funds, oldest PHA in country
- First federally funded Public Housing communities in country
- First to reimagine Public Housing Communities to eliminate concentrated poverty through mixed communities – "Atlanta Model"
- Moving To Work (MTW) designation in 2003 more leniency to administer federal funds from one bucket and innovate
  - Only 138 agencies out of 3,869 total Public Housing Authorities (only 38 PHA in 2003)
  - Traditional PHAs can only spend money from designated buckets



# Who does AH serve?

- Serve 43,762 people yearly with a staff of 320
- Qualifying "low-income" in Atlanta: less than \$86,000, family of 4
- 75% of AH vouchers go to "extremely low-income" (30% median) = \$32,250 family of 4
- 95% of families we support are single parent (typically mother) households with 2 children
- Programs include:
  - Vouchers
  - Homeownership
  - Traditional project-based communities (elderly, disabled high-rises)
  - Education and job training





# Records Management and Archives Programs at AH

- The RIM program and the foundation of the archives were started in 2010 and 2012, respectively.
- Updates to the Georgia Open Records Act that stated all inquiries must be responded to within 3 business days.
- Saw a need for a consolidated RIM program records were kept at properties and disparate storage sites with no intellectual control.
- AH has a whole lot of firsts! Getting control of the records opened an opportunity to start an Archives and flesh out the administrative history of the first housing authority in the country.
- A common way for corporate archives to start is when a leader asks for a company history book, or a big anniversary is coming up.



# Nomenclature: What do we mean by Archive(s)?

# (RIM) Archive

- Long term storage Permanent or 10 to 20+ years. Both digital and in hardcopy.
- Vital Records essential to the Organization.
- Items required by law/ regulations but not often accessed.

# **Archives (with an "s" in the States)**

- The physical space and the collections.
- Historical significance
- Vital to the history of the org and its place in society.
- Preserved, organized, managed, accessible, interpreted, used
- Types of archives: business, gov't, academic, community, etc.
- History belongs to us all.



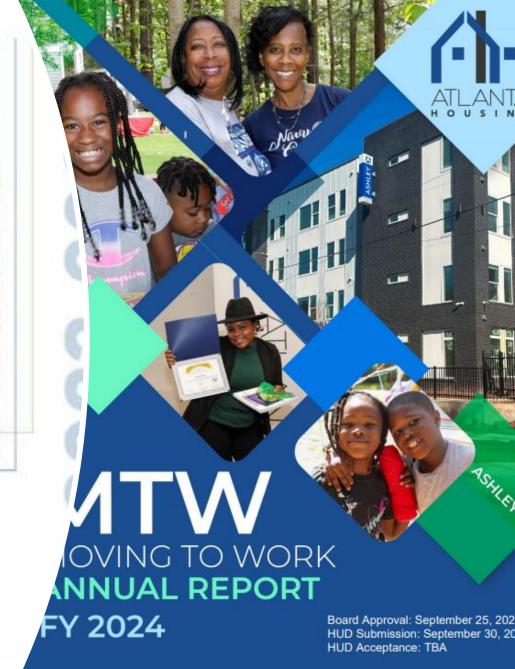
# Key Differences – RIM

- Identifies and manages all records
- Manages IT Governance, Security Labels, and oversees MS Purview in the 365 environment.
- Archival records, especially born digital, are identified at the source and captured in our Records lifecycle
- Mostly interested in managing the final product, not iterations or drafts\*
- High volume bulk disposition
- Organized by retention type not by historical perspective



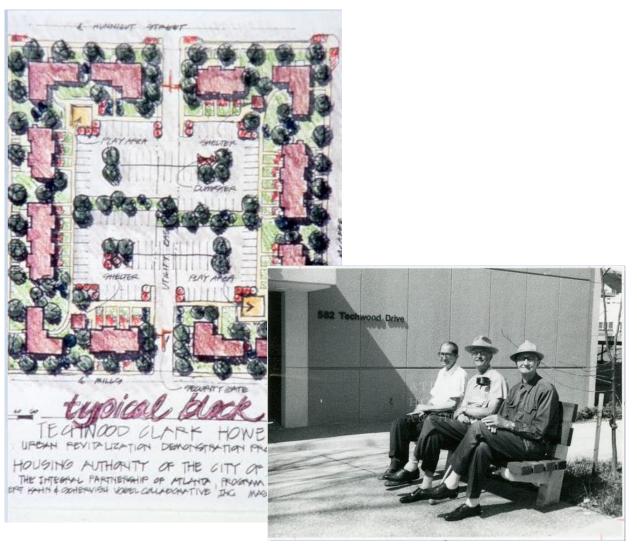
Atlanta Housing Strategic Plan







# Key Differences - Archives



- Starts where RIM ends
- Ethical collecting Has standalone collection development and deaccession policies
- Larger scope than Permanent in RRS
- RIM and Creators do not decide what is archival – Policies do
- Cares about creator, provenance, original use, context, value
- Want the messy drafts!

# Nomenclature: What do we mean by records?

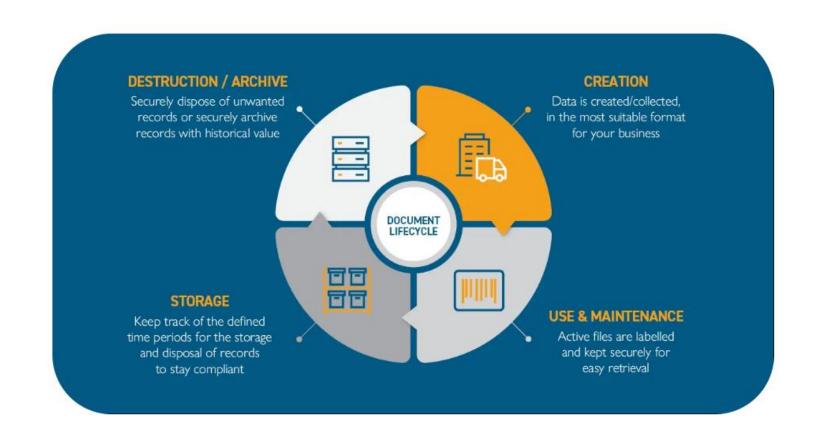
# **RIM**

- Record is the document/asset/object/file
- Each record is a discrete object not the container it comes in.
- Can come in multiple forms and formats but there should only be 1 that is the final record.

- Record is a description of the asset (finding aid)
  - Location of the asset
  - Description of the asset
  - Movements of the asset
  - Accession records... of the asset
- One record can describe multiple assets (folder of photos)
- Asset is the actual archival item (document, photo, digital file, artwork, artifact, collection, fonds, series, folder, etc.)

# Archival Inclusive Lifecycle

When you add your business archives to the typical RIM lifecycle you get something like this...





# What's in our collections?

## **RIM**

- All corporate business records categories including;
  - Real Estate Acquistion
  - Property Management
  - Construction Management
  - Homeownership / Loan records
  - Participant files

- Property Records
  - Blueprints, construction docs
  - RFP, grant applications, mgmt decisions
  - Photos, tenant newsletters, articles
- HUD Correspondence
- Program Records
  - How they are run, not the individual files
- Business Records
  - BOC meeting minutes
  - · Policies and procedures and reports
  - Department records
  - Staff and event photos
- PWA Era Art and Artifacts





# What is NOT in the collections?

## RIM

- Artwork
- Drafts
- Social media
- Tenant Association Materials

- Personnel/HR files
- Tenant files
- Active records
- Anything that would not be available in an Open Records Request



# How are RIM and Archives used at AH?

## **RIM**

- Compliance with laws and regulations
- Improved access to records
  - Litigation
  - Audits
  - Grants and new projects
- Eliminate duplicate records
- Research for New Construction
- Business continuity and information for informed decision making
- Open Records requests

- Everything RIM does <u>plus</u> interpretation of Company records
- Institutional memory -- historians
- Corporate identity and reputation management
- Corporate responsibility
- Employee recruitment and engagement
- Information as evidence
- Innovation repeating history



# Who uses the collections?

# **RIM**

Everyone!

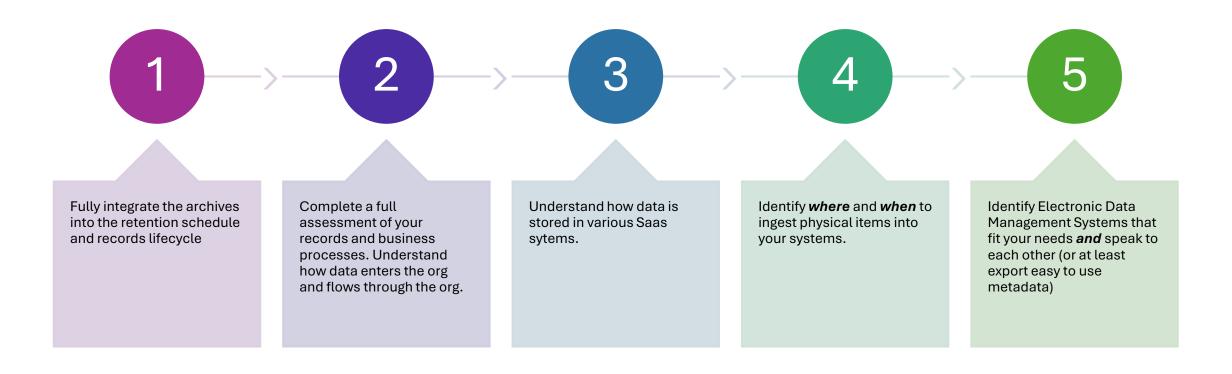


# **Archives**

While it is open to everyone, biggest users are:

- Comms and Marketing
- C-Suite
- Legal
- Real Estate Planning
- External Researchers (students, historians, RFP respondents)

# SO... How do you go from boxes of ephemera to a badass digital empire?



# Use Case: Housing Choice



Customer service centered department.



Uses SharePoint as the repository for all customer documentation and correspondence.



Ingests more than 100k pieces of information in various formats yearly from current customers.



Has a Saas application to manage documents and user profiles but it is not a repository.



Program participants can and do come in person to drop off documentation at our Customer Service desk.

# Moving digital – Housing Choice



Mapped out all the processes where info came in or generated by biz and made sure the workflow ended in SharePoint.

Use a program to auto deposit all outbound email correspondence into SharePoint.

📆 Worked with in house IT team to create a job to migrate data weekly from the Saas product to SharePoint.

Utilized a scanning team to fill any gaps in processes until fully digital workflows could be established

Front Desk Customer Service Staff are equipped with scanners – any documentation coming into the building is scanned and uploaded to a customer's file immediately.

Create external facing portal that allow trusted partners to upload information digitally – reducing email flows.

# But what do I do about existing paper...

Work with departments to calculate touch rate.

Anything touched less than 4x a year – offsite storage – don't worry about digitizing (low use)

Monitor the boxes going in and out of the office for repeat offenders.

Anything more than 4x year is digitized when it comes onsite next and placed in SharePoint.

Digitizing ROT will impede accurate results when implementing AI on your network.

# But what do I do about new paper?

For most of us...If you don't use typewriters then you don't have new paper.



Digital:
2 different
workflows

# Digitized from original paper

Born digital



# Digital Records: Digitized from original

## **RIM**

- Original paper is almost negligible
- Archives reviews/captures OG paper prior to destruction as part of lifecycle
- If we are digitizing metadata needs to be compliant with RIM and Archives fields (if a known archival record)

- Keep the original!
  - technology changes
- Thoughtful digitization projects with use identified
- All related works and versions intellectually married
  - Digital surrogate of slide/print

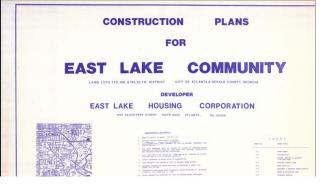


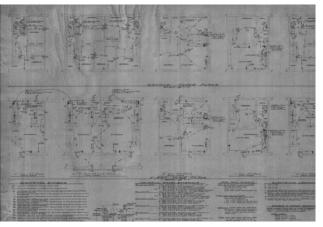
# Digital Records: Born Digital

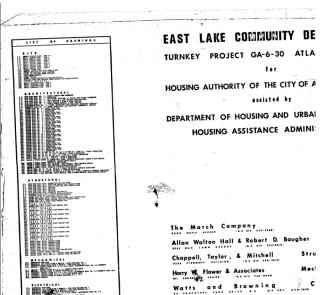
## **RIM**

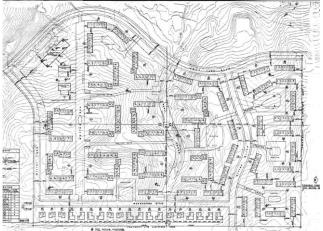
- Straight to SharePoint or another authorized repository
- Department specific SaaS products authorized to hold records.
- Avoid OneDrive whenever possible.

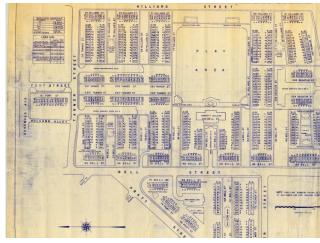
- Migration cannot happen at 20year retention period
- Identify/document file types are you accepting or migrating to
  - Proprietary (CAD) vs perpetual (PDF)
- Files need to be findable in context
- Loss of process when you only save the final PDF document

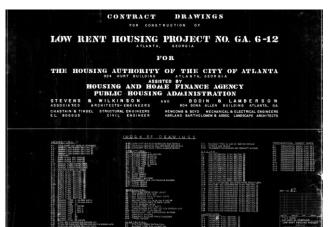












# Use Case: Blueprints

- Started off being owned only by RIM
- Buildings built from 1930-60s and may be still standing and operational
- Modernization/renovation in 1996 2016
- Retention schedule = keep blueprints for 2 years after demolition
- RRS revised to add Archives = collect blueprints that are 20 years old (regardless of triggering event) or hit retention
- Heavily requested blueprints examine use cases and touch rate
  - Active BP for maintenance (working documents)
  - Old BP for historic preservation, storytelling, student projects (Research)
- Don't forget physical storage!
  - Archives may hold physical BP for RIM due to condition
- This is a compromise we can live with!

# Blueprints and maps

# **RIM Retention Schedule**

**Records Series:** 

1207 Blueprints / Maps

Description:

Blueprints, Specifications and Plans, As-builts.

Retention Period:

Triggering Event + 2 years

Triggering Event(s):

Life of structure

# **Archives Appraisal Rules**

### Table 1. Appraisal Grid

OFFICE RECORDS	Permanent	Retain for Documentation	Retain for Examples	Destroy or Transfer*	Case By Case	Reformat
Minutes of Meetings		Х				
Financial Records				Х		
Marketing Records	Х					
Personnel Records				Х		
Awards	Х					
Correspondence with Publishers	х					
Clin File - /Tone Chande	V					

Clip Files/Tear Sheets	Х				
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT					
Sketches	Х				
Schematics	Х				
Presentation Drawings	X				
CAD	X				
CONSTRUCTION DRAWING	GS				
Final Drawings/Record Set	Х				
Site Plans	Х				
Elevations	Х				
Sections	Х				
Floor Plans	Х				

Bid Sets
Field Sets
Field Sets (if annotated)

### AH Archives Architectural Plans Accessioning Criteria

Architectural plans (maps, floor plans, blueprints, etc.) will be accessioned into the Archives that detail interiors, exteriors, landscaping, or unusual features if they contribute to the significance of the property.

The following types of architectural plans will automatically be accessioned into the archives without exception:

- · All architectural plans relevant to AH history and created prior to 1942.
- . All architectural plans documenting AH during the period of War housing (1942-1948).
- All architectural plans for AH's and the nation's first federally funded individual housing projects Techwood-Clark Howell Homes and University Homes.
- All architectural plans for AH's first HOPE VI property created after 1997 showing the revitalization for The Villages at East Lake Meadows.
- Architectural plans created prior or during a housing projects year of completion.

	Completion	
Property	Year	
Alonzo F. Herndon Homes	1941	
Antoine Graves Homes and Annex	1973	
Bankhead Courts	1970	
Barge Road Highrise	1981	
Bowen Homes	1964	
Capito l Homes	1942	
Carver Community Homes	1953	
Cheshire Bridge	1976	
East Lake Me adows and East Lake Me adows Highrise	1971	
Englewood Manor	1971	
Georgia Avenue Highrise	1978	
Gilbert Gardens and Gilbert Gardens Annex	1971	
Grady Homes	1942	
Heman E. Perry Homes and Perry Annex	1954	
Hightower Manor Highrise	1982	
Hollywood Courts	1969	
Joe   Chandler Harris and John O. Chiles Homes	1957	
John Hope Homes	1941	

Property	Completion Year
John J. Eagan Homes	1941
Jonesboro North	1972
Jonesboro South	1970
Juniper and Tenth Highrise	1974
Kimberly Courts	1973
Le ila Valle y	1970
Marian Road Highrise	1980
Marietta Road Highrise	1982
Martin Street Plaza	1976
McDanie l-Glenn and MLK Jr. Memorial Bldg	1968
Palmer House	1967
Peachtree Road Highrise	1976
Piedmont Road Highrise	1977
Roosevelt House	1973
Surburban Courts	1969
Te chwood-Clark Howell Homes	1936
Thomasville Heights	1970
University Homes	1937

What do we do when our best practices are opposing? WE FIGHT!

# RIM:

- Who cares about what a digital file will look like in 50 years when the retention period is 3 years?
- General practice is to keep paper records for 10-20 years and then send to Archives that have permanent retention

- Paper and benign neglect are (usually) friends – fine waiting
- But digital is an EMERGENCY
- Archives best practices is to collect digital records at the point of creation or before





# Compromise looks like...

## **RIM**

- Digitize the modern blueprints
- Add to SharePoint
- Only accessible for maintenance team and authorized staff
- Metadata flags BP to transfer to archives at disposition

- Digitize the historic blueprints
- Add to Archives CMS/TDR
- Accessible to all researchers
- Related material notes and accession records point to current BP for continuity, date of retention
- Streamline workflows and reduce duplication

# None of this will work unless you...

1

Create a data map of how information is flowing through your organization. 2

Interview the staff performing the functions- not just the managers 3

Get buy-in and high compliance from all record creators and departments\*

# Defining the Archives scope and procedures

Clearly identifying in the retention policy that the archivist gets final review at the point of disposition

Need to decide the scope and collection development policy of the archives.

What are you collecting? When? Why? How? Who is responsible?

Is your archives responsible for all permanent records?

How are the collections accessed?

Digitize upon request and only provide copies to researchers.

Archival assets never leave supervision in designated reading room area.

# Integration with Archives

All records are reviewed by archives at point of disposition regardless of the retention schedule.

Paper is appraised, transferred, accessioned, organized, processed, rehoused, and described in Collection Management System, or even excel.

Paper will go through a decision matrix to determine if it should be added to scanning queue or only scanned when requested.

Value is typically determined by common research requests, upcoming business need, community interest, City initiatives, or collections policies

Only a very small amount is digitized at point of transfer.

# But how do we eat the elephant?

One bite (project) at a time

Customer requests can flag a chunk of records that should be in the archives/digitized

Project identified and boxes recalled

Archivist identifies material that needs to go to the archives (appraisal)

Assesses condition, processes, and creates records

Project may include digitization or not -- still accessible in person or scanned on demand

Metadata transferred from RIM and archival fields updated for ingest

# Content Management Solutions

- So, what do you do after you have a foundational understanding of each other's programmatic goals?
- No faster way to identify gaps in procedures, understanding, or programmatic goals than picking management solutions!
- We will compare Archives management requirements to RIM requirements to highlight the similarities and differences and where we can cut down on the same work.

# Requirements Needing to be addressed:



Organization and context



Access and Access Controls



Self-Service



Authenticity



Rights Management



Scale and Scope



# Organization and Context

## RIM

- Don't care about individual creators
- Do care about departments that is our context
- Start date / end dates
- Metadata (but not as much as archives)
- Retention schedule dictates organization

- Archives needs the context to be useful— a document without a why is likely to be less useful
- Organize assets hierarchically + related content
- Metadata in multiple modules
- Original Order and Provenance are important
- Organizing for business continuity over 50-100 years

# RIM = 3 records

# MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION OBSOLETE PROJECT FISCAL YEAR 1992 PHA PROPOSAL FOR EAST LAKE MEADOWS (GA. 006030) GA. 06P006065-M Submitted To: THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING URBAN DEVELOPMENT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA EARL PHITLIPS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARCH, 1993 using Authority of the City of Atlanta 739 West Peachtree Street



# Archives = 1 story

# JIMMY CARTER

July 31, 1992

To Secretary Jack Kemp

As a result of recent conversations with the Chair and Executive Director of the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA), I am writing to indicate my strong support for the application for Major Reconstruction of Obsolete Projects (MROP) funding to revitalize the East Lake Meadows development.

East Lake Meadows is a large public housing community with great potential, but extremely poor existing conditions. It has suffered greatly from years of neglect and abuse including substantial drug-related crime. Nevertheless, it is well located, has a physical plant which can be viable with extensive renovation and has a number of residents with the potential to lead revitalization efforts. In addition, the AHA has put in place a management team with substantial professional accomplishments in the redevelopment and management of public housing and a commitment to make the revitalization occur.

In addition to these strengths, determined that East Lake Meadows will site for comprehensive activity. The effort to marshall comprehensive and services to confront the problems of pk the residents of the affected communiti unprecedented use of volunteers to help problems.

The activities of The Atlanta Proje Meadows will complement the proposed fed investment. These efforts, with the ener residents can bring about a turnaround at East Lake Meadows in order to create a model public housing community.

The Honorable Jack Kemp
The Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and
U.S. Department
U.S. Department
U.S. Department
U.S. J. The Street, S.W.
451 7th Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20410

CC: Raymond Harris, Regional Administrator, HUD Atlanta

Jane Fortson, Chair, AHA Board of Commissioners

Jane Fortson, Chair, AHA Board of Commissioners

Earl Phillips, Executive Director, AHA

Earl Phillips, Executive Director, AHA



# Access and Access Controls

## **RIM**

- SharePoint Admins, manage enterprise access
- Avoid using teams or OneDrive
- Physical items storage managed by RIM only

- Which staff has access and how are records found/requested in the backend?
- How is the archivist managing their collections?
- What functions are priorities for systems?
- Policies and procedures dictate access
- Relationships with IT and Facilities and RIM



# Self-Service Options

## **RIM**

 Various repositories managed by use case and access controls.

- How are your users accessing content?
- Open internally only? Externally?
- How to display restricted material
- Collecting stats to show like unique visits, downloads, time spent
- High use justifies staffing, digitization budget, tools

AH ARCHIVES



### Dr. John Hope (1868-1936)

Dr. John Hope envisioned a public housing project on the site of the Beaver Slide, the slum area next to the university campus.



### Slum Clearance

Following the Great Depression and the 1922 racial zoning laws, overcrowded populations occupied slums areas where the worst living conditions, crime and disease abounded.

# **AH Archives Access Points**





ArchiveGrid includes over 7 million records describing archival materials, bringing together information about historical

documents, personal

ABOUT ARCHIVEGRID

papers, family histories, and more.

Sites ? McNally, Elliot

SHARE ☆ FOLLOW □



SharePoint

by Brown, Gordon at 8:29 AM

Eva Davis (1936 - 2012), Revitalizing a Community

By Meredith E. Torre, Archivist



Eva Davis seated with President Jimmy Carter. AHA 2013.01016

In 2007, Eva Davis began fighting her last battle. She began a campaign to create more awareness for women's health issues after her discovery that, like her mother, she had

# University Homes construction

University Homes' two-story brick buildings were designed utilizing the International Style to be sturdy, with minimal decoration, using optimum square footage with provisions for





nfluent 🚹

First Lady Ele Burns Hope, together to a of University community f

We are currently experiencing higher-than-normal call volumes. Please be agents answer these calls. If you would like to contact us via email, pleas down to connect with AH. An AH employee will contact you within 24-48



### The Phoenix

Atlanta Housing

### Browse Featured Topics

1933-1937: Federal housing
1938-1941: First developments
1942-1948: War housing
1949-1955: Post-War
development
1956-1973: Urban Renewal
Years
1974-1989: Housing Decline
1990-1999: Revitalization
Period

### Welcome to the AH Archives Catalog

Q Search Attanta Housing archives Search Advanced Search Help

### Featured Items



### Featured Collections

Individual Housing Projects

Papers of Individuals

Public Officials

Tenants' Associations

Community Life

### permane

The mission of the Archives is to preserve and provide permanent and historical materials that will assist in the operations of AH; to promote knowledge, research and understanding of the origins, functions, programs and goe of AH; and to collect archival materials that tell the story o AH.

# Requesting Archive Materials

Archival materials may be requested by clicking here.
Please include details of the materials being requested.

# Reference Appointments

Phoenix Training Videos | AH Archives Blog





How do we know this document has not been edited?

### RIM

- Audit trails
- Version controls
- Access controls

- How does your TDR/DAMS track and prove authenticity?
  - Does it have auditable technical and preservation metadata?
  - Can it be exported and viewed readily?
- Original file type is important
  - Obsolete, proprietary, easily editable?
  - Access copies for users created from original (uneditable, watermarked, lo-res)

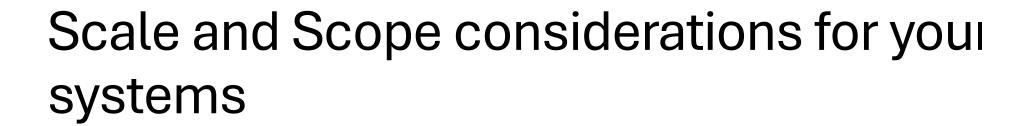


# Rights Management

## **RIM**

- Rights agreements are contracts held by legal
- Legal copied not making a business decision for use

- How are you identifying and managing different rights in your collections?
- Can your system automate restriction end dates?
- Does your system manage licenses? Estate info? Decisions made? Email chains?
- Do you have Legal involved?
- Archives is first line of defense for misuse and education





## **RIM**

- RIM systems expect millions of files
- Cloud based vs on Prem
- Saas Solutions and integrations
- Azure vs AWS
- Government vs Commercial cloud
- Restrictions on opening up your tenant to 3rd party applications

- Know your collections, data, timeline, expected growth
- Archives systems are relatively small compared to RIM (10%)
- Archives typically need <u>multiple</u> <u>systems</u> – What do you need and do they speak to each other?
- Do they speak to existing IT and RIM infrastructure? Do they meet IT requirements?



# Take-aways



RIM and Archives work best together

- YOU too can have an archives.
- Hire a Certified Archivist (CA)!



There are compromises that help enterprise users better find what they need



Nomenclature matters



Procedures, policies, and established requirements are critical for success



Spring Festival Parade, Techwood Homes, 1990s



# Resources

### **General Archives**

- https://www2.archivists.org/assoc-orgs/directory
- Fantastic recorded webinars archives fundamentals
  - o https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpWzzChlhR-807CrKmiL2rw/videos

### **Blueprints and Architectural Records**

- Design Records Appraisal Tool; The American Archivist Vol. 84, No. 2 Fall/Winter 2021 320–354
- https://psap.library.illinois.edu/collection-idguide/summary-archdrawrepro

### Other good stuff

- https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/research/publicati ons/2021/oclcresearch-total-cost-of-stewardship.pdf
- https://connectingtocollections.org/

### **DAM/CMS Selection Process**

- https://www2.archivists.org/groups/collectionmanagement-section
- https://www.canada.ca/en/heritage-informationnetwork/services/collections-managementsystems.html
- Centering the User in DAM selection (2023)
  - o https://kaltura.uga.edu/media/t/1\_ngybvtb4
- Archival Management Software: a report for CLIR
  - https://www.clir.org/wpcontent/uploads/sites/6/spiro\_Jan13.pdf

### **Vendor Directories**

- https://collectionstrust.org.uk/software/
- https://digitalassetmanagementnews.org/vendors/

# THANK YOU!



Natalie Austin



Elliot McNally



