

THE DETROIT FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS COLLECTION

Papers, 1938-1964

(Predominantly, 1951-1957)

1.5 linear feet

Accession Number 1037

L.C. Number

The papers of the Detroit Federation of Community Councils were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in March and April of 1981 by Merle Kerr, former Federation Chairman and opened for research in May of 1983.

The Federation was founded in 1935 to coordinate the work of individual neighborhood councils and to maintain a relationship between itself and the central agency for health and welfare planning for the city of Detroit at that time, the Council for Social Agencies. The purpose of the Federation is to stimulate and provide an opportunity for active citizen participation in decision-making and action on matters which affect the general community. Initially the Federation consisted of 13 member councils spanning the metropolitan Detroit area, but over the years it expanded to include several smaller branch councils as well.

The collection reflects not only the efforts and activities of the various community councils but also from a broader perspective, the social history of Detroit.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Relations with minority  
and ethnic groups

Relations with  
women's groups

Among the important correspondents are:

Merle Kerr    Jewell Mansfield

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 6

Contents

3 manuscript boxes

Series I, Federation of Community Councils, General Files and Correspondence, 1938-1964; Boxes 1-3:  
Reports, leaflets and correspondence on the daily functioning and objectives of the Federation of Community Councils.

Series II, Federation of Community Councils, Meeting Minutes, 1953-1962; Box 3:  
General meeting minutes of the Federation and the Federation's Executive Committee.

Series III, Neighborhood Community Councils, Meeting Minutes, 1948, 1951-57, 1963;  
Box 3:  
Meeting minutes of individual Federation members, notably the Midtown Council.

Non-manuscript material

Two photographs of Federation members were removed from the collection and turned over to the Audio-Visual Department of the Archives.

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Series I

Federation of Community Councils, General Files & Correspondence 1938-1964

Boxes 1-3

Reports, leaflets and correspondence relating to the daily functioning and objectives of the Federation of Community Councils. The bulk of the material covers the period of 1951-1957. Included with the papers of the Federation are materials dealing with individual neighborhood organizations such as the Corktown, Midtown and Northwest Councils. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or name.

Box 1

1. Annual Report; Federation of Community Councils, 1953-55, 1957
2. By-Laws; Federation of Community Councils,(n. d.)
- 3-5. Clippings; re: neighborhood community councils, 1949-57
6. Community Councils conference, Ann Arbor, 1955
7. Community Councils manual, Dec 1953
- 8-9. Community Councils; research and statistical information, 1938, 1942, 1947-56
10. Corktown Council; files and reports, 1940, 1945, 1948-55
- 11-14. Detroit Communities in Council Action; a study by Muriel R. Andrews, 1956-57
15. Fall Planning Conference, 1954-55

Box 2

- 1-9. Federation of Community Councils; general files and correspondence, 1945-63
10. Midtown Community Council; files and reports, 1950-51

Box 3

- 1-2. Midtown Community Council; files and reports, 1952-56
3. ; projects, 1947-50, 1958, 1964
4. Northwest Community Council; files and reports, 1944, 1951-53

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Series II

Federation of Community Councils, Meeting Minutes, 1953-1962

Box 3

Included with the general meeting minutes are the minutes of the Federation's Executive Committee. Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 3

5-6. Meeting minutes, 1953-62

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Series III

Neighborhood Community Councils, Meeting Minutes, 1948 - 1963

Box 3

Meeting minutes of the individual community councils comprising the Federation. Included is a substantial amount of material from the Midtown Council. Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 3

7-9. Meeting minutes, 1948, 1950-57, 1963

Index to Subjects and Correspondence

(correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

\*Kerr, Merle, 2:3-7  
Labor: UAW-CIO, 3:1  
\*Mansfield, Jewell, 2:2  
Minority and Ethnic Groups:  
    Anti-Defamation League of  
    B'nai B'rith, 2:8;  
    B'nai B'rith Youth Orga-  
    nization, 2:4;  
    City of Detroit-Mayor's  
    Interracial Committee, 3:3;  
    Detroit Urban League, 2:7  
    Jewish Community Center, 3:1;  
    Jewish Community Council of Detroit,3:3;  
    Mexican Society for Help and Progress,  
    1:10;  
    National Conference of Christians and  
    Jews, 2:7, 3:1  
Women: Girl Scouts, 2:7;  
    League of Catholic Women, 2:8  
    Young Women's Christian Association,3:2