Finding aid for the Grand Rapids Public Library civil rights exhibit collection Collection 358

Our Voices Our Liberty: Grand Rapids Area Civil Rights Leaders

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on June 25, 2018.
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
localhis@grpl.org
URL: http://www.grpl.org
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Summary Information

| Repository: | Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department |
| Title: | Grand Rapids Public Library civil rights exhibit collection |
| ID: | Collection 358 |
| Date: | 2006- |

Physical Description: 4.7 Linear Feet Three boxes

Language of the Material: English

Abstract: The exhibit Our Voices Our Liberty: Grand Rapids Area Civil Rights Leaders was displayed at the Grand Rapids Public Library beginning in February 2006. It was researched and prepared by the staff of the Grand Rapids History & Special Collections department. The exhibit encompasses a broad definition of civil rights, including the rights of African Americans and other ethnic groups, women, the handicapped and gay/lesbian rights. Materials for the exhibit come from the archival collections, but many were also obtained from the Grand Rapids Press or area groups and individuals.

Scope and Contents

Collection includes a total of 54 separate display boards/items used in the exhibit, some of which have more than one image.

As of 06/25/2018, boxes 2 & 3 are missing.
Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
localhis@grpl.org
URL: http://www.grpl.org

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Various and unknown donors and accession numbers, including Grand Rapids Public Library.

Related Materials

Related Materials

Coll. 281. Has booklet from the Civil Rights Federation, Detroit, Michigan.

Controlled Access Headings

- Exhibitions -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Civil Rights -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History

Collection Inventory

Series I. Digital Files
Series II. Exhibit Documentation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source List.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description**

This list documents the source of the images in the exhibit at the time it was mounted. Some of the images obtained from individuals will be processed for individual collections, and have new permanent collection affiliations in the future.

Ephemera

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booklist. &quot;Civil Rights&quot;</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General**

This list contains items from the general collection, not GRHSCC.

Color printouts of web version of the exhibit. | Box 1, Folder 3

Series III. Exhibit Display Panels

Display Panel 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board 1. Title Panel. &quot;Our Voices Our Liberty&quot; with image of Paul Phillips?</td>
<td>Drawer FF.XIII.C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 2. Credit/scope panel. &quot;Grand Rapids Area Civil Rights Leaders.&quot; &quot;Covering over 1000 years ...&quot;. &quot;Funded by the Ryerson Foundation. Titche Family Fund.&quot;</td>
<td>Drawer FF.XIII.C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Display Panel 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 3.</td>
<td>William Gaines article &quot;Colored Men will demand their Rights&quot; Grand Rapids Post, July 11, 1904.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 4.</td>
<td>Women's Suffrage board.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Includes**

**Includes**

Suffragette Minnie R. Mickel (formerly misidentified as Grace Kelley Freehouse); Suffrage Campaign Headquarters, June 11, 1912; Grand Rapids Mich. Equal Franchise Club postcard; Emily Burton Ketcham portrait photo; National American Woman Suffrage Association. 31st Annual Convention program images.

| Board item 5. | Suffragette postcard "Think it over. Parents have the training of their children's minds. ..." Copy of postcard | Box 1 |
| Board item 6. | "Think it over. ... Equal Suffrage." Copy of postcard. | Box 1 |
| Board 7. | Viva Flaherty portrait photo, with "History of the Grand Rapids Furniture Strike" publication image. | Box 2 |
| Board 8. | Roberta Griffith portrait photo. | Box 3 |

**Display Panel 3**

| Title/Description | Instances |
| Board 9. | Emmet Bolden, Oliver Green, and Keith Theatre | Box 3 |
| Board 10. | League of Women Voters Office, Dorothy Leonard Judd, "Good Citizens Vote!" Sept. 1924 | Drawer FF.XIII.C |
| Board 11. | Walter Coe. Shows Coe standing on the street, with an unidentified white man. | Box 3 |
| Board 13. | Mile Brown. | Box 3 |

**Display Panel 4**

| Title/Description | Instances |
| Board 14. | Floyd Skinner, Portrait photo, Skinner at microphone in front of a band. | Box 3 |
| Board 15. | Jacob Walker Cobmoosa portrait photo. | Box 3 |

**Description**

Description

Image includes a calendar on the wall showing April 1956? and a Grand Rapids Chicks baseball game program playing the Racine Belles.
### Existence and Location of Originals

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Robinson Studio Collection 125 125-H002352.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>George T. Aitken and Charles H. Frantz; Area Child Amputee Center; Portrait photo Aitken; Portrait photo Frantz</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Vargas / Vasques; Daniel Vargas with plaque; Daniel &amp; Guadalupe Vargas; Migrant Children, Daniel Vasques, and Daniel &amp; Consuelo Vasques with Gov. G. Mennen Williams</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>William Glen (Sic &quot;Glenn&quot;); Glenn as a bellhop at the Pantlind Hotel 1920; Glenn seated with unidentified women</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission Small color laser mounted on black paper</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Hayes Local no. 801. March 26, 1945. Plant Committee Minutes.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Display Panel 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board 22. Grand Rapids Urban League and Borough Community Center; GR Press &quot;Seek 1,000 members for Urban League;&quot; Paul Phillips and other Urban league members; &quot;Now Scholarships for Any College&quot;; Urban League Members ... Finney St. Clean-UP Week</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 23. American Civil Liberties Union description</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 24. ACLU West Michigan, Fountain Street Church; Duncan Littlefair portrait; Fountain Street Church; Rev. Samuel Graves; List of Civil Libertarian of the Year Awards. Western Michigan Branch.</td>
<td>Drawer FF.XIII.C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Display Panel 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board 25. Charter to the Members of the Greater Grand Rapids, MI; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Oct. 5, 2000</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 26. Hazel Lewis, color portrait photo. NAACP Grand Rapids Chapter President.</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 27. NAACP, Grand Rapids Chapter. ca. 1920.</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 28. Helen Claytor</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description

Claytor left, with two unidentified women, as President, National YWCA Board, 1967; Claytor, 1947, receiving award from woman and man representatives of National Urban League; Claytor, center with group in silent march for American Indians at Wounded Knee.

| Display panel 7 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Title/Description** | **Instances** |
| Board 29. Walter Bergman; GR Press photo; "Klan beating crippled prof., doctor testifies. | Box 2 |
| Board 30. Sara Glover color photo; Sara Glover b/w photo; Hazel Grant color photo; Hazel grant sending precinct cards to registered voters used in the wall exhibit & labels. | Drawer FF.XIII.C |
| Board 31. Martin Morales; GR Press photo | Drawer FF.XIII.C |
| Board 32. Ella Sims. Color Portrait photo. | Box 3 |
| Board 33. Joan Wolfe; Wolfe with Gerald Ford. WMU 1973 honorary degree; Earth Day Pioneer; Some Kind of Heroes | Box 3 |

| Display panel 8 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Title/Description** | **Instances** |
| Board 34. Lyman Parks; Parks with jack hammer; Parks portrait photo. | Box 3 |
| Board 35. Pablo Martinez; Color photo of Martinez with dog and fire vehicles; David King | Box 3 |
| Board 36. Virginia Moralez. Portrait photo. | Box 3 |
| Board 39. Mary Banghart; Color GR Press photo. | Box 3 |

| Display Panel 9 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Title/Description** | **Instances** |
| Board item 41. You are Not Along. National Coming Out day, Oct.11. 2005 Ad used in the wall exhibit & labels. | Box 1 |
Board item 42. Saugatuck/Dougals Area Gay Guide 2005
Box 1

Board 43. Dennis Komac. Color GR Press photo.
Box 3

Board 44. Jeff Swanson. Color GR Press photo.
Box 3

Box 3

**Concerned Clergy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board 46. Concerned Clergy of West Michigan</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board item 47. Pastoral Letter from Concerned Clergy in West Michigan</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board item 48. Pastoral letter continued</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board item 49. GR Press article &quot;Ministers ask Christians to accept gays.&quot;</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Display Panel 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board 50. Lee Larson; Color GR Press photo, Sept. 6, 2002.</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 51. Jim Lucas; Color GR Press photo</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 52. Carol Gilbert &amp; Nuns; GR Press article Aug 13, 2005. &quot;We're going to Speak the Truth Wherever it Takes Us;&quot; AP Photo in the GR Press, March 18, ?. Dominican Nuns, Ardeth Platte, Carol Gilbert and Jackie Hudson outside Denver courthouse sentencing.</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 53. Debra Muller; Muller color portrait photo; Muller with artist Paul Collins and Dennis Banks of the American Indian Movement.</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board 54. Karen Henry, Color GR Press photo.</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Series IV. Ancillary materials.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affirmative Action Touring Exhibit flyer. 00,[5095].2</td>
<td>Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existence and Location of Copies:</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Folder

Unknown

Unknown
## Existence and Location of Copies

"See Affirmative Action Touring Exhibit poster" in Collection 224, Box 20

|---|---|---|

## Biographical / Historical

Handed out at the library during the display of this traveling exhibit. The exhibit was set up on the second floor of Ryerson near the Friends Bookstore. Exterior view of students & others protesting, probably on campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mayoral Civil Rights Recognition Commission Report. 2005, pg. 8 relates to GRPL &amp; KDL. 00.[5352].1</th>
<th>Box Unknown</th>
<th>Folder Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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