

**NYC Department of Records & Information Services
Improves Access to New York City's Vibrant History in 2023**

Through public programming, education, and enhancing research resources, DORIS is making New York City's vibrant history engaging and accessible to all in 2023

New York, NY – During the past year, the NYC Department of Records & Information Services (DORIS) has provided access to the historical and contemporary records of New York City government both online and in-person, while hosting free and accessible events for New York City's many diverse communities.

"The agency's very dedicated employees made great advances in organizing, preserving and making available City government's records. By deploying a solution to manage government's born-digital records and going back decades, DORIS is helping other agencies reduce costs and better manage their records. Archives staff worked diligently to repair many historical records, especially the original Brooklyn Bridge drawings and building plans. Public access to the collections has grown through the year, including family historians, academic researchers and curious members of the public. Many people like history and DORIS makes it easier to explore records dating from 1645 to the present," said **Department of Records & Information Services Commissioner Pauline Toole**.

Highlights from the past year include:

Serving as an Integral Resource for Education and Research: Throughout 2023, more than 1,500 in-person visitors conducted research in the Municipal Library and Archives' public research rooms. The DORIS research rooms are open to the public, with appropriate health and safety protocols in place.

Debuting "NYC Undercover" at the 12th Annual Photoville Festival: In June 2023, DORIS debuted "[NYC Undercover: Post-War Sound and Vision from NYPD Surveillance and WNYC Radio](#)" at the 12th annual Photoville Festival. The exhibit combined vintage film footage from the [Municipal Archives](#)' collection of NYPD surveillance films from the 1960s and 1970s with vintage WNYC radio broadcasts to create a multifaceted lens on the competing aspirations and challenges of civic life in New York City during those tumultuous decades. The exhibit received 690 visitors.

Creating Public Art Using Historical NYPD Surveillance Footage: In June 2023, [DORIS](#), [The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs](#), and [Public Artist in Residence](#) Kameron Neal debuted [Down the Barrel \(Of a Lens\)](#) – an archival film installation using digitized historical NYPD surveillance footage available in the city's [Municipal Archives](#). Mostly shot by plainclothes officers from 1960-1980, these black and white, 16mm films document political demonstrations such as the Civil Rights Movement, labor strikes, the Black Panthers, Vietnam War protests, and even contain footage from inside the NYPD's Photo Unit. The installation focused on a series of moments in the film collection when people stopped to look back – directly into the camera lens – acknowledging they were being surveilled.

Opening a New Public Exhibit – “Uniting the Boroughs: The Triborough Bridge”: In October 2023, DORIS partnered with the [Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bridges & Tunnels](#) to open a new exhibit titled [“Uniting the Boroughs: The Triborough Bridge,”](#) which explores the history of the Triborough Bridge (renamed the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge in 2008) and its role in uniting Manhattan, the Bronx, and Queens in a rapidly modernizing city.

Preserving New York City Government's Historical Records: In 2023, DORIS' Conservation Unit completed 16,613 preservation tasks to repair historical records including original plans and drawings of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Implementing the Electronic Records Management System (ERMS):

DORIS' ERMS implementation project has, to date, brought over 14 million city records under management. This project, in partnership with RecordPoint, provides city agencies with the technology to categorize their digital records, assign retention periods and dispose of eligible records. ERMS implementation enhances document security, improves regulatory compliance, and facilitates easier document retrieval, better collaboration, and increased productivity city-wide.

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About the NYC Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS): Established in 1977, DORIS preserves and provides public access to historical and contemporary records and information about New York City government. The agency operates the Municipal Archives, the Municipal Library, and the Records Center. Learn more at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/records/index.page>.

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