

Finding Aid for the Grand Rapids Area Humanities Council records Collection 156

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
December 1992
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Grand Rapids Area Council for the Humanities.
Title	Grand Rapids Area Humanities Council/Grand Rapids Area Council for the Humanities records
Date [inclusive]	1984-1989, 1999
Extent	9.88 Linear feet 19 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Grand Rapids Humanities Council was organized in 1976 to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial. The Council is affiliated with the Michigan Humanities Council and is involved in helping organize and fund programs for the arts, as well as other historical and cultural endeavors. This collection includes memos, committee meeting records, correspondence, donation records, brochures and records of programs. Many of the programs were connected with the Michigan sesquicentennial celebration in 1987. Among these programs were educational efforts, video tapes, oral presentations, financial records, an awareness campaign and promotions.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

The Grand Rapids Humanities Council was organized in 1976 to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial, and continues today (2000). The Council is involved in helping organize and fund programs for the arts and other historical and cultural endeavors, such as symphony performances and art exhibits.

Under the leadership of Mary Pierce, the Council became heavily involved with the organization of the local celebration of Michigan's Sesquicentennial in 1987. A local Sesquicentennial Committee was formed in 1984. This effort was guided by two subcommittees, Executive and Campaign.

The Executive Committee was composed of Frederik Meijer (Chairman, Meijer Inc.), Robert Pew (Chairman and CEO, Steelcase Inc.), and Jay VanAndel (Chairman, Amway Inc.).

The Campaign Committee was chaired by John Logie, partner in the Warner, Norcross & Judd law firm, and currently mayor of Grand Rapids. City historian, Gordon Olson, was also quite involved with this project. The committee members were Robert Becker (president, Metrobank Federal Savings Bank), Kenneth Boden (owner, McDonald's at 28th and Michael), Bruce Brown (president, United Development Real Estate Corp.), Michael Cuncannan (managing partner, Seidman & Seidman), Edward E. Duba, Sr. (owner, Dubas Restaurant), Robert C. Geyer (partner in Crowe, Chezek & Co. C.P.A.), Robert L. Hooker (president, Mazda Distributors Great Lakes), Dr. Norbert Hruby (president, Aquinas College), William Johnson (vice president, District Operation Michcon), Ronald LaReau (senior vice president, Prime Bank), Hank Meijer (vice chairman, Meijer Inc.), Milton W. Rohwer (president, G.R. Area Chamber of Commerce), Craig Schopf (president, Union Bank), Max E. Smith (managing partner, Touche-Ross), Howard Sutton (director of corporate communication, Steelcase Inc.), Nan VanAndel (vice president communications, Amway Inc.), David Wagner (president, Old Kent Bank & Trust Co.), Thomas Wesholski (president, Michigan National Bank).

Linda Samuelson became Executive Director in 1987?, retiring in 2004. In 1999, Samuelson's position was made part of the Grand Rapids Public Library, and called "Library Program Manager." With Samuelson's retirement in 2004, the office and position were moved to Grand Valley State University, with Cheryl VanTil as the new Executive Director.

Scope and Contents note

Contains various memos, correspondence, financial records, promotional information, awareness campaign information, brochures, educational services and other programs undertaken by the Council during Michigan's Sesquicentennial in 1987. Specific programs include the Pow-Wow, the Fourth of July Gala, the July 25th fireworks, the Michigan Family Reunion, Michigan Sesquicentennial Promotions, Michigan Week, Michigan 150 First Lady Award, Educational programs. The Awareness

and Educational Campaign included the 150 ways, which was a list of 150 suggestions for celebrating the sesquicentennial. The Grand River Odyssey, history and facts, and the bridge lighting programs are also included. The Grand River Odyssey was an oral presentation by Timothy Cusack to school children and others.

The financial information includes the fund raising information, and funding acknowledgements, and donor information. This fund raising was done by Monaghan and Associates who in turn hired Wondergem and Lukens to help. Funds were raised from various sources such as the Grand Rapids Foundation, Meijer's Inc., the Steelcase Foundation, Amway Inc., and the Sebastian Foundation.

Boxes 10-29 are unprocessed.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department December 1992

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Mary Pierce; Linda Samuelson; Ben Dean

Accession numbers 1988.004, 2004.050, 1997.007 (unprocessed), 2011.025 (unprocessed)

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 270, Gathered At the River Collection, documents a project supported by the Humanities Council, and materials collected during the project.

Coll. 273, Father Dennis Morrow Grand Rapids History Collection, may contain materials associated with a video presentation on the historical West Side, or other documents from Morrow's independent work, or work on Humanities Council projects.

Coll. 343, Heart & Soul, documents the Grand Rapids neighborhoods project, the book, and some items collected during that project.

Coll. 109, GRPL Administrative Archives. May contain additional programming materials from the time period when the Humanities Council was directly associated with the Grand Rapids Public Library.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Michigan -- Centennial celebrations, etc

Subject(s)

- Arts -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Series I. Administrative Files.

Collection Inventory

Series I. Administrative Files.		
Subseries A. General Records.		
	Box	Folder
Advisory Committee, 1986, n.d.	1	1
Agency Designation, 1986, n.d.	1	2
Audio-Visual Program, n.d.	1	3
History Sources/Resources, n.d., 1999	1	4
January 26th Ceremony, 1986-1987, n.d.	1	5
Subseries B. Committee Meeting Records, 1986-1987		
	Box	Folder
May 1986.	1	6
May 14, 1986.	1	7
Jun 17, 1986.	1	8

Subseries B. Committee Meeting Records, 1986-1987

Aug 20, 1986.	1	9
Sep 24, 1986.	1	10
Oct 16, 1986.	1	11
Nov 11, 1986.	1	12
Dec 9, 1986.	1	13
Jan 13, 1987.	1	14
Feb 10, 1987.	1	15
Mar 10, 1987.	1	16
Apr 13, 1987.	1	17
May 12, 1987.	1	18
Jun 8, 1987.	1	19
Jul 1, 1987.	1	20
Aug 17, 1987.	1	21
Sep 8, 1987.	1	22

Subseries C. Finance, 1985-1986, n.d.

Dec 16, 1987.	1	23
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Subseries C. Finance, 1985-1986, n.d.

	Box	Folder
City-County Contribution, 1986, n.d.	1	24

Miscellaneous, 1985-1986, n.d.	1	25
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Projects Components, 1986, n.d.	1	26
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Subseries D. Meetings, 1986, n.d.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1986, n.d.	2	1

Luncheon, 1986, n.d.	2	2
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Sesquicentennial Workshop, 1986, n.d.	2	3
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Subseries E. Public Relations, 1986-1987, n.d.

	Box	Folder
Calendars - Nov.14, 1986-1987, n.d.	4	9

Community Awareness Campaign, 1986-1987, n.d.	4	10
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Subseries F. Website Pages. [web pages]

Logo, 1986, n.d.	4	11
Press and Media, 1986-1987, n.d.	4	12
Subseries F. Website Pages. [web pages]		
	Box	Folder
New in 2008, 1/12/2009 prints	4	14
Series II. Projects, 1986-1987, n.d.		
Subseries A. Kent Sesquicentennial Committee, 1980-1988, n.d.		
	Box	Folder
Bridge Lighting, 1987	2	4
City Celebration, 1987, n.d.	2	5
Finances, 1986-1987	2	6
Fund Raising, n.d.	2	7-8
Grand Rapids Area Council for the Humanities, 1987, n.d.	2	9
Kent County Historic Tours, 1986	2	10

Subseries B. Michigan Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986-1987, n.d.

Kent County Information, 1980-1987	2	11
Light the Bridge Donations, 1987, n.d.	2	12
Master Plan, 1986, n.d.	3	1
Norton Mounds, 1987, n.d.	3	2
Projects for 1988 and after, n.d.	3	3
Sesquicentennial, n.d.	3	4
Sesquicentennial Contest, 1986, n.d.	3	5
Speakers Bureau, 1986-1987, n.d.	3	6
Sources and Address Outreach - townships, Festivals, 1986-1987, n.d.	3	7-8
Subseries B. Michigan Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986-1987, n.d.		
	Box	Folder
American Guild of Religious Historians, 1986, n.d.	3	9
Books and Publications, n.d.	3	10
Canoe, 1986-1987.	3	11

Subseries B. Michigan Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986-1987, n.d.

Copper Medallions, 1987, n.d.	3	12
Fourth of July Gala, 1986,n.d.	3	13
History and Facts, n.d.	3	14
July 25th Fireworks, 1987, n.d.	3	15
Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs - Powwow events schedule, 1987, n.d.	3	16
Michigan Family Reunion, n.d.	3	17
Michigan Sesquicentennial Video, 1986, n.d.	3	18
Michigan Week, 1987, n.d.	3	19
Michigan 150 First Lady Award, 1987, n.d.	4	1
150 Ways, n.d.	4	2-3
Resources, 1986-1987, n.d.	4	4
Schools, 1986-1987.	4	5-6
Sesquicentennial Bulletins, 1986-1987.	4	7

Subseries C. Great Women, Great Voices

Sesquicentennial Promotions, 1986-1987, n.d.	4	8
Subseries C. Great Women, Great Voices		
	Box	Folder
Web information on the Project	x	x
Series III. Subject Files, 1985-1988, n.d.		
	Box	Folder
Actors, 1986, n.d.	4	13
Background Materials, 1986-1987, n.d.	5	1-3
Brochure, 1986, n.d.	5	4-5
Celebration on the Grand, 1986, n.d.	5	6
City Communication, 1987, n.d.	5	7
Community Sesquicentennial Information Manual, n.d.	5	8-12
Correspondence of Thanks, n.d.	5	13-14
Funding Acknowledgments, 1987-1988, n.d.	6	1
Fund Raising Committee, 1987, n.d.	6	2

Series III. Subject Files, 1985-1988, n.d.

Grand River Odyssey, 1987.	6	3
GRP - Lighting the Bridges, 1987, n.d.	6	4
Historical Commission, n.d.	6	5
Humanities Program, 1987-1988, n.d.	6	6
Michigan Council for the Humanities, 1985-7, n.d.	6	7-8
Michigan Host, 1986-7, n.d.	6	9
Michigan State Proposals, 1987, n.d.	6	10
Miscellaneous Sesquicentennial Activities, 1986, n.d.	7	1
Monaghan and Associates, 1987, n.d.	7	2-3
Newspaper clippings, 1986-1987, n.d.	7	4-5
Photographs - Miscellaneous, n.d.	7	6-38
Phonathon, 1987, n.d.	7	7
Plaque, 1987-1988, n.d.	7	8
Posters/Name, 1987-1988, n.d.	7	9

Series IV: Publications

Press Releases, 1987, n.d.	7	10-11
Survey, n.d.	7	12
To Do/ Wrap-Up, 1987-1989, n.d.	7	13
Urban Concern Materials/Related to Sculpture Walk, 1984-1985, n.d.	7	14
West Bank Walkway, 1987, n.d. MISCELLANEOUS, n.d.	7	15
Video - State of Michigan Sesquicentennial Program, n.d.	8	1
Video, n.d.	8	2
Sesquicentennial Events Calendar, n.d.	8	3
Donation Files, n.d.	9	1
		Box
Contact Files, n.d.		2

Series IV: Publications**Scope and Contents note**

Outlined here are the book publication projects sponsored during the Samuelson era, including the Gathered at the River, and the Heart & Soul book project. Materials for both of these projects have been

Series IV: Publications

defined as separate collections. The Heart & Soul book in particular leaned heavily on the resources already in the Grand Rapids History & Special Collections Center Archive and book collections.

	Collection	Volume
Video. "Looking Back on the Old West Side" / with Father Dennis Morrow and John Szezytko. Humanities Council & the Grand Rapids Public Library. 2003? Collection 175, Tape 133.	175	133