Descriptive Summary

Title: Palm Springs Art Museum Institutional Archives Collection
Dates: 1938 to date
Collection Number: PSAM-1
Creator/Collector: Palm Springs Art Museum; Palm Springs Desert Museum
Extent: Approximately 150 linear feet
Repository: Palm Springs Art Museum
Palm Springs, California 92263

Abstract: Palm Springs Art Museum was founded in 1938 as the Palm Springs Desert Museum, specializing in Native American artifacts, the natural sciences, and the environment of the surrounding Coachella Valley. The museum moved several times within the downtown Palm Springs area before building its first permanent structure in 1958, located on the southwest corner of Tahquitz-McCallum Way and Indian Ave. In 1974, architect E. Stewart Williams was commissioned to design the current building on Museum Drive. Further growth resulted in the construction of the Doris and Walter N. Marks Administration Building, Buddy Rogers Box Office, and the 1996 completion of the Steve Chase Wing and the Education Center. In April 2004, the Board of Trustees of the Palm Springs Desert Museum instructed the director and staff to shift the museum’s focus from a multi-disciplinary museum to a world-class art museum with a performing arts program. One year later, in April 2005, the museum officially changed its name to the Palm Springs Art Museum to reflect its emphasis on the visual and performing arts.

Language of Material: English

Access

The collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only

Publication Rights

No interpretive restriction is placed on material. Separate permissions to be obtained for publishing material. Property rights to the physical object belong to the Palm Springs Art Museum. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or his or her heir for permission to publish where Palm Springs Art Museum does not hold the copyright.

Preferred Citation

Palm Springs Art Museum Institutional Archives Collection. Palm Springs Art Museum

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection represents a broad selection of materials documenting the activities, events and history of the Palm Springs Desert Museum, later renamed the Palm Springs Art Museum. The collection includes administrative records, documents, correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, architectural drawings, awards, exhibition catalogs, annual reports, newsletters, ephemera, and other materials dating from 1938 to date. A detailed spreadsheet is available to aid in identifying resources. There are eight series in the collection.

Indexing Terms

Williams, E. Stewart (1909-2005)
Palm Springs Art Museum - Archives
Palm Springs Desert Museum - Archives
Palm Springs, California