A Transdisciplinary Collaboration: Developing Resources About Muhammad Ali - Inspiring Social Justice Action

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Beginning the Collaboration

The question was . . .

"what type of resources does the library have on Muhammad Ali" asked by Law Professor and Director of the UofL Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice, Enid Trucios-Haynes.

A Transdisciplinary Research Collaboration

❖ UofL's Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice

❖ UofL Libraries
   ❖ Archives & Special Collections
   ❖ Bridwell Art Library
   ❖ Ekstrom Library
   ❖ Dwight Anderson Memorial Music Library
   ❖ Kornhauser Health Sciences Library

❖ UofL's Center for Geographic Information Sciences

Learning Objectives

1. Learn how managing collaborations between multiple libraries, the University of Louisville's Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice and the Department of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) produced digital exhibits.

2. Learn how to use the libraries resources and collections and to create story mapping, producing multiple digital exhibits commemorating the various life stages of Muhammad Ali.

3. Students, the campus community, and local to global communities, will understand Muhammad Ali's legacy as a champion of social justice issues in the U.S. and worldwide.

4. Students, the campus community, and local to global communities, will make connections between Muhammad Ali's convictions and their own convictions about social justice issues.

5. Students, the campus community, and local to global communities, will Identify how Muhammad Ali legacy is an inspiration for them to "stand up for peace" today.

What Is Transdisciplinary Research?

❖ **Transdisciplinary** research **integrates** the natural, social, and health sciences in a humanities context, and **transcends** their traditional boundaries to create new forms of knowledge and to center **community participation**.

❖ **Multidisciplinary** research draws on knowledge from different disciplines but each stays within their boundaries.

❖ **Interdisciplinary** research analyzes, synthesizes, and harmonizes links between disciplines into a coordinated and coherent whole.

❖ From UofL's [Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research](#)

Purpose & Objectives: Honoring Muhammad Ali's Social Justice Legacy

❖ Engage with our campus and local to global community about how Ali's legacy as a humanitarian, peace advocate, and champion for social justice impacts our collective advocacy for peace and justice today

❖ Commemorate Muhammad Ali's connections to Louisville

❖ Celebrate Muhammad Ali's unique contributions to civil rights and social justice movements

❖ Memorialize Muhammad Ali's inspiring humanitarian legacy

Inspiring Social Justice Action with Community Engagement

Social justice challenges and proposes remedies for how systems of power activate and reinforce different forms of inequality. In our academic context, social justice requires both research and action to:

❖ Optimize freedom

❖ Minimize or end discrimination through laws, policies, and practices

❖ Promote empathy and community as means of greater inclusion

❖ Recognize and appreciate human diversity

❖ Increase substantive, equitable access to social, economic, and health resources

❖ Move toward ending systematic inequalities and enhancing health, social welfare, and equity for all

Community Engaged Scholarship

Creating New Library Resources – A Research Guide:

❖ **Digital Timelines of Muhammad Ali's life**:

- ❖ Ali - The Humanitarian and Peace Advocate

  https://library.louisville.edu/ali/advocate

- ❖ Ali - The Social Justice and Civil Rights Icon

   https://library.louisville.edu/ali/SocialJustice_CivilRights

- ❖ Ali's Spirituality and Islamic Faith

  https://library.louisville.edu/ali/islam

- ❖ Ali's Boxing Excellence;

- ❖ https://library.louisville.edu/ali/boxing_excellence

❖ **A Digital Storymap:** *"Muhammad Ali: An Extraordinary Life in Louisville and Beyond"* featuring Louisville's public art and monuments to Muhammad Ali

Digital Timelines of Muhammad Ali's Life

Timelines connect Muhammad Ali's life with key moments in global and U.S. history highlighting:

❖ Ali's fierce advocacy for the civil rights of Black people in the U.S. and his religious freedom rights

❖ Ali's commitment to the self-determination of people of the Global South

❖ Ali's humanitarian legacy beginning at the inception of his professional career

❖ Ali's Islamic faith which led him to transcend any group and connect with people of all religions

Community Engagement – *Standing Up For Peace: How Does Muhammad Ali Inspire Us Today?*

A Community Engagement Video/Audio Tribute to Muhammad Ali posing the question:
What we can learn from Muhammad Ali about standing up for peace today?

❖ Designed to include **all** voices – local to global - in the celebration of Muhammad Ali's 80th Birthday

❖ Contributors share how Muhammad Ali might inspire our advocacy for peace and justice today

❖ A public, archived resource

❖ A *Standing Up for Peace* community-engaged symposium on March 31, 2022

Standing Up For Peace Symposium
"What can we learn from Muhammad Ali about standing up for peace today?"

Ali Inspiring Young People - The Muhammad Ali Social Justice magnet program at Central High School, Ali's alma mater
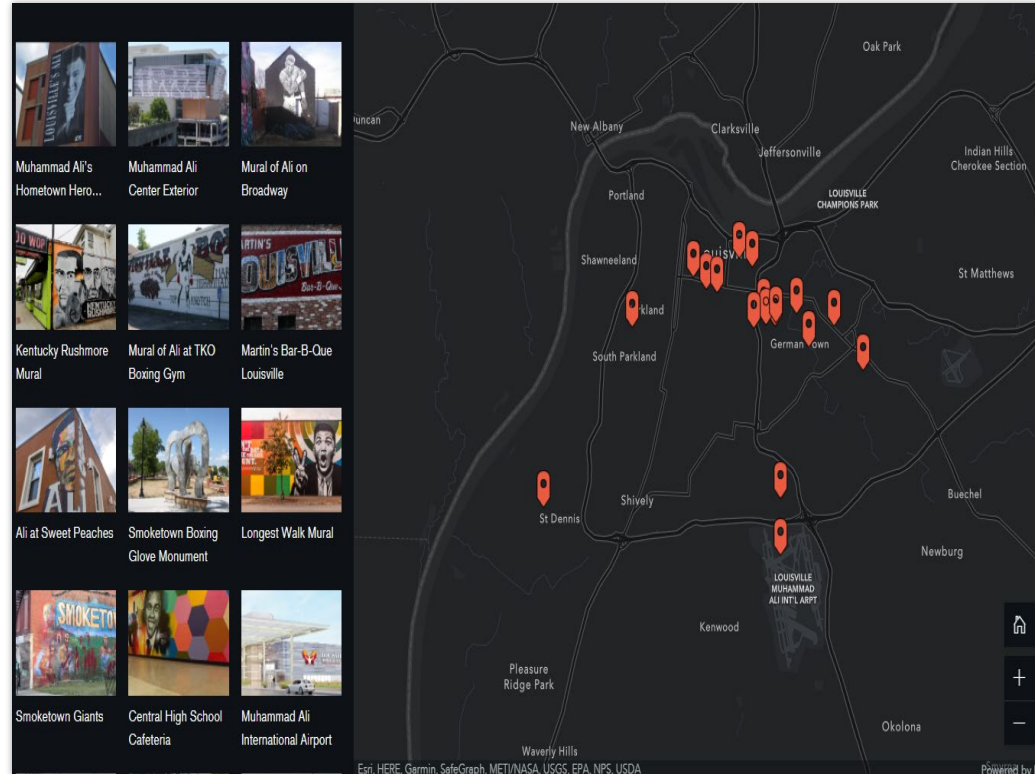
Ali Inspiring Artists to Stand Up for Peace Today

Keynote luncheon - Ambassador Shabazz, Malcolm X's oldest daughter
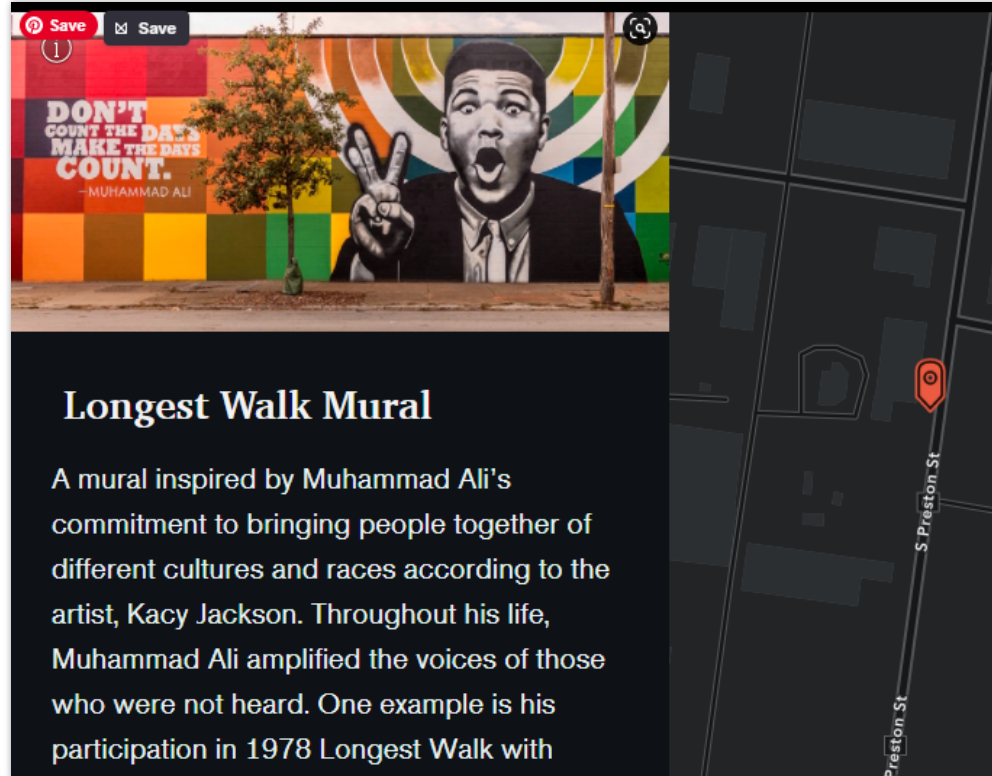
Break-out sessions:

- *Student Voices – Middle School & High School Students – A Facilitated Conversation*
- *Arts & Humanities Advancing Social Change*
- *Honoring Muhammad Ali's Community Connections*
- *Muhammad Ali's Global Impact*
- *Student Voices – College students – Muhammad Ali Scholars leading*
- *Advocating for Peace Today*

Muhammad Ali: An Extraordinary Life in Louisville and Beyond – A Story Map of Public Art and Monuments

The storymap features public art and monuments to Muhammad Ali in Louisville. It is a UofL collaboration of the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice, the Bridwell Art Library, and the Center for Geographic Information Sciences.

Muhammad Ali: An Extraordinary Life in Louisville and Beyond - A Story Map of Public Art and Monuments

A storymap is an interactive form of storytelling combining text, maps, and other multimedia. Using the ArcGIS StoryMaps program, the immersive map displays images and descriptions of murals and monuments honoring Ali's contributions as an athlete, activist, humanitarian, and artist. The locations on the map are significant to Ali's life, such as his childhood home and burial site. A free alternative is the StoryMapJS program from Northwestern University's Knight Lab which links with Google accounts.

Storymaps are powerful tools for engaging with public art since they document the location, appearance, and important information about impermanent public murals that can be vandalized or removed without notice. For example, the "Kentucky Rushmore" mural in Louisville, KY has been vandalized several times in the past few years. The third time occurred in January 2020 when orange paint and the words featuring the words "racist," "anti-Semitic," and "homophobe" covered Muhammad Ali's face.
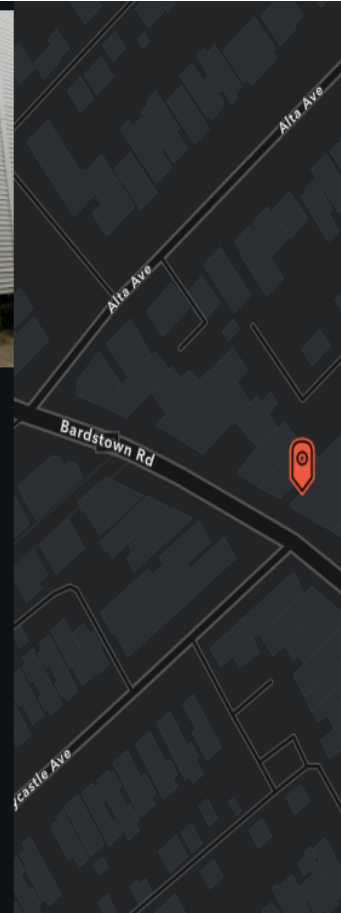
Resources

❖ ArcGIS StoryMaps: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/
❖ *Muhammad Ali: A Transcendent Life* Exhibit: https://library.louisville.edu/ali/home
❖ *Muhammad Ali: An Extraordinary Life in Louisville and Beyond* StoryMap: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a28b07b8238847de994dd6165877a1b6
❖ StoryMapJS Knight Lab: https://storymap.knightlab.com/
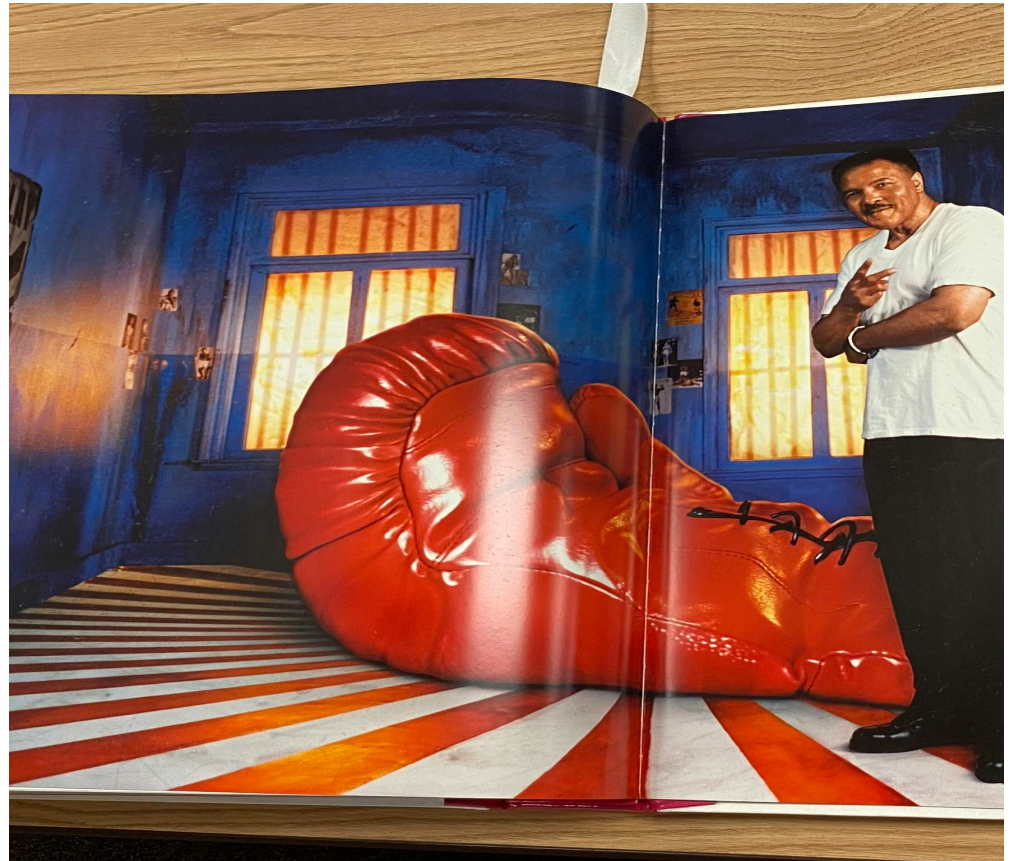

Kentucky Rushmore Mural

The mural on the side of The Sweet Spot Candy Shoppe has been vandalized several times in the past few years. The third time occurred in January 2020 when orange paint and the words featuring the words "racist," "anti-Semitic," and "homophobe" covered Muhammad Ali's face. The vandalism came days after Louisville's Ali Week, a celebration of the Kentucky native, who died in 2016.

- **GOAT: Greatest of All Time**:
  - **A Tribute to Muhammad Ali** Köln, Germany: Taschen, 2004

In-Person Exhibit
January 2021

Ekstrom Library and Archives & Special Collections

Ekstrom Library and Archives & Special Collections
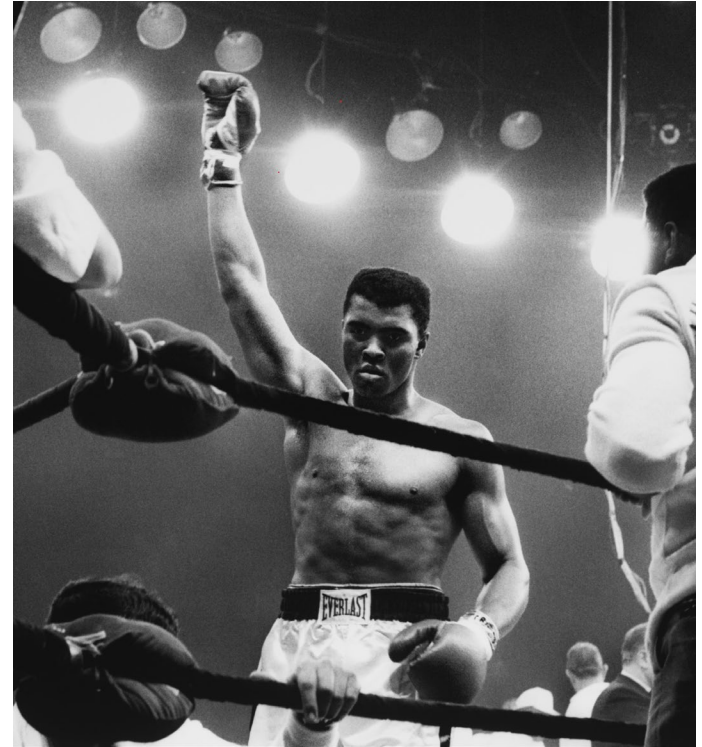## *GOAT: Greatest of All Time: A Tribute to Muhammad Ali*

Muhammad Ali, 1942–2016, is one of the world's most photographed people. More 3,000 of those images, including photographs by Howard L. Bingham and Neil Leifer, are included in this massive volume. The text also includes Ali's own insights, writings and drawings, along with interviews, accounts by family and friends, press accounts, and reviews.

Touted by its publisher as a heavyweight (800 pages and 75 pounds) the limited "Champs Edition" of GOAT incorporates the materials of Ali's fight robe in its binding of white silk and hot pink Louis Vuitton leather. The end papers are gold foil.

Ekstrom Library and Archives & Special Collections

Photos by Howard L. Bingham, Muhammad Ali's friend, biographer and primary photo documentarian of his career. Four prints, signed by both Bingham and Ali, accompanied the University of Louisville's copy of the special "Champs Edition."

Ekstrom Library and Archives & Special Collections
From UofL Libraries Photographic Archives

Photos of Muhammad Ali as young Cassius Clay, at home with his family. Shot by Louisville photographer Lin Caufield in 1963, the images capture the days before Ali's first match with Sonny Liston in February 1964 when he first captured the Heavyweight Championship title.

Muhammad Ali: Parkinson's Disease Advocate

- **In-Person Exhibit - January 2021**

- **Kornhauser Health Sciences Library**

Muhammad Ali and Parkinson's Disease

Thirty-six years after clinching an Olympic Gold Medal, a trembling hand lit the 1996 Summer Olympic Flame during the opening ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia.

The hand belonged to the greatest boxer in the world, Muhammad Ali, who had spent the last sixteen years fighting Parkinson's Disease.

In those few seconds, Ali showed the world, "I have Parkinson's disease, but Parkinson's disease doesn't have me." The image would inspire millions and epitomize the legacy of Muhammad Ali as "The People's Champion."

Excerpted from "Muhammad Ali's Advocacy for Parkinson's Disease Endures with Boxing Legacy," June 10, 2016. By Katie McCallum at https://parkinsonsnewstoday.com/

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The Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Awards recognize individuals who are driven by a call to action to effect positive change in the world.

Muhammad Ali and Parkinson's Disease

Michael J. Fox was awarded the first ever "Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award for Courage." The award was presented by Lonnie Ali during the seventh annual Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Awards on September 12, 2019 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Accepting the award, Michael said: "When I revealed my diagnosis to the world, Muhammad called me. His fearlessness was contagious. He showed me that we are part of something bigger. And he inspired me to embrace the cause and do more."

Dwight Anderson Memorial Music Library
Muhammad Ali – An Eclectic Artist

UofL's Dwight Anderson Memorial Music Library display featured original music and other recordings by and about Muhammad Ali, an eclectic artist who acted on Broadway and released several recordings, both music and spoken word.

Dwight Anderson Memorial Music Library
Muhammad Ali – An Eclectic Artist

The Ali Playlist

In addition to mounting the exhibit, UofL's Dwight Anderson Memorial Music Library created a digital resource - Ali playlist on Youtube.

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwCeP7uTC-T6HkIsFAaOcmS8oMTHEEchP

SCAN ME

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Thank you
Any Questions?

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