**Title:** Los Angeles Public Library and Langston Hughes Poster Complaint Collection

**Identifier/Call Number:** Coll2011.064

**Contributing Institution:** ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 0.1 linear foot.[1 folder]

**Date (bulk):** Bulk, 1991-1994

**Date (inclusive):** 1989-1994

**Abstract:** Petition, memoranda, press releases, interdepartmental correspondence, articles, organizational statements, reports, and other material documenting controversy over "issues of equity, censorship, and discrimination" with regard to gay and lesbian patrons and employees by the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), circa 1989-1994. According to a complaint filed in 1994 by library employees, in 1991 the City Librarian of the LAPL "censored and ordered destroyed Lesbian and Gay History Month materials."

**creator:** Gay and Lesbian United Employees (Los Angeles Public Library).

**Processing Information**

In order to provide access to this collection, minimal processing on this collection was expedited in 2011. Date spans were given wherever possible, but do not reflect the most accurate inclusive dates.

**Preferred Citation**

Box #, folder #, Los Angeles Public Library and Langston Hughes Poster Complaint Collection, Coll2011-064, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

**Publication Rights**

Contact ONE archivist regarding publication and use restrictions.

**Access**

Contact ONE archivist regarding access restrictions.

**Historical Note**

According to a complaint filed in 1994 with the City of Los Angeles by library employees, in 1991 the City Librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) "censored and ordered destroyed Lesbian and Gay History Month materials (a poster and a bibliography) which this public institution had already officially approved and distributed ... to local branch libraries and... to the public." The action came in response to a patron's complaint over the use of a quote by Langston Hughes on the poster in question. The issue became a flash point for already simmering tensions between LAPL administrators and gay and lesbian library employees over services provided to the gay and lesbian community.

**Scope and Content**

Petition, memoranda, press releases, interdepartmental correspondence, articles, organizational statements, reports, and other material documenting controversy over "issues of equity, censorship, and discrimination" with regard to gay and lesbian patrons and employees by the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), circa 1989-1994. According to a complaint filed in 1994 by library employees, in 1991 the City Librarian of the LAPL "censored and ordered destroyed Lesbian and Gay History Month materials (a poster and a bibliography) which this public institution had already officially approved and distributed... to local branch libraries and... to the public." The action was in response to a patron's complaint over the use of a quote by Langston Hughes on the poster in question. The collection comprises material collected for the 1994 complaint.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Censorship
Gay activists--California--Los Angeles
Gay and lesbian writers
Lesbian activists