



## Fact Sheet

- ☞ The African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) is one of a handful of libraries of its kind in the nation, including the Schomburg Center for Research in New York and the Auburn Avenue Research Library of Atlanta.
- ☞ The library houses over 85,000 books, manuscripts, artifacts and documents with special emphasis on the history of people of African, African-American and Caribbean descent.
- ☞ Since its opening in October 2002, the AARLCC has displayed over 38 major exhibits and offered more than 200 cultural programs to more than one million customers, and has hosted many celebrities and noted national and international authors and speakers.
- ☞ Half of the \$14 million required to build the library was raised and donated by local residents and organizations, citing the building as a collective community effort.
- ☞ Award-winning interior designer Cecil Hayes, owner of Designers Unlimited, Inc, Florida, PAWA Complex Int'l, Inc., the largest African-American owned architectural and engineering firm in the U.S., and Public Art designer Gary Moore, a graduate of the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program in New York collaborated to construct the 60,000 square foot building.
- ☞ Eight unpublished manuscripts from Alex Haley, scenes from *Juffure* in Gambia, West Africa where Kunta Kinte was born and cast photos from the *Roots* television series reside in the Special Collections department.
- ☞ The Council of Elders Collections consists more than 100 video-taped oral histories of Broward's Black Pioneers, long-time families and historic gatherings including photographs, documents and first-hand journals from scrapbooks and pens of residents of African, African-American and Caribbean neighborhoods.
- ☞ Julie Hunter, the executive director of AARLCC from 2002 to 2006, was the first director of the Auburn Avenue Research Library in Atlanta, after which AARLCC is patterned. Julie is currently the Interim Director of AARLCC.
- ☞ Samuel F. Morrison, the visionary and force behind AARLCC, served as Director of the Broward County Library from 1990 to 2003.
- ☞ AARLCC replaced the Von D. Mizell Library, which was the first library to serve Fort Lauderdale's African-American community, also named after Broward County's first black physician.