GroundSpark Collection

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2018
Descriptive Summary

Title: GroundSpark Collection

Dates: 1984-2009

Collection Number: GLC 156


Extent: 33 cartons (33 cubic feet) of records + approximately 1,259 film and video elements.

Repository: San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center
San Francisco, California 94102

Abstract: The collection contains the organizational records of and film and video elements created by GroundSpark, a documentary film company established by Debra Chasnoff. GroundSpark’s educational films often address subjects of human rights and sexuality.

Language of Material: English

Access

UNARRANGED COLLECTION. Closed for research. Contact Hormel LGBTQIA Center archivist for more information.

Publication Rights

Copyright retained by GroundSpark.

Preferred Citation

GroundSpark Collection. San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center

Acquisition Information

Donated by Debra Chasnoff, November 22, 2016.

Biography/Administrative History

Debra Chasnoff (1957-2017) was an Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker and producer whose educational films promoted greater tolerance for gays and lesbians. She was president of GroundSpark, a nonprofit company whose Respect For All Project distributes films and companion educational guides for classroom discussion. Chasnoff’s first film was "Choosing Children" (1984) and was co-produced with Kim Klausner, her partner at the time. The film profiled six same-sex couples who were raising children. Chasnoff's documentary short "Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment" won an Academy Award in 1992. She is probably best known for the films "It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School" (1996) and "That's A Family" (2000). Other films produced and/or directed by Chasnoff include: "Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up" (2009), "Let's Get Real!" (2003) about bullying, "One Wedding and a Revolution" (2004) about the legalization of same-sex marriage, and "Celebrating the Life of Del Martin" (2011) about lesbian activist Del Martin.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains organizational records, documents (contracts, releases, etc.), digital files, working files, moving image materials (screening prints, as well as additional footage such as outtakes), and printed materials (pre-production and production notes, photographs, publicity materials, articles and releases, posters, fliers, catalogs, etc.). In addition there are business records of GroundSpark.

Indexing Terms

Gay parents.
Homosexuality and education--United States.
Bullying in schools--United States.
Same-sex marriage--California--San Francisco.
Lesbian mothers.
Lesbians--United States--Attitudes.
Gays--United States--Attitudes.
Gender identity--United States.
Klausner, Kim.
New Day Films.
Women's Educational Media, Inc.
GroundSpark (Firm).
Documentary films.