Finding Aid to the Mary Perry Smith papers BANC MSS 2016/195

Beatrix Scolari and Marjorie Bryer
The Bancroft Library

2017
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URL: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
Title: Mary Perry Smith papers
Creator: Smith, Mary Perry
source: Autin, Kathryn
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 2016/195
Physical Description: 13.1 Linear Feet (10 Cartons, 2 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1950-2014
Date (bulk): 1964-2010
Abstract: The Mary Perry Smith papers document her career as an educator and advocate for Black filmmakers. The bulk of this collection consists of records from two organizations Smith co-founded, the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement Program (MESA) and the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, but there are also materials related to her career as a teacher at Oakland Technical High School.

Language of Material: Collection materials are in English.

Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library’s online catalog.

Conditions Governing Access
Cartons 1-9 and Boxes 1-2 are open for research. Carton 10 includes restricted personal information and is closed to researchers until 2053.

Accruals
No future additions are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The Mary Perry Smith papers were given to The Bancroft Library in 2016 by Kathryn Autin.

Biography
Mary Perry Smith was born in Evansville, Indiana in 1926. She attended Ball State University as an undergraduate, earned a Master’s from Purdue University, and began her teaching career in Texas. While in Texas, she met her husband, educator and community leader, Norvel L. Smith. The couple moved to the Bay Area and settled in Oakland, where Smith began her long career as an educator, community activist, philanthropist, and an advocate for Black filmmakers and African American cultural institutions. In 1969, while teaching geometry at Oakland Technical High School, she helped launch the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Program. Smith left teaching in 1977 to work on MESA full time, eventually becoming a board member. She co-founded the Black Filmmakers’ Hall of Fame in Oakland in 1974 and served on the board of the Oakland Museum. Smith died in 2015.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternative forms of this collection.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Mary Perry Smith papers, BANC MSS 2016/195c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

System of Arrangement
Arranged to the folder level.

Processing Information
Processed by Beatrix Scolari and Marjorie Bryer in 2017

Related Collections
An interview with Mary Perry Smith, co-founder of MESA (BANC MSS 2005/247c)
Norvel L. Smith papers (BANC MSS 2016/199)

Scope and Content Note
The Mary Perry Smith papers document her career as an educator and advocate for Black filmmakers. The bulk of this collection consists of records from two organizations Smith co-founded, the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement Program (MESA) and the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. The collection is divided into three series: MESA, Oakland Technical High School, and Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. Original groupings of records and folder titles were retained when possible.
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Smith, Mary Perry, 1926- -- Archives
African American teachers -- California -- Oakland
Mathematics, Science, Engineering Achievement Program
Minority Students -- Vocational Guidance -- California
Mathematics -- Vocational Guidance
Engineering -- Vocational Guidance
Science -- Vocational Guidance
Mathematics -- Study and teaching.
Education -- California -- Oakland
Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, Inc.
Smith, Mary Perry
Autin, Kathryn

Series 1. MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement) Program 1964-2010

Physical Description: Cartons 1-7; Carton 8, folders 1-11; Carton 10; Boxes 1-2

Arrangement
Divided into eight subseries, 1.1 Correspondence; 1.2 Administrative Materials; 1.3 Board of Directors; 1.4 Program Materials; 1.5 Reports; 1.6 MESA History Project; 1.7 Newspaper Clippings and Articles; and 1.8 Student Records

Scope and Content Note
Contains materials related to the Math, Engineering, Science Achievement program co-founded by Mary Perry Smith in 1970. The program provides academic support and encouragement to students of color and students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds so they can excel in math and the sciences and pursue studies in STEM fields in and beyond high school. The program, which was developed in conjunction with the University of California, Berkeley, gradually spread across the state.

Subseries 1.1 Correspondence 1969-2010

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 1-27

Scope and Content Note
Consists of incoming and outgoing professional and personal correspondence with MESA directors, personnel, alumni, and partner organizations. Includes correspondence addressed to Smith's husband, Norvel.

Carton 1, Folder 1
Brown, John F. – Commission on Teacher Credentialing 1984

Carton 1, Folder 2
Curry, James 1978-2006

Carton 1, Folder 3
Darling, Crystal 1989-1993

Carton 1, Folder 4
Easter, Fred 1990-1991

Carton 1, Folder 5
Finnell, Robert 1977-1996

Carton 1, Folder 6
Frank, Austin 1976-1987

Finding Aid to the Mary Perry Smith papers BANC MSS 2016/195
Series 1. MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement) Program 1964-2010

Subseries 1.1 Correspondence 1969-2010

Carton 1, Folder 7
   Lobman, Theodore 1983
Carton 1, Folder 8
   Miller, William 1973-1978
Carton 1, Folder 9
Carton 1, Folder 10
   Somerville, Bill 1969-1973
Carton 1, Folder 11-13
   MESA Alumni 1976-2010
Carton 1, Folder 14-16
Carton 1, Folder 17
   MESA at California State University Northridge 1977
Carton 1, Folder 18
   University of California, Berkeley, Mills College 1975-1976
Carton 1, Folder 19
   Collaboration with the Northern California Council of Black Professional Engineers and the United States Energy Research and Development Administration 1975-1977
Carton 1, Folder 20
   Received During Absence 1980-1981
Carton 1, Folder 21
   MESA Responses to Requests for Comments, Handwritten Notes 1983-1991
Carton 1, Folder 22-23
   Junior Center of Arts and Sciences, Advisory Board Member/African American inventors 1991-1995
Carton 1, Folder 24
   Bill Somerton Fund 2001
Carton 1, Folder 25
   Letters Addressed to Norvel Smith 1985-1995
Carton 1, Folder 26-27
   Personal and Personalia circa 1987-1999

Subseries 1.2 Administrative Materials 1970-2008

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 28-70; Carton 2 folders 1-56; Box 2, folders 1-2
Scope and Content Note
   Includes annual reports; materials from award programs; budgets; conference and workshop materials; directories of participants; fundraising materials; governance plans and other planning and implementation documents; newsletters; public relations materials; staff directories, handbooks, and meeting materials; and brochures for other organizations. Please note that there is overlap with Subseries 1.4, Program Materials.

Carton 1, Folder 28
   Starting Educational Grant 1970
   "Consider the Sciences" Conference - Professional Development Program, University of California, Berkeley 1976
   Student Learning Project Proposals 1976-1978
   Conferences and Workshops Attended 1977
   Work with Bob Finnell 1977
   Handbooks for MESA Advisors 1977-1986
   MESA Advisors' Handbook Fall 1999
   University of California, Irvine - Saddleback High Program 1977
   Field Trip Evaluations 1977-1978
Series 1. MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement) Program 1964-2010
Subseries 1.2 Administrative Materials 1970-2008

Finding Aid to the Mary Perry Smith papers BANC MSS 2016/195

- MESA Directories 1977-1985
- Job Descriptions 1977-1979
- MESA Workshops, including Advisors' Workshop Reports - Asilomar 1977-1979
- Awards and Recognition 1977-1992
- University of California Berkeley Newsletter, including MESA Information 1978
- Black Students Interested in Engineering and Science (BESSA) - University of California, Berkeley - Brochure circa 1978
- Conference Sites 1978
- MESA Advisors' and Coordinators' Workshops 1978-1985
- MESA Newsletters 1978-1994
- MESA Newsletters 1995-2007
- Notes, Magazine of Learning Article, Certificate Template 1979
- Checklists for MESA Coordinators 1979-1981
- Program Reporting Forms 1979
- MESA Center Checklist and Profile 1979
- MESA Monographs 1979
- Working with Industry Guidelines 1980
- Mary Perry Smith Resume circa 1980
- "Directory of Campus Activities for Elementary and Secondary School Students and Teachers," University of California, Berkeley 1981
- Program Summary 1982
- MESA Leadership Conference 1982
- MESA Coordinator Procedures Handbook 1983
- Governance Plan 1984
- Revisions to Directors Procedure Handbook 1985
- MEP Administrative Assessments circa 1985
- MESA Employment Resource Catalog (Draft) 1985
- MESA Participation in National Urban League Conference 1986
- Advisors' Conferences and Participant Directories 1988-1991
- MESA/MEP Program Planning Document 1989
- Article in Carnegie Quarterly 1990
- Kareem Abdul Jabbar Fundraising 1991
Subseries 1.2 Administrative Materials 1970-2008

Preliminary Design of the MESA Program Review 1994
Resource Development circa 1994
MESA Awards Program undated
Annual Reports 1985-1994
MESA Informational Materials and Prospectus circa 1993-2008
University of New Mexico MESA Program 1999
Letterhead and Logo Folders undated
Informational Materials – Other Organizations undated

Subseries 1.3 Board of Directors 1969-2014

Grant Proposals, including National Science Foundation, Mathematics Workshop, Creation of a Program in Business and Economics at University of California, Berkeley 1969-1988
Meeting Materials, including Agendas, Budgets, Memos, Minutes, Proposals, Reports 1970-1989
Meeting Materials, including Agendas, Budgets, Memos, Minutes, Proposals, Reports 1987-2009
Financial Records, including Budgets, Travel Receipts, Funding, Fiscal Reports 1971-1995
Student Questionnaire 1973
Belmont High School – Cal State Los Angeles Program 1976-1980
MESA Coordinating Agency Conference Documents 1977
MESA Expansion Proposal and Conference 1977
Visits to MESA Centers 1977-1978
Student Survey Results, Workshop, Meeting Materials 1977-1979
East Bay MESA 1977-1979
Assistant Director for Center Programs – Reports 1978-1981
Conferences and Workshops, including National Urban League Conference and San Diego 1979-1985
Carton 3, Folder 52
Speech Materials 1977-1984

Carton 3, Folder 53-55
Planning, Program Calendars, Budgets 1979-1986

Carton 3, Folder 56-57
MESA Summaries, Program Summaries 1981-1990

Carton 3, Folder 58
Mary Perry Smith Resume circa 1982

Carton 3, Folder 59
Executive Director Search 1983

Carton 3, Folder 60
Mary Perry Smith Award 1983

Carton 4, Folder 1-8
Junior MESA Expansion/Program, including Planning Sessions, Symposiums, Meetings, Guidelines 1983-1985

Carton 4, Folder 9
Melvin Bell Final Report 1984
Evaluation for Proposed Program 1984

Carton 4, Folder 10
Memos 1984

Carton 4, Folder 11
Student Incentive Ideas circa 1984

Carton 4, Folder 12
MESA Proposed Expansion Strategy 1985

Carton 4, Folder 13
Proposed By-Laws 1985

Carton 4, Folder 14
End of the Year Events, Meetings 1985

Carton 4, Folder 15
Center Directors Meeting 1985

Carton 4, Folder 16
Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers-MESA Negotiations 1986

Carton 4, Folder 17
American Association for the Advancement of Science/Office of Opportunities in Science Linkages Project, including Agendas, Meetings, Parents' Workshops, Letters of Thank You 1986

Carton 4, Folder 18-23
Transcript of Smith Interview – Linkages Project 1986

Carton 4, Folder 24
Fred Easter 1987-1988

Carton 4, Folder 25
MESA Day, Other Memos 1989-1990

Carton 4, Folder 26
MESA Statewide Business Plan 1989-1990

Carton 4, Folder 27
MESA Center Directors' Retreat, San Luis Obispo 1990

Carton 4, Folder 28
Teamwork Seminar 1990

Carton 4, Folder 29
MESA 20th and 30th Anniversary Celebrations 1990, 2001

Carton 4, Folder 30-31
Advisors' Survey, Outreach Strategies 1992-1993

Carton 4, Folder 32
Awards Banquet and Other Events 1992-1996

Carton 4, Folder 33
MESA Community College Programs 1993

Carton 4, Folder 34
Draft of the Fundraising and Development Plan for the MESA Statewide Coalition/Alliance 1993-1994

Carton 4, Folder 35
MESA Review and Improvement Efforts 1994-1997
Subseries 1.3 Board of Directors 1969-2014

Carton 4, Folder 37-39
MATI (MESA Advisors’ Training Institute 1995-2001

Carton 4, Folder 40
MESA San Francisco Project 1996

Carton 4, Folder 41
Michael Aldaco-Chuck DeVore Correspondence 1996

Carton 4, Folder 42
MESA Problems - Kinard Group Consultation, De-funding Los Angeles Programs 1996-1999

Carton 4, Folder 43
Budget, Advisor Awards 1997-1998

Carton 4, Folder 44
Los Angeles MESA - Reforming California State University Long Beach and Loyola Marymount University Programs 1999

Carton 4, Folder 45
Roster, Expanding Eligibility, Data, Correspondence 1999-2002

Carton 4, Folder 46
Demographic Status 2000

Carton 4, Folder 47
Mike Beasley 2000

Carton 4, Folder 48
Presidential Award for Excellence 2000

Carton 4, Folder 49
Board Retreat at Oracle 2001

Carton 4, Folder 50
Miscellaneous 2001-2002

Carton 4, Folder 51
MESA Best Practices 2002

Carton 4, Folder 52-58
Budget Cuts 2003-2004

Carton 4, Folder 59
MEP History 2005

Carton 4, Folder 60
MEP and MCCP Advocacy Toolkits 2005

Carton 4, Folder 61-63
Advocacy Toolkit to Combat Budget Cuts 2005-2007

Carton 4, Folder 64
MESA Academy for Science and Mathematics Educators (MASME), including Conference 2007-2008

Carton 4, Folder 65
Labor and Workforce Development Project 2007-2008

Carton 5, Folder 1
Work with State Politicians 2007-2008

Carton 5, Folder 2
MESA Academy for Science and Mathematics Education Conference 2008

Carton 5, Folder 3
Conference - MESA in Its 40s 2008

Carton 5, Folder 4
Student Leadership Conference 2014

Carton 5, Folder 5
Multi-Year Strategic Plan and Related Documents 2014

Carton 5, Folder 6
MESA Expansion into Teacher Insurance Activities undated

Carton 5, Folder 7
Incentive Awards undated

Notes from Conference Speeches Heard undated

Subseries 1.4 Program Materials Circa 1950-2008

Physical Description: Carton 5, folders 8-59; Carton 6; Boxes 1; Box 2, folder 3

Scope and Content Note

Consists of materials related to MESA programs. There are letters of recommendation, student questionnaires and evaluations, handbooks, rosters, pamphlets, correspondence from MESA graduates, conference and workshop materials, photographs, and audio-visual material. Smith wrote some letters of recommendation before MESA existed; some of the correspondence and photographs are personal, not professional. Student-related materials that do not contain personal contact information can be found here. Please note that there is overlap with Subseries 1.2, Administrative Materials.
Finding Aid to the Mary Perry Smith papers BANC MSS 2016/195

Letters of Recommendation, including College Applications 1961-1981

Lawrence Hall of Science 1967-1970

MESA Notes to Students and Miscellaneous circa 1970-1972

Student Interview Notes 1971

MESA Correspondence and Rosters circa 1970-1977

MESA Students and Graduates, including Correspondence, Information, Board Rosters 1970-1988

Tutoring 1970-1978, undated

Journal Log of MESA Activities 1970-1972

Program Explanation Sheets 1970-1972

Student Questionnaires and Evaluations 1970-1977

Student Reports, includes Correspondence, Summer, Absences, Field Trips circa 1976-1977

Field Trips, including Standard Oil 1971-1978

Forms, including MESA Application Forms 1971-1978

Evaluation of MESA 1972-1977

Summer Jobs for MESA Students 1972-1978

Teaching Materials 1972-1977

MESA - Scholarships Won and Tutoring circa 1973-1976

Bay Area Science Fair 1974

Informational Pamphlets, Blank Forms 1974-1991


MESA Speakers 1975

Resume Writing, Resumes, and Newspaper Clippings 1975-1978

College Planning Resources 1975

Oakland Technical High School, including Baccalaureate Award Night, and Graduation 1975-1976

University of California, Berkeley Study Guide for Chemistry 1975

MESA Student Meetings 1975-1978

Math Games 1975-1977

Career and Academic Counseling 1976

Awards Banquets, including East Bay MESA, Programs, 6th Annual, Advisors' 1977-1989
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 6, Folder 22-23</th>
<th>Summer School/Summer Programs 1978, 1990-1991</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 24</td>
<td>Miscellaneous 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 25</td>
<td>Incentives/Suggestions 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 26</td>
<td>Team Learning Materials 1979-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 27-31</td>
<td>Student Handbooks, Manuals circa 1979-1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 32</td>
<td>&quot;MESA: In Action&quot; – Student Newsletter 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 33</td>
<td>Parent Involvement 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 34</td>
<td>Mary Perry Smith KSOL Interview by Bill Somerville/Tanya and Wendy’s Dinner with Norvel and Mary Smith – Audiotape 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 35-36</td>
<td>Study Skills Workshop circa 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 37</td>
<td>MESA Operations Manual circa 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 38</td>
<td>Bell High School Handbook 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 41</td>
<td>Marlene Watson 1991-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 42</td>
<td>Parent/Student Conference 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 43</td>
<td>Biology Diagrams undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 44-48</td>
<td>Photographs, Negatives, and Cards - MESA and Personal, including Travel circa 1950-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 49</td>
<td>MESA 20th Anniversary Commemorative Frame and Photograph 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 50</td>
<td>&quot;MESA Works&quot; 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 51</td>
<td>&quot;MESA - University of California, Irvine&quot; undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 6, Folder 52</td>
<td>Lecture on Need for Math undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>Artifacts - Buttons, Clocks, Plaques circa 1978-2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subseries 1.5 Reports circa 1966-1995

Physical Description: Carton 7, folders 1-38

Arrangement
Divided into reports by and about MESA, and reports about education more generally.

Scope and Content Note
Reports by and about MESA measure the program’s impact. These include annual reports, College Board test results, enrollment summaries and reports on college enrollment, evaluations, grant reports, interim reports, proposals, reports to investors, and a student thesis. There is also an article by Smith, "Early Identification and Support: The University of California MESA Program."

More general reports focus on equity in education and include studies on teaching in Oakland and on Chicano and Spanish-speaking students in Los Angeles; barriers to, opportunities for, and retention of women and minority students in engineering and mathematics; discussions of University of California Berkeley partnerships with high schools, resources for undergraduates, and a McNair Scholars annual report; and reports on Black teachers.

Subseries 1.6 MESA History 1991-1993

Physical Description: Carton 7, folders 39-71; Carton 8, folders 1-3

Scope and Content Note

Research Materials circa 1991

"Oakland Tech High School 1970...a School in Transition" 1991

Crossroads Radio Program circa 1992

Correspondence 1992-1993

Staff and Program Leader Profiles circa 1992

Interviews 1990-1992


Draft/Editing of Book 1992-1993

Subseries 1.7 Newspaper Clippings 1970-2005

Physical Description: Carton 8, folders 4-11

Scope and Content Note
Consists of newspaper clippings and articles about MESA, Oakland Tech, and University of California, Berkeley; and diversity in, and access to education for students of color and women in the Bay Area and nationally. Includes MESA’s clipping file.
Subseries 1.8 MESA Student Records 1968-1978

Physical Description: Carton 10

Restrictions on Access

Files in this subseries are restricted and closed to researchers until 2053.

Scope and Content Note

Materials are restricted because they contain personal information. Similar files that do not contain personal information can be found in Subseries 1.4, Program Materials. Restricted materials include MESA applications and rosters; information on graduates, including scholarships received and “Let Us Stay in Touch” forms meant to encourage the next generation of MESA students; plans for college, resumes, and employment information; letters of recommendation; applications for professional development programs, the MESA Summer Enrichment Program, and summer engineering institutes; Oakland Tech math department surveys; and reports.

Student files are arranged alphabetically by last name; other files are arranged by topic, then chronologically.


Physical Description: Carton 8, folders 12-30

Scope and Content Note

Consists of materials related to Smith's career as a math teacher at Oakland Technical High School. Includes teaching and reference materials, Smith's notebooks and handwritten math lessons, files on student teachers, student magazines, and graduation and class reunion programs.

Carton 8,
Folder 12-17
Carton 8,
Folder 18-24
Carton 8,
Folder 25
Carton 8,
Folder 26
Carton 8,
Folder 27-28
Carton 8,
Folder 29
Carton 8,
Folder 30

Mary Perry Smith's Math Notebooks 1963-1964, undated

Math Games, Teaching Tools, and Reference Materials circa 1962-1965


Student Teachers 1974-1978

Student Magazine and Newspaper - "Illuminations" and "Scribe News" 1970-1975

Graduation Program 1977

Class of 1970 - 30th Reunion 2000


Physical Description: Carton 8. folders 31-48; Carton 9

Scope and Content Note

Consists of materials related to the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. These include board of directors' records; correspondence, files on actors, directors and films; financial records; legal documents; materials related to the annual Oscar Micheaux award ceremony, the Sidney Poitier fellowship, and UniWorld Entertainment; newspaper clippings; photographs; and publicity materials.

Carton 8,
Folder 31-45
Carton 8,
Folder 46
Carton 8,
Folder 47-48
Carton 9,
Folder 1-3
Carton 9, Folder 4

Annual Oscar Micheaux Awards Ceremonies, including Scripts, Planning, Public Relations Binder, and Photographs 1977-1992

Black Independent Film Awards Ceremony Script 1991

President Margaret Smith Hicks 1977-1978


"Clarence Muse" Documentary Proposal - Thurman White and Woodi Webb 1978
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 9, Folder 5-8</th>
<th>Board of Directors - Budgets, Meeting Minutes, Calendars 1978-1979, 1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 9</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 10</td>
<td>Education Programs 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 11</td>
<td>Travis, Benjamin 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 12</td>
<td>Summer Camp 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 13-15</td>
<td>Events - Film Lecture Series, Screenings, Workshops, Awards 1978-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 16-17</td>
<td>Publicity Committee - Letters, Reports, Members 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 18</td>
<td>Softball Game 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 19</td>
<td>Letters Seeking Corporate Contributions 1983-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 20</td>
<td>Redevelopment Proposal For Fox Oakland Theater 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 21</td>
<td>Griffin, Booker - President, Pan African Productions 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 22</td>
<td>Miscellaneous 1986-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 23-24</td>
<td>Funding and Finances 1987-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 34</td>
<td>Volunteers 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 35</td>
<td>Lillian Media Awards Luncheon 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 36</td>
<td>Requests for Information 1988-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 37</td>
<td>Incoming Correspondence 1988-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 38</td>
<td>News Clippings 1988-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 39</td>
<td>Business Liability Insurance 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 41</td>
<td>Cash, Rosalind 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 42</td>
<td>Proposal to the Eastman Kodak Company for 20th Anniversary Program Funding 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 43-45</td>
<td>Sidney Poitier Fellowship 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 46</td>
<td>Andrew Eyck - Arusha Centre 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 47</td>
<td>Marina Yarnell - National Geographic 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 48</td>
<td>City of Oakland 1992-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 49</td>
<td>National Endowment for the Arts Advancement Program 1992-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 50</td>
<td>Black Filmmakers Festival Programs 1992-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 51</td>
<td>World African Network 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 52</td>
<td>“Sister, I’m Sorry” 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 53</td>
<td>Charles Blatcher - “Invisible Soldiers” Dispute 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 54</td>
<td>Legal File 1999-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 55</td>
<td>CitiCentre Dance Theater 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 56</td>
<td>Notes/To-Do undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 9, Folder 57</td>
<td>Logo Folders undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>