



Boston Children's Museum
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ARCHIVES Finding Aid

Accession #: A 2018.2 Date(s) Accessioned: April 4, 2018

Annual Reports Collection

Inclusive: 1920-2017, [Bulk: 1924-1959, 1993-2017]

Descriptive Summary

Collection ID: A 2018.2

Repository: Boston Children's Museum Archives

Title: Annual Reports

Creators: Museum Staff

Dates: 1920-2017, [Bulk: 1924-1959 and 1993-2017]

Extent: .5 linear feet; 1 document box and 1 bound book

Language of Materials: English

Abstract: The Annual Reports provide information covering 52 years of the Museum's operations. Information includes Board of Trustees, Museum Staff, contributors, yearly financial reports, and specifics about exhibitions, programs, and events. The information within each individual Report varies.

Conditions of Access and Use

Conditions Governing Access: Collection is open for research. Researchers must sign a permission form to use the collection.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Copyright belongs to Boston Children's Museum. All requests for permission to publish or quote for publication must be submitted in writing to the Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Boston Children's Museum as the owner of the physical items and as the owner of copyright in items.

Citation: Item, Annual Reports, Boston Children's Museum Archives, Boston, MA.

Acquisition Information

Provenance & Custodial History: The majority of the Annual Reports were found during the 2017 inventory of the 2006 Centennial Collection. It is unknown where the materials were located pre-2006. In early 2018, extra copies from the 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s came to the Archives from Karin Hansen, BCM's Graphics Director.

Accruals: Accruals are expected yearly for the concurrent Annual Report.

Background Information

Organizational Note: Founded in 1913 by the Science Teachers' Bureau, Boston Children's Museum serves children, families, and educators, as a nonprofit educational institution. In its earliest years, the Museum provided resources for teachers and students, as a center for the exchange of materials and ideas to advance the teaching of science. Throughout the years and to the present day, the Museum's exhibitions focus on science, culture, environmental awareness, health & fitness, and the arts. In addition to exhibitions, Museum educators develop numerous programs and activities that address literacy, performing arts, science and math, visual arts, cultures, and health and wellness. The Museum is also one of the few children's museums in the world to maintain a collection. The Museum's collections of Americana, Natural History, Global Culture, Native American, Dolls and Dollhouses, and Japanese artifacts encompass more than 50,000 items.

Collection Information

Scope and Content: The Annual Reports contain various amounts and types of information related to the operations of Boston Children's Museum since 1926. Varying from year to year, the information provided may be an extensive or a brief summary of the Museum's activities, statistics, financial statements, and list of board members, trustees, and Museum staff. The Museum's activities encompass exhibitions, programs, school outings, events, and lectures. Other content includes statistics from general admissions, special events, exhibit programs, to school programs. In addition, some Annual Reports share admission costs, directions to the Museum, hours of operation, and information about Museum clubs and Loan Kits.

The Annual Reports frequently feature photographs, which are occasionally contextualized and given captions or commentary in the Annual Reports.

Also to note, several editions of the Annual Reports are missing. From information gathered, BCM staff made Annual Reports since the Museum's start in 1913. This was deduced from the 1926 Annual Report being stated as the thirteenth edition. The collection also contains up to three copies of some Annual Reports.

Arrangement: The Annual Reports are arranged in chronological order. See content inventory for specifics.

Processing Information

Processed by: Brittany Contratto, April 2018.

Archivists Note: This collection was accessioned in April 2018 and separated from the 2006 Centennial Collection materials. This collection has no known original order, as the Annual Reports were previously pulled from unknown records boxes that were either stored at the Museum or also at the offsite Iron Mountain storage. After an inventory of pulled Centennial materials, the Annual Reports were pulled and placed together to form the Annual Reports Collection. The separated Annual Reports were previously kept in folders by themselves, and it is unknown if they were stored within other specific folders before and during the Centennial Collection project.

Rules or Conventions of Finding Aid: Prepared following Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)

Contents Inventory

Box 121

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Folder Titles</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Items</i>
1	1920s Annual Reports: 1920 Cover & 1926	1920s	2
2	1930s Annual Reports: 1934-1938	1930s	9
3	1940s Annual Reports: 1940, 1942-1947, 1949	1940s	12
4	1950s Annual Reports: 1950-1959	1950s	22
5	1990s Annual Reports: 1993, 1996-1999	1990s	13
6	2000s Annual Reports: 2000-2004, 2006-2009	2000s	18
7	2010s Annual Reports: 2010, 2011, 2014-2017	2010s	15

Shelf

<i>Titles</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Items</i>
Children's Museum Bulletin, Vols. 11-20, 1924-1933	1924-1933	1