

DATA DAY

Baltimore Traces: Listening to a City

Nicole King, American Studies, UMBC

<https://baltimoretraces.umbc.edu/>

Baltimore Traces Communities in Transition (2015-present) is a project-based interdisciplinary teaching initiative, bringing faculty, students, and community members together for cultural documentation projects (zines, podcasts, and short films) where we listen to those who live and work in Baltimore neighborhoods. The research focuses on how people feel about change

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Baltimore Traces website. At the top left is the UMBC logo. To the right is a search bar with the text "Enter Search Terms" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with links for HOME, PROJECTS, PROJECT MAP, EVENTS, WHAT'S NEW, and ABOUT US. The main content area features a large image of a woman speaking into a microphone, with the text "A Walk Down West Baltimore Street" and "Stories from Southwest Baltimore" overlaid. To the right of this image is a "What's New" section with three entries: "Do Listen to Strangers: Nicole King speaks at GRIT-X 2018", "Baltimore Traces featured in 'Humanities for All'", and "'Mill Stories' documentary wins Telly Award". Below this is a "Preserving Places Project" section with the text "West Baltimore Street Stories" and "February 12, 2019". At the bottom of the page is a footer with the UMBC logo, social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, and the text "© University of Maryland, Baltimore County • 1000 Hilltop Circle • Baltimore, MD 21250".

Podcasts on public radio & Zines on public markets

Projects

Maryland Traditions 2018
Apprenticeship Award Winners ▶

A Journey Through Hollins ▶

Catonsville Nine 50 Years On ▶

Learning from Lexington ▶

Baltimore American Indian Center ▶

Downtown Voices ▶

Improving Lives with Urban Forestry ▶

Refugee Youth Project ▶

The World That Brought Us Freddie
Gray ▶

Mapping Dialogues ▶

Paca Street Stories ▶

Bromo Speaks ▶

Greektown Voices ▶

Highlandtown Voices ▶

Station North Voices ▶

Downtown Stories ▶

Stories of Deindustrialization on the Marc Steiner Show

During the spring 2014 semester, students from four UMBC classes teamed up to produce *Stories of Deindustrialized Baltimore*, a five-part radio series aired on the [Marc Steiner Show](#) on WEA 88.9 FM from Monday, May 12th through Friday, May 16th. The series traces the boom and bust of the industrial communities of Baybrook and the Sparrows Point Steel Mill. The stories and memories of community members are threaded together to explore the industrial history and deindustrialized present of each area, how various industries shaped the lives of countless residents and former workers, including their stories of struggle and hardship, and how a sustainable future for these areas can be forged.

You can listen to the archived programs below:



The screenshot shows a SoundCloud interface for a playlist titled "New Media Studio - Stories of Deindustrialized Baltimore...". It features a cover image of a sunset over an industrial site. The playlist contains five tracks, each with a play button and a duration:

- New Media Studio - Stories of Deindustrialized Baltimore: Part 1- History ▶ 3:21
- New Media Studio - Stories of Deindustrialized Baltimore: Part 2 - Struggle ▶ 1:42
- New Media Studio - Stories of Deindustrialized Baltimore: Part 3 - Community ▶ 1:00
- New Media Studio - Stories of Deindustrialized Baltimore: Part 4 - What Went Wrong ▶ 1:00
- New Media Studio - Stories of Deindustrialized Baltimore: Part 5 - Futures ▶ 1:03

At the bottom, there is a link for "New Media Studio Stories of Deindustrialized Baltimore" and a "Cookie policy" link.

Learning from Lexington

Public Markets and the Development of Downtown Baltimore

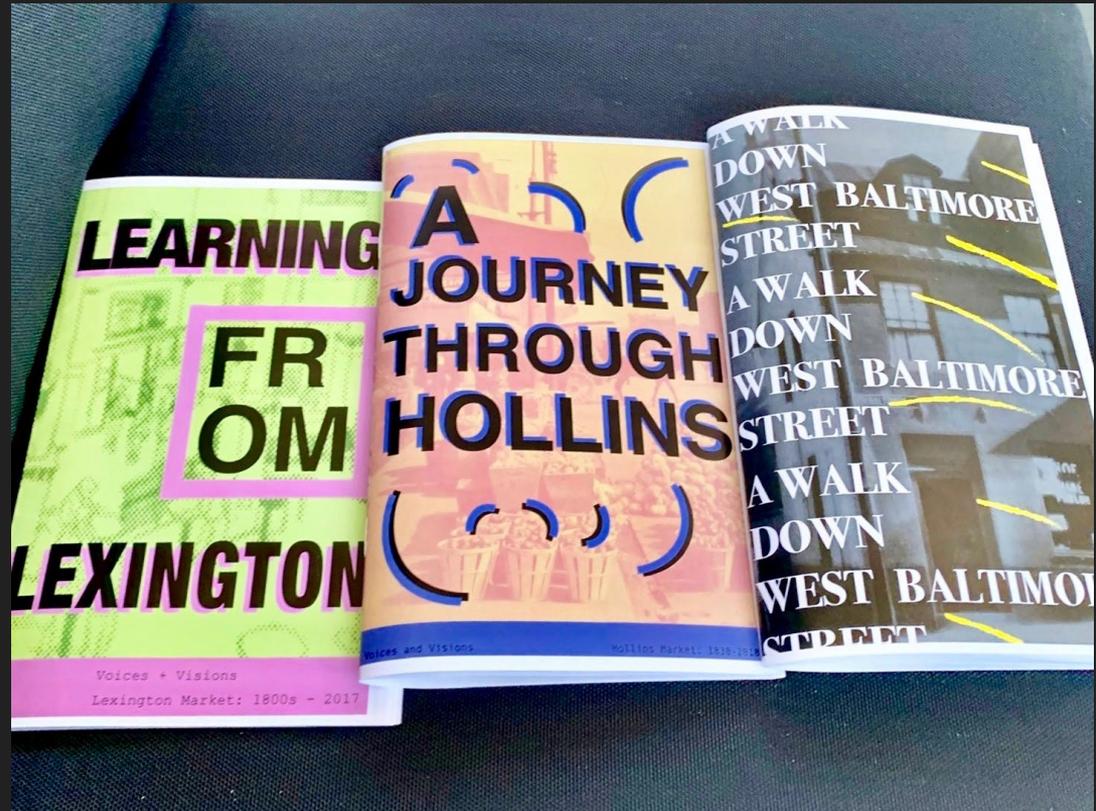


AMST 480 is a project-based course where the students collaborate with the professor, Baltimore Traces Fellows (UMBC alumni), and community partners (Lexington Market & Baltimore Heritage) on creating public humanities programming.

During the 2017 fall semester, students learned about the history of the west side of downtown Baltimore and the city's historic public markets, with a focus on the Lexington Market. Students researched the history and culture of the Market and its surrounding neighborhoods, produced a public history zine from student research, and made a podcast from interviews with people who use the market. Students analyzed past redevelopment projects in the area, the growing influence of tourism, the potential gentrification of downtown Baltimore, and how the Market has been witness to all of these trends.

- [Learning from Lexington Magazine 1](#)
- [Learning from Lexington Magazine 2](#)
- [Marc Steiner Podcast](#)

Why use zines?



A Journey Through Hollins

1. Research the history of the place.
 - a. Historical newspapers
 - b. Archives
 - c. **Government Reports**
 - d. **Neighborhood data**
2. Complete interviews.
3. Then... consider the best format to get this information to the public...
4. Free public event → archive on project website

Baltimore Traces

HOME PROJECTS ▼ PROJECT MAP EVENTS WHAT'S NEW ABOUT US ▼

Projects

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Mapping Baybrook ▶

Mill Stories ▶

Stories of Deindustrialization on the Marc Steiner Show ▶

A Journey Through Hollins

"I love the history... It's a lot of stories here and a lot of history. I think that it would be beautiful if we can document all of this history or find ways of just going back and documenting the past 40 years."

— Curtis Eaddy

Events and Marketing Manager, Southwest Partnership

[A Journey Through Hollins](#) was a free, public event hosted by UMBC students in the "Preserving Places, Making Spaces in Baltimore" public humanities course taught at the university's downtown classroom in the [Lion Brothers Building](#). At 2pm on Saturday, May 12 students hosted an open house & zine release + [Story Map website](#) debut. At 3pm guests departed for a walking tour of the neighborhood led by [Curtis Eaddy](#) of the [Southwest Partnership](#). The tour ended at 1116 Hollins Street for an open mic at Hollins Place, a new restaurant that recently opened in the neighborhood.

During the spring 2018 semester, students read about and researched the history of the area. Each student researched a specific decade using local newspapers, such as the Baltimore Sun, Afro-American, and Jewish Times, and pieced together a narrative. Students went on a walking tour of the neighborhood led by Curtis Eaddy before choosing a historic building to research using newspapers, deeds, as well as archival research and photos. Students wrote profiles on past vendors or current entrepreneurs in the area for the Stories of Sowebo newspaper. The newspaper was part of artist Malaika Clements' Neighbor Lights programming in Hollins Market on Friday, April 6. The Light City newspaper and the zine for our event were both designed by Markele Cullins (Visual Arts, UMBC).



Back (left): Curtis Eaddy (Southwest Partnership), Liz Ridinger (B.A. American Studies), Zachary Utz (M.A. Historical Studies – Public History), DeAndre Bright (B.A. American Studies, Education), Jonathan Portuesi (B.S. Biological Sciences & Entrepreneurship minor), Anthony Portuesi (B.S. Biological Sciences & Entrepreneurship minor), Jameka Wiggins (Chemical Engineering), Terece Young (B.A. American Studies & Sociology) Front (left): Sydney McCain (B.A. American Studies, Education), Elizabeth Piet (B.A. American Studies, Education), Lia Adams (M.A. Applied Sociology), Professor Nicole King (American Studies)

Narrative Arc... past, present, and future

PRESENT

Demographics

Figure 1 illustrates population and racial breakdown of Hollins Market, part of the US Census Tract 1803. The boundaries include Baltimore St (North), W Pratt St (South), S Carey St. (West) and N MLK Jr. Blvd (East). The left axis is population (the blue bars) and White residents (purple and orange lines) for that given year.

—Abigail Breiseth, Hollins Roundhouse resident since 2000

Present Day Hollins Market

Today, Hollins Market neighborhood continues to be a microcosm of Baltimore. The neighborhood, like the city, has endured the rise and decline of industrialization, white flight to the suburbs, isolation by highway construction, and unsuccessful attempts at redevelopment. Yet this historic neighborhood is home to gems such as the city's oldest public market, an Arabber stable, local businesses, and original arts and culture ventures. Hollins Market fosters a unique identity through its eclectic mix of people and places. Pulling from a combination of historical research and interviews, we hope you get a glimpse of what Hollins Market is today...

	Poppleton/ The Terraces/ Hollins Market	Baltimore City
Total Population	5,086	620,961
Total Households	2,181	249,903
Median Household Income	\$24,274	\$42,213

Figure 2. Race and Age in Poppleton/The Terraces/
Hollins Market CSA (Census, 2010).

Race

- Black/African-American
- White
- Asian
- Hispanic
- +2 races
- Other

Age

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

Table 2 Housing and Community Development (BNIA, 2010-2016)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trends
Total Number of Homes Sold	41	31	39	30	44	19	69	273
Median Sale Prices	\$48,000	\$69,900	\$69,000	\$117,450	\$73,600	\$59,000	\$100,000	\$116,900
Median # of Days on the Market	116	53	42	38	27	69	39	384
% of Homes Sold in Foreclosure	-	37.90%	26.10%	0%	6.10%	3.20%	1.50%	12.47%
% of Properties that are Owner-Occupied	33.40%	31.20%	30.80%	30.80%	30.30%	30.30%	29.40%	30.89%
% of Properties that are Vacant and Abandoned	18.7%	16.6%	15.3%	0.0%	16.4%	15.3%	0%	11.70%

Story Map

← → ↻ https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymaps/de0db6f06619f8547e931f19766ee10/hollins-market-walking-tour/draft.html ☆ 🌐 🔍

Apps

Map Overview Back To Beginning ↶



University of Baltimore Special Collections, Poppleton Historic Survey 1975

THE HISTORY OF HOLLINS MARKET AS TOLD THROUGH ITS BUILDINGS

Hollins Market is a "melting pot". Throughout its long history a huge number of working men and women from an equally diverse set of backgrounds have called the neighborhood home. As such, it has also historically been a place of dynamic, and often consequential, social and cultural change. On this tour of Hollins Market past, we will explore the history of vibrant neighborhood through its historic buildings. Each building was chosen to chronologically represent an important era in the history of Hollins. As you pass through each building, you will also be walking forward through the past. Along this journey, you will see how Hollins was and is a place where a diverse collection of individuals lived their own unique, and sometimes shared, version of the American Experience. Despite its more complicated recent past, Hollins has continued to be one of the more diverse areas of an otherwise still very segregated Baltimore City. By telling the story of this neighborhood through its buildings, it is our hope to show how the stories of each place are not just about the history of a single person, place or neighborhood, but something much larger.

Start Exploring

Poppleton Historic Survey



About this collection

This exhibit presents text and selected images from the Poppleton Historic Survey, conducted in 1975 by Phoebe B. Stanton for the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development.

Dr. Stanton (1915-2003), an architectural historian and chair of the art history department at Johns Hopkins University, assembled a survey team that included: William Potts, Susanne Moore, and Catharine Black, with volunteer assistance from Vivian Klein and Joyce Maclay.

The final report of the Poppleton Historic Survey is included in this exhibit, along with property inventory sheets and corresponding images of Poppleton businesses, churches, and homes. 104 images have been selected out of 600 negatives associated with the survey. All materials are arranged by block and lot numbers. Corresponding street addresses have been included, when available.

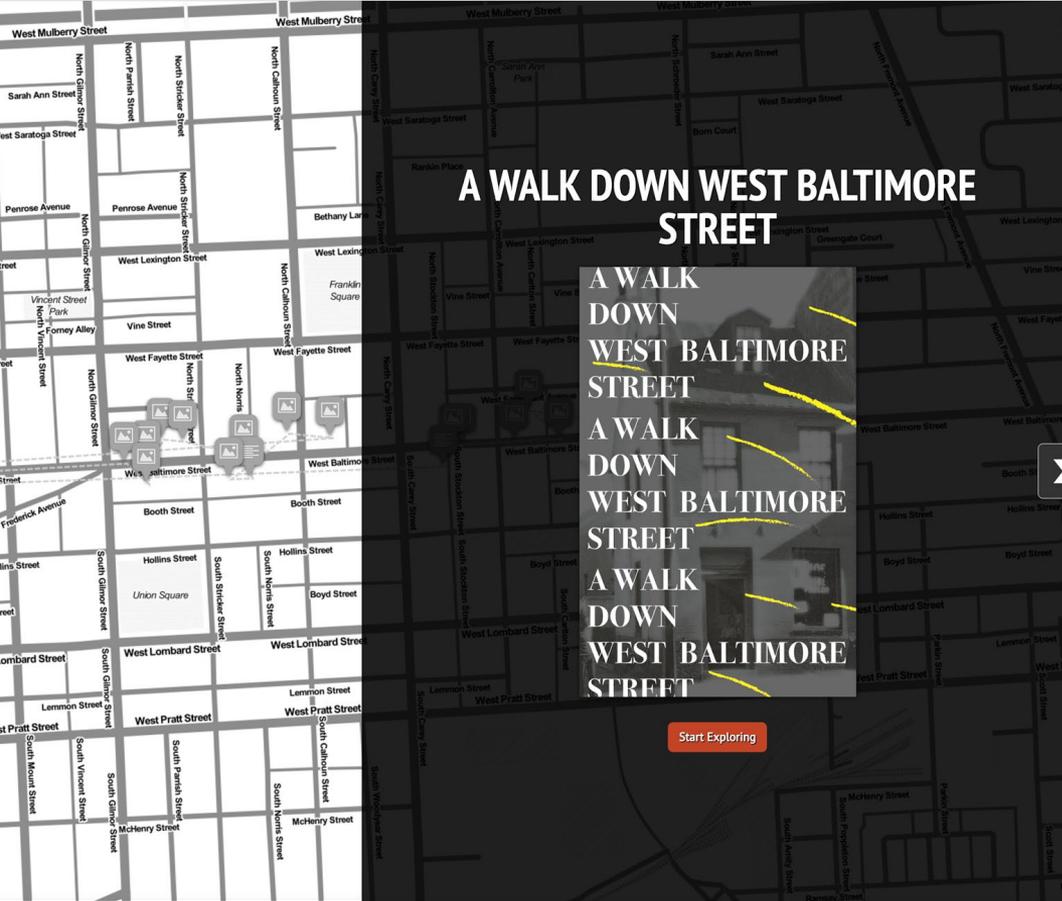
At the time of the survey, the Poppleton area was bounded by two urban road construction projects that displaced residents and stirred public controversy: City Boulevard [1] (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard) and Interstate 170 [2] (which sought to connect I-70 with I-95).

- [View all selected documents](#)
 - [View block and lot reports](#)
 - [View photographs](#)
 - [View final report](#)

[1] Dilts, James D. "Residents Face Fact of Boulevard." *The Sun* (1837-1987), Nov 17, 1975. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/538676018>.

[2] "High, Low Roads Coming through." *The Sun* (1837-1987), Feb 12, 1975. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/540600626>.

Browse



Baltimore Traces

HOME | PROJECTS ▼ | PROJECT MAP | EVENTS | WHAT'S NEW | ABOUT US ▼

Map Overview | Back To Beginning ↶



THE MERCANTILE BANK

The Mercantile Bank opened its doors at 1208 West Baltimore Street two years later in 1905 opened the new space at the corner of West Baltimore and Carrollton Street. The new building at 1201 West Baltimore Street was made of white brick, granite, and limestone. In 1933 during the years of the Great Depression, the bank was reorganized and renamed the Carrollton Bank of Baltimore. In a 1979 article in the Baltimore Sun, the past and current bank presidents attributed their success to being a part of the community as a local bank. The bank took pride in its connection with its neighbors and communities. The beloved local bank moved and then was bought by a corporate bank. Today the building is used for religious services like many of the historic storefronts on W. Baltimore St.

A Walk Down West Baltimore Street

A WALK DOWN WEST BALTIMORE STREET

A WALK DOWN WEST BALTIMORE STREET

A Celebration of a Street

A Walk down West Baltimore Street is a UMBC student project focused on researching the past, present, and future of West Baltimore Street.

EVENT SCHEDULE

1:00 pm - Public History ZINE release + film debut w/
Free Pizza from Zella's
2:00 pm - Walking Tour of West Baltimore Street
3:00 pm - Tour concludes



JOIN US FOR FREE
ZINES, FOOD, & FILM!

Saturday, May 18
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Lion Brothers Building
875 Hollins Street

Contact Info:
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AMERICAN STUDIES



Data in dialogue with a neighborhood...



Projects

A Walk Down West Baltimore Street

- Curtis Eaddy ▶
- Cecil Clarke ▶
- Sarah Littlepage ▶
- Lisa Gee and Lonnie Combs ▶
- Brooks Long ▶
- Download West Baltimore Street Zine ▶
- Walking Tour Map ▶

The Arch Social Club: A Century of Fellowship ▶

- Project PLASE: Our Stories ▶
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- Stories of Deindustrialization on the Marc Steiner Show ▶

A Walk Down West Baltimore Street

A Walk Down West Baltimore Street features historical research and fieldwork on the 1000 to the 1500 blocks of West Baltimore Street. The final products include a public history zine and video interviews which debuted at a public event on Saturday, May 18 at the Lion Brothers Building.



The project was a collaboration between two UMBC courses during spring 2019: American Studies 422 "Preserving Places, Making Spaces in Baltimore" and Media & Communication Studies 484 "Production Fellows." AMST 422 is an applied research course that addresses the importance of place to the diverse history and culture of Baltimore by developing innovative preservation and public humanities projects. MCS 484 students created short videos based on interviews conducted as part of the cultural documentation project.



Download the pdf version of the zine: "A Walk Down West Baltimore Street"



Take a virtual tour of the West Baltimore Street neighborhood

Stories from West Baltimore Street



Sarah Littlepage



Curtis Eaddy



Brooks Long



Be flexible with your methods... but never your ethics

1. Oral history
2. Ethnography = participant observation + in-depth interviews
3. OTS = "on the street interviews" "scholarly reportage"
4. For podcasts LISTEN for quotes first..before transcription + coding
5. For zines CONFIRM information (management, developers, neighborhood data)
6. Always bring the information (transcripts, products) back to the subjects
7. It is all public..but I don't own it - constantly confirm consent
8. Reflect on how we use the human voice..the humanity of those not us

Ethics rule #1 = **DO NO HARM**

The ethics of the interview... “do no harm”

“The resources available to us for benign access to each other .. are few but powerful: language, image, and experience ... *These two godlings, language and image, feed and form experience .. [and] help us to pursue the human project – which is to remain human and to block dehumanization of others... There are no strangers. There are only versions of ourselves, many of which we have not embraced, most of which we wish to protect ourselves from. For the stranger is not foreign; not random; not alien but remembered; and it is the randomness of the encounter with our known – although unacknowledged – selves that summons a ripple of alarm.*”

--Toni Morrison, “The Fisherwoman”

Thanks to Magdalena Zaborowska for bringing this quote to my attention. *American Quarterly* article “Black Matters of Value: Archiving James Baldwin’s House as a Virtual Writer’s Museum” (September 2018)

Guide to Cultural Documentation...

The American Folklife Center at the

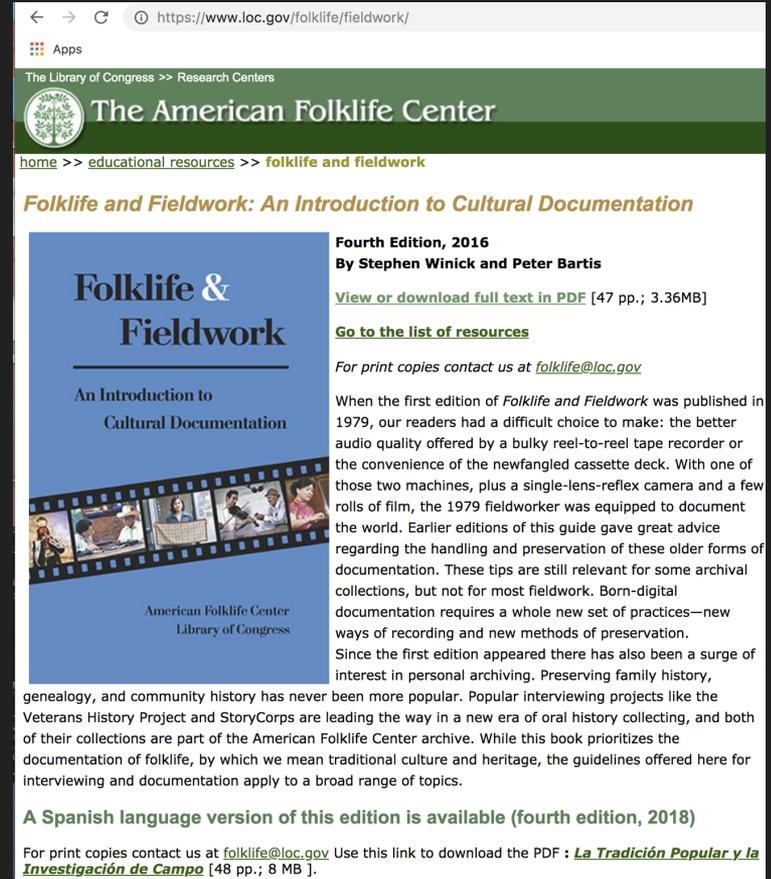
Library of Congress has a free pdf

(in English and Spanish) that provides

the basics for any cultural documentation

Project →

<https://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/>. The page header includes the Library of Congress logo and the text "The American Folklife Center". Below the header, there is a navigation menu with "home >> educational resources >> folklife and fieldwork". The main content area features the title "Folklife and Fieldwork: An Introduction to Cultural Documentation" in a blue box. To the right of the title, it states "Fourth Edition, 2016" and "By Stephen Winick and Peter Bartis". There are links for "View or download full text in PDF [47 pp.; 3.36MB]" and "Go to the list of resources". Below this, there is a section for "For print copies contact us at folklife@loc.gov". The text describes the book's history and its relevance to cultural documentation. At the bottom, there is a link to a Spanish language version: "A Spanish language version of this edition is available (fourth edition, 2018)". For print copies, it provides a link to download the PDF: "La Tradición Popular y la Investigación de Campo [48 pp.; 8 MB]".

Thank you for listening.
nking@umbc.edu