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Guide to the

**Cyril D. Tyson papers**

1961-2004 [bulk 1961-1971]

Sc MG 636

Home to Harlem Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

## Summary

**Creator:** Tyson, Cyril D.

**Title:** Cyril D. Tyson papers

**Date:** 1961-2004 [bulk 1961-1971]

**Size:** 6.0 linear feet (6 boxes)

**Source:** Gift, Cyril D. Tyson, 1998

**Revision History:** This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

**Abstract:** The Cyril D. Tyson Papers consist of documents Tyson compiled for the publication of his three monographs. The first of the books is "The 'Unconditional War' on Poverty and the Use of Computer Technology by Community Action Agencies, 1965-1972. As this book covers the use of computer technology by community action agencies between 1965 and 1972 in New York City, Boston, Hartford, St. Louis, Missouri, Harris County in Texas, the Ozarks in Missouri, and Wisconsin, the files pertain to these geographic localities. Included are interviews, many case study drafts, correspondence with administrators from other agencies during the period Tyson served as the deputy administrator of Community Relations in New York City's Human Resources Administration, reports he prepared, and office memoranda, 1970-1972.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Cyril D. Tyson papers, Sc MG 636, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

## Creator History

Born in 1927 in New York City, Cyril de Grasse Tyson held a number of positions in New York City government agencies, several during the administration of Mayor John Lindsay. From 1958 to 1960, he was with the City of New York's Commission on Intergroup Relations. He held three administrative positions with the Commission on Human Rights, between 1960-1963, first, as director of the Education Unit in the Community Relations Division, then chief of the Community Relations Division, followed by his appointment to chief of the Business and Employment Division. In 1963 Tyson was hired as the

project director of Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited in Central Harlem, an organization that worked to increase opportunities for young people who lived in Harlem. He later became the executive director of HARYOU-ACT. Tyson then applied his expertise in Newark, New Jersey where he became executive director of that city's United Community Corporation.

Among other positions, Tyson was the deputy administrator of the Human Resources Administration, commissioner of its Manpower and Career Development Agency in New York, 1966-1970, and vice president of Public and Community Affairs of The City College of New York, 1978-1985. From 1985-1990 he was with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and served as the assistant director for Community and Intergovernmental Relations of the Government, Community and Public Affairs Department, 1985-1987, and then assistant director of the Office of Transportation Planning. Tyson had the distinction of being the first African American to hold most, if not all, of the positions that he held.

Tyson researched and wrote three books based upon his experiences working with urban poverty and manpower programs: "The 'Unconditional War' on Poverty and the Use of Computer Technology by Community Action Agencies, 1965-1972" (1997); "2 Years Before the Riot! Newark, New Jersey and the United Community Corporation Inc., 1964-1966: the Full, Real Story of the Anti-Poverty Program" (2000); and "Power and Politics in Central Harlem, 1962-1964: the Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited Experience" (2004). He co-edited *Technological Development in Nigeria*, published in 1979, and wrote and edited various manuals and articles in the fields of transportation, management and education. From 1970 to 1971 he was a Teaching Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, Institute of Politics, and was a research associate at Harvard's Program on Technology and Society. Tyson has also given addresses about poverty, labor, social service agencies and related topics.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Cyril D. Tyson Papers consist of documents Tyson compiled for the publication of his three monographs. The first of the books is "The 'Unconditional War' on Poverty and the Use of Computer Technology by Community Action Agencies, 1965-1972. As this book covers the use of computer technology by community action agencies between 1965 and 1972 in New York City, Boston, Hartford, St. Louis, Missouri, Harris County in Texas, the Ozarks in Missouri, and Wisconsin, the files pertain to these geographic localities. Included are interviews, many case study drafts, correspondence with administrators from other agencies during the period Tyson served as the deputy administrator of Community Relations in New York City's Human Resources Administration, reports he prepared, and office memoranda, 1970-1972.

Additional files provide documentation for Tyson's second book, "2 Years Before the Riot! Newark, New Jersey and the United Community Corporation Inc., 1964-1966: the Full, Real Story of the Anti-Poverty Program." There is correspondence maintained by Tyson as executive director of the UCC with heads of other Newark organizations and with UCC's board of trustees, UCC documentation prepared for a 1965 City Council investigation and the UCC response to this investigation, as well as minutes of board of trustees and executive committee meetings, correspondence, and memoranda. Also in the collection are reports of Newark's councilmen to the Federal Anti-Poverty program, 1964-1965, minutes of the Newark City Council in regard to the UCC, and addresses and statements presented by Tyson concerning the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, a.k.a. the War on Poverty.

The third of Tyson's books is "Power and Politics in Central Harlem, 1962-1964: the Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited Experience." Documentation related to this book includes Tyson's speeches, addresses and publications while at the Commission on Intergroup Relations and the Commission on

Human Rights, and files regarding the Harlem Neighborhood Association's proposal to the City of New York for a program to plan youth services in Harlem, 1961-1962, which would later become HARYOU. There are also interviews with HARYOU personnel, job descriptions, case study drafts, minutes of board meetings and of the executive committee of HARYOU, and of HARYOU-ACT's Joint Negotiating Committee, budgets, and printed descriptions of HARYOU. Of interest is the last draft of a study prepared by HARYOU entitled "Youth in the Ghetto: A Study of the Consequences of Powerlessness and a Blueprint for Change," 1963, for the publication of the same title. Both the complete printed version as well as the comic book version (both 1964) form part of this collection.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American sociologists  
African American youth -- New York (State) -- New York  
African Americans -- Economic conditions  
African Americans -- Education  
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York  
African Americans -- Social conditions  
Black author  
Community development -- New Jersey -- Newark  
Community development -- New York (State) -- New York  
Youth -- Harlem (New York, N.Y.)  
Youth -- New York (State) -- New York -- Harlem

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Interviews  
Speeches

### **Names**

Tyson, Cyril D. -- 2 years before the riot : Newark, New Jersey and the United Community Corporation, Inc., 1964-1966 : the full, real story of the anti-poverty program  
Tyson, Cyril D. -- Power and politics in Central Harlem, 1962-1964 : the Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited Experience  
Tyson, Cyril D.  
Tyson, Cyril D. -- "Unconditional war on poverty" and the use of computer technology by community action agencies, 1965-1972  
HARYOU (Organization)  
United Community Corporation (Newark, N.J.)

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 City College
- b. 1 f. 2-5 Writings and Addresses
  - The Unconditional War on Poverty and the Use of Computer Technology by Community Action Agencies* 1965-1972
  - Harris County Community Action
- b. 1 f. 6 Agency Interview
- b. 1 f. 7 Association Case Study Drafts
  - Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation
- b. 1 f. 8 Interviews
- b. 1 f. 9 Case Study Drafts
  - Office of Education Opportunity
- b. 1 f. 10 Interviews
- b. 1 f. 11 Case Study Drafts
- b. 1 f. 12 Introduction Drafts
- b. 1 f. 13 Case Study Outline
  - Program on Technology and Society
  - Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 14 1969-1970
- b. 1 f. 15 1971
- b. 1 f. 16 1972
- b. 1 f. 17 1974
- b. 1 f. 18 Annual Report 1971
- b. 1 f. 19 Washington Office of Educational Opportunity - Interviews
- b. 1 f. 20 Interviews Appointments
- b. 1 f. 21 Computer Technology and the Disadvantaged - Preliminary Report to Program on Technology and Society 1971
  - Program on Technology and Society
- b. 1 f. 22 Memoranda
- b. 1 f. 23 Papers and Reports
- b. 1 f. 24 Technology Project Staff Agendas
- b. 1 f. 25 Metropolitan Applied Research Center Inc. Memoranda 1970-1971
- b. 1 f. 26 Human Resources Administration Interviews
  - Human Development Corporation
- b. 1 f. 27 Interviews
- b. 1 f. 28 Case Study Drafts
  - Community Renewal Team
- b. 1 f. 29 Case Study Drafts
- b. 1 f. 30 Interviews
  - Community Relations Social Development Commission
- b. 1 f. 31 Interviews

The Unconditional War on Poverty and the Use of Computer Technology by Community Action Agencies  
(cont.) Community Relations Social Development Commission (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 32 Case Study Drafts
- b. 1 f. 33 Community Development Agency Interviews – New York City  
International Business Machines (IBM)
- b. 2 f. 1 Interviews
- b. 2 f. 2 Study Drafts
- b. 2 f. 3 The Significance of Research on Technology and the Poor  
Office of Educational Opportunity
- b. 2 f. 4 Program Fact Sheet 1966
- b. 2 f. 5 Memoranda 1966
- b. 2 f. 6 Community Development Agency Case Study  
Bedford-Stuyvesant
- b. 2 f. 7 Case Study - Drafts  
Youth in Action
- b. 2 f. 8 Correspondence
- b. 2 f. 9 Interviews
- b. 2 f. 10 Model Cities Central Interviews
- b. 2 f. 11 Optimum Computer Systems, Inc. – Interviews  
Action for Boston Community Development
- b. 2 f. 12 Interviews
- b. 2 f. 13 Case Study Drafts
- b. 2 f. 14 New York City Administration - Interviews  
Project Bravo
- b. 2 f. 15-16 Interviews
- b. 2 f. 17-18 Case Study Drafts
- b. 2 f. 19 Manpower and Career Development Agency Interviews  
*2 Years Before the Riot! Newark, New Jersey and the United Community Corporation Inc. the Full, Real Story of the Anti-Poverty Program*  
United Community Corporation
- b. 2 f. 20 Board of Trustees Meetings – Minutes 1964
- b. 2 f. 21 Executive Committee Meetings – Minutes 1964
- b. 2 f. 22 Board of Trustees Meetings - Minutes 1965
- b. 2 f. 23 Executive Committee Meetings – Minutes 1965
- b. 2 f. 24 Board of Trustees Meetings – Minutes 1966
- b. 3 f. 1 Executive Committee Meetings – Minutes 1965
- b. 3 f. 2 Board of Trustees - Lists 1965-1966
- b. 3 f. 3 Correspondence 1965
- b. 3 f. 4 Correspondence 1966
- b. 3 f. 5 Board of Trustees - Memorandum from Cyril D. Tyson 1965
- b. 3 f. 6 Executive Committee – Memoranda from Cyril D. Tyson 1965
- b. 3 f. 7 Board of Trustees – Memoranda from Dean Heckel 1965
- b. 3 f. 8 Dean Heckel – Statement to City Council 1965 September

2 Years Before the Riot! Newark, New Jersey and the United Community Corporation Inc. the Full, Real Story  
of the Anti-Poverty Program (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 9 Board of Trustees – Memorandum from James Blair 1965
- b. 3 f. 10 Donald M. Wendell- Memoranda 1965
- b. 3 f. 11 Community Action Task Force – Memorandum 1965
- b. 3 f. 12 Newark Department of Law – Memorandum 1965
- b. 3 f. 13 Memoranda 1966
- b. 3 f. 14 Fact Sheet 1966
- b. 3 f. 15 City Council of Newark – Minutes 1965
- b. 3 f. 16 Newark Municipal Council– Minutes 1965-1966
- b. 3 f. 17 Newark Municipal Council – Correspondence 1965
- b. 3 f. 18 Documentation Prepared for Newark City Council Investigation 1965
- b. 3 f. 19 The Report of the Council Committee to Study the Anti-Poverty Program for the City of Newark, New Jersey 1965
- b. 3 f. 20 Minority Report of Councilman Irvine I. Turner 1965 December
- b. 3 f. 21 UCC Response to Newark City Council Investigation Report 1965 December 23
- b. 3 f. 21 Speeches and Addresses 1965
- b. 3 f. 23 Area Boards Manual of Procedure 1965
- b. 3 f. 24 Procedural Guideline for All UCC Task Forces 1965
- b. 3 f. 25 Analysis of Programs Approved in Newark 1965
- b. 3 f. 26 Mayor's Coordinating Commission on Community Programs 1965
- b. 3 f. 27 Newark Committee for the Preservation of Racial Peace and Dignity – Memorandum 1965
- b. 3 f. 28 Newsletter 1965
- b. 3 f. 29 Salary Administration 1965
- b. 3 f. 30 Balance Sheet 1965 May 25
- b. 3 f. 31 Statement of Account Balance 1965
- b. 3 f. 32 Budget 1966

*Power and Politics in Central Harlem, 1962-1964; The Youth Opportunities Unlimited Experience*

HARYOU ACT

- b. 3 f. 33-34 Interviews
  - b. 4 f. 1 Case Study - Drafts
  - b. 4 f. 2 Commission on Inter-Group Relations (COIR) and Commission on Human Rights (COHR)- Speeches and Addresses
  - b. 4 f. 3 Tyson - Publications while at COIR and COHR 1960-1962
- Harlem Neighborhoods Association
  - b. 4 f. 4 Statement to Mayor Wagner and "Program for Harlem Youth" 1961
  - b. 4 f. 5 Speeches and Addresses at HARYOU Inc 1962-1963
  - b. 4 f. 6 HARYOU Semi and Final Draft Proposal - Planning Youth Service in Harlem 1962
- b. 4 f. 7-8 Community Organization Proposal 1964
  - b. 4 f. 9 Kenneth B. Clark – Memorandum – Education 1963

HARYOU INC

Power and Politics in Central Harlem, 1962-1964; The Youth Opportunities Unlimited Experience (cont.)

HARYOU ACT (cont.)

HARYOU INC (cont.)

Board of Directors Meetings - Minutes

- b. 4 f. 10 1962
- b. 4 f. 11 1963
- b. 4 f. 12 1964
- b. 4 f. 13 Executive Committee Meetings – Minutes 1962-1964
- b. 4 f. 14 Board of Trustees Meetings – Minutes 1962-1963
- b. 4 f. 15-16 Joint Negotiation Committee Meetings - Minutes 1963-1964
- Youth in the Ghetto: A Study of the Consequences of Powerlessness and a Blueprint for Change*
- b. 5 f. 1-2 Draft - Chapters 1-5 1963
- b. 5 f. 3-4 Last Draft – Final (Part II), Chapters 6-9
- b. 5 f. 5-6 Last Draft - Final HARYOU Chapters 10-15 1964
- b. 5 f. 7 Printed Versions 1964
- b. 5 f. 8 *Youth in the Ghetto: a Summary* 1964
- b. 5 f. 9 Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited - HANA Parents Research Project 1963
- b. 5 f. 10 Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited - Budget Associated Community Teams Budget 1964
- b. 5 f. 11-13 Job Descriptions for "Tool-up Budget" 1964-1965

Neil DeGrasse Tyson

- b. 6 f. 1 Biographical Matter and Curriculum Vitas
- b. 6 f. 2 Correspondence
- b. 6 f. 3 Re: The Hayden Planetarium
- Writing
- b. 6 f. 4 "An Exposure Guide for Taking Twilight Flat Fields with Large Format CCDs" (Astronomical Journal publication) 1992
- b. 6 f. 5-6 Articles by Neil deGrasse Tyson
- b. 6 f. 7 Published Reports
- b. 6 f. 8 Princeton Observation Preprints 1992-1993
- b. 6 f. 9 Speeches
- b. 6 f. 10 "Simulated Observations of Bursting Dwarf Galaxies," 1983 (Graduate Thesis)
- b. 6 f. 11 "Statistics of the Star Formation in Nuclei and Spiral Arms of Gas-Rich Galaxies," 1984 (Dissertation Proposal)
- b. 6 f. 12 Programs
- b. 6 f. 13-14 Printed Matter