

Flyer to 18th & Vine

This image marked a new beginning for 18th & Vine. On September 5, 1997, The American Jazz Museum, Gem Theater, and The Blue Room opened to an audience of 1,500 people. Neighbors, jazz lovers, musicians, and celebrities celebrated for three days! Today the American Jazz Museum continues to preserve the history and legacy of the district.

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18TH & VINE

18th & Vine is where music, art, sports, and food all come together. A new style of jazz was born here, and many famous musicians came through this neighborhood. This is also where many African-Americans opened businesses. There are still a lot of historic buildings like the Gem Theater, which is part of the American Jazz Museum. This neighborhood is even famous enough to have songs written about it. For example, "Vine Street Boogie" was written by jazz pianist Jay McShann.

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Benny Goodman Hat

This hat belonged to a famous jazz clarinetist named Benny Goodman. He was a bandleader and earned the nickname "The King of Swing." Goodman led one of the first bands that had both black and white musicians playing together. In 1938 his band played a concert at the famous Carnegie Hall in New York City. The recording of that concert was the first recording of a jazz big band in that important venue. People saw this recording as the explosion of big band onto the world's stage. The record was one of the first live jazz recordings, and sold over a million copies.

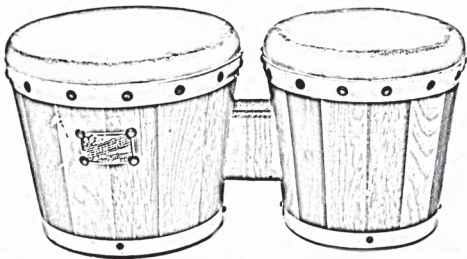
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BONGO DRUMS

Bongos are an Afro-Cuban percussion instrument that originated in Cuba. The larger drum is called the *hembra*, or female, and the smaller drum is the *macho*, or male. Bongos are played with the hands. These bongos were owned by Samuel "Baby" Lovett. He was a drummer in Kansas City in the 1920s to the 1940s.

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FEATHERED CLOCHE

During the 1920s, women wore their hair in a short style known as a "bob". A cloche hat, like this one, looked very nice on a bob haircut. A cloche is named after the French word for "bell" because it has a similar shape. This fancy cloche has feathers on it and was worn by a jazz singer named Bettye Miller Abel.

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Cornet

Louis Armstrong (nicknamed Satchmo) is one of the most well known jazz musicians. He is most well known for his vocal and trumpet talents. Before the trumpet, he played the cornet. A cornet is similar to a trumpet, but it has more tubes and a larger mouth shape. This cornet is part of our permanent exhibit and is the same style Armstrong played in his youth.

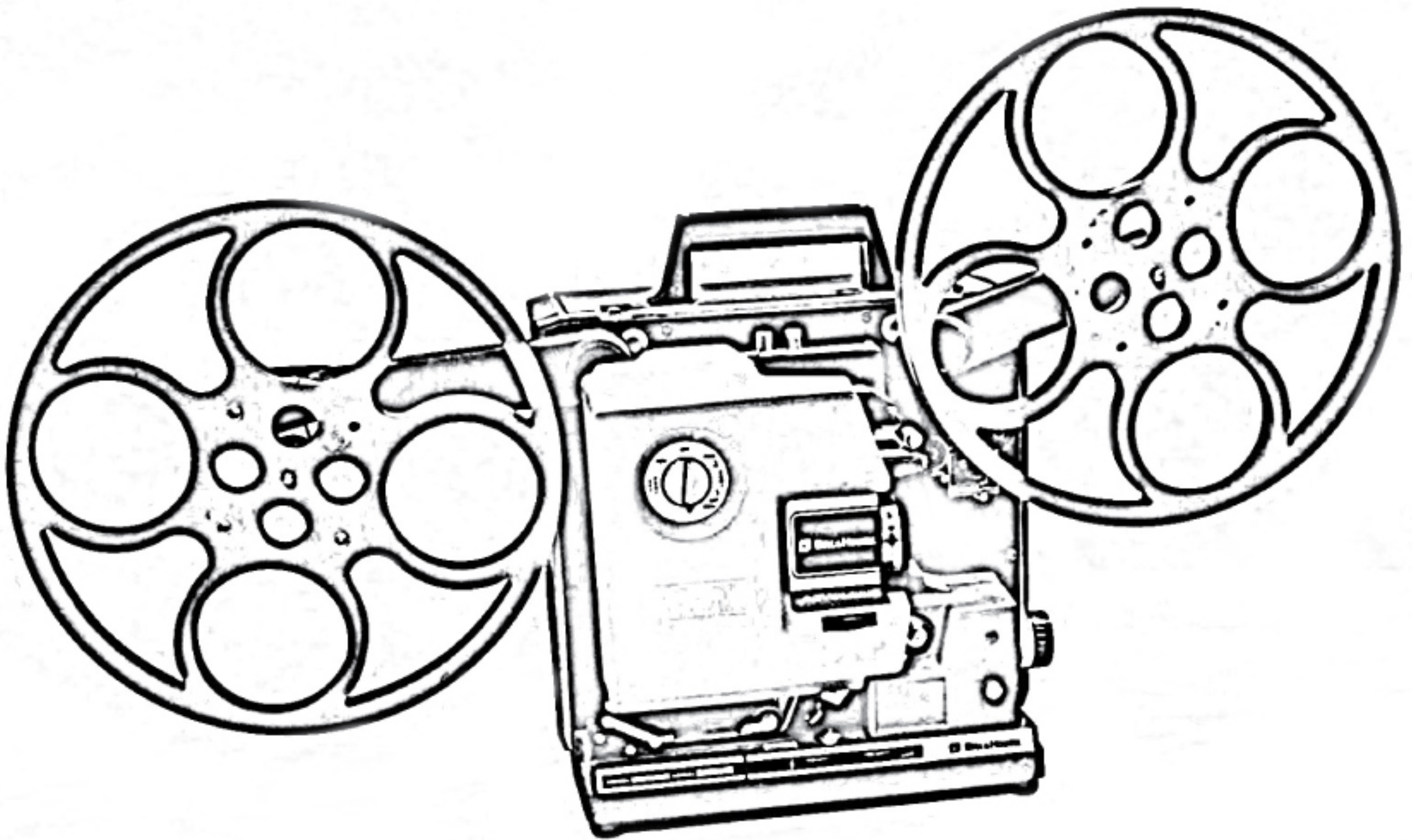
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Film Projector

Video has become the primary way for us to experience moving visual media. But before video we used film. Film is a series of photographs imitating movement. Over the years, film has come in all shapes and sizes to display images for television and movie screens. This Bell & Howell Autoload 16mm projector is from the 1970s. It has two different speed settings for playing "Silent" or "Sound" movies.

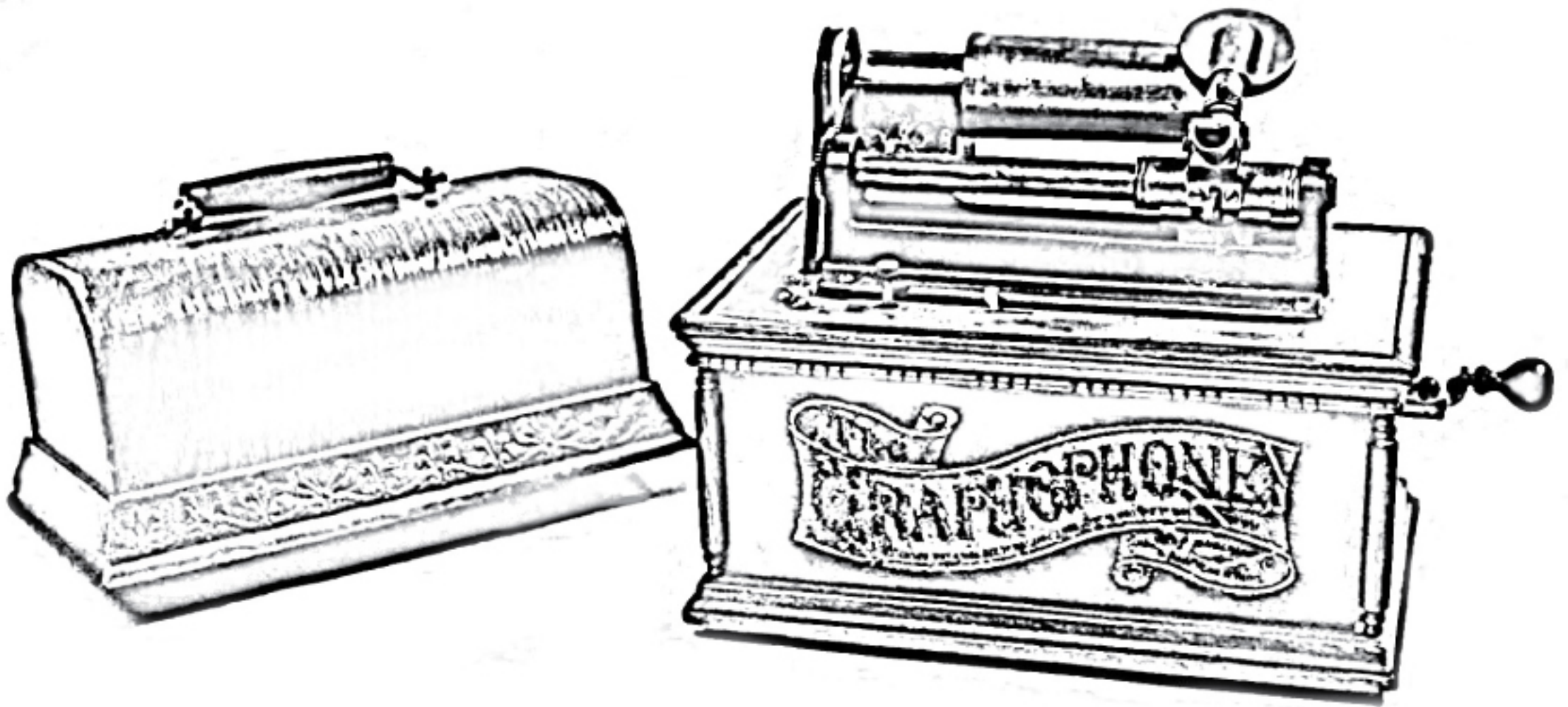
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Graphophone

Today, music can play on our phones and computers. But over 100 years ago, people would play music on a graphophone. The graphophone was one of the first ways to record and play sound. Sound waves were cut into wax cylinders and then played back as a needle moved over the rotating wax. A cone attached to the machine made the sound loud enough to hear.

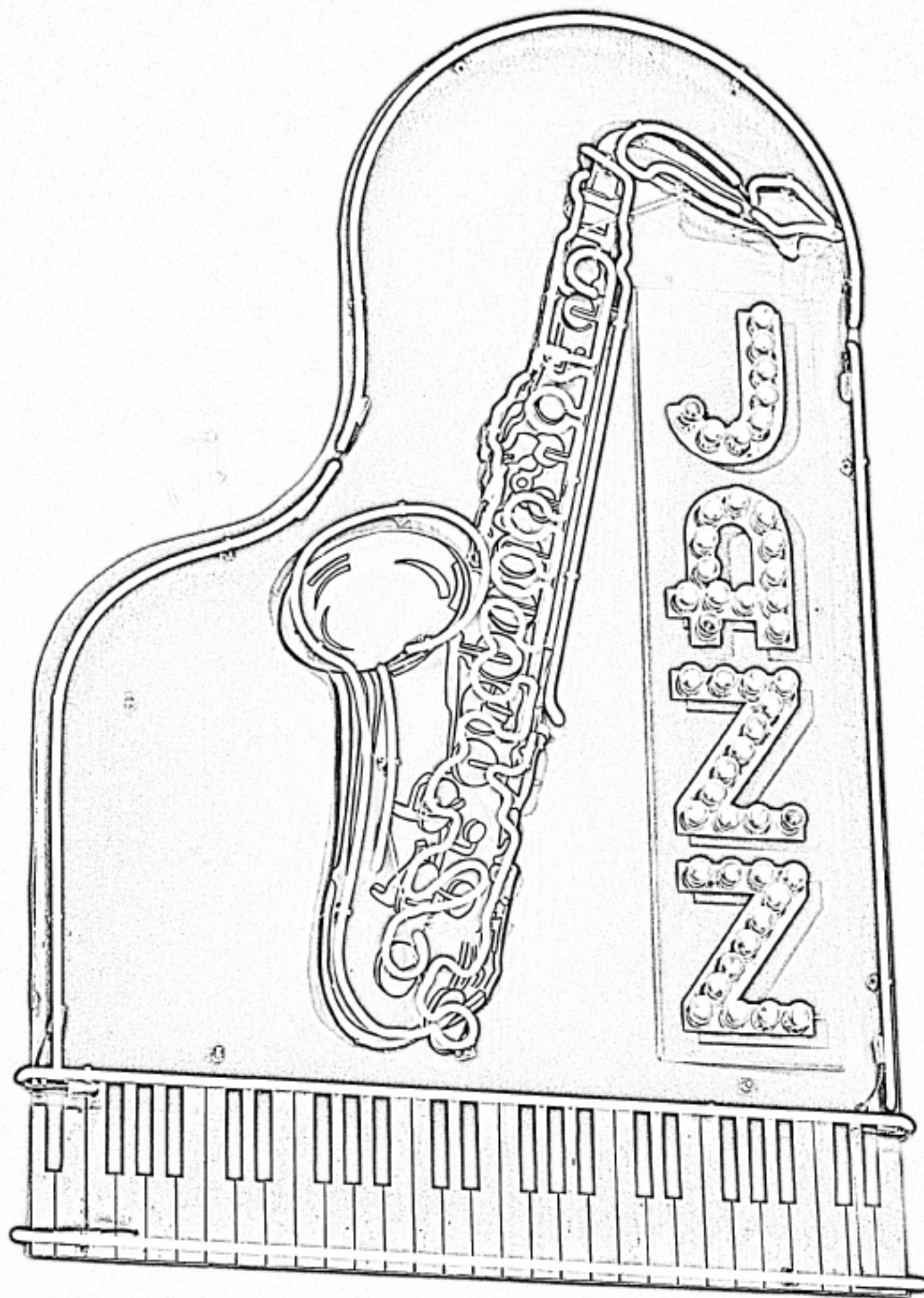
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Jazz Neon Sign

This neon sign is an old movie prop. The movie, called *Excessive Force* came out in 1993 and was an action film. While the movie did not receive very good ratings and reviews, this sign is a cool piece of Hollywood history! You can see this bit of Hollywood on display in the permanent exhibition at AJM.

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THE MUSEUMS AT 18TH & VINE

Welcome to the American Jazz Museum, on 18th & Vine! Here you can learn about how African Americans experienced life during segregation, when people were kept apart because of their races. We also show old movies with dancing and musicians. We have a studio where you can play with sound to see how rhythm and notes work together to make beautiful music. At the Museum you can also learn about our four JAZZ MASTERS: Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, and Louis Armstrong!

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Pianos on Parade

100 artistically painted pianos appeared in public spaces across Kansas City in 2015. The "Pianos on Parade" event was inspired by a similar event in New York City. Businesses, individuals, and cities paid for each piano. This supported the artist, Kansas Music Teachers Association, and Keys 4/4 Kids. The American Jazz Museum sponsored a piano on behalf of the 18th & Vine District. It currently sits in the museum's atrium.

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Seeburg Jukebox

This is a jukebox! Jukeboxes became popular in the 1940s and used coins to play recorded music. Pictured is the Symphonola 148 model, nicknamed The Trashcan for its shape. A Symphonola 148 is on display in our permanent exhibit. It serves as a reminder of how people have been able to listen to jazz throughout history.

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THE BLUE ROOM

The Blue Room is named after a famous jazz club, where a lot of famous African American musicians played. The Blue Room is a place where you can see and hear live jazz music, right here in Kansas City! There are jam sessions where one musician will lead everyone in a song and anyone that knows the song can take a turn. We have nights with latin music and lots of dancing. We even have nights with a BIG BAND, and 20 musicians all play together! People from all over the world come to The Blue Room to hear great music!

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TOP HAT GRILL NEON SIGN

The Museum has many neon signs on display. Most of them hung high above jazz clubs and restaurants in the neighborhood, filling it with a colorful glow. Some of these businesses showcased the talented jazz musicians. They had names like Lucille's Paradise, Zelmoroda, and Top Hat Grill, like this one. The Top Hat Grill was located on 18th Street and served fried chicken, waffles and steaks until 3:30 a.m.!

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