



Friends of Alixa Naff Fund

Background

In the 1980s, Dr. Alixa Naff, a pioneering Arab American historian, generously donated her personal collection containing more than 2,000 photos, 450 oral histories and 500 artifacts that document the first wave of Arab American immigrants to the National Museum of American History. To this day, the *Faris and Yamna Naff Arab American Collection* remains one of the most important research collections on the earliest Arab immigrants to the United States.

Currently, however, the majority of the items housed within the collection are either in “dead formats” or are inaccessible to researchers. Moreover, due to funding and institutional priorities, the Archives Center at the National Museum of American History is unable to initiate a digitization and preservation project.

As the only museum of its kind in the world devoted to the culture, art and achievements of Arab Americans, the Arab American National Museum (AANM) serves as the centralized repository for published, archival and digital collections that represent the Arab American experience. Because of this, the Naff collection belongs at the AANM.

Goals

Once the collection has been digitized, the Museum will become a central access point for national and international researchers of Arab American studies, and will allow greater dissemination of these historical materials. The digitization of these resources will also permanently ensure Dr. Alixa Naff’s pioneering legacy.

The estimated cost of this preservation project is \$100,000. The *Friends of Alixa Naff Fund* was established at the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP) in order to leverage Arab American giving in support of this landmark effort, which will include digitizing Alixa’s interviews, creating an online presence, and curating a special exhibit at the AANM.

Join us!

The AANM and CAAP are leading the way with strong support from community stakeholders, but we need you to join in supporting this significant project by contributing to the *Friends of Alixa Naff Fund*. Your contribution to this fund will help restore the *Faris and Yamna Naff Arab American Collection* and ensure it continues to serve as a model for Arab Americans, and all other ethnic groups, in creating similar historical collections.

Our impact on this groundbreaking project will be strengthened by working collectively - we can all have a hand in preserving the important and fascinating stories of how diverse communities helped shape 20th century America.

The Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP) is the only national ethnic fund serving the Arab American community. Its mission is to strengthen the impact of strategic Arab American giving through education, asset building and grantmaking in order to improve lives and build vibrant communities.