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**PROJECT GADO RELEASES NEW COLLECTION OF DIGITAL IMAGES FROM FORMER SUN-REPORTER
PHOTOGRAPHER CLARENCE GATSON**

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Project Gado, a technology startup digitizing and sharing the world's visual history, today released the Clarence Gatson Collection, which includes the personal archives of San Francisco photojournalist Clarence Gatson. From 1975 until his passing in 1992, Mr. Gatson served as photographer and production manager for the *Sun Reporter*, the paper-of-record for the San Francisco Bay Area's African-American community. The Clarence Gatson Collection includes more than 10,000 photos taken by Mr. Gatson and his associates, and documents everything from politics and protests to education and arts. [The Clarence Gatson Collection photos](#) are now available to access and license on Getty Images, one of the world's leading digital media companies.

"Understanding of the period of rising consciousness in San Francisco among its black population is greatly enhanced by the Clarence Gatson collection," said historian John William Templeton. "One can see a common look of liberation and confidence in his subjects that speaks to his keen cultural mastery as a photographer, journalist, poet, artist and musician. Working with Project Gado allowed scholars from San Francisco State, University of San Francisco and the San Francisco Public Library to make these photos from 1968 to 1992 available for use in a fraction of the time it would normally take."

The Clarence Gatson Collection has strong coverage of entertainment and fashion. Mr. Gatson was deeply involved in the Los Angeles entertainment scene, and his photos include candid shots of Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Aretha Franklin, and countless other entertainers, many of whom he knew personally. In addition, the collection includes hundreds of unique portraits documenting the everyday lives of San Franciscans as they traversed turbulent and challenging events, including Jonestown and the AIDS epidemic.

With its West Coast emphasis, the Clarence Gatson Collection provides the perfect complement to Project Gado's growing [collections from the Afro American Newspapers in Baltimore](#), Maryland, which primarily document East Coast life. Since 2010, Project Gado has scanned 125,000 images of an estimated 1.5 million photos in the Archives of the Afro American Newspapers. Between these two remarkable collections, Project Gado now has one of the best digital Black History collections in the world.

Several organizations and researchers were key in cataloging the Clarence Gatson collection, and will be using the digitized photos to illuminate sites on the ReUNION: Education-Arts-Heritage African-American Freedom Trail. These include scholar Dr. James Taylor at the University of San Francisco, USF library dean Tyrone Cannon, African-American librarian at the San Francisco Main Library Naomi Jelks, and Africana studies chair at San Francisco State Dr. Dorothy Tsuruta.

"Our mission is to digitize and share the world's visual history, and our open source technology allows us to digitize collections like Clarence Gatson's photos at little to no upfront cost," said Thomas Smith, Founder of Project Gado. "We also help organizations create a sustainable revenue stream through photo licensing, which in turn enables

them to continue historical digitization and preservation efforts, ultimately making thousands of photos available to the world.”

Project Gado has developed the Gado 2, an open source robot that digitizes photographs for archives, newspapers, and photojournalists. Project Gado’s revolutionary scanning technology is used all over the world from Santa Ana, California to San Francisco to Aalto University in Finland. For more information on how to partner with Project Gado, please contact Thomas Smith at info@projectgado.org.

About Project Gado

Project Gado is digitizing and sharing the world's visual history. Project Gado works with archives to digitize their collections at little to no upfront cost, and partners with Getty Images to help organizations create a sustainable revenue stream from their historical photos. Project Gado also works with photojournalists to scan personal photo collections including prints, slides and negatives. Project Gado is currently partnered with the Afro American Newspapers, the Clarence Gatson Collection, the Emerging Technology Centers, Aalto University in Finland, and Getty Images. Project Gado is sponsored in part by the Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries. For more information on Project Gado, please visit us on the web at <http://projectgado.org/>, Like Us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectGado> and Follow Us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ProjectGado>.

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