



DC Public Library

Find your story.

History of Buying Go-Go Collections

In 2020, Mayor Muriel Bowser declared Go-Go the Official Music of the District of Columbia. [The People's Plan for Go-Go](#) was passed a year later and provides funding for the DC Public Library to purchase material related to Go-Go history and culture.

Go-Go collecting at The People's Archive started in 2012. The Archive captures both well-documented and lesser-known stories from organizations, record labels, venues, record shops, and artists. The Archive contains posters, photographs, books, magazines, vinyl records, oral histories, recorded concerts, and business records – and we want more.

Funding is limited. If you want to be a part of the archive, follow the steps below:

1. Send us a description of what you have. Email peoples.archive@dc.gov or call (202)727-1213.
2. Your offer will be considered by The People's Archive selection committee. The committee makes collecting decisions for all donations offered to our archive. They consult with our internal Go-Go working group. Decisions are based on researcher need, filling gaps in our collection, and condition of materials offered.
3. **If accepted, appraiser research and paperwork may take up to 7 months before payment is received.**
4. A specialized music appraiser will provide a valuation of your materials. The appraiser researches similar items for sale in auctions, record stores, or formerly sold to cultural institutions. This can take up to three months.
5. The library will send an offer. If accepted, we will need paperwork, including:
 - a. Deed of Gift
 - b. W-9
 - c. Master Supplier Form (requires registering for ARIBA)
 - d. Clean Hands Certificate
 - e. Quote for materials being sold
 - f. Registration in the DC vendor portal
 - g. Invoice

This process can also take up to three months.

6. After the invoice is submitted, and materials have been received by the library, payment will be received within 30 days.



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Collecting Priorities

Materials we are collecting on Go-Go include:

- Photographs
- Business records (record stores, clothing lines, clubs)
- Interviews
- Records
- Archives illustrating the connection between Go-Go and activism in DC - returning citizens, etc.

Collecting this material is important so DC Public Library can:

- Document Go-Go as part of the city's history of activism
- Document the marketing of Go-Go music as an industry in Washington, D.C.
- Provide context and documentation of a vast community of artists, club owners/employees, band members, businesspersons, fans, activists, scholars, journalists, fans, and the general public who make the Go-Go community

These resources will tell the ongoing story of Go-Go in DC for decades to come. Large collections will be prioritized over smaller collections or individual items. Large collections tell a full story of a person or organization's involvement in the Go-Go community.

More about The People's Archive at DC Public Library

The mission of The People's Archive is to connect you to unique resources that illustrate the District of Columbia's local history and culture. We are a home of discovery, where diverse stories - past and present - are preserved and amplified.

The People's Archive includes Washingtoniana, Black Studies, Go-Go, Punk, and the Peabody Room collections. Stay connected by [subscribing](#) to our monthly newsletter.