



Boston Children's Museum
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ARCHIVES Finding Aid

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| Accession #: A 2018.17 Date(s) Accessioned: 2018 November 12 |
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President's Records Collection 1914-Present

Descriptive Summary

Collection ID: A 2018.16

Repository: Boston Children's Museum Archives

Title: President's Records Collection

Creator(s): Directors and Presidents through BCM history, including Delia Griffin, Mildred E. Manter, Elsie M. Boyle, Fred G. Hardenbrook, Michael Spock, Ken Brecher, Louis Casagrande, and Carole Charnow

Dates: 1914-Present

Extent: 2.5 linear feet; 5 boxes

Language(s) of Materials: English

Abstract: The materials in this collection consist of the records of each President (formerly titled Director) of Boston Children's Museum, from 1913 to the present. The records include correspondence, memos, news articles (both written by and about various Presidents), Reports of the Director, and calendars. The topics of these documents include discussions about the collections, alterations and renovations to the Museum, statistics about the Museum (such as number of visitors, exhibits, and programs), and the planning of special events, such as guest speaker Senator Kennedy in 1998.

Conditions of Access and Use

Conditions Governing Access: There are some restrictions on this 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.

Citation: [Item, Folder, Box,] President's Records Collection, Boston Children's Museum Archives, Boston, MA.

Acquisition Information

Provenance/Custodial History: The majority of the President's Records were found during the 2017 inventory of the 2006 Centennial Collection. It is unknown where the materials were located pre-2006.

Transfer: Internal transfer 2017, formally accessioned November 12 2018.

Accruals: Accruals expected from current President.

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: This collection includes the records of BCM Presidents. Each series, constituting a Director or President, includes materials such as publicity records, memos, correspondence, reports, and even calendars. The collection is most rounded out in the early years, especially with Directors Elsie M. Boyle and Fred G. Hardenbrook who left much of their correspondence. Some of the significant topics represented in these records include museum renovations, museum planning, and publicity of the Director or President. Along with the paper records are newsclippings and various photographs that were included in correspondence.

Arrangement: Each President is given a series, and these series are in chronological order, beginning with I: Delia Griffin, Director from 1913-1927, and moving to II: Mildred E. Manter (1927-1943), III: Elsie M. Boyle (1944-1959), IV: Fred G. HardenBrook (1959-1962), V: Michael Spock (1962-1986), VI: Ken Brecher (1986-1992), VII: Louis Casagrande (1994-2008), VIII: Carole Charnow (2010-Present).

Other Relevant Collections: In BCM Institutional Archives, the Annual Reports and Board of Trustees Collections are relevant.

Processing Information

Processed by: Caroline Turner, 2018.

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

Contents Inventory

Box 5

| <i>Folder Titles</i> | <i>Dates</i> |
|---|------------------|
| Series I: Delia I. Griffin | 1914-1924 |
| <i>"A Museum Experiment by Delia Griffin</i> | <i>1914</i> |
| <i>Museum Work Article: "The Big Brother Idea"</i> | <i>1924</i> |
| Series II: Mildred E. Manter | 1931-1944 |
| <i>The Underlying Spirit of a Live Children's Museum Partnership"</i> | <i>1931</i> |
| <i>Manter Correspondence</i> | <i>1938-1942</i> |
| <i>Reports of the Director (1/2)</i> | <i>1927-1944</i> |
| <i>Reports of the Director (2/2)</i> | <i>1927-1944</i> |

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Series III: Elsie M. Boyle | 1944-1959 |
| Correspondence (1/5) | 1944-1949 |
| Correspondence (2/5) | 1950-1955 |
| Correspondence (3/5) | 1956-1957 |
| Correspondence (4/5) | 1958 |
| Correspondence (5/5) | 1959 |

Box 6

| Folder Titles | Dates |
|---|------------------|
| Series III: Elsie M. Boyle (Continued) | 1944-1959 |
| Correspondence about Collections | 1942-1954 |
| Correspondence with Mrs. Frederick Morris | 1946-1958 |
| Reports of the Director (1/2) | 1944-1950 |
| Reports of the Director (2/2) | 1951-1954 |
| Television/Radio | 1955-1958 |
| | |
| Series IV: Fred G. Hardenbrook | 1953-1962 |
| Applications (Restricted) | 1953-1962 |
| Report of the Director | 1959-1962 |
| Television/Radio | 1960-1961 |
| Metropolitan District Commission | 1959-1961 |

Box 7

| Folder Titles | Dates |
|---|------------------|
| Series IV: Fred G. Hardenbrook (Continued) | 1953-1962 |
| Correspondence (1/3) | 1959-1960 |
| Correspondence (2/3) | 1960 |
| Correspondence (3/3) | 1961-1962 |
| Correspondence with Cultural Institutions | 1959-1960 |
| | |
| Series V: Michael Spock | 1962-1993 |
| Correspondence | 1962-1969 |
| Museum News Article | 1970 |
| Publicity | 1982, 1993 |

Box 8

| Folder Titles | Dates |
|--|------------------|
| Series V: Michael Spock (Continued) | 1962-1993 |
| Appointment Calendar | 1965 |
| Appointment Calendar | 1966 |
| Appointment Calendar | 1967 |
| Appointment Calendar | 1968 |
| Appointment Calendar | 1969 |
| Appointment Calendar | 1970 |
| Appointment Calendar | 1971 |
| Appointment Calendar | 1973 |
| Pocket Calendars | 1969-1972 |

Box 9

| <i>Folder Titles</i> | <i>Dates</i> |
|---|-------------------------|
| <i>Series VI: Kenneth Brecher</i> | <i>1986-1987</i> |
| <i>Correspondence & Memos</i> | <i>1986-1987</i> |
| <i>Publicity</i> | <i>1987</i> |
| | |
| <i>Series VI: Louis Casagrande</i> | <i>1993-1998</i> |
| <i>Background/CV</i> | <i>1993-1998</i> |
| <i>Publicity</i> | <i>1994-1995</i> |
| <i>Senator Kennedy</i> | <i>1998</i> |
| | |
| <i>Series VIII: Carole Charnow</i> | <i>2017</i> |
| <i>Speech for Martin Park</i> | <i>2017</i> |
| <i>Memorial for Yori Oda</i> | <i>2019</i> |
| <i>Correspondence with Dan Spock</i> | <i>2019</i> |