

Trinity College

Trinity College Digital Repository

Community Action Gateway

Center for Hartford Engagement and Research

2022

Carrie Saxon Perry Project

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Recommended Citation

Carothers, Aisha; Silvey, Olivia; and Zeb, Amna, "Carrie Saxon Perry Project" (2022). *Community Action Gateway*. 1.

<https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/cag/1>

Carrie Saxon Perry Digital Archive with SAND Elementary

Aisha Carothers '25, Olivia Silvey '25, and Amna Zeb '25 with community partner
Desiree Primus



In 1987, Carrie Saxon Perry was the first African-American woman elected mayor of Hartford—a first for any New England city. She was an outspoken barrier-breaker who brought people together and advocated fiercely for city residents. After her service as Hartford Mayor, Perry became active in the Greater Hartford branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and served as its president from 2004 to 2008.

With the help of Mary Mahoney and Amy Harrell, the group then preserved all the material, including full length interviews, in the Trinity College [Digital Repository](#) and created a public facing [Historypin](#) collection which allows members of the public to learn about Carrie Saxon Perry and contribute their own material and memories to the collection.

As a component of the project, Aisha, Amna and Olivia presented their preliminary findings to Desiree Primus' 5th grade class at SAND Elementary. They also created the following flier.

THE CARRIE SAXON PERRY PROJECT

The Carrie Saxon Perry Project aims to honor former Hartford mayor Carrie Saxon Perry, who was the first African-American female mayor of a major New England city. Very few people know how much of an impact she had, both politically and personally, and our goal is to provide a space for others to share their experiences with Mayor Perry.



Photo by the Hartford Courant

Scan the QR code below to add your story!

Link to History Pin tutorial



Link to History Pin site
(where you can post)



HOW?

We have created a History Pin site, which is a place where anyone in the community can post a story, photo, document, or video about Mayor Perry for all to see.

To learn more about the Project, please email theperryproject22@gmail.com



I'm hoping that this will generate discussion and awareness, and it will empower students [at Sand Elementary] because this is her neighborhood. She grew up in Bellevue Square housing projects, which is here. And there was a strong sense of community. So the students in this neighborhood, they can look up and say, 'here's someone that looks like me from this neighborhood who was very powerful, who helped her community.

**DESIREE PRIMUS,
COMMUNITY PARTNER**



This semester was when we were all able to take our projects into our own hands and challenge ourselves because we wanted to challenge ourselves. We could be community action nerds without any judgment — we could talk about the digital repository or Bellevue Square or housing codes and be met with smiles, encouragement, and genuine interest... CACT was where I could take a breath if I was living in a time when I felt like I was drowning.

OLIVIA SILVEY '25