

**Greater Grand Rapids Convention
and Visitors Center collection
later the Grand Rapids/Kent County
Convention and Visitors Center
Finding aid prepared by R. Mayne, 2000-2005**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Greater Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Center collection
Date [inclusive]	circa 1930-2004
Extent	1.2 Linear feet Four boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>This collection contains material from the Grand Rapids, Michigan convention and visitor's bureau. The organization has been known as the Grand Rapids Convention Bureau, the Greater Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Center, the Kent County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Experience Grand Rapids. Included are photographs and slides showing Grand Rapids views, primarily the downtown area. These images were used for publications and presentations and given to the archives when replaced by a later generation image. Also included are minutes from 1931 and several publications.</p>

Scope and Contents note

The holdings found here are representative of the work of this organization, but do not provide a comprehensive view. The bulk of the collection currently is the images. Providing, as they do, some good recent views of Grand Rapids, they add to the popular and historical representation of Michigan's second largest city during the later decades of the 20th century.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The Greater Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Center, accessions 1998.063, 1986.417, 00.[1265].1, 2003.062 and 2007.006.2.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

See also Collection 240 for maps issued from the Bureau.

Many Convention and Visitor's Bureau publications are found in other collections in the Archives. In particular, Coll. 216, the GRPL Ephemera Collection, is likely to contain their materials.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- government records

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- Photographs

Subject(s)

- Tourism -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Tourism -- Michigan -- Kent County

Series I. Documents.

Collection Inventory

Series I. Documents.		
Grand Rapids Convention Bureau.		
	Box	Folder
Meeting Minutes. Jan.-Apr. 1931 + Letter, Mar. 31, 1931 to Joseph H. Brewer, President ...Bureau, with March minutes [photocopies] including planning for Devaux-Hall Dinner. 1986.417	1.5	1
Website prints, Mar. 14, 2005: About Us; Links; Fact Sheet; Image Library into sheet.	1.5	1.5
		Box
[Conference Planning Packet] 2002.		1.5
Scope and Contents note		
Paper folder including Meeting Planner's Guide; 20 Years into the Millennium. Calendars for 1999 to 2020; Grand Rapids 2002 Grand Rapids/Kent County Visitors Guide; Amway Grand Plaza brochure; Flyer with new DeVos Place Convention Center floor plan; DVD - DeVos Place / Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau.		
Grand Rapids, Michigan. Naturally.		1.5
Scope and Contents note		

Series II. Publications.

1985 Era Conference documents and correspondence, sent to Public Library Association representative, Chicago. 00.[5462].1

Series II. Publications.

	Box	Folder
Grand Rapids Invites You. Your Host, Grand Rapids--Cover / GR Convention Bureau, et al. Ca. 1930-1940s. Formerly MKG91.G65n 00. [1265].1	1.5	2
Grand Rapids / Kent County Visitors Guide		
		Box
1999 00.[0594].1		1.5
2000 00.[0601].1		1.5
2001 00.[1166].2		1.5
2002 00.[2590].1		1.5
2003 2007.079		1.5
2004 00.[2727].1		1.5
2005 00.[4077].2		1.5
2006 00.[5016].1		1.5

Brochures.

2007 2007.006.2		1.5
2008 00.[5525].1-2		1.5
2009 2009.014.4.1		1.5
Brochures.		
		Box
Grand Rapids : the Other Side of Michigan / Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau. n.d. Ca 2000? 00.[5323].1		1.5
Series III. Graphics		
Accession 1998.063		
Black and white photographs		
	Box	Folder
Aerial. GR City Center toward SE / LaBakk Studio, n.d. (2)	1	3
Bird's eye, Grand Center, toward SE, n.d. (7 copies)	1	4
River view of Grand Center, toward SE., n.d. (3 prints of different quality)	1	5
Grand Center overlooking Grand River, n.d. (1)	1	6

Black and white photographs

River view of Downtown highrise (Amway Grand) with Pearl St. Bridge, n.d. (1)	1	7
Grand Center, Welsh Auditorium, Interior. ASAE East Central Regional Convention & Exposition, May 20-22, 1987. Robinson Studio photo. (1)	1	8
Grand Center Trade Show, n.d. Interior. (2)	1	9
Grand Rapids Welsh Civic Expansion. Daverman Associates, Architects & Engineers, DA 7601-10. July 12, 1977.	1	10
Grand Center (Convention Center, Civic Auditorium, Welsh Auditorium, Pantlind, Amway Grand) (1)	1	10
View of Monroe Avenue (main Street in Grand Rapids) looking toward Pantlind Hotel. Robinson Studio photo, Aug. 11, 1949. (1)	1	11
Old Kent River Bank Run, n.d. / From Amway Corp. PR Dept. (2)	1	12
Annual Charity Jam! Macker Charity Jam. Including the Calder.	1	13
Fish ladder, Bird's eye, n.d. (1)	1	14
Grand Rapids Art Museum (Federal Building, old Post office) (2)	1	15
Gerald R. Ford Museum and surround (8 snapshots)	1	16
John Ball Park, John Ball stature with children climbing. (1)	1	17

Color photographs

Images for brochures(?), attached to light board.(7)	1	18
Scope and Contents note		
Includes Monroe Mall toward Pantlind; Grand Rapids Symphony, Music Director Catherine Comet; Sculpture (heads with axes on pedestals); Dance, GR Ballet; Grand Rapids Public Museum. Gaslight Village; Unidentified inventory of night sport with males/females; Lighthouse at sunset.		
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre "On Borrowed Time" a comedy by Paul Osborn, Jan. 6-22, 1994. Production stage views. (2). Fred Bogaert, Audrey Willis, Dane Clark, Jon Beebe, Elizabeth Stokes (dog)	1	19
Squires Street Square (Rockford, Mi.) Schoolmarm's Barn Antiques (2 copies)	1	20
Color photographs		
	Box	Folder
Aerial. Snapshot of city center toward SE, with Grand River.	1	21
Aerial view of Grand Center and Amway Grand Plaza Hotel., n.d. (10 copies)	1	22
Grand Rapids City View, Grand Center. (blue tone, view to SE with river in background) (12 copies)	1	23
[Street level view of Grand Center toward sw, with yellow meridian] (1)	1	24

Color photographs

Pedestrian Bridge from Gerald R. Ford Museum to Amway Grand Plaza, n.d. (1)	1	25
“Grand Center”, Grand Rapids. View to SE from west side with Grand River in foreground. (Beige tone) (10 copies)	1	26
“Grand Center”, Grand Rapids. View to NE, Welsh Auditorium view, Grand River in foreground (4 copies)	1	27
Sept. 21, 1985. [Grand River view of Grand Rapids city center, NE toward Amway Grand] (1)	1	28
“Grand Center”, Grand Hall, Banquet Facility. Interior (dark blue tone, 3 copies)	1	29
[Unidentified event with crowd watching from cement overhead walkway and from sidewalks] from Amway Corp. PR Dept. (1)	1	30
City Center on the Monroe Mall, Downtown Shopping Plaza (5)	1	31
Public Museum of Grand Rapids, with Grand River in foreground. (1)	1	32
Scenic Downtown Grand Rapids (2) [View from Crescent St. Hill(?)]	1	33
Gerald R. Ford Museum (3 views, 1 with astronaut, all with fountain)	1	34
Voight House Museum, [College Ave.], n.d. (reddish tone, 2 copies)	1	35

Laser copies or prints

Unidentified Heritage Hill home, n.d.	1	36
Laser copies or prints		
	Box	Folder
Rendering of Van Andel Arena n.d. or architect given.	1	37
Color. Van Andel Living Shores Aquarium, John Ball Zoological Garden, Opening 1995. Exhibit rendering (2 copies of different quality, 2 sheets each)	1	38
Color. Van Andel. Children with museum exhibit. Interior (1)	1	39
Negatives (3)		
	Box	Folder
B/w Ford Museum(?)	1	40
Color Interior Grand Center(?)	1	40
Color GR Public Museum, Gaslight Village	1	40
Slides	Box	Box
	2	3
Scope and Contents note		
Approximately 250, mostly color. Includes images such as: Kent County Airport, many by David Sticklen; Monroe Center/Monroe Mall; John Ball Park; City Center (Centre); Voight House; Downtown		

Series IV. Ephemera

Grand Rapids; Cross Country Skiing; Van Andel Museum; Amway
Grand Plaza Hotel; Gerald R. Ford Museum; Welsh Auditorium;
Festival '86; Fish Ladder; Winter Carnival; Polish Festival '79; Italian
Festival

Series IV. Ephemera

Box

Board Meeting 2003 Mailer card. 2003.062 (3 COPIES)

1.5

DeVos Place [flyer] [ca. 2004] 00.[2661].1

1.5

Grand Rapids Hometown Hero card. Promo for the Center inviting meeting planners
bring their professional organizations to Grand Rapids. 00.[3569].1

1.5

Collection**Box**

Large brown paper bag with handle, with the Visitor's Center logo ID
printed on it. 2007.010.2

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