

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Eugene B. Redmond Learning Center & Eugene B. Redmond Collection



The proposed *Eugene B. Redmond Learning Center* will feature two exhibit galleries, individual and group research space, and processing and staff areas. In addition, the attached Learning Center will be constructed and furnished with state-of-the-art technology to support the community use of the collection in all formats. The creation of the center will provide scholars, faculty, students of all ages and the surrounding Metro East St. Louis community access to the *Eugene B. Redmond Collection* with its unique historical record of

African American and multicultural arts movements both in the U.S. and internationally which integrates research in the fields of art, folklore, literature, poetry, history, dance, music, drama, photography, diversity and culture in unique ways. Hence, the collection will serve as one of the greatest post-civil rights repositories ever assembled, with thousands of books, magazines, rare program booklets and flyers, audio/visual recordings and historic posters. It also holds more than 150,000 photographs of literary artists, musicians, entertainers, scholars, dancers/choreographers, supporters of the arts and political activists, which Dr. Redmond has taken over the last four-and-a-half decades. Many of these images appear regularly in *Drumvoices Revue*, which is co-published by Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) and the East St. Louis-based Writers Club that bears his name, and in the *ESL Monitor* and *St. Louis American* newspapers.

Dr. Eugene B. Redmond (pictured above) is an award-winning author/editor of several dozen books, journals and anthologies. As Literary Executor of the estate of Henry Dumas (1934-1968), and in collaboration with writers such as Amiri Baraka and Toni Morrison, he has edited several volumes of the Dumas' works. A Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumnus, literary historian, and scholar, Eugene B. Redmond was named Poet Laureate of East Saint Louis in 1976, the same year that Doubleday published his critical history, *Drumvoices: The Mission of Afro-American Poetry*. Further examples of Redmond's accomplishments include his winning a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, a Lifetime Achievement Award from Pan-African Movement USA, a Sterling Brown Award from the African American Section of the American Literature Association (ALA), two American Book Awards (1993/2012) and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from SIUE (2008), his alma mater. He retired from SIUE in 2007.