
Kyle Morgan
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2014
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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Title: Woman's Building Records
creator: Woman's Building (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Identifier/Call Number: Coll2014-126
Physical Description: 24.1 Linear Feet6 archive boxes, 5 flat archives boxes, 2 map case drawers, 1 archive carton
Abstract: Artwork, administrative records, event records, financial records, promotional materials, and publications of the Woman's Building in Los Angeles from its founding in 1973 to its dissolution in 1991. The Woman's Building was one of the nation's first nonprofit arts and educational centers dedicated to the development of women's identity, sensibility, and creativity.
Storage Unit: 1-5
Storage Unit: 6-12
Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
Processing Information
Collection processed by Kyle Morgan, 2014.
Conditions Governing Access
Staff and payroll records are restricted until 2060. There are otherwise no access restrictions.
Separated Materials
Separated to ONE Archives audio collection:
ARTS/LA on KCRW, two stories on the Woman's Building on the 15th year anniversary, October 17 and 24, 1988 (audiocassette).
"Caged Bird Takes Flight," by Nobuko Miyamoto (audiocassette).
"Fantasticks, P.D."
Vesta Awards event recordings, 1987 (2 audiocassettes), 1991 (2 audiocassettes), undated (1 audiocassette).
Separated to the ONE Archives subject files collection:
Lea Delaria subject file (1 folder).
Separated to the ONE Archives periodical collection:
Biographical / Historical
The founding of the Woman's Building in Los Angeles in 1973 was the culmination of several years of activity by women artists who were energized by the feminist movement in this country. This activity included protests of major museums for their exclusion of women artists, the opening of gallery spaces dedicated to the work of women, the founding of the first feminist art education programs (in 1970, by Judy Chicago at Fresno State College and in 1971 by Judy Chicago and Miriam Schapiro at California Institute of the Arts), and the first large scale public feminist art installation, Womanhouse. In 1973, artist Judy Chicago, graphic designer Sheila Levrant de Bretteville, and art historian Arlene Raven founded the first independent school for women artists, the Feminist Studio Workshop. The FSW focused not only on the development of artmaking skills (in visual arts, writing, performance art, video, graphic design and the printing arts), but also on the development of women's identity and sensibility, and the translation of these elements into their artwork. Central to the founders' vision was the idea that the arts should not be separated from other activities of the burgeoning women's community, and the three looked for a site for their school that could also be shared with other organizations and enterprises.
This space, the Woman’s Building, opened in November 1973. The Woman’s Building took its name and inspiration from a structure built by Sophia Hayden for the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago to house exhibitions of cultural works by women from around the world. When the Woman’s Building first opened in 1973, it occupied the site of the old Chouinard Art Institute near MacArthur Park. Hundreds of women came from across the United States (and from as far away as Canada, Mexico, Holland and Switzerland) to attend the FSW. The facility was also home to galleries, theater companies, Sisterhood Bookstore, Womantours Travel Agency, a coffeehouse, and the offices of the National Organization for Women. In 1975, the Woman’s Building moved to a building on North Spring Street, near Chinatown. At that time, the organization began to generate its own programming, so the entire three floors of the reconverted warehouse were filled with artistic activities. In 1981, the Woman’s Building underwent major organizational change as a shift occurred in the cultural and economic climates of the United States. By that year, the organization’s founders had all left to pursue other projects, and a "second generation" of FSW graduates would carry the organization through the next decade. That year the FSW closed, as the demand for alternative education diminished. The educational programs of the Woman's Building were restructured to better accommodate the needs of working women. That same year, the Woman's Building also founded two profit-making enterprises to strengthen its financial base: the rental of artists' studio space, and Woman's Graphic Center (WGC) Typesetting and Design, a full service design studio. During the 1980s, greater emphasis was placed on expanding the multicultural base of the organization, and on providing opportunities to assist women artists in their professional development. Until its closing in 1991, the Woman's Building was an internationally recognized symbol of the vitality and substance of women's creative achievements.

Source: http://www.womansbuilding.org/history.htm (accessed December 29, 2014)

**Scope and Contents**

Administrative records, creative works, event records, financial records, photographs, posters, promotional materials, and publications of the Woman’s Building in Los Angeles primarily from its founding in 1973 to its dissolution in 1991. The collection includes records for the Woman’s Graphic Center, Women’s Caucus for Art, and other affiliated organizations.

**Arrangement**

The records are organized in the following series:


**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Date and method of acquisition of most materials is unknown. Busz Words and Celebrating Women project posters were donated in January 2016 by Cheri Gaulke and Jerri Allyn.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Feminists -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources

Feminism -- Study and teaching -- Archival resources

Lesbian feminism -- Archival resources

Works of art

Women artists -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources

Lesbian artists

Women's Building (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Women's Building (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Archives

Women's Caucus for Art -- Archives

Woman's Graphic Center -- Archives
## Administrative records Series 1. 1964-1992

### Arrangement

The series is arranged in alphabetical order.

### Scope and Contents

Administrative records, event records, financial records, and promotional materials of the Woman’s Building in Los Angeles, bulk 1973-1992. The collection includes records for affiliated organizations such as the Woman’s Graphic Center and Women’s Caucus for Art. The administrative records include articles of incorporation, bylaws, meeting minutes, correspondence, notes, policies and manuals, grant applications, membership records, leases, staff and volunteer records, insurance records, backup diskettes, and ephemera. The financial records include statements, reports, journals, ledgers, receipts, tax records, budget records, sales records, fundraising records, and check registers. The promotional and event records include voting tallies for Vesta Awards nominees, seating arrangements, publicity photographs, clippings, fliers, bulk mail, programs, pamphlets, press releases, brochures, event cards, correspondence, and invitations.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Administrative records 1987-1991</th>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Archival provenance of Woman's Building records 1990-1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Armory Show records 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>Art history lectures undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Art sales records 1989</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 6-7</td>
<td>Articles of incorporation 1973-1981</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 8-11</td>
<td>Artist studios records 1981-1991</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Artistic director resumes 1990-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13-20</td>
<td>Backups of catalog, slide library, and registry undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 21</td>
<td>Physical Description: [8 5-inch floppy disks]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Box 1, Folder 22-23    | Board of directors records 1986-1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 25       | Brochure copy 1978                  |
| Box 5, Folder 35       | Scope and Contents                  |
| Box 1, Folder 26-28    | Includes two black-and-white photographs of Woman's Building gatherings. |
| Box 1, Folder 30       | Bylaws 1973-1988                    |
| Box 1, Folder 31-33    | California Arts Council grant materials 1989-1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 35       | Check registers 1984-1991           |
| Box 1, Folder 36-37    | Correspondence, notes, and ephemera 1985-1992 |
| Box 5, Folder 1-26     | Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles, grant materials 1990-1991 |
| Box 5, Folder 38       | Development coordinator and committee records 1987-1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 39       | Fees to artists, writers, and teachers records 1989 |
| Box 1, Folder 41       | Feminism subject file 1977          |
| Box 1, Folder 42-44    | Financial records 1977-1991         |
| Box 1, Folder 40       | Scope and Contents                  |
| Box 5, Folder 38       | Includes financial statements, reports, ledgers, journals, and receipts. |
| Box 1, Folder 39       | Financial records 1992              |
| Box 1, Folder 41       | Fliers, bulk mail, and press releases 1978-1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 40       | Food is Art event records 1987      |
| Box 1, Folder 41       | Holiday sale records 1981-1984      |
| Box 1, Folder 42-44    | Instructions on accounting 1991     |
| Box 1, Folder 43-44    | Insurance records 1988-1992         |

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**Finding Aid to the Woman’s Building Records, 1964-1992,**

2011 Coll2014-126
Administrative records Series 1.1964-1992

Box 1, Folder 45  Intern records 1990
Box 2, Folder 1-3  James Irvine Foundation grant materials 1973-1990
Box 6, Folder 12  Leases 1974-1988
Box 1, Folder 46  Mail orders for Textile as Texts and Apsara publications 1988-1989
Box 2, Folder 6-13  Membership records 1987-1991
Box 2, Folder 4  Matter of Confidence fundraising records 1987-1992
Box 2, Folder 5  National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) computer gift records 1989-1990
Box 2, Folder 14  Networks periodicals, Bay Area Video Coalition 1977-1979
Box 2,  News clippings 1986-1991
Folder 15-20
Box 2, Folder 23  Nonprofit papers for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and State of California 1975-1989
Box 2, Folder 24  Out Auction records 1991
Box 5,  Payroll records 1987-1991
Folder 36-37  Conditions Governing Access
Access restricted.

Box 2, Folder 25  Postcard project records undated
Box 6, Folder 1-10  Promotional and event materials 1970-1991
Scope and Contents
Includes fliers, pamphlets, event cards, programs, press releases, invitations, and clippings.

Box 2, Folder 26  Q and A database information 1991-1992
Box 2, Folder 27  Reference materials and ephemera 1985-1988, undated
Box 2,  Staff records 1985-1991
Folder 31-32  Conditions Governing Access
Access restricted.

Box 2, Folder 33  Supplemental and planning materials for grants 1989-1991
Box 5,  Tax records 1973-1991
Folder 27-34
Box 2, Folder 34  Vesta Awards records 1964-1991
Box 6,  Scope and Contents
Folder 17-18  Includes an image of Beah Richards.

Box 3, Folder 1-39  Vesta Awards records 1986-1990
Scope and Contents
Includes images of events and of nominees Brenda Levin, Susan Grode, Nobuko Miyamoto, Didi Daniels Peters, Esther McCoy, Helen Lundeberg, Sheila Benson, Lydia Takeshita, Meredith MacRae, Carmen Zapata, Ruth Hirschman, Phranc, Beatrice Wood, Elyse Grinstein, Marija Gimbutas, Wanda Coleman, Marion Post Wolcott, Cecil N. McCann, Jude Narita, Frances E. Williams, Carolyn See, Gloria Molina, Cathy Guisewite, Zan Dubin, Mary Jane Eisenberg, Lita Albuquerque, Helen Harrison, Irene Fertik, May Sun, Gema Sandoval, Bella Lewitzky, Holly Harp, Mary Ann Bonino, and Judy Chicago.

Box 4, Folder 1-29  Vesta Awards records 1990-1991
Scope and Contents
Includes images of Holly Harp, Anne Bray, and the Daughters of the Dust project.

Box 10, Folder 3  Vesta seating arrangement layouts 1986-1989
Box 2, Folder 35  Volunteer records 1991
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 37-43</th>
<th>Woman’s Graphic Center records 1980-1989</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
<td>Includes articles of incorporation and documentation of its bankruptcy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 6, Folder 19-24</th>
<th>Women’s Caucus for Art (WCA) records 1984-1985</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
<td>Primarily exhibition records for the Southern California WCA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 30-45</th>
<th>Women’s Caucus for Art (WCA) records 1978-1986</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
<td>Includes administrative records, publications, and financial records.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 8, Folder 4</th>
<th>&quot;Architectonic Inscapes,&quot; by Nina Kuo 1984</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>[1 booklet and 1 audiocassette, 2 copies]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 10, Folder 4</th>
<th>Architectural drawings undated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 1</td>
<td>Booklets, artwork 1988, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 5</td>
<td>Calendars 1979-1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 24</td>
<td>Calendars 1987-1990, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 2</td>
<td>&quot;Celebrating our Heroines,&quot; postcard workshop panels undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>[8 panels]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 9, Folder 10</th>
<th>&quot;Contact,&quot; clackbook series number 1 by Kathryn Clark 1983</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 34</td>
<td>Doin’ It in Public, book 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 11</td>
<td>Flower engraved on wood undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 1</td>
<td>Graphic arts and ephemera 1978-1982, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 3</td>
<td>&quot;Holly Greene Series, Book IV,&quot; by Vida Hackman 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 2</td>
<td>&quot;Inside the Closet,&quot; poetry undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 9</td>
<td>Laminated display materials 1977-1984, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-case 4.4</td>
<td>Laminated display materials circa 1975-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 7</td>
<td>Laminated display materials 1975-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 5</td>
<td>Laminated letters to the Woman’s Building 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>[1 continuous laminated roll of letters]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
<td>Letters from women to the Grandview Building talking about art design.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 9, Folder 8</th>
<th>&quot;Lie in my Lap,&quot; artist book by Darla Mayer 1984</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 7</td>
<td>&quot;Look Ahead, Los Angeles!&quot; compilation of artworks by various artists 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 13</td>
<td>&quot;An Oral History of Lesbianism,&quot; a play by Terry Wolverton 1979, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 21-22</td>
<td>Newsletters 1982-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 5</td>
<td>Photographs, framed or on foam core circa 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
<td>Includes images of Carolyn Weathers, Eloise Klein Healy, Kitty Tsui, Lynette Prucha, and female Los Angeles police officers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 5, Folder 39-40
Physical Description: [35mm slides]

Box 1, Folder 40
Box 8, Folder 1
Photographs, photocopies undated
Poetry undated
Scope and Contents
Includes limited edition and signed works.

Box 7, Folder 2-4
Postcard project display materials 1988-1990
Box 7, Folder 7
Postcards with images of the Woman's Building undated
Box 12, Folder 1
Posters 1974-1990
Box 11, Folder 1
Posters 1975-1989
Box 11, Folder 7
Postcards with images of the Woman's Building undated
Box 10, Folder 6
Posters circa 1975-1991
Box 11, Folder 4
Posters, Busz Words project 1990
Biographical / Historical
Project of Cheri Gaulke.

Box 11, Folder 3
Posters, Celebrating Women project Circa 1990
Biographical / Historical
Project of Cheri Gaulke.

Box 11, Folder 2
Posters, Cross-Pollination project 1986
Box 10, Folder 2
Posters, programs and events 1974-1991
Map-case 2.1
Posters, paintings, and other graphic arts circa 1975-1991
Box 6,
Folder 14-16
Publications of the Woman's Building and/or its members 1974-1988
Box 9, Folder 4
Single page artworks by various artists 1980-1990
Box 2,
Folder 28-30
Spinning Off periodicals 1978-1981
Box 9,
Folder 6
Stanford University printed poetry 1982
Box 9,
Folder 28-30
Tea and coffee cups undated
Box 9, Folder 5
"Today... tomorrow," poetry 1987
Box 9, Folder 1-3
Valentines show materials 1981-1985
Map-case 4.4
Wedding display panels undated
Physical Description: [2 folded cardboard panels]

Map-case 4.4
Woman's Building, 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, display panels undated
Physical Description: [10 panels]

Box 2, Folder 36
Womanspace periodicals 1973