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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
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Creator: Anacostia Museum. Exhibits Department
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Administrative Information

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Historical Note

The exhibits program of the museum began in December 1967 when the Director appointed Larry Erskine Thomas as Research and Design Coordinator. After the program was divided into the Exhibit Branch and the Anacostia Studies Branch in January 1969, the two branches together were designated the Research and Design Department, and Thomas became Supervisory Program Manager. In 1974 construction began on the Exhibits Design and Production Laboratory, also known as the Exhibits Center, and it was occupied by the Exhibit Branch in October of that year. At the same time, Charles W. Mickens took charge of the Exhibit Branch and the Laboratory as Exhibits Program Manager.

In 1975 the two branches of the Research and Design Department were administratively separated, and two new subdivisions of the Exhibit Branch were formed: Design and Installation, supervised by Larry Thomas, and Exhibit Production, managed by James E. Mayo. Mickens was made responsible to the Director for the entire branch, and under his supervision the Laboratory became fully operational in October 1975. By 1982, the branch was called the Exhibits Department. Mickens retired as Exhibits Program Manager in 1977, and the position was left vacant until the appointment of Victor Govier in 1979. After Govier’s departure in May 1984, the position remained vacant through 1987.

An Exhibits Training Program was implemented with a group of eleven students in September 1976. The program was originally intended to play a central role in the function of the Laboratory, with the goal of increasing the representation of minorities in the museum professions. After the training of the first class of students was completed, however, the program was discontinued in May 1978.

Charles W. Mickens managed the Exhibits Training Program as part of his duties until Ronald Wildy was hired as Training Coordinator in November 1976. Wildy resigned in January 1977, and James Mayo
supervised the program until John Bradshaw was hired as Training Officer in April of that year. Bradshaw remained in the position until the program was terminated.

Descriptive Entry

This record unit documents the administration of the Exhibits Design and Production Laboratory for approximately first ten years of operation, and describes the mission, philosophy, planning, and construction of the facility. The records contain planning materials for many of the museum's early exhibitions, which reflect the involvement of community organizations as well as museum professionals. The materials also document the Exhibits Training Program in some detail.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
African American museums
Historical museums

Names:
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. Anacostia Studies Branch
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. Exhibit Branch
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. Exhibits Department
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. Exhibits Design and Production Laboratory
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. Exhibits Training Program
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. Research and Design Department
Bradshaw, John
Govier, Victor
Mayo, James E.
Mickens, Charles W.
Thomas, Larry Erskine
Wildy, Ronald
Container Listing

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Administrative Files

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Box 1 of 14  Landscaping, 1974
Box 1 of 14  Kinard correspondence, 1975-1978
Box 1 of 14  Exhibits reports, 1976-1977
Box 1 of 14  SI Press, 1975
Box 1 of 14  Meeting minutes, 1975-1977
Box 1 of 14  Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (ANM) correspondence, 1975-1978
Box 1 of 14  Audit, 1977
Box 1 of 14  Building maintenance, 1978
Box 1 of 14  Budget, 1973-1977
Box 1 of 14  Project work orders
Box 1 of 14  Security, 1976-1978
Box 1 of 14  Photo requests, 1975-1978
Box 1 of 14  Read files, FY 1975, 1977, 1978

Box 2

Box 2 of 14  Correspondence, 1977-1980
Box 2 of 14  Hoffman, Elzie
Box 2 of 14  Tenth Anniversary Information on Anacostia Museum
Box 2 of 14  V. Grovier, correspondence (1982)
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Box 2 of 14  Herbert Ward Collection
Box 2 of 14  Kinard, correspondence (1980-1983)
Box 2 of 14  Budget Information: FY 1984
Box 2 of 14  Budget for FDR (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) Exhibition
Box 2 of 14  SI Annual Report (1982-1983)
Box 2 of 14  Anacostia Museum Mission Statements
Box 2 of 14  Anacostia Museum Policy and Procedures
Box 2 of 14  Anacostia Museum Schedule (1983-1984)
Box 2 of 14  Anacostia Museum - Memos, Announcements and Correspondence
Box 2 of 14  Archeological Investigation
Box 2 of 14  Afro-American Album, 1860-1960
Box 2 of 14  Administration: Audio Visual/Video Disc Information
Box 2 of 14  Administration: Study of School Age Deaf Visitors (March 1982)
Box 2 of 14  Memoranda, 1981-1983
Box 2 of 14  Correspondence, 1984

Box 3

Exhibits Department Subject Files

Box 3 of 14  Publications and announcements, 1968-1977
Box 3 of 14  Exhibits Department subject files, A-B

Box 4

Box 4 of 14  Exhibits Department subject files, C-S

Box 5

Box 5 of 14  Exhibits Department subject files, S-Z
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Box 5 of 14  "Blacks in the Westward Movement" educational book draft, 1975
Box 5 of 14  "Black Patriots" exhibit
Box 5 of 14  Exhibit bibliographies
Box 5 of 14  Brochure: Introduction to the Negro in America
Box 5 of 14  Contracts and bids
Box 5 of 14  Cosanti Foundation and Anacosanti
Box 5 of 14  "Crisis in the Nation: White Racism" - James Baldwin, 1968
Box 5 of 14  Consulting, 1970
Box 5 of 14  REDE contract
Box 5 of 14  Flag exhibit, 1976-1977
Box 5 of 14  Commission on the Arts - Guide, 1973
Box 5 of 14  Purchase orders pending, 1973
Box 5 of 14  Exhibit list, 1967-1970
Box 5 of 14  Supervisory staff meeting, 1975
Box 5 of 14  DCAA invitation mailers, 1974-1975
Box 5 of 14  Essence magazine
Box 5 of 14  D.C. Commission of the Arts and Humanities
Box 5 of 14  Lobby shows
Box 5 of 14  D.C. public schools
Box 5 of 14  Local artists' correspondence, 1971-1974
Box 5 of 14  Grants seminar
Box 5 of 14  "Blacks in the Westward Movement" - SITES (Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service)
Box 5 of 14  Charles A. Bowles, local artist, 1974
Box 5 of 14  Consumer exhibit, 1973
Box 5 of 14  Places to Go
Box 5 of 14  Bara photographers
Box 5 of 14  Ontario Science Center
Box 5 of 14  Northeastern University
Box 5 of 14  Bicentennial 1976 - General information
Box 5 of 14  Systems buildings
Box 5 of 14  Communications courses
Box 5 of 14  WTI registration forms
Box 5 of 14  Consumer survey/invoices
Box 5 of 14  Day care center - Meeting/exhibits

Box 6
Box 6 of 14  Exhibits Department subject files, A-S
Box 6 of 14  "Blacks in the Westward Movement" exhibit
Box 6 of 14  Supplies and materials, 1975-1976
Box 6 of 14  ABC exhibit
Box 6 of 14  NCA, 1975-1976
Box 6 of 14  "Douglass Years" supplies
Box 6 of 14  BIWM exhibit purchases
Box 6 of 14  SI Press schedule, 1975-1976
Box 6 of 14  "Douglass Years" missing graphics
Box 6 of 14  "Douglass Years" contracts
Box 6 of 14  "The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction" exhibit

Digital Content: Visitors at the "The Rat: Man's Invited Affliction" exhibit at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. The exhibit was on display from November 16, 1969 to January 31, 1970. [Image number 2004-63044]

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Box 6 of 14  Martin Library King Library exhibit hall plan
Box 6 of 14  "Anacostia Story" artifacts
Box 6 of 14  AFRAM Exposition, 1977
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Box 7 of 14  Research schedule, 1975-1976
Box 7 of 14  ANM exhibits schedule, FY 1975-FY 1976
Box 7 of 14  Man hour report, 1974
Box 7 of 14  Budget, FY 1974
Box 7 of 14  Byron D. Rushing paper, 1973
Box 7 of 14  Dunlop receipts, 1976
Box 7 of 14  Exhibits schedule, 1975-1976
Box 7 of 14  Exhibits projects
Box 7 of 14  "John Robinson" exhibit, 1976
Box 7 of 14  "Barnett-Aden" mailing list
Box 7 of 14  "Barnett-Aden" correspondence
Box 7 of 14  "Hey, Look at Me"
Box 7 of 14  Afro-American Culture Foundation
Box 7 of 14  Expo 1974
Box 7 of 14  Exhibit cab. training projects
Box 7 of 14  Artifacts - "Blacks in West...", 1975
Box 7 of 14  BIWM panels corrected, 1975
Box 7 of 14  BIWM page layout
Box 7 of 14  Supervisory staff meeting minutes, 1975
Box 7 of 14  Distribution list - SI
Box 7 of 14  "Black Inventors" exhibit, J. Daniels memo, 1975
Box 7 of 14  BIWM exhibit contract - Showtell, 1975
Box 7 of 14  Addressograph multigraph, 1976
Box 7 of 14  "Eastbank Artist" letter - Early form
Box 7 of 14  Institute on (Harpers Ferry) Environmental Interpretation
Box 7 of 14  Migration/slide show - B. Fellows
Box 7 of 14  Candlemaking
Box 7 of 14  Projects pending
Box 7 of 14  "East Bank Artist" insurance, 1975
Box 7 of 14  "East Bank Artist"
Box 7 of 14  UNESCO conference, Atlanta, 1971
Box 7 of 14  Travel, 1968
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Box 7 of 14  HUD (Housing and Urban Development) contract - Mrs. Fellows
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Box 7 of 14  Information and description forms for paintings
Box 7 of 14  Price list - Photo work
Box 7 of 14  Supply requisitions, 1972

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Box 8 of 14  Exhibits Department subject files, F-Z, 1968-1973
Box 8 of 14  D.C. Art Association annual art exhibit, 1971, 1974
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Box 10 of 14  Exhibits Department subject files, A-C, N-Z, 1967-1973

Box 11

Box 11 of 14  Exhibits Department subject files, A-W, 1967-1974

Box 12

Box 12 of 14  Miscellaneous art subjects, A-Z, 1968-1971

Box 13

Exhibits Training Program

Box 13 of 14  Curriculum suggestions
Box 13 of 14  Training and curriculum writing
Box 13 of 14  ANM Training Advisory Board
Box 13 of 14  Afro-American Museums Association, correspondence
Box 13 of 14  American University
Box 13 of 14  Briefing memorandum
Box 13 of 14  Center for Inquiry and Discovery/Capital Children's Museum
Box 13 of 14  CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act)
Box 13 of 14  Civil Service
Box 13 of 14  Cross-training
Box 13 of 14  Correspondence (arranged alphabetically)
Box 13 of 14  Exhibits Design and Production Apprenticeship Training Program Curriculum
Box 13 of 14  Photo/AV curriculum
Box 13 of 14  Graphics/Design curriculum
Box 13 of 14  Exhibit Production curriculum
Box 13 of 14  Paper Mounting curriculum
Box 13 of 14  Plastics curriculum
Box 13 of 14  Silkscreening curriculum
Box 13 of 14  Textiles curriculum
Box 13 of 14  External evaluation proposals and report
Box 13 of 14  Ford Foundation

Box 14
Box 14 of 14  Annual Ford report
Box 14 of 14  Ford Foundation budget proposal
Box 14 of 14  Funding and grants - General
Box 14 of 14  George Washington University
Box 14 of 14  HEW (Department of Health, Education, and Welfare)
Box 14 of 14  Department of Labor
Box 14 of 14  Survey for positions
Box 14 of 14  Mobil Oil
Box 14 of 14  Training program monthly reports
Box 14 of 14  National Children's Island
Box 14 of 14  Museum training programs
Box 14 of 14  OIC (Opportunity Industrialization Center)
Box 14 of 14  Pacific Consultants
Box 14 of 14  Philosophy of Program
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Box 14 of 14  Schedule
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Box 14 of 14 WMAL Radio
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Box 14 of 14 Workshops and tours
Box 14 of 14 Training program read files: October 1976 - September 1978