

Dayton City Beautiful Papers

MS – 195

Wright State University
Department of Special Collections and Archives

Processed by:
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Introduction

The Dayton City Beautiful Collection was accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in January of 1990. They were donated by Suzanne D. Mitolo, who was then Director of the Miami Valley Arts Council.

The papers in the collection date from 1965-1987 and fill 3 Hollinger boxes and 30 file folders.

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Biographical History

The Dayton City Beautiful Council was organized in 1965 to serve as a volunteer adjunct to Dayton city government. The Council was to consist of 35-44 members who would be organized as general body electing an executive committee and president. The Council was intended to assist in making Dayton a more livable and attractive community.

At first, the organization worked on a part-time basis, directing their efforts toward city-block beautification clubs and small neighborhood projects. In 1970, Sam Francis was hired as a full-time professional administrator. From this period onward, the council tended to confine local beautification projects to quarterly recognition awards. The bulk of the work done by the council now consisted of citywide projects designed to attract regional and national attention. The creation of the annual Riverfest celebrations and large public gardening programs are typical of the work undertaken by Francis and his successor Paul Wick.

By the early 1980's, the Council's active body of participants was diminishing, and the staff's major emphasis was on bringing professional outdoor sculptors to Dayton, Ohio for short-term CETA programs. By 1985, meetings were seldom held and less frequently attended.

Scope and Content

The collection is arranged into two chronological series. One series consists of staff, executive board and general membership meeting minutes, as well as selected committee meeting minutes. The second series consists of correspondence and briefs generated by the council. The minutes refer to such topics as waste recycling, urban renewal and community programming for the Greater Dayton area. Much of the correspondence contained in this collection was written by Paul Wick, Sam Francis, or Suzanne Domine Mitolo, all three of whom served as professional directors for the council. Other correspondents include Woodrow Stroud and Arnold J. Igleberger, both presidents of the Council.

Container Listing

Series I: Minutes and Reports

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Minutes, Executive Board, Committee, and General Membership meetings	1965-1967
	2	“”	1968
	3	“”	1969
	4	“”	1970-1971
	5	“”	1972-1973
	6	“”	1974
	7	“”	1975
	8	“”	1976
	9	“”	1977
	10	“”	1978
	11	“”	1979
	12	“”	1980
	13	“”	1985-1987
	14	Proposals, NEA Grants	1977-1987

Series II: Correspondence

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	Proposals, NEA Grants	1968-1969
	2	Proposals, NEA Grants	1972-1973
	3	Proposals, NEA Grants	Jan.-Aug. 1974
	4	Proposals, NEA Grants	Sept.-Dec. 1974
	5	Proposals, NEA Grants	Jan.-May 1975
	6	Proposals, NEA Grants	Jun.-Dec. 1975
	7	Proposals, NEA Grants	Jan.-Jun. 1976
	8	Proposals, NEA Grants	Jul.-Dec. 1976
	9	Proposals, NEA Grants	Jan.-May 1977
	10	Proposals, NEA Grants	Jun.-Dec. 1977
	11	Proposals, NEA Grants	Jan.-May 1978
3	1	Proposals, NEA Grants	May-Dec. 1978
	2	Proposals, NEA Grants	1979
	3	Proposals, NEA Grants	1980
	4	Proposals, NEA Grants	1981-1983
	5	Dayton City Beautiful Artist's – Last known Address	2004