



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 | 2 |
| 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: | English 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.

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.

Conditions Governing Use

The Municipal Art Society of New York records are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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:

Cultures:

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 |
| Box 8, Folder 9 | Season 1958-1959, 1958-1959 |
| 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](#)