Guide to the Mark Porsche Papers

Collection number: MSS-2003-04

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

SJSU Special Collections & Archives
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2005
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Mark Porsche papers
Dates: 1989-1992
Bulk Dates: 1991
Collection number: MSS-2003-04
Creator: Porsche, Mark
Collection Size: 1 linear foot
Repository: San Jose State University. Library.
San Jose, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Mark Porsche Papers (1989-1992) document Porsche's organization of the Gay Pride Parade Celebration of San Jose and his work on the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose and the California Association of Pride, Inc. The collection includes correspondence, financial and community organization records, press releases, news clippings and other miscellany. The collection highlights his service as president of the groundbreaking 1991 Gay Pride Celebration of San Jose, an annual event that continues today.

Physical location: Vault 1, Range 20B
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research.
One restricted folder of financial records is contained within this collection. Written permission is required to access folder 67. Usage of the materials is subject to approval by the Director of Special Collections.

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Preferred Citation
Mark Porsche papers, MSS-2003-04, San Jose State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing History

Biography / Administrative History
Mark Porsche (1951-1993) was a leader, peacemaker and outspoken dignitary for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community of Santa Clara County. He believed that GLBT visibility would promote a legacy of safety, acceptance and equality for the gay community. Porsche reflected on the purpose of the Pride Parade by stating in a press release that, “Although the Festival is held at the Fairgrounds, only those who attend see our celebration. When we celebrated in the downtown parks, everyone saw us. I look at the Parade as a chance to once again become more visible to the entire community.” It was this belief that promoted the first ever city-sanctioned Gay Pride Parade in San Jose.

Personal History:
Porsche was born on February 17, 1951 in Olympia, Washington. In his short life, Porsche was father to four children, Lisa Moore of Idaho, Tiana and Sean Porsche of Washington and John Porsche of Alaska. He was brother to four siblings, Robert Porsche of California and Vickie Van Ness, Kimberly Stevens and Connie Shumate of Washington and son to Laura Porsche. Mark Porsche went to high school in Lacey, Washington and later received an Associates Degree in Arts from Tacoma Community College. In Porsche's personal life, he played piano and organ and performed with the musical groups Interstate 5 and Sounds Feasible. He moved to San Jose in the late 70s and worked as an electrician and maitre'd. In 1982, he founded Prestige Electric, located in the Koll Center in San Jose and contracted with companies such as Kentucky Fried Chicken, American Airlines, Swenson Construction and Club St. John. The family business motivated both of his sons to become electricians. Porsche and his partner, Danny Webster, had a commitment ceremony at the Metropolitan Community Church. Later, Danny Webster died of an AIDS related illness. Caregiver and ARIS Project volunteer, Mark Gillard, took care of Porsche in his final days. Porsche died at the age of 42 on April 12, 1993 in Redwood City, California from AIDS-related complications.

Community Work:
Porsche played an integral role in planning the 1991 Pride Parade including obtaining permits, securing insurance, fund raising and promotion. During his presidency of the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose, Porsche removed many logistical obstacles by convincing both the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer to issue a proclamation that granted the week of June 3-9th Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. Porsche served as the Director of the California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI) and as a board member at the Billy DeFrank Center. At the state level, Porsche worked for the passage of AB2601, landmark legislation that protected GLBT people from employment discrimination. In spite of all of his public efforts, Porsche was a recovering alcoholic and member of Alcoholics Anonymous with four and a half years of sobriety at his time of death. He continued to work tirelessly as a fundraiser for the ARIS Project and was active in the Metropolitan Community Church.

History of the Pride Parade in San Jose:

On June 26, 1971, Morris Kight, the founder of the Gay Liberation Front, spoke to a group of over 100 people that provoked an impromptu march down First Street in San Jose. Following this historic event, the GLBT community of Santa Clara County did not march on the streets of San Jose for several years. As an alternative, rallies were held regularly starting in 1976 in St. James Park. In the following years, the rallies were hosted at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, the Stockton GLBT bar area and the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center. In 1991, the parade and festival become a city-sanctioned event as a result of the efforts of Mark Porsche and the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose. On June 8 & 9, 1991, the festival was held at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds and the parade was held on the morning of June 9 at 11:00 am. In the years after Porsche’s death, his legacy and dedication continues as San Jose is now home to the largest Pride Parade in the South Bay Area.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Mark Porsche Papers (1989-1992) document Porsche's organization of the Gay Pride Parade Celebration of San Jose and his work on the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose and the California Association of Pride, Inc. The collection
includes correspondence, financial and community organization records, press releases, news clippings and other miscellany. The collection highlights his service as president of the groundbreaking 1991 Gay Pride Celebration of San Jose, an annual event that continues today. San Jose State University acquired this collection from Robert Porsche, on April 7, 2003.

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

**Subjects**
Gays--California--San Jose--Political activity--History--20th century.
Gay liberation movement--California--San Jose--History--20th century.
Gays--California--San Jose--Identity.

**Index Terms Related to this Collection**
San Jose State University. Library. Special Collections & Archives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Series 1: <strong>Personal Papers 1989-1992</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 carton</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Series Scope and Content Summary</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The contents of the collection includes documents relating to the California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI), the Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose, the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors Gay Pride Proclamation, International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators (IAL/GPC) planning records for the 1991 San Jose Gay Pride Festival and Parade and other financial and administrative records related to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Santa Clara County community.</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
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<td>This series is organized by date: 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992. Within each year, the folders are arranged alphabetically according to the subject heading assigned by Porsche. Within each subseries folder, the documents are arranged chronologically with undated documents placed at the end.</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Access Note</strong></td>
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<td>One restricted folder of financial records is contained within this collection. Written permission is required to access folder 67. Usage of the materials is subject to approval by the San Jose State University Special Collection &amp; Archives Director.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>1989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Bylaws 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2-3</td>
<td>California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI) 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Dyketones 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Entertainment 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Program 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Rally Committee Meeting Records 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Schedules and Sound 1989</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>1990</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI) 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Clippings 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Entertainment Lists 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Ephemera 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>Interpride '90 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>Mailing Lists 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Photographs 1990</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 17</td>
<td>Board of Directors 1991</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 18  Budget 1991
Folder 19  Bylaws 1991
Folder 20  California Association of Pride, Inc. (CAPI) 1991
Folder 21  Clippings 1991
Folder 22  Community Sponsorship 1991
Folder 23  Corporate Grants 1991
Folder 24  Entertainment 1991
Folder 25  Event Planning 1991
Folder 26  Festival Applications 1991
Folder 27  Festival Information 1991
Folder 28  Financial Records 1991
Folder 29  Fundraising 1991
Folder 30  Grants Records 1991
Folder 31  Hate Crimes Workshop 1991
Folder 32  International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators (IAL/GPC) 1991
Folder 33  Loan Documents 1991
Folder 34  Magazine Advertisements 1991
Folder 35  Media 1991
Folder 36  Meeting Documents 1991
Folder 37  Merchandise 1991
Folder 38  Newspapers 1991
Folder 39-40  Other Pride Organizations 1991
Folder 41  Parade Planning Documents 1991
Folder 42  Participants Information 1991
Folder 43  Permits 1991
Folder 44  Planning Documents 1991
Folder 45  Post Event Documents 1991
Folder 46  Presentation Transparencies 1991
Folder 47  Press Releases 1991
Folder 48  Prestige’s Pride Booth 1991
Folder 49  Pride Planning Documents 1991
Folder 50  Proclamations and Political Documents 1991
Folder 51  Program 1991
Folder 52  Receipts 1991
Folder 53  Storage 1991
Folder 54  Timeline 1991
Folder 55  Valentine’s Kiss-In 1991
Folder 56  Volunteers 1991
Folder 57  Board of Directors 1992
Folder 58  Clippings 1992
Folder 59  Customer List 1992
Folder 60  Directory 1992
Folder 61  Financial Records 1992
Folder 62  Hawaiian Festival Ephemera 1992
Folder 63  International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators (IAL/GPC) 1992
Folder 64  Parade Planning Documents 1992
Folder 65  Photograph 1992
Folder 66  Program 1992

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