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## NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT TO RESTORE FILM OF 1933 TORNADO

*Rare Film to be Available to the Public for the First Time in 80 Years*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—For the first time in 80 years, Nashvillians will be able to view a film about a series of tornadoes that devastated their city in 1933, thanks to a grant to the Nashville Public Library (NPL) from the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) and support from the Library of Congress.



*Metro Nashville Archivist Ken Fieth handles fragile nitrate film of the 1933 Nashville Tornado, unearthed after his search was sparked by a mention of the footage in an archived copy of the Nashville Banner.*

Each year, the NFPF selects rare and endangered footage housed in American archives for preservation. The library’s film, housed in NPL’s Metro Archives, depicts the aftermath of one of the worst series of tornadoes in Nashville history and is on fragile, volatile nitrate film.

The grant, awarded through the Nashville Public Library Foundation, provides for photochemical preservation of the film in Rockville, Maryland; production of a new 35mm print and digital copy for Metro Archives and NPL; and perpetual storage of the original nitrate film in the Library of Congress’ specialized vaults in Culpepper, Virginia.

The restoration and conversion is part of NPL's audiovisual conservation project, a unique effort to preserve and catalog the vast collection of media amassed by Metro Archives and NPL. Library Director Kent Oliver said, "The Library patrons and other neighbors of Nashville drive our purpose. They come to us to read, listen to, and otherwise experience great stories. They also come to us to invest their own stories into our collective, institutional memory. That's why I'm so proud we are working collaboratively to preserve these multimedia-format stories about milestones that helped shape Nashville's history."

Michael Lusk, NPL Audio Visual & Production Services Manager, said the collection includes footage of "Martin Luther King (Jr.) at Fisk University, Lyndon Johnson at the Nashville airport in 1964, JFK at Vanderbilt. Nashville's history is on this media, and the media makes our history come to life."

The library plans to offer a public viewing of the film this winter after the restoration project is complete.

For more about NPL's rare Nashville Tornado film, view the clip at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mdYxmg7roM&feature=youtu.be>

For more about NPL's AV conservation project, view the short video at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3a8TWVae1Ws>

Raw, unedited download (for press) of NPL's video about the tornado film is at:  
[https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/33758771/NPL\\_receives\\_NFPF\\_grant30p.mp4](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/33758771/NPL_receives_NFPF_grant30p.mp4)

### **About Nashville Public Library**

Nashville Public Library maintains a collection of 2 million items, including books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and downloadable books, movies and music. The library also offers more than 800 public-use computers, free art exhibits, educational programs, events for all ages, 24/7 reference assistance, online databases, interlibrary loan and special collections. Metro Archives, located at the Main Library, houses 5 million historic documents. Equal access is provided by the Talking Library audio reading service for the print disabled and Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. For more information, call (615) 862-5800 or visit [library.nashville.org](http://library.nashville.org).