



ArchivesSpace

Guide to the Detroit Commission on Community Relations (DCCR) / Human Rights Department Photographs and Other Material UAV000267

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 09, 2017.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <http://reuther.wayne.edu>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
History	3
Scope and Content	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Detroit. Commission on Community Relations
Title:	Detroit Commission on Community Relations (DCCR) / Human Rights Department Photographs and Other Material
ID:	UAV000267
Date [inclusive]:	1948-1979
Physical Description:	1.25 Linear Feet (1 MB, 1 OS), 4 sleeves. B&W photographic prints, B&W 120 and 4x5 film negatives, ephemera.
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	The Commission on Community Relations evolved from the City of Detroit Mayor's Interracial Committee in 1953 and was renamed in 1974 as the Human Rights Department. All three iterations served a common purpose: to make recommendations to improve governmental services affecting racial relations, and to promote understanding between the races. Collection consists of photographs documenting its efforts to overcome racial discrimination and improve race relations in the Detroit metropolitan area and ephemera related to the "March to Freedom" civil rights demonstration held in Detroit on June 23, 1963.

Citation Style

"Detroit Commission on Community Relations (DCCR) / Human Rights Department Photographs and Other Material, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

History

The City of Detroit Commission on Community Relations evolved from the City of Detroit Mayor's Interracial Committee. The Interracial Committee was instituted by Mayor Edward Jeffries late in 1943

as a response to the Detroit race riot of June, 1943. The Committee was composed of the heads of six city departments and five lay members. The direct successor to the Committee was the Commission on Community Relations, which was established by Detroit Common Council ordinance in 1953. The Commission was composed of seven department heads and eight lay members until 1961, when Common Council modified the Commission so that it became composed entirely of private citizens.

The Commission on Community Relations, like the earlier Interracial Committee, was charged with the responsibility to make recommendations designed to improve governmental services which affect racial relationships; to investigate and seek to correct situations of discrimination and racial tension; and to cooperate in informational programs designed to increase mutual understanding within the community.

The Coordinating Council on Human Relations was established in 1947 to increase cooperation among civic groups. Its functions are to develop programs of education and research and to help coordinate the human relations activities of member agencies. The Coordinating Council is composed of community agencies that have been invited to become members by the Commission on Community Relations upon recommendation of the Coordinating Council. The Council operates through an executive board of twenty members elected by the official delegates of member agencies. Standing committees deal with programs, membership, community forums, public relations and research. Executive services are provided to the Coordinating Council by the staff of the Commission on Community Relations. With the enactment of a new city charter in 1974, the Commission changed its name to the Human Rights Department, but continued to serve as the city's civil rights agency, investigating complaints of discrimination and initiating programs to relieve racial tensions.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

Collection consists of photographs documenting its efforts to overcome racial discrimination and improve race relations in the Detroit metropolitan area and ephemera related to the "March to Freedom" civil rights demonstration held in Detroit on June 23, 1963.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Arranged by format. Folders of photographic prints are arranged alphabetically by subject.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <http://reuther.wayne.edu>

Revision Description

Arrangement revised per preservation procedures. Finding aid updated to reflect changes and new abstract edited by Deborah Rice. 2017-01-18

Acquisition

The records of the Detroit Commission on Community Relations were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs between 1967 and 1970 by Richard Marks and were opened for research in 1971.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Elizabeth Clemens on July 2011.

Access

Collection is open for research. Patrons must make an appointment with the AV Department prior to visiting.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." For image reproduction, contact the AV Department.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Detroit Commission on Community Relations (DCCR) / Human Rights Department Records

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Civil rights
- Detroit (Mich.)
- Community life
- Housing
- Human rights
- Race relations
- Photographs
- Posters
- Cavanagh, Jerome P.
- Williams, G. Mennen, 1911-1988

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Children -- African American	Box 1	Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Seven black and white, 8 x 10 photographic prints. Images show African American children involved in various activities, circa 1950s. Includes: children playing in front of their homes; a small boy playing in a push car; children playing in the dirt in front of their home on Warren Avenue; a child with a bike and a young child sleeping on a stoop; children playing with a soap boy derby type car; children playing in front of older homes, possibly on the East Side of Detroit. Images contain good representations of housing stock available to African Americans in Detroit in the 1950s before integration.

Detroit Commission on Community Relations -- Rumor Control	Box 1	Folder 2
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Four black and white, 8 x 10 photographs. Images show DCCR staff members at work in the Rumor Control Center performing various tasks including answering phone calls, writing on a chalk board, and working with a map of Detroit, circa 1960s.

Detroit Commission on Community Relations -- Staff

Box 1

Folder 3

Scope and Contents

Two black and white, 8x 10 photographs and one black and white proof sheet. Group shots of unidentified DCCR staff members. Undated.

Detroit Commission on Community Relations -- Women's Committee/Department

Box 1

Folder 4

Scope and Contents

Three black and white, 8 x 10 photographic prints. Images show members of the DCCR Women's Committee/ Department, circa 1970s. One group shot, one unidentified portrait. One image that shows Malcolm G. Dade, Jr., executive assistant to Mayor Coleman A. Young, presents the International Women's Year Proclamation to members of the Women's Committee of the Human Rights Department. From left to right: Attorney Anna Diggs, Joan Israel, Carol Park, Dade, Joyce Colby, Maria Pitcole, Chairman Lillian Hatcher, Harriet Alpern, Attorney Debra Cohn, Claudette Hill and Lillian Goodwin, Detroit, Michigan, 1975.

Education

Box 1

Folder 5

Scope and Contents

Thirteen black and white photographic prints. Images show various instructional sessions including: classroom scenes in Detroit Public Schools, , circa 1960s including Morely Elementary; the "Negro in Literature and Art" lecture sponsored by the Negro in America Institute, May 15, 1967; and the "Post Civil War and the Politics of Freedom" lecture sponsored by the Negro in America Institute and held at the Detroit Repertory Theatre May 8, 1967.

Employment -- Integration

Box 1

Folder 6

Scope and Contents

Twelve 8x10, black and white photographic prints. Images show integrated workplaces, circa 1950s – 1960s. Includes: women working at Michigan Bell Telephone Co., men leaving an unidentified factory, men working at a Ford Motor

Company plant, men moving sod; student nurses form the Detroit Board of Education Practical Nursing Program.

Housing -- African Americans	Box 1	Folder 7
------------------------------	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Eleven black and white, 8x10 photographic prints. Images show neighborhoods in Detroit where African Americans lived, Circa 1950s. Includes areas that appear to be Black Bottom, the intersection near Warren and Grand Boulevard on the East Side, quonset huts in Royal Oak Township near 8 mile Road and Wyoming, neighborhoods in Southwest Detroit, and turn-of-the-century homes in various states of disrepair.

Housing -- Integration	Box 1	Folder 8
------------------------	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Four black and white, 8x10 photographic prints, two proof sheets, three 4x5 black and white negatives, twelve 120mm black and white negatives. Images show a street view of the Conant Garden subdivision, neighbors chatting over a fence in the Herrington Hills Subdivision in Pontiac, and an unidentified neighborhood in Northwest Detroit, undated.

Human Rights Department	Box 1	Folder 9
-------------------------	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Two black and white, 8x10 photographic prints.

Human Rights Department -- Activities	Box 1	Folder 10
---------------------------------------	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents

One black and white, 8x10 photographic print. Image shows City Councilwoman Maryann Mahaffey, Detroit Deputy Mayor William Beckham, Mrs. Bea Rowe and Lorenzo Blount holding signs for the 26th annual Human Rights Observance, held December 10, 1974 at the Wayne State University Community Arts Building.

Human Rights Department -- Officials	Box 1	Folder 11
--------------------------------------	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents

Three black and white, 8 x 10 photographic prints and two proof sheets. Images show: James Bradley, City Clerk, swearing in Rev. Wadsworth and as Director of Human Rights and Thomas Hinsberg as Deputy Director of Human Rights, 1974; Mayor Jerry Cavanagh presiding over the swearing in of new commissioners of the DCCR Human Rights Commission

including Mrs. Frank Zarate and Dennis L. Gibson, Jr., March 1969.

Institute on Police - Community Relations

Box 1

Folder 12

Scope and Contents

Two black and white, 8 x 10 photographic prints. Images taken during the Seventh Annual Institute on Police - Community Relations, held at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, May 21-26, 1961.

Lewis, Denise

Box 1

Folder 13

Scope and Contents

One black and white, 5x7 photographic print. Portrait of Denise Lewis, Executive Director of the DCCR.

National Association of Intergroup Relation Officials (NAIRO)

Box 1

Folder 14

Scope and Contents

13 black and white, 8 x 10 photographic prints. Images taken during the NAIRO Convention at the Statler Hotel, November 14-16, 1951, Detroit, Michigan. Includes candid shots.

Nursing Incentives for Minority Youth

Box 1

Folder 15

Scope and Contents

Two black and white photographic prints. One 8x10 and one 5x7. Head shots of participants in the 1958 Nursing Incentives for Minority Youth Conference including Dr. Mary Mullane and Mrs. Estelle Osborne, Assistant Director of the National League for Nursing.

Police Department -- Integration

Box 1

Folder 16

Scope and Contents

Sixteen black and white, 8x10 photographic prints. Images show African American officers of the Detroit Police Department of various ranks performing a variety of tasks. Several photographs are identified as being taken at the 10th Precinct. Photographs are mostly unidentified and were taken in 1964 and 1965.

Racial Integration

Box 1

Folder 17

Scope and Contents

Three black and white photographs and one black and white proof sheet. Undated images show African American and white families in social situations including eating dinner

in a kitchen, drinking coffee in a living room, and playing horseshoes in a backyard.

Racial Integration -- Children

Box 1

Folder 18

Scope and Contents

Thirteen black and white photographic prints. Images show children of different races interacting with in different social situations, circa 1950s - 1960s, including: children playing baseball; children playing on playgrounds; children walking to school; children participating in Boy Scout activities; children getting inoculated against infectious diseases; children playing in front yards; children eating meals; children canoeing on Belle Isle. All images taken in Detroit, Michigan.

Rodgers, Curtis

Box 1

Folder 19

Scope and Contents

Two black and white, 5 x 7 photographic prints. Head shots of Curtis Rodgers, Executive Secretary-Director of the DCCR (1969-1971).

Woolworth's Boycott

Box 1

Folder 20

Scope and Contents

One black and white photographic print. Image shows pickets at the Woodward Avenue F.W. Woolworth store in the spring of 1960, Detroit, Michigan. Pickets were established in an effort to force the company to allow integrated lunch counters.

Unidentified Photographs

Box 1

Folder 21

Scope and Contents

Eighteen black and white photographic prints. Images show members of the DCCR in various social situations, Circa 1948 – 1960s. Includes: outdoor meetings; recreational events; group shots from the ADA Conference of 1948; G. Mennen Williams with a group of unidentified men; images from the "Brotherhood" promotion; men accepting scholarships from the Round Table for Police ---; an interview at Detroit Radio Station WDET.

11x14 paperboard poster. "Walk to Freedom" 1963.

Box 2

Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Informational poster for the "Walk to Freedom" civil rights demonstration, scheduled to occur on June 23, 1963 with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and 100,000 civil rights activists in attendance. Also gives dates and locations for "weekly rallies" leading up to the main event on the 23rd at the Bethel AME Church on June 14, 1963 and the People's Community Church

on June 21, 1963. The events were sponsored by the Detroit Council for Human Rights.

11.5 x 3 printed bumper sticker. "Join Freedom March June 23". Printed colors are Red, white and blue. 1963.	Box 2	Folder 2
11.5 x 3 printed bumper sticker. Cotillion Club Salutes March For Freedom June 23. Printed colors are bright orange, black and red. 1963.	Box 2	Folder 3
