Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento Room
Title: Kathy Francies-Wide Open Walls Photography Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MC 81
Physical Description: .25 Linear Feet2 Albums; 98 photographs
Date (inclusive): 2016-2019

Abstract: This collection consists of 98 photographs taken in 2018 and 2019 and compiled by Kathy Francies, retired librarian for the Sacramento Public Library, of murals from across Sacramento painted on walls and in alleys as part of the Wide Open Walls annual arts festival. The 2018 album includes an announcement about the 2018 festival, a list of artists and locations from 2017 and a map of a number of the mural locations. Kathy Francies worked for Sacramento Public Library System for 31 years starting as a library assistant ending as a reference librarian working partly with the Sacramento Room Collection during her time there. In her retirement, this collection is one of the ways she continues to contribute to the preservation of Sacramento history, in documenting and photographing numerous unique murals that were created as part of Sacramento street art scene and Wide Open Walls, formerly the Sacramento Mural Festival, from 2016 to 2018.

Biographical / Historical
Kathy Francies was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on September 15, 1940. She attended public schools in Baldwin Park, California through high school and graduated from Azusa College in 1962 with a Bachelor's degree in Education and Psychology. Ms. Francies then went onto earn a Master's degree at Arizona State University in Education with Library Science, starting her library career as a student at Azusa College. She was a librarian at Brown Military Academy in Glendora, California, then worked as a librarian at Phoenix Christian High School in Arizona. After moving to California, she worked for Sacramento Public Library System for 31 years, starting as a library assistant and ending as a reference librarian working partly with the Sacramento Room Collection. In between all that she traveled, played golf, bowled, enjoyed reading, solving puzzles, watching sports and movies and having adventures with family and friends. In her retirement, she has continued to contribute to the Sacramento Public Library System and the Sacramento Room Collection, this collection being one example of her work and efforts. Wide Open Walls, formally the Sacramento Mural Festival, is a public art festival, taking place annually in mid to late August in the Sacramento region since 2016, in areas such as Downtown, Oak Park and North Sacramento on Del Paso Blvd and has also been involved in updating the Iconic Railroad Museum Mural on the side of the California State Railroad Museum building. The 10 day festival gives the public a chance to see artists create murals in real time and to interact with community members, visitors and artists in the context of promoting public art. It is also an opportunity for local and visiting artists to demonstrate, refine, and improve their skills, while engaging in artistic expression in a public venue. David Sobon, local art collector and auctioneer, is the founder, producer, and board chairman of the nonprofit Wide Open Walls and Mr. Sobon along with Wide Open Wall's Board of Directors work to bring local, national and international artists together to transform the Sacramento region with street art. The festival also includes block parties, meet and greets, and other related activities facilitated by their Board. The aim of the Wide Open Walls is to generate economic growth for the region and to promote greater cultural understanding and appreciation amongst diverse groups. There has been at least 80 permanent works created during this project and at least 250 temporary works presented at various events around Sacramento.

Scope and Contents
The collection is broken into two albums, one for 2018, the other for 2018. The 2018 album includes 47 color photographs of murals from around Sacramento that were painted as part of the Wide Open Walls festival; the 2019 album includes 51 color photographs. The mural festival focus is on bringing art to the wider public, in celebration of Art of All. The photographs were taken in 2018 and 2019 of murals that were painted in 2016, 2017, 2018 or 2019, with 2016 being the founding of the project. The 2018 album also includes a title page, a short announcement for the 2018 Wide Open Walls festival, a map from wideopenwalls.com of various mural locations across Sacramento, a list of numerous artists that contributed to the festival and a list of locations that were considered points of interest in 2017. The contents are in original order and housed in 2 albums.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Kathy Francies-Wide Open Walls Photography Collection, MC 81, Sacramento Room, Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento, California.