

2024-06-12

Building A Community of Interest Around Cultural Heritage Digitization

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BLC Forum 2024

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF INTEREST AROUND CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITIZATION

Eleni Castro, Boston University Libraries



AGENDA

1. Introduction

2. Site visits

3. Our setup at BU

4. Community building



Brief Survey

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to C. Rose Smith for their contributions to this presentation; Jenn Morris, Baha Kavlakli, Eben English, Bill Comstock, and Andrew Weidner for opening their doors to us on these visits; and our team at BU Amanda Fowler and Sami Wright.



BOSTON UNIVERSITY: CONTINUED LEADERSHIP & STRENGTHENED INTERCONNECTEDNESS

As an R1 leading private research institution in the heart of Boston, Boston University is home to celebrated thinkers, extraordinary teaching, and groundbreaking research.



Boston University's ambitious 2030 strategic plan prioritizes interdisciplinary research that addresses society's biggest challenges and innovations that strengthen its global research impact.

By the Numbers:



37K

Students

10,000+ faculty and staff

17

Schools & Colleges

Visual Arts to Computing &
Data Sciences

300+

Programs

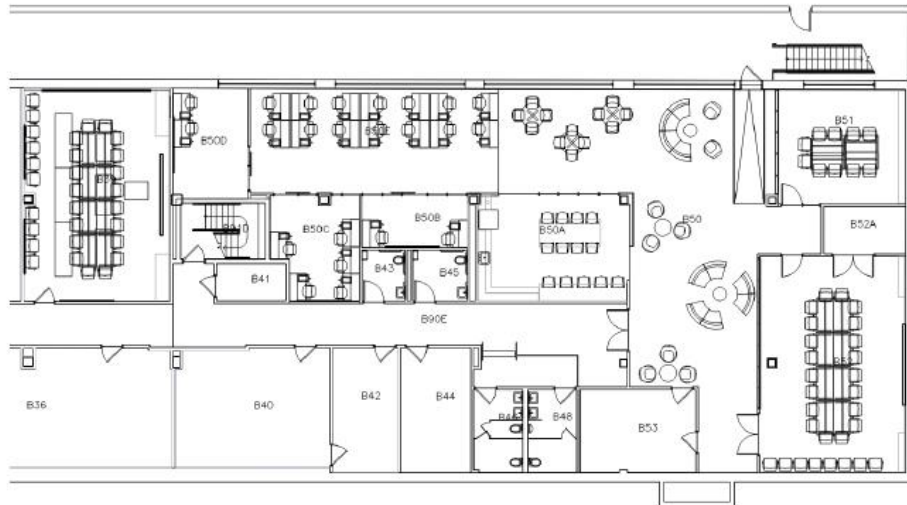


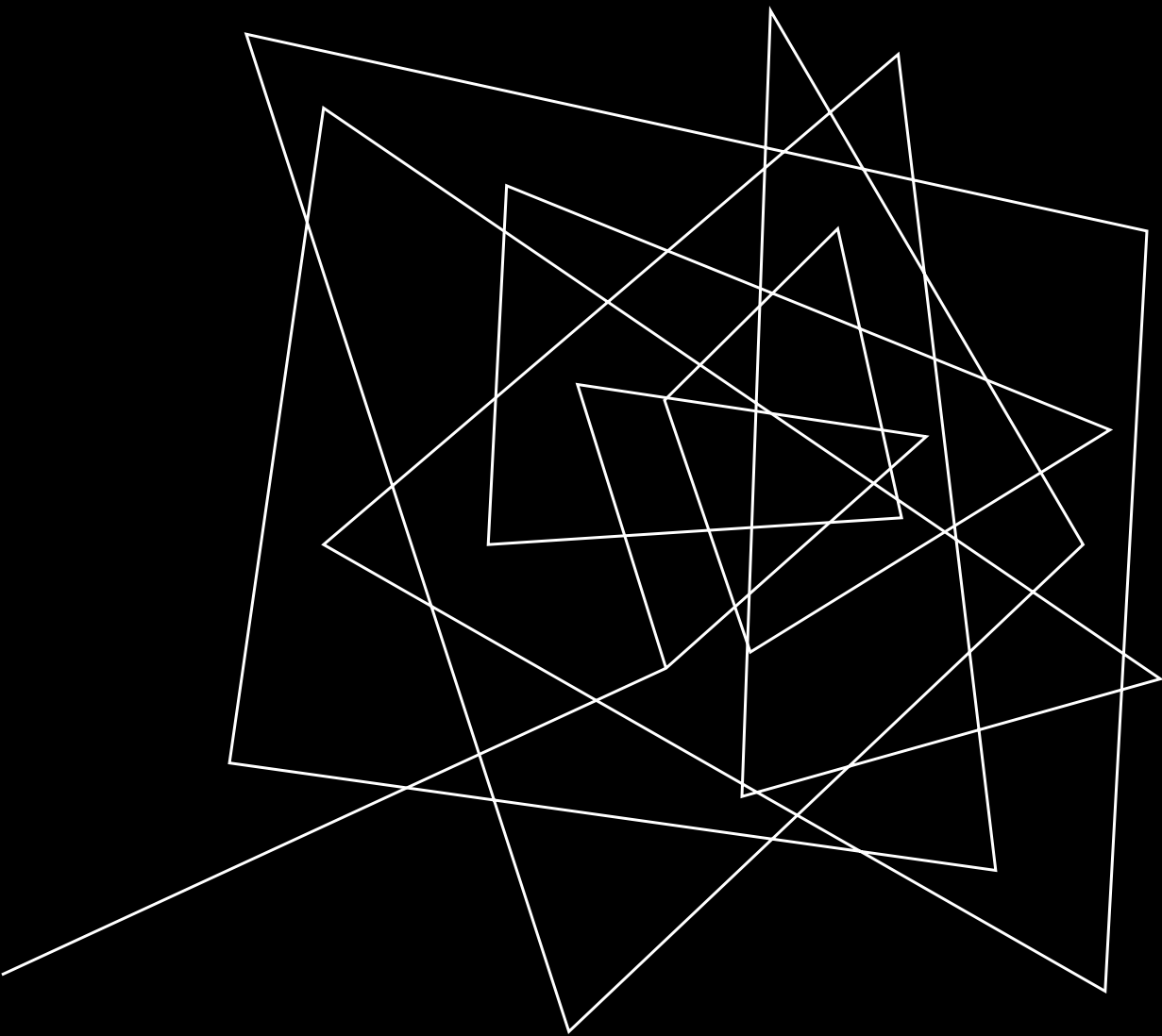
ABOUT DIGITAL VENTURES PT 1

1. Established in 2021 to support digital initiatives at BU Libraries (including Scholarly Publishing, Digitization, and Archival Information management)
2. Tour of Digitization Programs between March 2022 - May 2023
3. Construction of our space started in Spring 2023
4. Construction completion Fall 2023

DIGITAL VENTURES | 111 CUMMINGTON MALL

PRE-RENOVATION PLANS & IMAGES

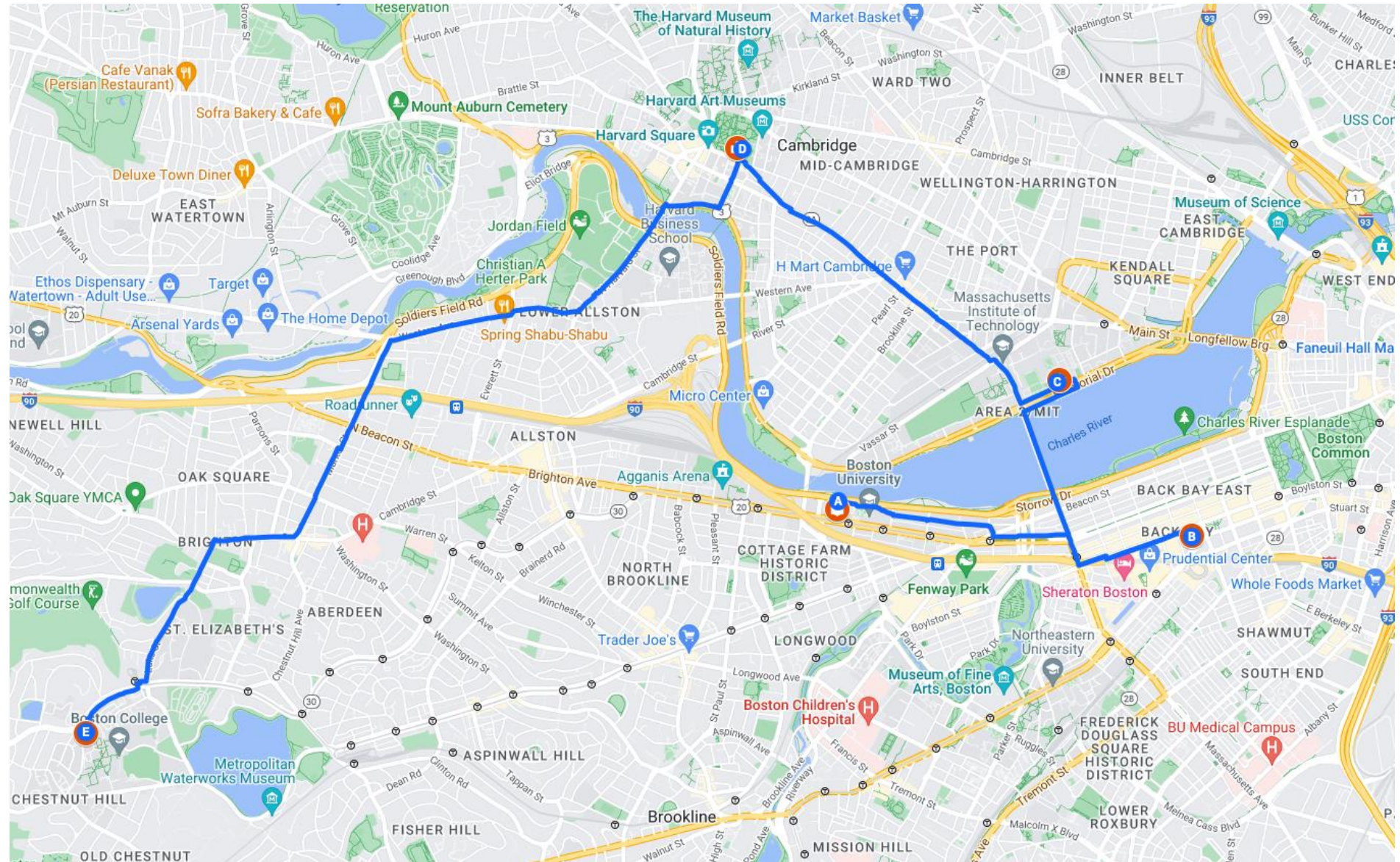




**BOSTON AREA
SITE VISITS**

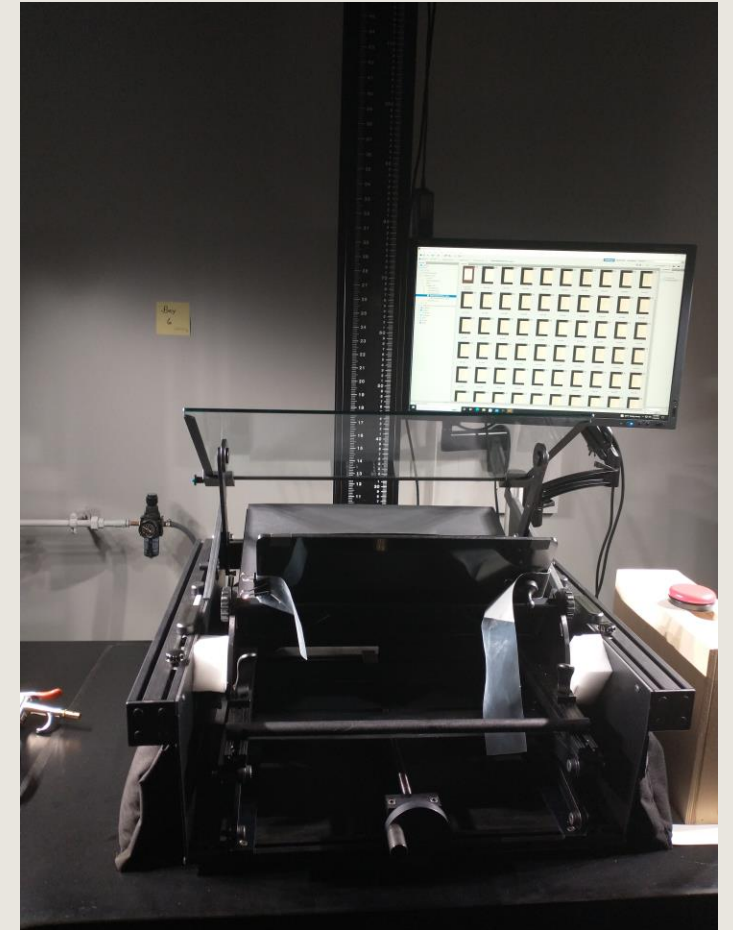
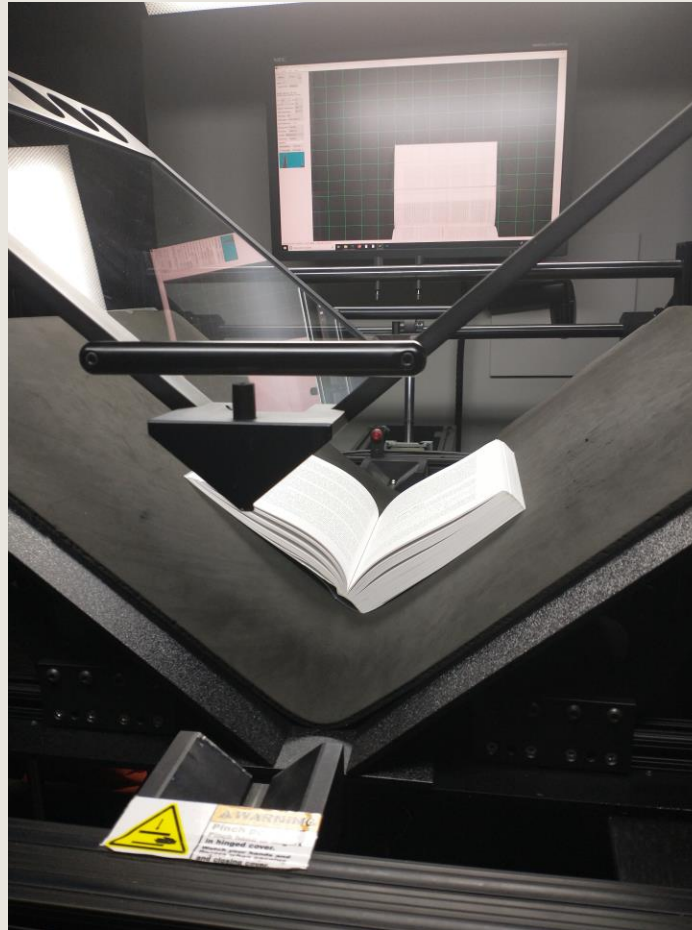
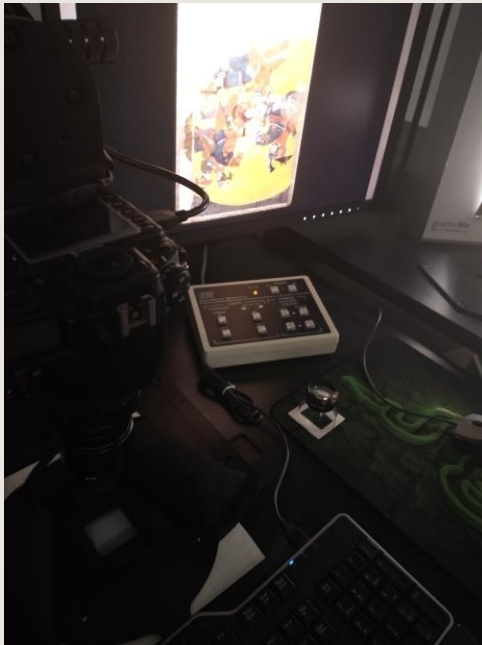
2022-2023

SITE VISIT TRAIL MAP

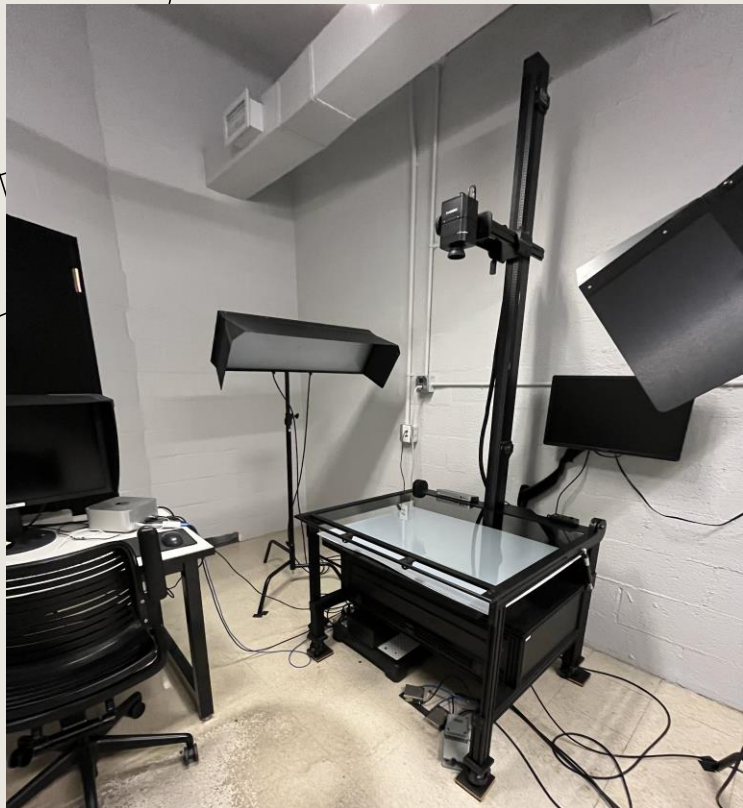


- A. Boston University
- B. BPL/Copley
- C. MIT
- D. Harvard
- E. Boston College

HARVARD WIDENER LIBRARY



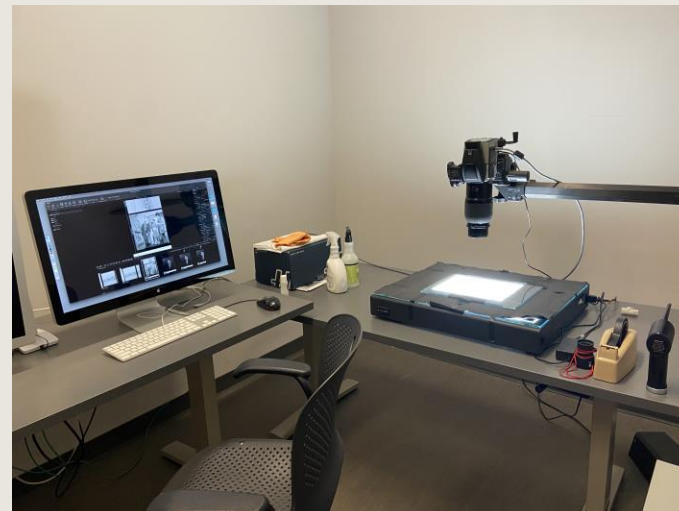
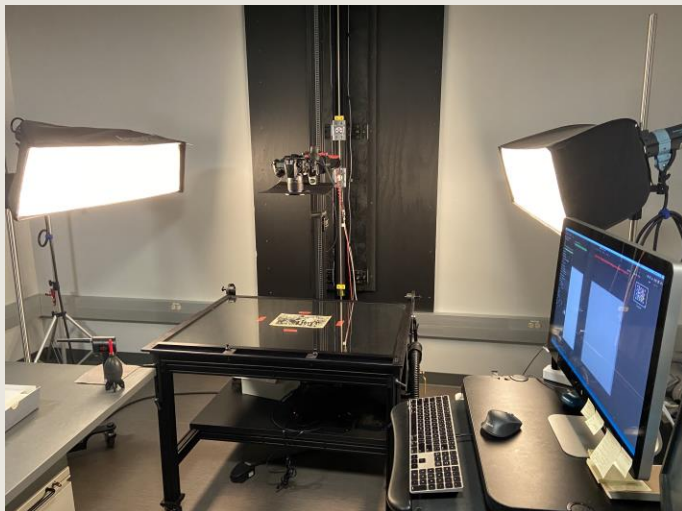
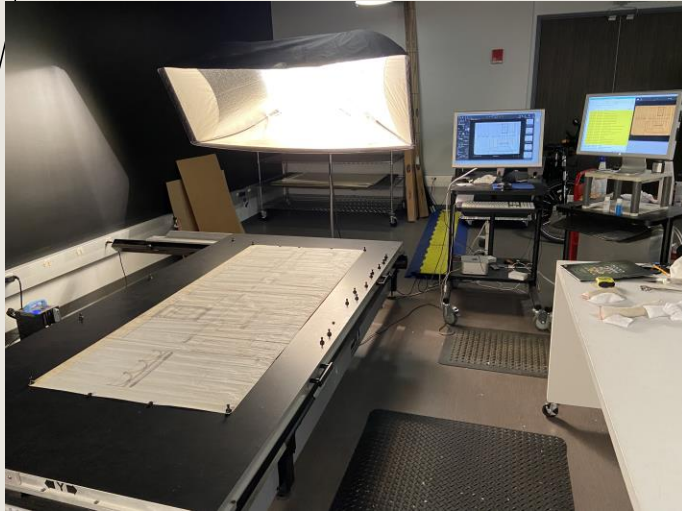
MIT HAYDEN LIBRARY

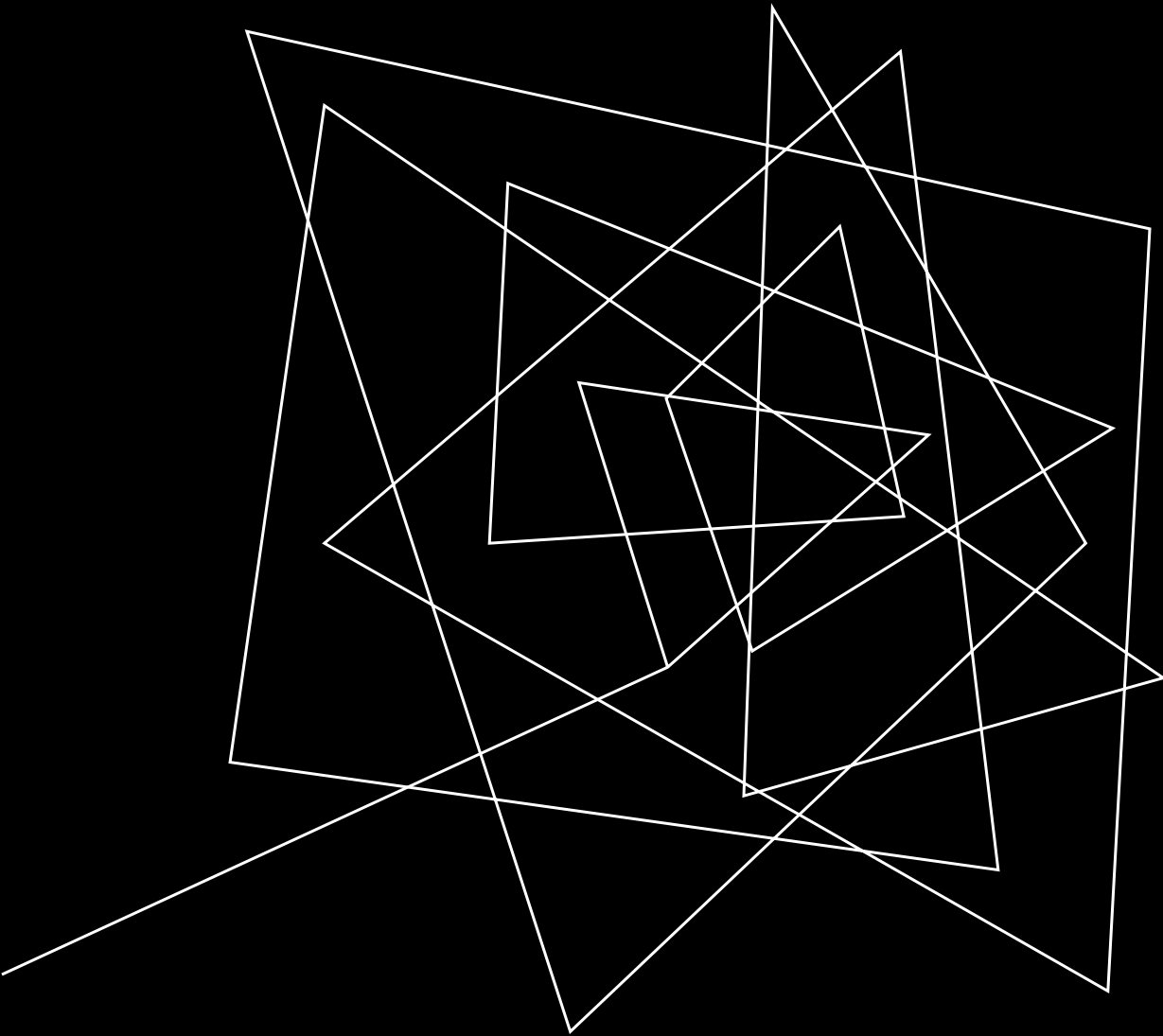


BOSTON COLLEGE BURNS LIBRARY



BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY





CULTURAL HERITAGE
DIGITIZATION
AT BU LIBRARIES

ABOUT DIGITAL VENTURES Pt 2

DIGITAL VENTURES - DIGITIZATION & DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Space: The **Digital Ventures space** houses **digitization** studios, classroom, meeting and collaboration spaces that will be used for consultation, collaboration, education, and community events.

Technology: University IS&T and BU Libraries collaboration for managing **digital collections**

People: Digital Imaging Specialist, Sami Wright; and Digital Collections Librarian, Amanda Fowler, to help with broadening access to our distinctive collections.



BU LIBRARIES DIGITAL VENTURES IMAGING EQUIPMENT PHASE 1



Studio 1: ATIZ BookDrive Mark 2



Studio 2: DT Element



Open office table: Epson Expression 13000XL

BUILDING A CONNECTED REGIONAL COMMUNITY

1. Developing regional birds-of-a-feather or Community of Interest (COI) groups for in-person connections
2. Open house lab tours (e.g., Digital Commonwealth visit BPL on 6/13)
3. Skill sharing opportunities (e.g., workshops, job shadowing)
4. Internships w/ local schools' LIS and photography programs

Informal attendee survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/rN6TRSTDXE>



LOCAL GROUPS TO CONNECT WITH FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

Massachusetts:

- **Digital Commonwealth:** outreach@digitalcommonwealth.org
 - <https://membership.digitalcommonwealth.org/>
- **Boston Photography Networking Group:**
<https://groups.io/g/BostonPNG>

Connecticut:

- **Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA)**
 - <https://ctdigitalarchive.org/>

Others? Please share!



THANK YOU

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Brief Survey