Finding Aid for the National Lesbian Conference records, 1989-1991LSC.2202

UCLA Library Special Collections
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Online finding aid last updated 4 December 2017.
Title: National Lesbian Conference records
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.2202
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet (1 box)
Date (inclusive): 1989-1991
Abstract: The National Lesbian Conference was the first and only of its kind, attempting to set a national lesbian activist agenda. The event took place in Atlanta, Georgia in 1991 and drew over 2,500 registered attendees. The gathering was comprised of one full day of caucuses, five plenaries, four mornings of anti-oppression training and slightly fewer than three hundred workshops. This collection contains pre-planning materials as well as a conference program and news coverage of the conference.

Language of Materials: Materials are in English.

Physical Location: Stored off-site at SRLF. All requests to access special collections material must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.


Conditions Governing Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. All requests to access special collections material must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], National Lesbian Conference Records (Collection 2202). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Acquisition Information
Provenance unknown.

This collection is part of an outreach and collection-building partnership between the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, the UCLA Center for the Study of Women (CSW) and the UCLA Library.

Processing History

Sponsor
The June L. Mazer Lesbian Archive at UCLA is an outreach and collection-building partnership between the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, the UCLA Center for the Study of Women (CSW) and the UCLA Library. These collections expand the pool of primary source materials available to researchers and to the community at large. This partnership was initiated by CSW and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to inventory, organize, preserve, and digitize more than eighty Mazer collections pertaining to lesbian and feminist activism and writings.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 7384777

Biography/History
The National Lesbian Conference was the first and only of its kind, attempting to set a national lesbian activist agenda. The event took place in Atlanta, Georgia in 1991 and drew over 2,500 registered attendees. The gathering was comprised of one full day of caucuses, five plenaries, four mornings of anti-oppression training and slightly fewer than three hundred workshops.

The Conference became a concept after the American attendees at an international lesbian conference in 1986 felt that they had no unified voice due to a lack of national lesbian agenda. In 1988, a few American lesbians met in Washington D.C. to plan a national lesbian conference. Subsequently, planning meetings were held in North Carolina, Oregon, and Missouri. Meetings operated by modified consensus. Consensus and parity (defined as 50% lesbians of color, 20% disabled lesbians and 5% old lesbians) were of prime importance. The full steering committee, with over 100 seats to represent many different interest groups, was never fully seated. Although the ostensible goal of the conference was to decide
collectively on a national lesbian agenda, the goal remained elusive. The conference became fertile ground for intra-organizational conversations about representation and the political process, but a fair amount of strife and dissent plagued much of the conversation.

**Scope and Content**
This collection contains pre-planning materials as well as a conference program and news coverage of The National Lesbian Conference, held at the civic center in Atlanta, Georgia in 1991.

**Organization and Arrangement**
Materials arranged by type.

**Related Material**
Old Lesbians Organizing for Change records. Available at Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
June L. Mazer Lesbian Archive at UCLA.
June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives.
Lesbians--United States--Congresses.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Pre-planning 1990-1991</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
<td>Documents relating to the preparation for The National Lesbian Conference. This includes flyers for fundraising events, registration documents, volunteer information, press releases, proposed program schedules and drafts of conference materials.</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 2</th>
<th>Old Lesbian Organizing Committee 1989-1991</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
<td>Documents relating to events and programming concerned with ageism and aging lesbian organizations. This includes newsletters for organizations, correspondence, speech drafts, meeting agendas, flyers, and workshop materials for an anti-ageism workshop.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 3</th>
<th>Clippings 1991</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
<td>Newspaper articles and clippings covering The National Lesbian Conference. Primarily, the articles are from lesbian, feminist, and progressive periodicals like <em>off our backs</em> and <em>Frontiers</em> as well as local Atlanta news outlets. The articles discuss the events of the conference, the divisiveness it exposed and the broader lesbian movement.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 4</th>
<th>Conference materials 1991</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
<td>Information and materials from participating organizations and groups within The National Lesbian Conference. This includes flyers, brochures and pamphlets, essays, membership information and calendars.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 5</th>
<th>Conference program 1991</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
<td>Full program for The National Lesbian Conference.</td>
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