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Guide to the Urban League of Portland Records, 1945-2008

Title

Urban League of Portland Records (MSS UrbanLeague)

Dates

1945-2008 (inclusive)

1965-2001 (bulk)

Creator

Urban League of Portland (Portland, Or.)

Summary

The Urban League of Portland Records document the administration and programs of the League from its founding in Portland, Oregon, in 1945. The Records include correspondence, reports and publications, meeting minutes, financial records, and clippings as well as scrapbooks, photographs, videotapes, and sound recordings.

Quantity

14.35 cubic feet, including 2450 photographs and 140 videotapes (19 boxes, including 2 oversize boxes)

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives

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Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2008.

Historical Note

The Urban League of Portland was established in 1945 as an affiliate of the National Urban League. It is a non-profit, community-based organization whose mission has been to "enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity and power, and civil rights". The League has emphasized educational opportunity for African Americans and other youth, advocated for fair housing laws, and offered employment assistance.

Content Description

The Urban League of Portland Records consist of records generated by the League and its board, officers, and staff. The records include constitutions and bylaws, correspondence, financial statements, flyers, meeting minutes, newsletters, newspaper clippings, photograph albums, photographs, posters, reports, resolutions, scrapbooks, sound recordings, surveys, videotapes, and a building plaque. The records document the administration of the organization and reflect the League's outreach to the community through various programs and activities, fundraising, interaction with the National Urban League, and African American life in Portland. The reports include annual and presidential reports; histories of the League; and reports on race relations in Portland, African American children in Portland, and Northeast Portland neighborhood revitalization. The publications include League newsletters, brochures, and reports on various topics from the National Urban League office and branches in other cities.

The photographs include prints, negatives, slides, and digital photographs on CDs and diskettes. The images, which date from the 1940s to 2005, depict League meetings, League representatives meeting with Oregon politicians, community events, League directors and board members, and League staff at National Urban League conferences. The images also document League outreach events such as job fairs, activities at the Multicultural Senior Center, programs at Okley Green Middle School, and field trips for students to Willamette University and other locations. Many of the photographs are arranged chronologically.

The videotapes and sound recordings (25 cassettes) primarily document League events such as conference presentations, annual dinners, workshops, and award ceremonies in the 1990s, with a few recordings made in the 1980s. The sound recordings also include public service announcements and broadcasts of radio programs.

Preferred Citation

Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Acquisition Information

The records were donated to the Archives in 2007 and 2008 on behalf of the Urban League of Portland by Marcus Mundy, the League President and CEO.

Processing Note

This collection is not fully processed; this guide is preliminary.

Additional Reference Guides

[Preliminary container list](#) available online.

Related Material

This collection is a component of the [Oregon Multicultural Archives](#). Selected images are available online in the [Oregon Multicultural Archives Digital Collection](#).

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

Organizations

Portland Public Schools (Or.)

Topics

African Americans--Oregon--Portland.

Older people--Services for--Oregon--Portland.

Geographical Names

Portland (Or.)--Race relations.

Forms of Materials in the Collection

Film negatives.

Photograph albums.

Photographic prints.

Scrapbooks.

Slides.

Sound recordings.

Videotapes.

Other Creators

National Urban League.