



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the William H. Kessler  
Papers on Michael Heizer Sculpture Project  
for Michigan State Capitol Complex, circa  
1969-1981, in the Archives of American Art.

Caroline Donadio

2018/12/28

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	William H. Kessler papers on Michael Heizer sculpture project for Michigan State Capitol Complex
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1969-1981
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.kesswill
<b>Creator:</b>	Kessler, William H., 1924-2002
<b>Extent:</b>	0.4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of architect William H. Kessler measure 0.4 linear feet and date from circa 1969 to 1981. Included are correspondence, business records, a project file, printed material, and photographic material relating to Kessler's service on the [Michigan] Special Commission of Art in State Buildings, and the Commission's pilot project, a sculpture by Michael Heizer for the West Plaza of the State Capitol Complex in Lansing.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by William H. Kessler in 1982.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed after donation and a finding aid was written by Caroline Donadio in 2018.

### Preferred Citation

William H. Kessler papers on Michael Heizer sculpture project for Michigan State Capitol Complex, circa 1969-1981. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

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## Biographical / Historical

William H. Kessler (1924-2002) was an architect active in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated from the Chicago Institute of Design in 1948, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1950. Kessler later started his own eponymous architecture firm and became a member of the Michigan Special Commission on Art in State Buildings.

## Scope and Contents

The papers of architect William H. Kessler measure 0.4 linear feet and date from circa 1969 to 1981. Included are correspondence, business records, a project file, printed material, and photographic material relating to Kessler's service on the [Michigan] Special Commission of Art in State Buildings, and the Commission's pilot project, a sculpture by Michael Heizer for the West Plaza of the State Capitol Complex in Lansing.

Correspondence is with Xavier Fourcade, Inc., New York City, Kresge Foundation, Governor William G. Milliken, Mott Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and others, regarding the Heizer sculpture. Business records include commission meeting agendas and minutes, financial reports, and lists of benefactors to the Heizer sculpture project. The Heizer Sculpture File contains biographical data on Heizer, descriptions of his sculpture design, a copy of the plaza plan, the sculpture dedication program, and other printed material. Printed material consists of newspaper clippings. Photographic material includes photographs, slides, and negatives of Heizer and his sculpture, "This Equals That."

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Sculptors

Names:

Heizer, Michael, 1944-  
Michigan. Special Commission on Art in State Buildings

Occupations:

Architects -- Michigan -- Detroit

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: William H. Kessler papers on Michael Heizer sculpture project for Michigan State Capitol Complex, circa 1969-1981

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with Xavier Fourcade, Inc., New York City, Kresge Foundation, Governor William G. Milliken, Mott Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and others, regarding the Heizer sculpture. Business records include commission meeting agendas and minutes, financial reports, and lists of benefactors to the Heizer sculpture project. The Heizer Sculpture File contains biographical data on Heizer, descriptions of his sculpture design, a copy of the plaza plan, the sculpture dedication program, and other printed material. Printed material consists of newspaper clippings. Photographic material includes photographs, slides, and negatives of Heizer and his sculpture, "This Equals That."

Box 1, Folder 1-3	Correspondence, 1977-1981
Box 1, Folder 4	Special Commission on Art in State Buildings, Agendas and Minutes, 1978-1981
Box 1, Folder 5	Report, 1978
Box 1, Folder 6	Financial Reports, 1978-1981
Box 1, Folder 7	Heizer Sculpture File, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Clippings, 1969-1981
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Photographs, undated
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Slides, 1980, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Safety Negatives, undated

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