Inventory of Carolee Gardner Trefts Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) Collection SPC.2018.001

Sarah Richardson
California State University Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections
May 2018
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URL: https://www.csudh.edu/libarchives/
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: California State University Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections
Title: Carolee Gardner Trefts Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) Collection
source: Trefts, Carolee Gardner
creator: Watkins, Ted, Sr., 1922-1993
creator: Trefts, Carolee Gardner
creator: Watts Labor Community Action Committee (Los Angeles, Calif.)
creator: Watkins, Teryl
creator: Jones, Michelle
creator: Schrade, Paul
creator: Spraggins, Paul
creator: Pearson, Edward W.
Identifier/Call Number: SPC.2018.001
Physical Description: 9 boxes7 document storage cases and 2 clamshell boxes
Physical Description: 6.3 Linear Feet
Date (bulk): 1965-1999
Abstract: This collection is comprised of materials generated by Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) and collected by Carolee (Gardner) Trefts during her time spent working with the organization as an employee and later as author of a biography about the group's organizer, Ted Watkins. The Watts Labor Community Action Committee formed in 1965 prior to the Los Angeles (Watts) Riots of 1965 in an effort spearheaded by Ted Watkins, Sr. and supported by local labor unions, most notably, the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW). Their purpose was to create and provide programs and services that serve the needs of the under-served, predominantly African American residents of the Watts and Greater Watts communities. In this collection are organizational documents, minutes, correspondence, memorandum, reports, program proposals, drafts/notes, ephemera, publications, newspaper clippings and photographs. The materials gathered here chiefly represent the organization's activities from the mid- to late-1960s, early 1970s and the early- to mid-1990s.
Language of Material: The materials are in English and Spanish.
Arrangement
This collection is arranged into nine series, with some series further subdivided into two sub-series. The nine series are: Organizational files (I), Correspondence and memorandum (II), Program reports and proposals (III), Drafts and notes (IV), Ephemera, publicity and news clippings (V), Community planning and local history (VI), Photographs and negatives (VII) and Oversize materials (VIII). Five of the eight series are further divided into sub-series. Organizational files is further divided into General organizational files (I.A) and Minutes (I.B). Correspondence and memorandum is divided into Correspondence (II.A) and Memorandum (II.B). Program reports and proposals is divided into Reports (III.A) and Program proposals (III.B). Ephemera, publicity and news clippings are further divided into Event materials and ephemera (V.A) and Publicity and news clippings (V.B). Community planning and local history are divided into Community planning materials (VI.A) and Local history (VI.B). The series Drafts and notes (IV), Photographs and negatives (VII) Oversize materials (VIII), and Regional Grant Proposals and Applications (IX) are not divided further into sub-series. File arrangement varies depending on the series/sub-series. Some series/sub-series are in straightforward chronological order. Others are in order of relevance/importance and the rest are a hybrid of document type, then chronological order.
Biographical / Historical
The Watts Labor Community Action Committee formed in 1965 prior to the Los Angeles (Watts) Riots of 1965 in an effort spearheaded by Ted Watkins, Sr. and supported by local labor unions, most notably, the United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW). Their purpose was to create and provide programs and services that served the needs of the under-served, predominantly African-American residents of the Watts and Greater Watts communities. Ted Watkins was elected the Chairman of the Watts Labor Community Action Committee in 1966. Beginning in the late 1960s, the WLCAC developed programs and services aimed at bettering the community. Ted Watkins put his organizational skills as a union leader to work and was able to successfully solicit funding to help build a variety of programs to serve the Watts community. Early projects and services facilitated and provided by WLCAC included: senior citizens programs, neighborhood beautification, child care services, manpower training opportunities (Community Elite Corps, Community Conservation Corps, and Urban Residential Educational Center (Saugus)), Concentrated Employment
Project and Consumer Action Project among others. In addition to these community services, WLCAC contributed to the economic development of the area through the ownership and operation of several small businesses, including: housing-related enterprises (moving, construction and property management), markets, a Mobil gas station and a restaurant. In 1969, the community-based organization found additional success through their campaigning to get a county hospital to serve the community on the ballot. Three years later, on March 27, 1972, that initial accomplishment became fully realized when the Martin Luther King Jr. General Hospital opened in Willowbrook. Aside from local achievements, WLCAC and Ted Watkins' success in community development organization was becoming nationally and internationally noticed. In 1981, the British government invited Ted Watkins to London to advise on anti-poverty programs in the aftermath of the 1981 Brixton riot and subsequently opened a WLCAC branch office in London. Watkins' and WLCAC's accomplishments were also noticed in the United States. Yale University awarded Watkins the Medal of Entrepreneurial Excellence at the 1983 Commencement. Despite these accolades, WLCAC was not immune to hard times. WLCAC properties fell victim to the destruction of property, vandalism and looting that befell South Central L.A. during the 1992 Los Angeles Riots following the Rodney King verdict. A year later, Ted Watkins passed away. In subsequent years, WLCAC continued to accomplish Ted's vision by providing services to the community as well as adding an emphasis in the arts and cultural heritage by hosting exhibitions such as A Slave Ship Speaks: the Wreck of the Henrietta Marie and the installation of the of the sculpture, Mother of Humanity in Watts. Ted's legacy of leading the organization has continued with his family's active involvement. His daughter Teryl served as President of WLCAC following his passing. As of 2018, Tim Watkins is President and CEO of WLCAC.

Biographical / Historical
Carolee (Gardner) Trefts began working with the Watts Labor Community Action Committee in the mid-1960s as Program Analyst. She assisted in writing grant proposals and application packages for a multitude of WLCAC programs. She worked here through 1970 (approximately). She applied her skill for grant writing to other local groups and drafted grant applications and proposals for similarly situated groups as WLCAC. She was also active in the Pasadena community by supporting parents and students against the Pasadena School Board in its desegregation controversy during the 1970s. Eventually, she left the Southern California region to live in Berkeley, California. In the early 1990s, following the passing of Ted Watkins, Carolee again performed work on behalf of WLCAC, writing a biography of the late organizer, Ted Watkins.

Scope and Contents
This collection consists of materials dating from around the Watts Labor Community Action Committee's inception in the mid-1960s thru the mid-2010s. The bulk of the materials date from 1965-1970 and 1992-1997. A large amount of the materials are documents relating to WLCAC programs. Many programs were funded through either government assistance or through charitable organizations, so there are many program proposals to these funding entities as well as reports documenting the progress and outcomes of the projects (project evaluation and progress reports). There is a notable emphasis on occupational/vocational training programs, particularly, the Community Conservation Corps programming offered to the community. Additional program areas covered are programs for child care services, programs for senior citizens and programs for personal grooming. This collection also contains basic organizational documents, such as: organization charts, statement of policy, fact sheets, meeting minutes and personnel training documents. Internal memoranda primarily address events and personnel matters as well as other subjects. The correspondence included in these files are between WLCAC staffers, agencies providing financial assistance to programs, with some correspondence addressing civic and political matters. Ms. Trefts also kept drafts and layouts of various program proposals as well as excerpts (reproductions) from publications highlighting WLCAC. Other materials specific to WLCAC are ephemera, notices for various events, awards, newspaper clippings and photographs. The last series of this collection contains material that Ms. Trefts collected that relate to the Los Angeles area. It includes grant proposals and applications for programs such as the Technical Assistance Project for Minority Contractors (TAP), Community Care and Development Services projects, Head Start, Direction Sports, and other projects and programs in Los Angeles and the surrounding areas.

Conditions Governing Access
There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Preferred Citation
[Title of item], Carolee Gardner Trefts Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) Collection, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Processing Information
Collection processed by Sarah Richardson in May 2018.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
CSUDH Special Collections received the collection from Carolee (Gardner) Trefts in 2017.

Conditions Governing Use
Copyright restrictions may apply.

**Related Materials**

For related materials about Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC), please see the Ted Watkins Oral History Collection [please note this collection is restricted for 5 years]. Other collections donated by Carolee Gardner Trefts include: Carolee Gardner Trefts Pasadena School Board Collection, Carolee Gardner Trefts Urban Community Development Collection and the Ted Watkins Oral History Collection [this collection is restricted for 5 years].

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Community development--California--Los Angeles  
Community organization  
African Americans--California--Los Angeles  
Watts (Los Angeles, Calif.)  
Community development, Urban  
African Americans--Social conditions  
African Americans--Economic conditions  
Economic assistance, Domestic  
Civil rights  
Trefts, Carolee Gardner  
Watkins, Ted, Sr., 1922-1993  
Watts Labor Community Action Committee (Los Angeles, Calif.)  
Neighborhood Youth Corps (U.S.)  
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America  
United States. Department of Labor. Manpower Administration  
United States. Office of Economic Opportunity  
Rockefeller Foundation  
Watkins, Bernice  
Watkins, Timothy

**box 1**

**Organizational files 1966-2001; undated**

- box 1, folder 1: By-laws 1966
- box 1, folder 3: WLCAC policy statement, fact sheet and background information 1967-1968; undated
- box 1, folder 5: WLCAC Credit Union by-laws July 7, 1967

**box 1, folder 6**


- box 1, folder 7: Meeting minutes and notes (2 of 2) 1966-1968
- box 1, folder 8: Meeting minutes and notes (2 of 2) 1969-1970, 1995-1996; undated
- box 1, folder 9: EYOA meeting notes 1966; undated
- box 1, folder 10: WLCAC Advisory Board meeting, February 12, 1967 February 12, 1967
- box 1, folder 11: Legal services to youth circa 1960s (late)
- box 1, folder 12: Inner Circle Youth - summary of notes from March 7, 1996 meeting March 7, 1996
- box 1, folder 13: Correspondence and memoranda 1966-2003; undated

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Correspondence and memoranda 1966-2003; undated

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box 2, folder 12


WLCAC memos - December 1967 December 1967

RFP: Juvenile Crime Prevention (D.S.S.) ’95 August 2, 1995

WLCAC mission statement - working draft #1 memo August 9, 1995

Program reports and proposals 1966-1996; undated

Reports 1966-1969, 1994

Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) final report - summer 1966 September 1966

Progress report, November 1966 November 1966

Monthly reports, Community Conservation Corps (CCC) November 1966 - May 1967


Final report, July 1967, Community Conservation Corps project (copy 1) July 1967

Final report, July 1967, Community Conservation Corps project (copy 2) July 1967


Progress report, October 31, 1967 October 31, 1967


1967 report (copy 1) January 1968

1967 report (copy 2) January 1968

box 2, folder 13  Community Conservation Corps progress report covering activities from March-April 1968 circa 1968
box 2, folder 14  Third seminar of WLCAC report October 1969
box 2, folder 15  A report from the Director of Development December 2, 1994

box 3, folder 1  A proposal: Watts Community Counselors October 28, 1966
box 3, folder 2  WLCAC Community Conservation Corps (CCC) 1966-1967
box 3, folder 3  Suggested program proposal drafts 1966, 1968; undated
box 3, folder 4  A proposal for a Summer-1967 Community Conservation Corps project in Watts, California May 1967
box 3, folder 5  A proposal for a Watts Summer Conservation Corps Camp at Camp Roberts, California August 1967
box 3, folder 6  A proposal for a Fall - 1967 Community Conservation Corps project in Watts, California 1967
box 3, folder 7  CCC Personal Grooming Program proposal October 10, 1967
box 3, folder 8  A proposal: IMPACT March 1968
box 3, folder 9  A proposal: IMPACT (partial copy) [March 1968]
box 3, folder 10  A proposal: IMPACT (draft, partial) March 1968
box 3, folder 11  Special IMPACT Program proposal (draft) April 15, 1968
box 3, folder 12  A proposal for a WLCAC 2nd Summer Conservation Camp at Saugus, California April 1968
box 3, folder 13  A proposal for a Summer - 1968 Community Conservation Corps project in Watts, California April 1968
box 3, folder 14  Various proposals to funding organizations 1968, 1970; undated
box 3, folder 15  Child Care Services Centers Construction Project application October 1969
box 3, folder 16  Child Care Services Center Construction Project budget circa 1969
box 3, folder 17  Saugus Residential Job Center proposal [partial] (1 of 2) September 1970
box 3, folder 18  Saugus Residential Job Center proposal [partial] (2 of 2) September 1970
box 3, folder 19  WLCAC Senior Citizens Meals Program Title VII October 3, 1977
box 3, folder 20  Le Petit Gadsby, L.P. venture investment proposal to WLCAC [circa 1995]
box 3, folder 21  The Rockefeller Foundation PACT proposal - Watts: Discovering our Past, Determining our Future 1995-1996
box 3, folder 22  Watts Youth Cultural Center January 2, 1996
box 3, folder 23  Meet the Composers/New Residencies 1996
box 3, folder 24  WLCAC - Community Conservation Corps, Concentrated Employment Program, Kennedy-Javits - NYC undated

box 4  Drafts and notes 1966-2002; undated
box 4, folder 1  1967 Report image layout draft [circa 1968]
box 4, folder 2  Chronological notes on WLCAC history and Ted Watkins undated
box 4, folder 3  CCC program enrollees' testimonials October - November 1967
box 4, folder 4  Miscellaneous WLCAC document drafts and notes (1 of 3) 1966-1968
box 4, folder 6  Miscellaneous WLCAC document drafts and notes (3 of 3) undated
box 4, folder 7  Notes on WLCAC organization undated
box 4, folder 8  O.E.O. Training and Development Center training materials 1967
box 4, folder 9  WLCAC document drafts and layouts undated
box 5  Ephemera, publicity and news clippings 1966-2015; undated

box 5  Event materials and ephemera 1966-1996
box 5, folder 2  Awards and proclamations 1969, 1988, 1993
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<th>Document Description</th>
<th>Box and Folder Details</th>
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<td>Ted and Bernice Watkins copied photographs 1993-1994; undated</td>
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<td>&quot;A Slave Ship Speaks...&quot; exhibition information 1995-1996</td>
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<td>Mother of Humanity (TM) sculpture unveiling 1996</td>
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<td>Watts Towers, Watts development and artwork 1999; undated</td>
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<td>Watts from Riot to Festival... program 1966</td>
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<td>Watts Summer Festival (1967) program 1967</td>
<td>box 5, folder 8</td>
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<td>Publicity and news clippings 1965-2015</td>
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<td>IUD Agenda - &quot;Organizing the Poor...&quot; by Jack T. Conway February 1967</td>
<td>box 5, folder 9</td>
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<td>The View from Watts Today - a series of articles reprinted from the Los Angeles Times July 1967</td>
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<td>The Angry Voices of Watts by Budd Schulberg circa 1967</td>
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<td>IUD Agenda, Vol. 4, Nos. 1/2, Jan./Feb. 1968 (features article on WLCAC) January/February 1968</td>
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<td>The Surec News, Volume 1, No. 2 April 1970</td>
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<td>WLCAC senior citizens' programs 1974-1978, 1993; undated</td>
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<td>Profiles of WLCAC and Ted Watkins 1981; undated</td>
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<td>Printout of video footage records from KABC regarding Watts circa 1992</td>
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<td>WLCAC brochure (1994 edition) 1994</td>
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<td>Watts is Los Angeles! 1999</td>
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<td>Copy of publicity scrapbook 1966-1967</td>
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<td>Newspaper clippings - undated</td>
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<td>Newspaper clippings - undated</td>
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<td>Information on the Million Man March 1995</td>
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<td>Community planning and local history 1966-2008; undated</td>
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<td>Lynwood Chamber of Commerce, city information materials 1964, 1966-1967; undated</td>
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<td>Watts Community Plan April 1966</td>
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<td>Community organizations and programs miscellany 1965-1973, 1973, 1975; undated</td>
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<td>Grassroots Directory of Organizations compiled by Westminster Neighborhood Association, Inc. undated</td>
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<td>Watts: the Hub of the Universe - art and social change 2007</td>
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<td>Local history 1947-2008; undated</td>
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<td>Excerpts from &quot;The Problem of Violence,&quot; by Lloyd H. Fisher circa 1947</td>
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<td>Watts: a history of deprivation by Franklyn Rabow July 1965</td>
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<td>Statement to Special Sub-committee on Poverty... by Paul Schrade August 7, 1965</td>
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<td>&quot;Beware the day they change their minds,&quot; by Charles Silberman circa 1965</td>
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<td>H.R. 15111 May 17, 1966</td>
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</table>
box 6, folder 13  "Poverty in the ghetto and poverty in Los Angeles," by Paul Bullock  September 1966

box 6, folder 14  A history of urban redevelopment in Los Angeles by Patricia Adler  November 25, 1968

box 6, folder 15  "Directions: Ferman Moore," and other copied selections from Report from Black America (1970) by Peter Goldman

box 6, folder 16  Race and cities*: a bibliographic essay, by Eugene Grigsby, III 1971

box 6, folder 17  The Watts Labor Community Action Committee: profile of an organization, by Cynthia L. Conway  August 1976


box 6, folder 19  Chapter 4, "We're from Watts... mighty, mighty Watts!" from Race and the War on Poverty (2008) by Robert Bauman 2008

box 6, folder 20  Community Control and Urban Planning

box 6, folder 21  Early History of Watts

box 7  Photographs and negatives circa 1960s - circa 1990s; undated

box 8  Oversize materials 1965-1997; undated

box 9  Regional grant proposals and applications 1965-1977

box 9, folder 1  Review [of the] Completion of First Phase of Special Study of South and Southeast Los Angeles Area relating to existing General Acute Hospital Facilities and Proposals for Acute Facilities December 14, 1965

box 9, folder 2  Agreement between Economic and Youth Opportunities Agency of Greater Los Angeles and Local 1108/Council 20, American Federation of State, county, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO June 10, 1966

box 9, folder 3  Economic and Youth Opportunities Agency of Greater Los Angeles budget 1966

box 9, folder 4  New Careers Development Project newsletters, letters, and other documents 1965-1968

box 9, folder 5  Issues Beyond Consensus prepared by Alan Haber June 1968

box 9, folder 6  Los Angeles County Committee- List of advisory and planning committee members, letter from Carolee (Gardner) and other documents relating to the committee 1968-1969

box 9, folder 7  Report of the Los Angeles County Area Rehabilitation Planning Committee February 1969

box 9, folder 8  Technical Assistance Project for Minority Contractors (TAP) letters, budget information, Articles of Incorporation, and other documents December 12, 1969; undated

box 9, folder 9  Direction Sports program, letters, information booklet, and news clippings 1969

box 9, folder 10  A Proposal to Provide Funds for Studio 103 Teen Post Training Center 1969

box 9, folder 11  White Memorial Medical Center memos, handwritten notes, project proposals, and budget information 1969-1970

box 9, folder 12  Urban Workshop Project proposals, letters, pamphlets, and other documents 1968-1972

box 9, folder 13  Aliso Pico Multipurpose Center survey and application for funding circa 1972

box 9, folder 14  Health Services grants and proposals 1972

box 9, folder 15  Senior Transportation Project for the Program of Retired Citizens (Community Care and Development Services) budget and project information July 23, 1973

box 9, folder 16  Community Care and Development Services (CCDS) Proposal for Youth Challenge Program August 12, 1974

box 9, folder 17  Application for Nutrition Project Award for Program of Retired Citizens (Community Care and Development Services) September 5, 1974

box 9, folder 18  Community Care and Development Services (CCDS) Manpower Program in Central Los Angeles budget and application September 20, 1974; undated
Proposal for Los Angeles County Child Care and Development Center October 11, 1974
Child Care and Development Services (CCDS) Head Start Grantee Application 1974
Community Care and Development Services (CCDS) Manpower Work Experience Training Program application and proposal 1974
Application to California Arts Commission for a Filipino Artists League (Community Care and Development Services) 1974
Project Interdependence proposal October 6, 1975
Southern California Prison Coalition Alcoholic Research Project letters, questionnaires, handwritten notes, and other documents 1975
An overview of the funding potential for the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School January 1977
Inter-Community Alliance Against Crime Project documents December 1977
Helping Hands Program in Los Angeles County proposal 1977
Personal Involvement Center Community Prevention Program 1977-1978 Los Angeles County documents