



2018-2019 Film Series with American Jazz Museum and Greater KC Black History Study Group

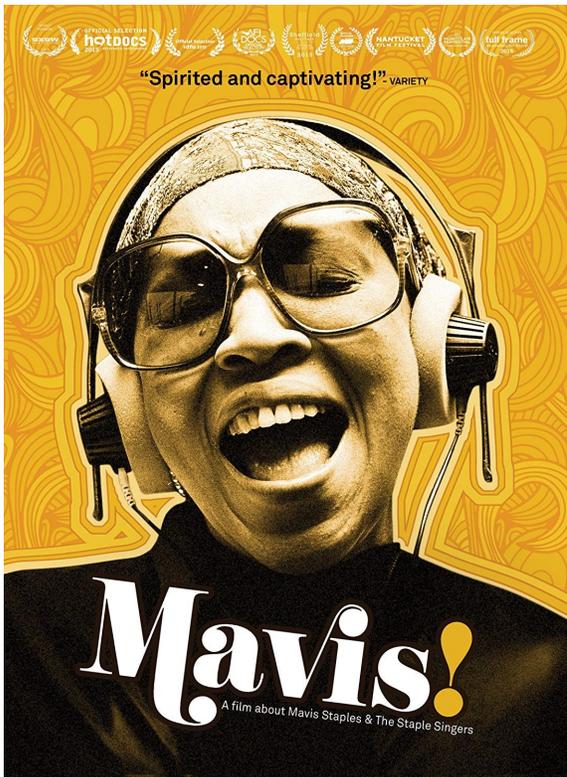
On **Monday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with the American Jazz Museum and the Greater KC Black History Study group, will host a film

screening of *Mavis!*. This program will take place at the American Jazz Museum, 1515 East 18th Street, Kansas City, MO.

[Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

Mavis! is the first feature documentary on gospel/soul music legend and civil rights icon Mavis Staples and her family group, The Staple Singers. From the freedom songs of the 1960s and hits like *I'll Take You There* in the 1970s, to funk collaborations with Prince and her recent albums with Wilco's Jeff Tweedy, Mavis has stayed true to her roots, kept her family close, and inspired millions along the way.

Mavis! reveals the struggles, successes, and intimate stories of her journey. At 79, she's making the most vital music of her career, winning GRAMMY® awards, and reaching a new generation of fans. Post-film discussion will follow the screening.



Upcoming Facility Information and Reminders

- **Tuesday, November 6** - Election Day - the National Archives at Kansas City is a polling site. Increased foot traffic and limited parking is expected.
- **Monday, November 12** - Veterans Day Holiday Observed - facility closed.
- **Wednesday, November 21 at Noon** - Research Rooms close early for Thanksgiving Holiday.
- **Thursday, November 22** - Thanksgiving Holiday - facility closed.

Right: President Harry Truman receives a turkey from the Poultry and Egg National Board on November 16, 1949. Image courtesy of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives Identifier 200138.



November 2018

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Upcoming Events

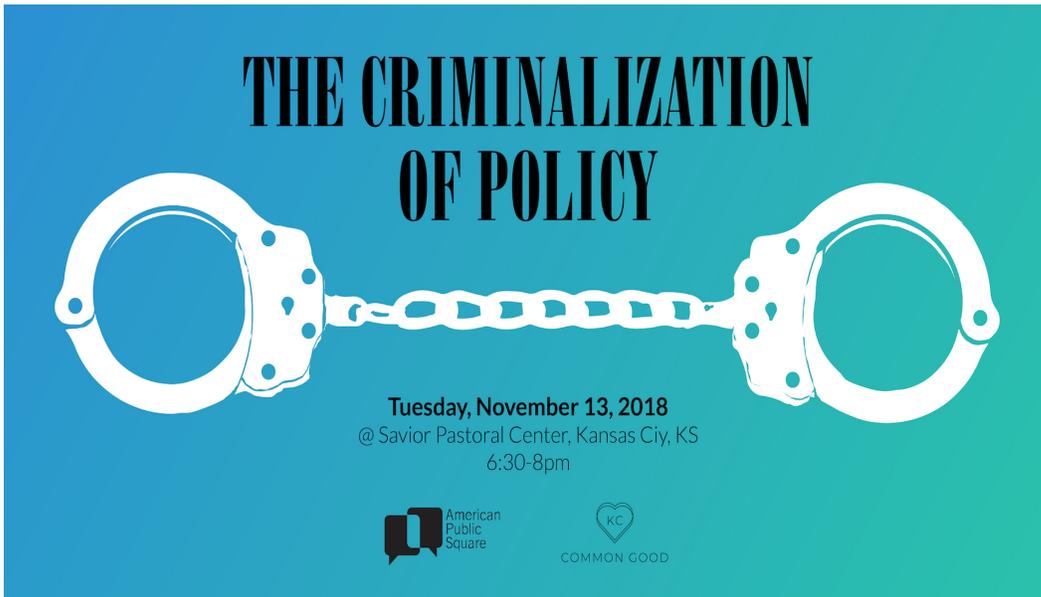
Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives 400 W. Pershing Road Kansas City, MO 64108

- **Nov. 5 - 6:00 P.M.**
*FILM: MAVIS!
- **Nov. 6 - 6:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.** ELECTION DAY: POLLING SITE
- **Nov. 12** - FACILITY CLOSED: VETERANS DAY OBSERVED
- **Nov. 13 - 6:30 P.M.**
*PANEL DISCUSSION: *THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POLICY*
- **Nov. 22** - FACILITY CLOSED: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- **Nov. 26 - 6:00 P.M.**
*FILM: INVENTING TOMORROW

*DENOTES ACTIVITY IS OFFSITE.

The Criminalization of Policy Panel Discussion with American Public Square

On **Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with American Public Square, will host an evening panel discussion on *The Criminalization of Policy*. This program will take place at Savior Pastoral Center, 12601 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, KS. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.



Motor vehicle laws, housing codes, civil asset forfeiture, the collection of civil debts, and racial profiling contribute to stark disparities: people with limited income are often unable to afford the fees and fines that result from these policies, and they accumulate debt, entering a cycle of poverty and criminalization. How do we break the cycle? Eliminate or lessen criminal penalties? If so, how can we enforce laws, and how will our criminal justice system make up for lost revenue?

This is the third program in

American Public Square's KC Common Good series and features panelists **Jean Peters Baker**, Jackson County Prosecutor; **Lavanya Madhusudan**, Independent Research Analyst and Advocate; **Judge Jalilah Otto**, Jackson County Circuit Court Judge; and **Wayne Smith**, Legal Aid of Western Missouri. The event will be moderated by **Debbie Bayless** from the Center for Conflict Resolution.

Screening and Discussion of *Inventing Tomorrow* at Park University

On **Monday, November 26 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with Park University, will host a film screening and discussion of *Inventing Tomorrow*. This program will take place in the Jenkin and Barbara David Theater in Alumni Hall on the Park University campus, 8700 NW River Park Drive, Parkville, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

Inventing Tomorrow follows six young scientists from Indonesia, Hawaii, India and Mexico as they tackle some of the most complex environmental issues facing humanity today – right in their own backyards. Each student is preparing original scientific research that he or she will defend at ISEF, the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

Considered the Olympics of high school science fairs, ISEF is the largest gathering of high school scientists in the world, attracting approximately 1,800 finalists from over 75 countries, regions and territories. All the finalists want to do a good job, but the heart of the story isn't about whether they go home with an award. As they take water samples from contaminated lakes, dig up the dirt in public parks, board illegal pirate mining ships, and test their experiments in a lab, we see each student display a tenacious curiosity, and a determination to build a better future. Motivated by the desire to protect their homes, these young people are asking questions about the issues they observe in their communities, and proposing innovative solutions to fix them.

Following the film screening, faculty from Park University will answer questions and lead audience discussion.



Hidden Treasures from the Stack

Hedy Lamarr: How a 1940s Hollywood Actress Revolutionized Communications Technology

Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler was born on November 9, 1914, in Vienna, Austria-Hungary. Her parents exposed her to science, engineering, and the arts as a young girl, and when she was a teenager she started acting. Hedy, as she was called, had several roles in movies and on stage before meeting and marrying her first husband in 1933 at the age of 19. Frank Mandl was a wealthy munitions dealer in his 30s and a very controlling husband. After several years of living with very little freedom, Hedy planned and executed an escape late one night. She fled Austria and eventually made her way to London where she met Louis B. Mayer. Mayer signed her to a contract as an actress with MGM, and Hedy adopted the stage name Hedy Lamarr.

After appearing in hit movies like *Algiers* (1938) and *Boom Town* (1940), Hedy became a Hollywood star and was cast in multiple movies in the early 1940s. Even though she worked long hours, she spent what little free time she had working on inventions. She had an “inventing table” set up in her house with all kinds of equipment to help her develop her ideas. During this time period, Hedy had befriended Howard Hughes. Hughes gave Hedy a smaller version of her inventing table and equipment to keep in her trailer so she could continue to work on her inventions during her breaks on movie sets. Hughes even lent Hedy his team of scientists to assist her with her inventions whenever she needed help.

With World War II in full swing in Europe, Hedy had an idea to improve some of the weapons being used. Sometimes after a torpedo is launched, there is a need to change the course of that torpedo. Unfortunately there was no way to communicate with the torpedo after it was launched because that communication would take place on a radio frequency. All the enemy would need to do is find the frequency being used and jam it so no signals could get through. One day Hedy had the idea that if you could get the signal to constantly change frequency, there would be no way jam the signal because the signal would only be on that frequency for a brief second before switching to a different frequency.

Hedy called this “frequency hopping.”

Hedy did not know how to implement her idea, but she was friends with a composer named George Antheil who had an extensive knowledge of how player pianos worked. George applied his knowledge of player pianos to Hedy’s idea and the two of them



Above: Hollywood actress Hedy Lamarr, circa 1940. Image courtesy of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, Donald S. Dawson Papers, Accession No. 2017-2076. National Archives Identifier 198606.

figured out how to get signals to hop frequencies. Hedy and George presented their idea to the National Inventors Council (a U.S. government organization established in 1940). The Council thought it was a great idea and introduced

(Story continued on page 6.)

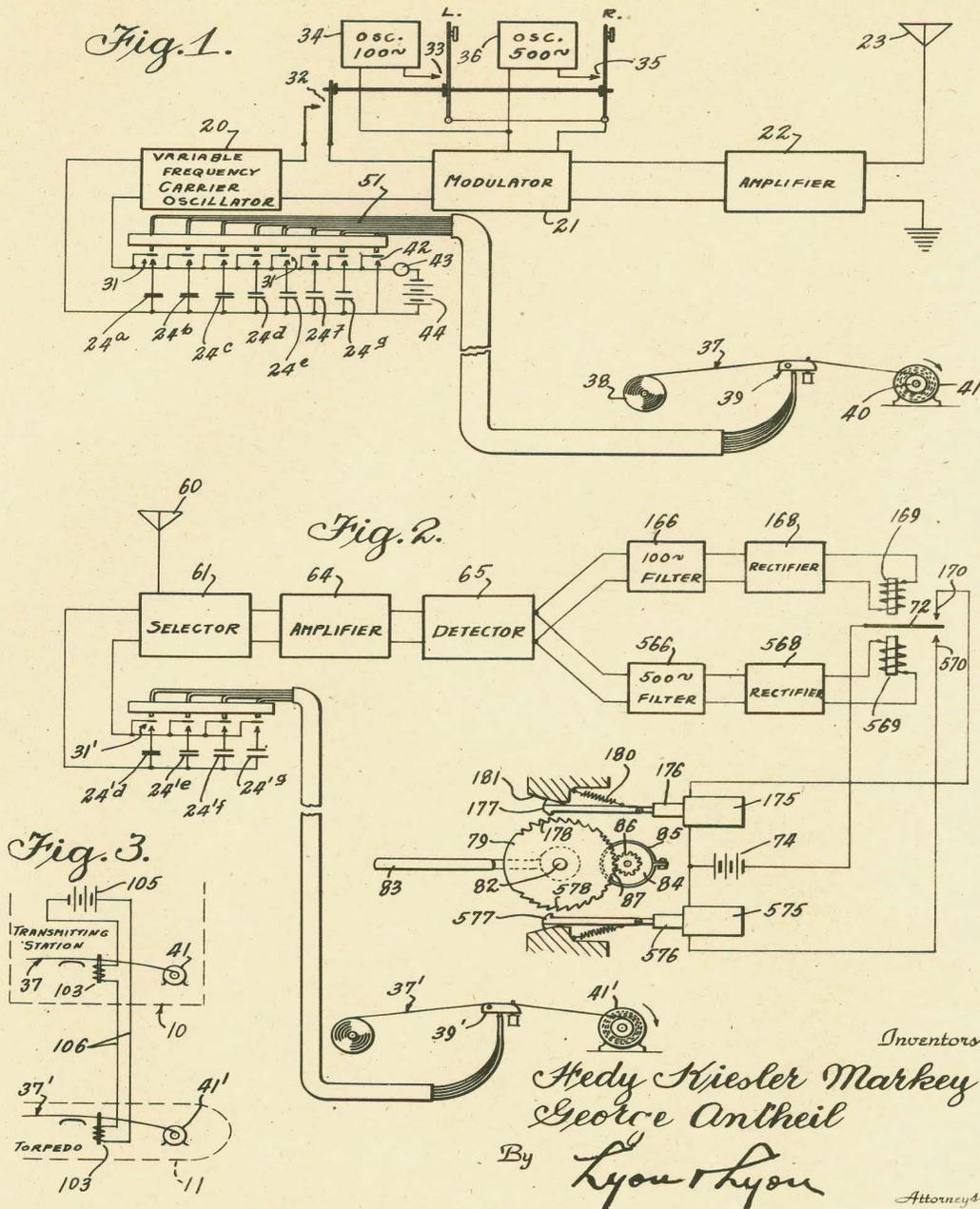
Aug. 11, 1942.

H. K. MARKEY ET AL
SECRET COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

2,292,387

Filed June 10, 1941

2 Sheets—Sheet 1



Aug. 11, 1942.

H. K. MARKEY ET AL
SECRET COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

2,292,387

Filed June 10, 1941

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Property of the U. S. Patent Office
Not to be taken from the Files.

Fig. 7.

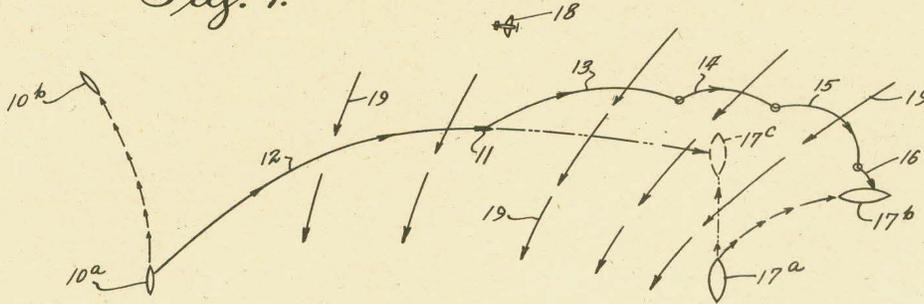


Fig. 4.

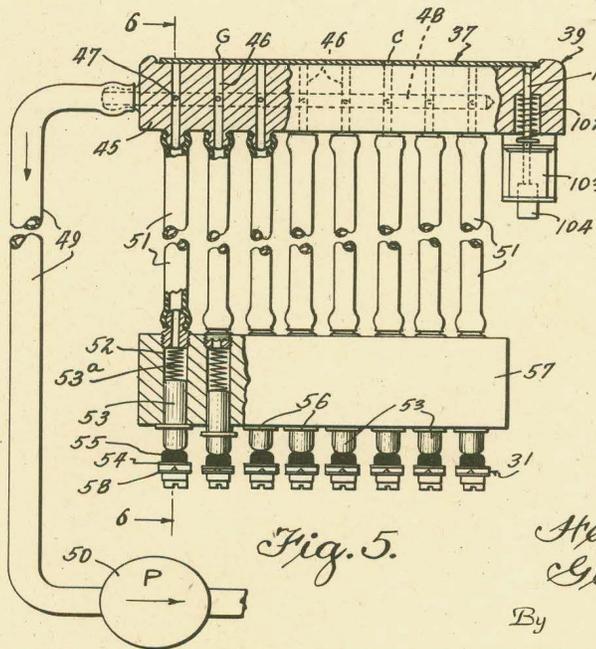
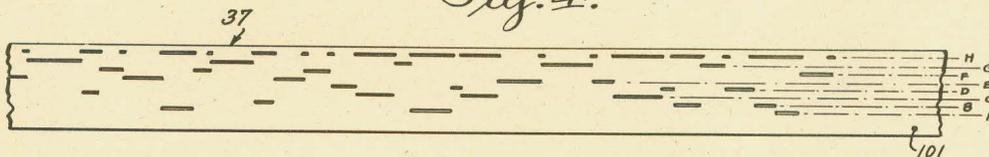


Fig. 5.

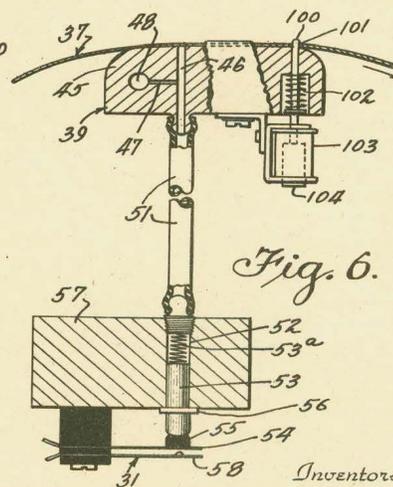


Fig. 6.

Inventors
Hedy Kiesler Markey
George Antheil
By
Lyon Lyon Attorneys

(Continued from page 3.)

them to a physicist at Cal Tech who presumably helped them with the electronics aspect of the invention. Hedy and George filed for a patent in 1941 (Hedy filed under her then married name), and it was granted to them on August 11, 1942.

Hedy and George donated their invention to the National Inventors Council, where it was generally understood that if the military used it, the inventors would be paid. The Council gave the invention to the Navy, but the Navy chose not to use it. Neither Hedy nor George received any compensation for the idea. Hedy wanted to continue developing the idea, but she was essentially told that if she really wanted to help the war effort she should sell war bonds instead of trying to improve weapons. Because she loved the United States and wanted to help, she worked hard and sold about \$25 million of war bonds – which today would be around \$343 million.

The Navy eventually did develop Hedy's frequency hopping idea. While there are conflicting reports as to if they started working on it before or after the patent had expired, the Navy did start using the technology in the early 1960s. Hedy's and George's contribution went largely unacknowledged until 1997 when they received an award from the Navy. By that time of her life, Hedy had undergone several failed plastic surgeries and lived as a recluse because she did not want anyone to see her. Her son accepted the award in her stead. Hedy Lamarr died on January 19, 2000, at the age of 85. She and George Antheil were posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014.

Today, Hedy Lamarr's idea of frequency hopping is the basis for GPS, secure WiFi, Bluetooth, and military communications. By some estimations, the market value of her idea is upwards of \$30 billion.

The National Archives at Kansas City has Hedy Lamar's Patent Case File in its holdings, along with the Patent Case Files for hundreds of thousands of other inventions. For more information about the Patent Case Files, please visit the [National Archives Catalog](#).

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All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred address to kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000.



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NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

KANSAS CITY

GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives. Find and follow us on Instagram at: [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.