Guide to the Charlesetta Braggs-Ford Papers

Sean Dickerson
African American Museum & Library at Oakland
659 14th Street
Oakland, California 94612
Phone: (510) 637-0198
Fax: (510) 637-0204
Email: aamlo@oaklandlibrary.org
URL: http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/locations/african-american-museum-library-oakland
© 2013
African American Museum & Library at Oakland. All rights reserved.
Guide to the Charlesetta Braggs-Ford Papers

Collection number: MS 204

African American Museum & Library at Oakland
Oakland, California

Processed by:
Sean Dickerson
Date Completed:
February 3, 2017
Encoded by:
Sean Dickerson

© 2013 African American Museum & Library at Oakland. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary
Title: Charlesetta Braggs-Ford papers
Dates: 1963-1984
Collection number: MS 204
Creator: Braggs-Ford, Charlesetta.
Collection Size: .5 linear feet (1 box)
Repository: African American Museum & Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)
Oakland, CA 94612
Abstract: In 1963 Braggs-Ford, together with Savannah A. Bello, founded the Richmond chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) to address discriminatory practices in local housing and employment. The Charlesetta Braggs-Ford Papers consists of reports, bulletins, correspondence, flyers, conference programs, papers, brochures, pamphlets, newsletters, and newspaper clippings that document the activities of the Richmond chapter of CORE. The collection also includes material related to regional CORE chapters and the national CORE organization.
Physical location: African American Museum & Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.) Oakland, CA 94612
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
No access restrictions. Collection is open to the public.
Access Restrictions
Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.
Publication Rights
Permission to publish from the Charlesetta Braggs-Ford Papers must be obtained from the African American Museum & Library at Oakland.
Preferred Citation
Charlesetta Braggs-Ford papers, MS 204, African American Museum & Library at Oakland, Oakland Public Library. Oakland, California.
Acquisition Information
Donated to the African American Museum & Library at Oakland by Charlesetta Braggs-Ford on September 1, 2016.
Processing Information
Processed by Sean Dickerson, February 1, 2017.
Biography / Administrative History
Civil rights activist Charlesetta Braggs-Ford was born on June 22nd, 1935 in Oklahoma to Booker and Viola Braggs. After a degree in nursing she served as a supervisor at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland. In 1963 Braggs-Ford, together with Savannah A. Bello, founded the Richmond chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) to address discriminatory practices in local housing and employment. The first members of Richmond CORE were Maxine Easton, Reverend Guthrie Williams, Barbara Thollaug, Samuel Burns, Frank Throtter, Ernest Fridia (first chairperson), Florence Fridia, Giddis Toland, Thelma Hill, and Staffana Bello. Future members included Gus Wagle, Scott Cole, Stephen Vincent, James Van, Amous Blackmore, Katherine

Guide to the Charlesetta Braggs-Ford Papers

MS 204

2
Richmond CORE focused on issues related to fair employment and housing, schooling, accurate newspaper coverage, and police brutality towards African Americans and other minorities. Committees of the chapter included those on Education, Storm Drainage, and Public Housing. Activities involved working on California Fair Housing initiatives and picketing and negotiation projects with the Bank of America, Safeway, and local department stores. As members began participating with Black Power movement groups in community organizing, Richmond CORE was officially disaffiliated from the national organization at a meeting of officers and delegates to CORE's Western Regional Conference on August 30, 1968.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The Charlesetta Braggs-Ford Papers consists of reports, bulletins, correspondence, flyers, conference programs, papers, brochures, pamphlets, newsletters, and newspaper clippings that document the activities of the Richmond chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). The collection also includes material related to regional CORE chapters and the national CORE organization. The collection documents general activities of regional CORE groups in sit-ins, picketing demonstrations and other civil rights actions around fair employment, housing and police brutality towards African Americans and other minorities. The papers are organized in three series: Richmond CORE activities, CORE general activities, and assorted print materials.

**Arrangement**

Series I. Richmond CORE activities
Series II. CORE general activities
Series III. Assorted print materials

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

- African Americans--California--Richmond--Social conditions--20th century.
- African Americans -- Civil rights.
- African Americans--Civil rights--California--Oakland Region--History--20th century.
- Congress of Racial Equality.
- Congress of Racial Equality -- Periodicals.

**Related Material**


**Richmond CORE activities**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

Includes correspondence, flyers, conference programs, volunteer forms, and newspaper clippings related to the activities of the Richmond chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

- Box 1:1 Letter from Fredricka Teer to Maxine Eason re: meeting of those interested in forming a CORE group in Richmond 1963-04-02
- Box 1:1 Richmond CORE - we've come to collect! flyer 1964
- Box 1:1 Program outline for CORE conference on anti-poverty 1965-03-13
- Box 1:1 Richmond CORE presents a conference on quality education flyer 1966-05-14
- Box 1:1 March for jobs: justice on Bay Area Rapid Transit flyer 1966-06-05
- Box 1:1 Letter from Clyde E. DeBerry to Samuel Burns re: cancellation of Richmond CORE's membership in National CORE 1968-09-04
- Box 1:1 Newspaper clipping, "20-year CORE reunion no sit-in," from West County Times 1984-10-09
- Box 1:1 Richmond CORE [empty envelope] circa 1960s
- Box 1:1 We Shall Overcome CORE holiday greeting card from the Thollaugs circa 1960s
- Box 1:1 Richmond Congress of Racial Equality questionnaire circa 1960s
Richmond CORE activities

Box 1:1

- It's time to have a fun(d) raising party flyer circa 1960s
- What does he think about civil rights? picket flyer circa 1960s
- Picket volunteer form [two copies] circa 1960s
- Richmond chapter of CORE presents the Fourth of July flyer circa 1960s
- Where do we go from here? flyer circa 1960s

CORE general activities

Physical Description: 9 folders
Series Scope and Content Summary
Includes reports, bulletins, newsletters, correspondence, flyers, and conference programs documenting other CORE chapters and activities of the national CORE organization. Topics covered in the newsletters include civil rights in the United States, the rise of Black Power movement, the Delano Grape Boycott, Cesar Chavez, and the United Farm Workers.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by organization.

Berkeley Campus CORE 1964-1968

Box 1:2

- Constitution of the Berkeley campus chapter of CORE [two copies] circa 1960s
- The Campus CORElator 1964-01
- The Campus CORElator 1965-01
- The Campus CORElator 1968-01

Berkeley CORE circa 1960s

Box 1:3

- Don’t shop here - this store discriminates boycott flyer circa 1960s
- Don't shop at Hink’s, 57 years without a negro sales clerk boycott flyer circa 1960s
- CORE rules for picket line action circa 1960s

CORE National 1964-1967

Box 1:4

- National CORE republican convention project public relations and press coordination report 1964
- Congress of Racial Equality minutes of 23rd annual convention 1965-06-05
- CORE in the field community relations bulletin 1965-08-31
- Invitation to national conference reception with Rupiah Banda and Chief Michael Lukumbuya 1967
- 1967 CORE national convention “Black power: Blueprint for survival” (Muhammad Ali in person) June 30-July 4, 1967 held in Oakland, CA, workshop sessions held at McClymonds High School, flyer 1967
- Letter from Walter S. Brooks to CORE delegates re: presentation of position paper 1967
- Workshop: Controlling black education in black communities (National CORE Convention) by Dr. Clyde E. DeBerry circa 1960s

Louisiana CORE 1965

Box 1:5

- Edited version of Louisiana CORE’s WATS (Wide Area Telephone Service) report, June 28-July 4, 1965 1965
- Louisiana CORE newsletter 1965
CORE general activities

New York (Harlem) CORE 1965

Box 1:6

CORElator 1965-05-06

Philadelphia CORE 1967

Box 1:7

Ebony : the journal of “The Three P’s 1967

Santa Clara Valley CORE 1966-1967

Box 1:8

CORElator 1966-04
Box 1:8
CORElator 1966-05
Box 1:8
CORElator 1966-08
Box 1:8
CORElator 1966-12
Box 1:8
CORElator 1967-01
Box 1:8
CORElator 1967-03
Box 1:8
CORElator 1967-06
Box 1:9
CORElator 1967-07-1967-08
Box 1:9
CORElator 1967-09
Box 1:9
CORElator 1967-10
Box 1:9
CORElator 1968-01-1967-02
Box 1:9
CORElator 1968-03

Western Regional CORE 1964

Box 1:10
Conference structure committee report 1964-01-17
Box 1:10
Hotel agreement to affirm the equal opportunity policy of the member hotels of the Hotel Employers Association of San Francisco 1964-03-07
Box 1:10
Demands – Bank of America 1964-03-16
Box 1:10
CORE regional conference agenda 1964-04-19
Box 1:10
Letter from Western Regional field office to all congress CORE chapters re: proposals for statewide CORE demands to the Bank of America 1964-06-10
Box 1:10
Resolutions from regional housing conference held at Oakland 1964-06-14
Box 1:10
Letter from Western Regional Office Congress of Racial Equality to members of the local chapters’ executive board re: minutes of the Western Regional Convention in Los Angeles 1964-12-02

Assorted print materials

Physical Description: 1 folder
Series Scope and Content Summary
Includes papers, brochures, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings related to political action, civil rights and other issues of importance to Braggs-Ford’s work with Richmond CORE.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Box 1:11
Statement by United States Senator Thomas H. Kuchel on civil rights 1963
Box 1:11
The Method: Building problem-centered groups pamphlet 1965-08-14
Box 1:11
The Flatlands vol. 1 no. 8 1966-06-07
https://oakland.access.preservica.com/file/sdb%3AdigitalFile%7C5a6abbb5-cb22-4173-93f8-6a1c6bd8dc53/

Box 1:11
“Society” paper by George Bell 1969-03-18
Box 1:11
“Brainwashing of black men’s minds,” paper by Nathan Hare 1969-03-18
Box 1:11
Newspaper clipping, “Nation is Rocked by Violent Aftermath of Dr. King’s Death,” from The Independent 1968-04-06
Box 1:11
Richmond Metro Reporter, vol. 1 no. 3 1972-10-21
Box 1:11
Political strength - How to get it: A guide to effective action in your community pamphlet circa 1960s

Guide to the Charlesetta
Braggs-Ford Papers
Assorted print materials

Box 1:11 The Greenville crisis: The report of Mrs. Victoria Gray, Washington office of the MFDP circa 1960s
Box 1:11 This is CORE brochure circa 1960s