



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Municipal Art Society
of New York Records, 1901-1960,
in the Archives of American Art

Megan Bean

2016 June 7

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Annual and Directors Meeting Minutes, 1901-1960.....	4
Series 2: Permanent Fund Financial Records, 1913-1949.....	7

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Municipal Art Society of New York records
Identifier:	AAA.muniartn
Date:	1901-1960
Extent:	3.2 Linear feet
Creator:	Municipal Art Society of New York
Language:	Collection is in English
Summary:	The records of the Municipal Art Society of New York, based out of New York City and established in 1893, measure 3.2 linear feet and date from 1901 to 1960. The records include minutes from the annual and directors meetings, which incorporate reports, directors' files, committee files, and printed material. Financial reports to the Municipal Art Society Board that detail the organization's Permanent Fund are also present.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1968 by Municipal Art Society of New York.

Available Formats

The collection is also available on 35 mm microfilm reels 15-18 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and described by Megan Bean in 2016.

Preferred Citation

Municipal Art Society of New York records, 1901-1960. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

The Municipal Art Society of New York is a private organization that was founded in 1893 to beautify New York City streets, parks, and public places in ways both practical and artistic through projects supported by member dues. The society regularly held competitions for artists to create murals and sculptures to decorate public buildings, and exhibited artists' public works. Members of the society spearheaded efforts to preserve, improve, and maintain public buildings, monuments, and parks; create and maintain street signage and fixtures; regulate zoning; plan thoroughfares; and advocate for public housing. Interests of the society also included establishing a housing authority, slum clearance, and post-World War II planning. The Municipal Art Society of New York continues to influence urban planning and historic preservation into the 21st century, and is known for their architectural tours of New York City.

Scope and Contents

The records of the Municipal Art Society of New York measure 3.2 linear feet and date from 1901 to 1960. Minutes from annual and directors meetings, printed materials, and financial reports document the Municipal Art Society of New York's involvement in urban planning, city beautification, funding art for public spaces, and generally improving the quality of life in New York City.

Bound minute books from the annual and directors meetings incorporate annual reports, committee reports, membership lists, and by-laws, as well as some correspondence with business colleagues and fellow arts organizations. Printed materials are also integrated into the minute books and often relate to the content of the adjacent administrative files and include exhibition announcements and catalogs, event invitations, meeting announcements, bulletins, newsletters, magazine and newspaper clippings, and membership solicitation materials.

Financial reports to the Municipal Art Society Board detail the Permanent Fund and the organization's accounts.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 2 series.

- Series 1: Annual and Directors Meetings Minutes, 1901-1960 (3.2 linear feet; Box 1-8)
- Series 2: Permanent Fund Financial Records, 1913-1949 (1 folder; Box 8)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Societies, etc. -- New York (State) -- New York

Historic buildings -- Conservation and restoration -- New York (State) -- New York

Public art -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Annual and Directors Meeting Minutes, 1901-1960

3.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-8)

Bound and unbound records from annual and directors meetings. Contents include minutes, committee reports, membership lists, by-laws, and annual reports. Other materials include correspondence with business colleagues and fellow arts organizations, exhibition announcements and catalogs, meeting invitations, event invitations, newsletters, bulletins, and membership solicitation materials. Some magazine and newspaper clippings are also included.

Box 1, Folder 1	Season 1901-1902, 1901-1902
Box 1, Folder 2	Season 1902-1903, 1902-1903
Box 1, Folder 3	Season 1903-1904, 1903-1904
Box 1, Folder 4	Season 1904-1905, 1904-1905
Box 1, Folder 5	Season 1905-1906, 1905-1906
Box 1, Folder 6	Season 1906-1907, 1906-1907
Box 2, Folder 1	Season 1907-1908, 1907-1908
Box 2, Folder 2	Season 1908-1909, 1908-1909
Box 2, Folder 3	Season 1909-1910, 1909-1910
Box 2, Folder 4	Season 1910-1911, 1910-1911
Box 2, Folder 5	Season 1911-1912, 1911-1912
Box 3, Folder 1	Season 1912-1913, 1912-1913
Box 3, Folder 2	Season 1913-1914, 1913-1914
Box 3, Folder 3	Season 1914-1915, 1914-1915
Box 3, Folder 4	Season 1915-1916, 1915-1916
Box 3, Folder 5	Season 1916-1917, 1916-1917

Box 3, Folder 6	Season 1917-1918, 1917-1918
Box 4, Folder 1	Season 1918-1919, 1918-1919
Box 4, Folder 2	Season 1919-1920, 1919-1920
Box 4, Folder 3	Season 1920-1921, 1920-1921
Box 4, Folder 4	Season 1921-1922, 1921-1922
Box 4, Folder 5	Season 1922-1923, 1922-1923
Box 5, Folder 1	Season 1923-1924, 1923-1924
Box 5, Folder 2	Season 1924-1925, 1924-1925
Box 5, Folder 3	Season 1925-1926, 1925-1926
Box 5, Folder 4	Season 1926-1927, 1926-1927
Box 5, Folder 5	Season 1927-1928, 1927-1928
Box 6, Folder 1	Season 1928-1929, 1928-1929
Box 6, Folder 2	Season 1929-1930, 1929-1930
Box 6, Folder 3	Season 1930-1931, 1930-1931
Box 6, Folder 4	Season 1931-1932, 1931-1932
Box 6, Folder 5	Season 1932-1933, 1932-1933
Box 6, Folder 6	Season 1933-1934, 1933-1934
Box 6, Folder 7	Season 1934-1935, 1934-1935
Box 6, Folder 8	Season 1935-1936, 1935-1936
Box 7, Folder 1	Season 1936-1937, 1936-1937
Box 7, Folder 2	Season 1937-1938, 1937-1938
Box 7, Folder 3	Season 1938-1939, 1938-1939

Box 7, Folder 4	Season 1939-1940, 1939-1940
Box 7, Folder 5	Season 1940-1941, 1940-1941
Box 7, Folder 6	Season 1941-1942, 1941-1942
Box 7, Folder 7	Season 1942-1943, 1942-1943
Box 7, Folder 8	Season 1943-1944, 1943-1944
Box 7, Folder 9	Season 1945-1946, 1945-1946
Box 8, Folder 1	Season 1947-1948, 1947-1948
Box 8, Folder 2	Season 1950-1952, 1950-1952
Box 8, Folder 3	Season 1952-1953, 1952-1953
Box 8, Folder 4	Season 1953-1954, 1953-1954
Box 8, Folder 5	Season 1954-1955, 1954-1955
Box 8, Folder 6	Season 1955-1956, 1955-1956
Box 8, Folder 7	Season 1956-1957, 1956-1957
Box 8, Folder 8	Season 1957-1958, 1957-1958 Image(s)
Box 8, Folder 9	Season 1958-1959, 1958-1959 Image(s)
Box 8, Folder 10	Season 1959-1960, 1959-1960

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Permanent Fund Financial Records, 1913-1949

1 Folder (Box 8; folder 11)

Financial reports to the Municipal Art Society of New York Board on the Permanent Fund, which was used to support operational expenses. Ledgers, listings of investments, and by-laws concerning the Permanent Fund are included.

Box 8, Folder 11

Permanent Fund Financial Records, 1913-1949

[Return to Table of Contents](#)