Finding Purvis Young

As a good librarian, Barbara was always aware of the importance of preserving and documenting cultural heritage. When she heard about the linkages between the remains of an inspired painter and tortured soul, Purvis Young, she decided to take action. Barbara established the Vasari Project — a project that is dedicated to collecting, documenting, and preserving the linkages between each item and Purvis' life. All of Purvis' papers are kept in a box at the Vasari Project, which is particularly intimate because of the close ties that the library has to Purvis. The Vasari Project is open to the public every Saturday at the Main Library branch on West Flagler Street, but any member of the Miami-Dade Public Library System can view the collection. It's all there — court case printouts for felony and misdemeanor charges, an official letter about the renovation of the Bakehouse Arts Complex, a letter from Celo, Purvis' close friend, to Barbara, an application for a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and more.

The Purvis Young collection continues on in much the same manner at the Vasari Project. There are receipts in the top of the box for the paint purchases, which match another set of paint swatches. Further in the box, there is an official letter about the renovation of the Bakehouse Arts Complex. It's all there — a court case printout for felony and misdemeanor charges, a letter from Greene Gallery, a letter from Purvis to a friend, and more. One can find evidence of Purvis all over the Miami area. There is his mural at the Bakehouse Arts Complex, for instance, suffering from sun bleaching and aging. There is a painting of him in the restaurant Kush, just to the right as one enters the door. One can find evidence of Purvis all over the Miami area. There is his mural at the Bakehouse Arts Complex, for instance, suffering from sun bleaching and aging. There is a painting of him in the restaurant Kush, just to the right as one enters the door.

It's all there — a court case printout for felony and misdemeanor charges, a letter from Greene Gallery, a letter from Purvis to a friend, and more. One can find evidence of Purvis all over the Miami area. There is his mural at the Bakehouse Arts Complex, for instance, suffering from sun bleaching and aging. There is a painting of him in the restaurant Kush, just to the right as one enters the door.