



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Public Works of Art Project selected
administrative and business records

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Public Works of Art Project selected administrative and business records
Identifier:	AAA.publworr
Date:	1933-1936
Creator:	Public Works of Art Project
Extent:	18 Microfilm reels
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Series microfilmed by AAA were selected from the National Archives record group 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service. Additional records of the PWAP are preserved at the National Archives. Series which were not microfilmed include: correspondence of L.W. Roberts, assistant secretary of the Treasury; the central file of the Advisory Committee and the Project; card lists of allocated paintings and other works of art; and receipt cards for works of art.

Location of Originals

Originals in the National Archives, Records of the Public Building Service, record group 121, entries 106-111 and 114-117.

Related Materials

AAA has filmed, and described separately, selected records of the Treasury Relief Art Project (reels DC14-38) and the Section of Fine Arts (reels DC38-43) from record group 121. In addition, selected records of the WPA Federal Art Project (National Archives record group 69) were also filmed (reels DC44-DC111 and DC129-130).

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels DC1-DC13 and DC112-DC115 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

The Public Works of Art Project (PWAP), the first of the New Deal art programs, was established under the Department of the Treasury in December 1933 to assist unemployed artists by enabling them to work on the decoration of non-federal public buildings. Although it lasted only until the following summer, it engaged nearly 4,000 artists in all parts of the country and served as an important precedent for subsequent federal art programs, such as the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration. Later art projects

administered under the Department of the Treasury were the Section of Fine Arts, originally the Section of Painting and Sculpture, and the Treasury Relief Art Project, both of which served to employ artists to decorate federal buildings across the United States.

Scope and Contents

Selected records of the PWAP include the following series: Central Office (Washington, D.C.) Correspondence and Related Records, including progress reports, minutes of meetings, and finance records (reels DC1-3); Correspondence and Personal Files of Edward P. Rowan, Technical Director (reels DC3-4); Central Office Correspondence With Artists (reels DC5-7); Central Office Files and Publicity Materials, including correspondence of project director Edward Bruce (reel DC8); Newspaper Clippings (reels DC8-9); Correspondence and Related records of Cecil Jones, Business Director (reels DC9-12); Final Reports on Projects, Report Materials and Project Issuances (reel DC12); Regional Office Records (reels DC12-13); and selected Correspondence of the New York Regional Office (Region 2) With Artists concerning administrative details of employing artists (DC 112-115).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Federal aid to public welfare
- Federal aid to the arts
- New Deal, 1933-1939

Names:

- Bruce, Edward, 1879-1943
- Jones, Cecil H.
- Rowan, Edward Beatty, 1898-1946
- United States. Department of the Treasury

Functions:

- Agencies
- Programs (organizations)

Container Listing

Series 1: Central office (Washington, D.C.) records, 1933-1935

3 Microfilm reels

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by folder heading (names and subjects combined).

Scope and Contents: Correspondence, progress and other reports, minutes of meetings, official circulars and letters, personnel and financial records, press releases, and other records relating to the policies, organization, and activities of the Project. A small quantity of records concerns early meetings of the Advisory Committee to the Treasury on Fine Arts which were apparently made a part of this series when it was set up by the Project. Central office correspondence with artists is a separate series (reels DC5-7), described separately.

Reel DC001, Frame 1-54	Organization, PWAP, 1933-1934
Reel DC001, Frame 55-120	Organization, closing PWAP, Corcoran, 1933-1934
Reel DC001, Frame 121-170	Lists, Artists, 1933-1934
Reel DC001, Frame 171-232	Lists, Administrative, PWAP Bulletin, 1933-1934
Reel DC001, Frame 233-349	Lists of photographs, finances, 1933-1934
Reel DC001, Frame 350-642	Organization, Administration, PWAP, 1933-1934
Reel DC001, Frame 643-825	Organization, End PWAP, 1933-1934
Reel DC001, Frame 826-942	Correspondence, organization, women artists, 1933-1934
Reel DC001, Frame 943-1002	List, murals, location, artists, justice department, P.O. murals, 1933-1934
Reel DC002, Frame 1-386	Justice, P.O. buildings-decoration, CCC Correspondence, 1934-1935
Reel DC002, Frame 387-463	Lists, works, artists, Corcoran, PWAP, 1934
Reel DC002, Frame 464-637	Administration - national, PWAP, regional, miscellaneous, 1933-1934

Reel DC002, Frame 638-762 Indians, PWAP policy re. Indians, 1933-1934

Reel DC002, Frame 763-825 "Information on Artists" file PWAP, 1933-1934

Reel DC002, Frame 826-900 Formal CWA Procedure, 1933-1934

Reel DC002, Frame 901-1156 FERA organization, PWAP, 1934

Reel DC002, Frame 1157-1218 List PWAP Artists, 1934

Reel DC003 Central office (Washington, D.C.) records, 1933-1935

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Series 2: Correspondence and personal files of Edward B. Rowan, 1934-1935

0.8 Linear feet (2 partial microfilm reels)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence with prominent artists concerning ways and means of employing unemployed artists; correspondence with artists in the regions, critical evaluations of art produced under the PWAP; copies of articles written by Rowan, and various administrative and reference materials. Rowan was the assistant technical director of the PWAP. He worked closely with Edward Bruce, the director of the PWAP.

Reel DC003	Correspondence and personal files, 1933-1935
Reel DC004	Correspondence and personal files, 1933-1935

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Series 3: Central office (Washington, D.C.) correspondence with artists, 1933-1935

3 Microfilm reels

Arrangement: With few exceptions, files are arranged alphabetically by correspondent, thereunder chronologically.

Scope and Contents: Copies of letters sent to artists in all regions and letters received, concerning problems and individual projects of the artists. Some widely divergent comments on the existent art relief program are expressed in many of the letters.

Reel DC005, Frame A, 1933-1935
1-61

Reel DC005, Frame B, 1933-1935
62-343

Reel DC005, Frame C, 1933-1935
344-595

Reel DC005, Frame D, 1933-1935
596-821

Reel DC005, Frame E, 1933-1935
822-856

Reel DC005, Frame F, 1933-1935
857-979

Reel DC005, Frame G, 1933-1935
980-1107

Reel DC005, Frame H, 1933-1935
1108-1193

Reel DC006, Frame Ho., 1933-1934
1-67

Reel DC006, Frame I, 1933-1934
68-79

Reel DC006, Frame J, 1933-1934
80-156

Reel DC006, Frame K, 1933-1934
157-294

Reel DC006, Frame L, 1933-1934
295-430

Reel DC006, Frame 431-674	M, 1933-1934
Reel DC006, Frame 675-710	N, 1933-1934
Reel DC006, Frame 711-743	O, 1933-1934
Reel DC006, Frame 744-853	P, 1933-1934
Reel DC006, Frame 854-945	Q, 1933-1934
Reel DC006, Frame 946-1187	R, 1933-1934
Reel DC007, Frame 1-31	S, 1933-1935
Reel DC007, Frame 32-159	T, 1933-1935
Reel DC007, Frame 160-173	U, 1933-1935
Reel DC007, Frame 174-205	V, 1933-1935
Reel DC007, Frame 206-397	W, 1933-1935
Reel DC007, Frame 398-413	Y, 1933-1935
Reel DC007, Frame 414-439	Z, 1933-1935
Reel DC007, Frame 440-531	Important PWAP correspondence, 1933-1935 Notes: Not listed alphabetically. Extracts from artists letters, boards of education, artists organizations, also regional chairmen and committees.

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Series 4: Correspondence and related records of Cecil Jones, 1933-1934

1 Linear foot (4 microfilm reels)

Arrangement: Arranged by region, thereunder, chronologically.

Scope and Contents: Letters, telegrams and memoranda received from and copies sent to the regional offices and others in the regions; interoffice memoranda; periodic and statistical reports; and minor fiscal records. Cecil Jones was the business director of the PWAP.

Reel DC009, Frame 957-1208	Cecil Jones Correspondence and Washington, D.C.-N.E. Administration and Finances, 1934
Reel DC010, Frame 1-160	Administrative correspondence between Cecil H. Jones and offices of Region 1, 1933-1934
Reel DC010, Frame 161-541, 582-799	Administrative correspondence between Cecil H. Jones and offices of Region 2, 1933-1934
Reel DC010, Frame 542-581	Settling of PWAP accounts, Treasury Department statements, Payment of artists, 1933-1934
Reel DC010, Frame 800-948	Administrative correspondence between Cecil H. Jones and offices of Region 3, 1933-1934
Reel DC010, Frame 949-1252	Administrative correspondence from Cecil H. Jones to regional offices, agencies, Washington, D.C., 1933-1934
Reel DC010, Frame 1253-1266	Administrative correspondence of Edward Bruce, 1933-1934
Reel DC011, Frame 1-618	Correspondence of PWAP Administrative office with various regional offices, 1933-1934
Reel DC011, Frame 619-707	Correspondence with offices of Region 11, 1933-1934
Reel DC011, Frame 708-872	Correspondence with offices of Region 12, 1933-1934
Reel DC011, Frame 873-1131	Correspondence with offices of Region 13, 1933-1934
Reel DC011, Frame 1132-1380	Correspondence with offices of Region 14, 1933-1934
Reel DC011, Frame 1381-1483	Correspondence with offices of Region 15, 1933-1934
Reel DC012, Frame 1-230	Cecil H. Jones correspondence with offices (General business and finance) of Region 15, 1934-10

Reel DC012, Frame
231-504

Cecil H. Jones correspondence with offices (General business and finance) of
Region 16, 1933-1934

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Series 5: PWAP newspaper clippings, 1933-1934

1 Linear foot (2 partial microfilm reels)

Arrangement: Arranged in two groups: November 1933-February 1934 and February 1934-October 1934. Arranged thereunder by region, and thereunder, chronologically.

Scope and Contents: Newspaper clippings relating to the activities of the PWAP specifically at the regional level, November 1933-October 1934.

Reel DC008, Frame 831-873 Press clippings, Ann Cranton Trip, South and West, 1934

Reel DC008, Frame 873-930 Press clippings, New England and NYC, 1933-1934

Reel DC008, Frame 931-1053 Press clippings, Washington, D.C. and Penn., 1933-1934

Reel DC008, Frame 1054-1109 Press clippings, South, Midwest, Pittsburgh, 1933-1934

Reel DC009, Frame 1-126 Press clippings, 1933-12-1934-03

Reel DC009, Frame 127-210 Press clippings, Articles, 1933-12-1934-02

Reel DC009, Frame 211-266 Press clippings, New England, NYC, NY, 1934

Reel DC009, Frame 257-490 Press clippings, Washington, D.C., 1934

Reel DC009, Frame 491-540 Press clippings, South, 1934

Reel DC009, Frame 541-568 Press clippings, Midwest: Mo., Neb., Kan., Iowa, 1934

Reel DC009, Frame 569-638 Press clippings, Midwest: Cleveland, Pittsburgh, 1934

Reel DC009, Frame 639-651 Press clippings, Ill., Minn., Wisc., 1934

Reel DC009, Frame 652-689 Press clippings, Ariz., Texas, N.M., Colorado, 1934

Reel DC009, Frame 690-737 Press clippings, S. Calif., L.A., 1934-1935

Reel DC009, Frame 738-807 Press clippings, Second Half of 1934/Sand Francisco, Utah, 1934

Reel DC009, Frame 808-947 Press clippings, First Half of 1934/ N. California and Utah, 1934
Language: English.

Reel DC009, Frame 948-955 Press clippings, catalogues, Oregon, 1934

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Series 6: Central office (Washington, D.C.) files and publicity materials, 1933-1934

0.7 Linear feet (1 partial microfilm reel)

Arrangement: File of publicity materials: arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Contents: Miscellaneous central office files include: correspondence of Edward Bruce, primarily concerning certain art exhibits; lists of works of art, some showing their final disposition; and miscellaneous correspondence with regional office personnel and artists in the field. The file of publicity materials contains: photocopied press releases and bulletins issued by the Project; copies of magazine articles written by Project employees; and a variety of unsolicited comments and news concerning Project activities, including news clippings, editorials, magazine articles, and speeches.

Reel DC008, Frame 1-31	Administration, Finance, Publications, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 32-89	Artist's Subsistence Homestead, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 90-177	Corcoran exhibition correspondence, 1934-04-1934-05
Reel DC008, Frame 2478-183	Corcoran Exhibition List, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 184-188	List, Allocation, Region 6, Ala., Ark., L.A., Miss, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 189-200	List, Allocation, Region 10, Ill., Wisc., Minn. to Wash, D.C., 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 201-217	Lists, Artists and works, Regions 10-16, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 218-231	Lists, Works, Regions 3-9, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 232-240	Lists, Works, Region 2, New York, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 241-244	Lists, Works, Region 1, New England, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 245-279	Return of work from Corcoran Exhibition, 1934-05-1934-06
Reel DC008, Frame 280-282	List, Work returned to Philadelphia, 1933-1934

Reel DC008, Frame 283-295	Lists, Work returned to regions 1-5, 7-9,12,14-15, Cleveland, NYC, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 296-303	List, Works returned or allocated to NYC and regions, 1,5,14-16, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 304-308	List, Allocation of works, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 309-325	Lists, Miscellaneous (5), 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 326- ?	Lists, Work sent to Washington, D.C. for Corcoran Exhibition, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 361-389	Correspondence urging extension of PWAP (Maryland and Pennsylvania), 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 390-502	Hazel Clere correspondence, Washington, DC office, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 503-537	Stuart T. Williams controversy, 1933-1934
Reel DC008	Publicity Materials, Corcoran Exhibition, and F.D.R. choices, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 567-610	Miscellaneous administrative and organizational (Press releases, minutes and publicity), 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 656-752	Press clippings and miscellaneous (Coit Towers and Paul Cadmus), 1934-02-1934-07
Reel DC008, Frame 753-797	Magazine articles relating to PWAP, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 798-806	Region 14, N. & S. California, 1933-1934
Reel DC008, Frame 807-830	Indian Artists (Indians at Work), 1933-1934

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Series 7: Final reports, report materials and project issuances, 1933-1936

0.3 Linear feet (One partial microfilm reel)

Scope and Contents: A printed copy of the report of the Assistant of the Treasury to the Federal Relief Administrator for the period December 8, 1933 to June 30, 1934; a typewritten copy of a report covering the PWAP activities and liquidation for the period October 1, 1934 to June 22, 1935; narrative, statistical and other records used in preparation of the reports; reference material supplementing the information in the reports.

Reel DC012, Frame 505-541	PWAP drafts of final report, 1933-1934
Reel DC012, Frame 542-575	Miscellaneous lists including one of PWAP projects by region, 1933-1934
Reel DC012, Frame 576-584	ECW artists, 1933-1934
Reel DC012, Frame 585-592	PWAP bulletin #14 , 1934-02
Reel DC012, Frame 395-092	Interim report, TRAP, 1936-05-01
Reel DC012, Frame 594	Interim report, TRAP, Summary of Contents, 1936-05-01
Reel DC012, Frame 633-778	Interim report, TRAP, Draft of PWAP, Final report, plus rough draft with some corrections, 1936-05-01
Reel DC012, Frame 779-957	Correspondence, lists collected for PWAP, Final report, dated first half 1934, 1934

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Series 8: Regional office records, 1933-1934

2 Microfilm reels

Arrangement: Arranged by region.

Scope and Contents: A selection of records from central files of the 16 regional offices (the bulk of this material has been disposed of), consists of correspondence, telegrams, and memoranda of an administrative character; minutes of meetings; a few records relating to personnel; charts and statistics; records relating to individual projects, including lists of finished works; and a variety of technical and other reference materials. Activities of committees and subcommittees in the regions are also documented insofar as any records of importance concerning them could be located.

Reel DC012, Frame 958-1440 Region 4, 1933-12-1934-07

Reel DC013, Frame 119-165 Region 10, 1933-12-1934-07

Reel DC013, Frame 166-172 Region 13, undated

Reel DC013, Frame 173-728 Region 12, 1933-12-1934-11

Reel DC013, Frame 252-262 Regions 6, 12, 13 and 14, undated

Reel DC013, Frame 265-266 Southern States Art League, undated

Reel DC013, Frame 729-824 Region 1, 1933-12-1934-05

Reel DC013, Frame 825-1140 Region 2, 1932-11-1934-04

Reel DC013, Frame 1141-1307 Region 14, 1933-12-1934-05

Reel DC013, Frame 1308-1510 Region 16, 1933-12-1934-09

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Series 9: Correspondence of the New York (Region 2) office with artists, 1933-1934

4 Linear feet (4 microfilm reels)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence retained as an example of regional correspondence with artists includes letters dealing with administrative details important to employing artists, the initiation and execution of the individual art projects, and technical and artistic matters; special reports, reference material, and other matter is enclosed with the letters.

Reel DC112	Correspondence of the New York (Region 2) office with artists, 1933-1934
Reel DC113	Correspondence of the New York (Region 2) office with artists, 1933-1934
Reel DC114	Correspondence of the New York (Region 2) office with artists, 1933-1934
Reel DC115	Correspondence of the New York (Region 2) office with artists, 1933-1934

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