
Finding aid prepared by Kitty Lee.
San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA, 94102
(415) 557-4567
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2013
Title: San Francisco Arts Festival Photographs and Records,
Date (inclusive): 1948-1985
Date (bulk): 1967-1985
Collection Identifier: SFP 30
Creator: San Francisco (Calif.). Art Commission.
Physical Description: 1 carton, 2 boxes, 1 shoebox (2.5 linear feet)
Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
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Abstract: The San Francisco Arts Festival Photographs and Records consist of photographic prints, slides, negatives, and a small amount of written and ephemeral records documenting the annual festival that was sponsored by the San Francisco Art Commission.
Physical Location: The collection is stored onsite.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.
Access
The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours, with photographs available during Photo Desk hours. Collections that are stored offsite should be requested 48 hours in advance.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], San Francisco Arts Festival Photographs and Records (SFP 30), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Provenance
Donated by Debra Lehane in July 2001 for the San Francisco Art Commission.
Related Materials
Researchers are encouraged to see also the San Francisco Ephemera Collection under "Fairs and Festivals-- San Francisco Art Festival" and the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection Folder "S.F. Districts -- Civic Center -- Art Show."
Biographical/Historical note
The San Francisco Arts Festival in California was the largest and oldest free outdoor public art event on the West Coast, founded in 1938 by San Francisco artists and then sponsored by the San Francisco Art Commission from 1946-1986. The SF Arts Festival exhibited local and contemporary Bay Area artists and craftsmen from San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties. Exhibiting predominantly visual arts, the annual show promoted artistic interest and advancement in its local and regional community by providing a venue for local and contemporary artists and craftsmen to sell, display, and develop sponsorship in a time in history when “official” art was only accepted in museums.
Scope and Contents
The San Francisco Arts Festival Records consists of photographic prints, slides, negatives, and a small amount of written and ephemeral records documenting the annual festival that was sponsored by the San Francisco Art Commission. The photographic material depicts participating visual and performing artists, festival attendees, exhibition artwork, the outdoor festival site at the Civic Center, and other subjects. The photographic prints document the festival for the years 1948, 1957, 1967-1979, and 1981-1985; negatives are from 1972-1978; and the set of slides is from 1984.
Most of the material was received unidentified and undated; dates by year have been added where they could be deduced from similar, dated material present in the collection. Subject matter and persons are also often unidentified; however, names of persons, dates, subject matter, and photographer are sometimes given on the backs of the photographic prints. Notable people depicted in the photographs include George Moscone, Kay Boyle, and Thad Brown attending the opening ceremonies during various years. Some images were used in the festival program brochures. Records include includes reports, newspaper clippings, brochures, a catalog, public relations materials, and press packets.
Photographic prints are 8" x 10," some of which correspond to negatives in Series 2. Negatives cover a wider range of subject matter than the prints and include negatives that are not printed. Most of the photographs and negatives are by Phillip Chan, with additional photos by Henry L. Cox (1957), Gerhard E. Gscheidle (1971), and C.S. Garrison and Michael Dixon (1972).

**Arrangement**
The collection is arranged in four series: Series 1: Photographs; Series 2: Slides; Series 3: Negatives; Series 4: Records. Each series is arranged chronologically.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Art festivals -- California -- San Francisco -- Photographs
Art, Modern -- Exhibitions
San Francisco Arts Festival -- Photographs

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**Photographs, Series 1 1948-1985 and undated**

| Box 1, Folder 1 | 1948                        |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | 1957                        |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | 1967                        |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | 1968                        |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | 1969                        |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | 1970                        |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | 1971                        |
| Box 1, Folders 8-9 | 1972                        |
| Box 1, Folders 10-12 | 1973                        |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | 1974                        |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | 1975                        |
| Box 1, Folders 15-19 | 1976                        |
| Box 1, Folders 20-28 | 1977                        |
| Box 1, Folders 29-30 | 1978                        |
| Box 1, Folders 31-32 | 1979                        |
| Box 1, Folders 33-35 | 1981                        |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | 1983                        |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | 1984                        |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | 1985                        |
| Box 2, Folders 1-9, Folders 39-41 | Undated                    |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Series 2 Slides, 1978-1984  |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | 1978                        |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | 1982                        |
Series 2
Slides, 1978-1984

Box 2, Folder 12
1984
Series 3 Negatives, 1972-1978 and undated
Physical Description: 1 shoebox

Box 3,
Envelopes 1-5
Box 3,
Envelopes 6-7

1972

Box 3,
Envelopes 8-10
Box 3,
Envelopes 11-14
Box 3,
Envelopes 15-21

1973

Physical Description:

Box 3,
Envelopes 22-27
Box 3,
Folder 28-31
Box 3,
Folder 32-44

1974

Box 3,
Folder 12

1975

Box 3,
Folder 32-44

1976

Box 3,
Folder 32-44

Physical Description:

Box 3,
Folder 12

1977

Box 3,
Folder 12

1978

Box 3,
Folder 12

Undated

Series 4 Records, 1975-1984
Physical Description: 1 box

Box 4, Folder 1
History of Festival
Box 4, Folder 2
Arts Festival Reports, 1975-1978
Box 4, Folder 3
Programs and News Clippings, 1977-1985
Box 4, Folder 4
Arts Festival Brochure, 1977
Box 4, Folder 5
Catalog, 1978
Box 4, Folder 6
Publicity, 1978
Box 4, Folder 7
SF Art Commision Honor Award Show, 1978
Box 4, Folder 8
34th Annual SFAF Program mock-up, 1980
Box 4, Folder 9
Publicity, 1980
Box 4, Folder 10
Publicity, 1982
Box 4, Folder 11
Arts Festival Reports, 1984
Box 4, Folder 12
SF Art Commision Press Packet, 1984
Box 4, Folder 13
SF Art Commision Press Packet, 1984