



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Philanthropy Oral History Collection

NMAH.AC.1582

Leigh Gialanella

These oral histories were conducted by members of the Philanthropy Initiative at the National Museum of American History. The Initiative is made possible by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and David M. Rubenstein, with additional support by the Fidelity Charitable Trustees' Initiative, a grant-making program of Fidelity Charitable.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Philanthropy Oral History Collection
Date:	2017-2018
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1582
Creator:	Moniz, Amanda B. (Interviewer) National Museum of American History (U.S.)
Extent:	1.02 Gigabytes (13 .mp3 files, 13 .pdf files)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection documents through born-digital oral histories the lives and experiences of a wide range of people involved in philanthropy.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Made for the National Museum of American History by the Philanthropy Initiative between 2017-2018.

Related Materials

Materials at the National Museum of American History

The Division of Work and Industry, National Philanthropy Collection, holds the following objects related to this collection: United Way pin (2017.0126.154), Facilities Capital Stretch drawing (2017.0301.01), Audacity Project drawing (2017.0301.02), turtle carving (2018.0104.01), Chinatown Street Fair poster (2018.0234.01), Good Health Day t-shirts (2018.0234.02, 2018.0234.03), Channel 2 Auction apron (2018.0286.02), and WGBH Auction pad (2018.0286.03).

Processing Information

Collection processed by Leigh Gialanella, digital archivist, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Philanthropy Oral History Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Access and use of born-digital audio materials available in the Archives Center reading room or by requesting copies of materials at RightsReproductions@si.edu.

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Accruals

Further accruals are expected. The repository continues to add interviews to this collection on a regular basis.

Historical

The Philanthropy Initiative at the National Museum of American History collects, documents, researches, and creates exhibitions and online content relating to the history of American giving. Central to the Initiative's mission is the convening of conversations with historic perspectives about philanthropy's impact across a wide spectrum of political, social, and economic issues. The Philanthropy Initiative launched in 2015, followed by the Philanthropy Oral History Project in 2017. The project's core team members are Dr. Amanda B. Moniz (David M. Rubenstein Curator of Philanthropy, Project Lead/Oral Historian), Sarah Weicksel (Project Historian), and Laura Oviedo (Project Historian for the War and Latina/o Philanthropy Collecting Initiative).

Scope and Contents

Conducted by the Philanthropy Initiative at the National Museum of American History, the Philanthropy Oral History Project collects interviews relating to the history of American giving. The project highlights philanthropists from diverse backgrounds who have given time, money, resources, expertise, and talent to communities within the United States and across international borders. During the first phase of the project, David M. Rubenstein Curator of Philanthropy Amanda B. Moniz conducted eleven oral histories with philanthropists in Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Virginia, and Washington D.C. These oral histories provide insight into each interviewee's life experiences and philanthropic work. In the process, they touch upon broader topics in American society such as public health, education, feminism, religion, and immigration. This collection contains oral history interviews and transcripts.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series, alphabetical by last name of interviewee.

Series 1: Born-Digital Interviews, 2017-2018

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Charities
- Community-based social services
- Endowments
- Nonprofit organizations
- Social justice
- Volunteers

Types of Materials:

- Born digital
- Oral history

Transcripts

Names:

Boynton, James
Gallagher, Brian A.
Hunt, Helen, 1949-
Inouye, Irene Hirano, 1948-2020
Lam, Marie
Lee, Regina
Rapson, Rip, 1952-
Rimel, Rebecca W. (Rebecca Webster), 1951-
Stauber, Karl Neill, 1951-
Walker, Darren, 1959-
Wasserman, Steve

Occupations:

Philanthropists

Container Listing

Born-Digital Interviews, 2017-2018

Item NMAH-
AC1582-BDA0001

[Boynton, James, 2018-09-18](#)

62.73 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:05:20; audio/mp3)

Notes: Jesuit Brother James (Jim) Boynton (b. 1967) shares his family history in the Great Lakes shipping industry and engagement with local communities via care work, public health, and politics in Mackinac Island, Michigan. Boynton's early volunteer work at St. Anne's Church eventually inspired him to become a Brother in the Society of Jesus in 1987, eventually serving as the Vocations Director for the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus. He describes his charitable journey as a Jesuit Missionary and teacher in international communities including Mexico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, India, Nepal, Europe, Latin America, Cleveland, Ohio, and Detroit, Michigan. Boynton also focuses on his outreach to seasonal migrant workers through St. Anne's Church and the challenges faced by those workers (primarily from Mexico, Jamaica, and the Philippines) and his missionary work in Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 Port-au-Prince earthquake.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-BDA0002

[Gallagher, Brian A., 2017-12-08](#)

89.52 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:33:15; audio/mp3)

Notes: Brian Gallagher (b. 1959) is the former President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way Worldwide. A son of Irish and Scottish immigrants in Chicago, Illinois, he began his career at United Way in 1981, serving at five local United Ways before becoming the President and CEO of United Way of America in 2002 and of United Way Worldwide in 2009. He pinpoints pivotal moments in his educational and career path that shaped his understanding of community and social justice. He includes reflections on hardships and controversies that rocked the organization but ultimately crystallized his vision and plan of action to create sustained change through a community impact model. Under his leadership, United Way established new membership standards that required internal consistency and public transparency in financial reporting.

This interview was conducted during Gallagher's tenure, 3 years before stepping down in March 2021 due to allegations of sexual misconduct.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-BDA0003

[Hunt, Helen LaKelly, 2018-05-10](#)

68.54 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:11:23; audio/mp3)

Notes: From schoolteacher to key player in national women's philanthropy, Helen LaKelly Hunt (b. 1949) describes her socio-economic background and family relationships, early teaching experience, her pursuit of a Ph.D. in church history,

feminism, and perspectives on women's relationship to money. Hunt shares in depth her involvement in creating a women's funding movement, including her roles in founding of the Dallas Women's Foundation, the New York Women's Foundation, the National Network of Women's Funds (now the Women's Funding Network), and Women Moving Millions (a collective for women donors).

Item NMAH-
AC1582-BDA0004

[Inouye, Irene Hirano, 2017-06-08](#)

62.2 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:04:47; audio/mp3)

Notes: Irene Hirano Inouye (née Yasutake) (b. 1948 - d. 2020) is the founding president of the U.S.-Japan Council, an organization she helped to create in 2009. She discusses her family's history with Japanese incarceration camps during World War II and her diverse childhood experience with church and community service in Gardena, Los Angeles County, California. Inouye describes her path in the nonprofit world, Asian American outreach, her work at a women's clinic, and her role as director and president of the Japanese American National Museum. Inouye also shares an insight into her experiences as a board member of foundations and cultural institutions, including the Kresge foundation and the Ford Foundation. She passed away three years after the interview was conducted.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-BDA0005

[Lam, Marie, 2018-09-28](#)

72.38 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:15:23; audio/mp3)

Notes: Marie Lam, Board member of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, begins her interview with her family's immigration story from Hong Kong to San Francisco in the 1960s. Lam recounts how her move to Manhattan, New York initiated her volunteer work with Chinatown's Chinese American Planning Council tutoring children and teaching citizenship classes to immigrants. Given her educational background in social work, Lam became central in helping address various injustices with senior citizens, abused children, and unequal health services to Asian American communities. Lam discusses her involvement and process in organizing free health fairs which eventually served as the foundation for the nationally recognized Charles B. Wang Community Health Center.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-BDA0006

[Lee, Regina, 2018-09-28](#)

100.38 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:44:33; audio/mp3)

Notes: Regina Lee, currently the Chief Development Officer and former Executive President of Public Affairs at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, shares her experiences on identity, community, culture, health, and rights. Lee discusses her family's multi-generational immigration history from China to New York and how they became prominent members in community organizations such as the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association [CCBA]. These generational values of community and service were central in Lee's trajectory as a volunteer, student, and lawyer where she worked to provide resources needed in immigrant communities. Eventually, Lee's

role as a volunteer and advocate for affordable health services in her Asian American community led her to co-found one of the most important free community health clinics in the nation, the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-
BDA0007_01

Rapson, Richard "Rip" (Part 1), 2017-06-15
142.19 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:14:03 ; audio/mp3)
[Digital Content: Rapson, Richard "Rip"](#)

Notes: In a two-part interview, President and CEO of the Kresge Foundation, Richard (Rip) Rapson (b. 1952), shares his personal and professional narrative that led to his role as president of the Kresge Foundation. He delves into his family history with community service and architectural development before laying out his legal and political career that influenced his role as a philanthropic leader at the Kresge Foundation. The second part of the interview focuses on his latter philanthropic efforts using his innovative planning sketches to create a collective framework of organization and foundation to help with Detroit's economic recovery; part of the process included the production of the Detroit Future City Framework. He shares his reflections on his time with the McKnight Foundaton.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-
BDA0007_02

Rapson, Richard "Rip" (Part 2), 2017-08-04
99.06 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:43:11; audio/mp3)
[Digital Content: Rapson, Richard "Rip"](#)

Notes: In a two-part interview, President and CEO of the Kresge Foundation, Richard (Rip) Rapson (b. 1952), shares his personal and professional narrative that led to his role as president of the Kresge Foundation. He delves into his family history with community service and architectural development before laying out his legal and political career that influenced his role as a philanthropic leader at the Kresge Foundation. The second part of the interview focuses on his latter philanthropic efforts using his innovative planning sketches to create a collective framework of organization and foundation to help with Detroit's economic recovery; part of the process included the production of the Detroit Future City Framework. He shares his reflections on his time with the McKnight Foundaton.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-BDA0008

[Rimel, Rebecca W., 2018-08-20](#)
56.14 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 0:58:28; audio/mp3)

Notes: Rebecca W. Rimel (b. 1951) is the president and chief executive officer of The Pew Charitable Trusts, a position she began in 1994. Rimel discusses her personal background and career including her upbringing in Charlottesville, Virginia, education, volunteer work, medical and nursing career, and career in philanthropy with the Pew Charitable Trust. Before joining The Pew Charitable Trusts in 1983 as a health program manager and executive director in 1988, Rimel broke barriers as the first nurse to hold a faculty position at the University of Virginia's medical school, serving as an assistant professor in the Department of Neurosurgery from 1981-1983. She was

head nurse of the emergency department at the University of Virginia Hospital and authored scientific articles on head injury.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-BDA0009

[Stauber, Karl, 2018-09-12](#)

113.09 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:57:47; audio/mp3)

Notes: Karl Stauber (b.1951), former President and CEO of the Danville Regional Foundation in Danville, Virginia, shares his journey into the world of philanthropy as a child of Presbyterian church leaders, student activist in the anti-war and civil rights movements, and state government worker. He was the first Senate-confirmed Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics with the United States Department of Agriculture, and worked for the Northwest Area Foundation, the Needmor Fund, and the Babcock Foundation. Stauber discusses the creation of the Danville Regional Foundation (DRF), a private foundation whose local history with the Dan River Miller Company created fractures in the community. Through his leadership, DRF centered the role of history within the community and ultimately founded History United, an organization that uses local history to encourage investment in the Dan River Region and to build a collaborative network of organizations and individuals seeking positive change. On July 2019, one year after this interview, Stauber stepped down as President and CEO of DRF.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-
BDA0010_01

[Walker, Darren \(Part 1\), 2017-04-26](#)

66.39 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 01:09:09; audio/mp3)

[Digital Content: Walker, Darren](#)

Notes: In this two-part interview, Darren Walker (b. 1959), President of the Ford Foundation, an international philanthropic organization, discusses his transition to the philanthropic world and the philosophies that shaped his understanding of policy and change. He talks about the controversial history of the foundation from Henry Ford's controversial racial views to the role of his son, Edsel Ford, in creating the Ford Foundation. Walker reflects on the complicated history between the foundation and the Ford family that ultimately led to a reconciliation during his tenure as President. He wraps up the interview by discussing the role of the Ford Foundation in helping the city of Detroit overcome their financial crisis of 2014 through a collective effort known as the Grand Bargain, involving philanthropists, government, and community leaders.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-
BDA0010_02

[Walker, Darren \(Part 2\), 2017-08-22](#)

26.28 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 0:27:22; audio/mp3)

[Digital Content: Walker, Darren](#)

Notes: In this two-part interview, Darren Walker (b. 1959), President of the Ford Foundation, an international philanthropic organization, discusses his transition to the philanthropic world and the philosophies that shaped his understanding of policy and change. He talks about the controversial history of the foundation from Henry Ford's controversial racial views to the role of his son, Edsel Ford, in creating the Ford

Foundation. Walker reflects on the complicated history between the foundation and the Ford family that ultimately led to a reconciliation during his tenure as President. He wraps up the interview by discussing the role of the Ford Foundation in helping the city of Detroit overcome their financial crisis of 2014 through a collective effort known as the Grand Bargain, involving philanthropists, government, and community leaders.

Item NMAH-
AC1582-BDA0011

[Wasserman, Steve, 2018-07-10](#)

54.39 Megabytes (Total Running Time: 0:56:39; audio/mp3)

Notes:

Steve Wasserman, a WGBH volunteer of over 50 years, discusses his various roles in helping Boston's Public Broadcasting Station organize and lead fundraisers, guided tours, events, and donations. Wasserman also shares his additional volunteer work with senior housing and Jewish religious communities in Boston.

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