

**Title:**

*The “PUPS” Model: Private funding, University staff, Public records, and State archives*

**Presenters:**

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**Description:**

The ***Robert Moses Collection Project*** (RMCP) is an ambitious venture to create widespread public access to historic records produced during the era when “master builder” Robert Moses developed most of Long Island’s public parks and parkways. While head of multiple public commissions and authorities, Moses opened a largely rural Long Island up to the urban masses of New York City for public recreation and subsequently enabled the advance of suburbanization. He essentially shaped Manhattan and Long Island as we know them today.

While renowned in some circles, charges of racism, classism, and segregation have also plagued the Moses legacy. Questions regarding the implications his actions and how they have reverberated to shape modern society continually arise. Since the recent unveiling of President Biden’s new plan to address historical racial inequities in American infrastructure, the collection has moved beyond regional to take on national significance.

Through funding provided by the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, Long Island University archivists are using New York State Archives guidelines and procedures to create digital access to over 500 cubic feet of New York State Department of Parks records dating to the Moses era. Through an extensive digitization effort, this long-hidden collection of government records will finally be made publicly accessible on the New York State Archives website. Providing widespread access to these important records will empower and encourage responsible factual research and assist in expanding governmental transparency and accountability.

The RMCP archivists propose the presentation of a lightning talk at iPRES2021 regarding our work and the collaborative efforts of the public and private institutions invested in the project. While based in the United States, our work (particularly our project framework) has international relevance. The “PUPS Model” framework developed for the project consists of four main elements (Private funding, University staff, Public records, and State archives) and can be used to guide other organizations interested in pursuing similar important ventures.