

Papers, 1969-1976

(Predominantly 1970-1972)

6 Linear Feet

Accession Number 1107

L.C. Number MS

The papers of the Detroit Economic Development Corporation were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in February of 1983, and were opened for research in June of 1989.

The Detroit Economic Development Corporation (DEDC) had its roots in the Downtown Stadium Working Group (DSWG), an organization started by the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce in October, 1969, to begin the planning for a downtown stadium. The DSWG was funded by promissory notes issued to Detroit area businesses and corporations.

In the late 1960's a consensus emerged among Democrats and Republicans, city and outstate interests, business and labor that downtown Detroit needed a stadium to house the Detroit Tigers baseball team and the Detroit Lions football team, to revitalize a decaying area of the city.

Michigan state senator Sander Levin, a democrat, proposed such an idea to both John Fetzer, owner of the Detroit Tigers, and William Clay Ford, owner of the Detroit Lions. The Chamber of Commerce appointed a number of prominent civic and business leaders to the newly formed DSWG. Robert Sweany was named executive director.

In July, 1970, with backing from republican governor William Milliken, the Michigan State Legislature created the Wayne County Stadium Authority (WCSA). Michael O. B. Cherry, a Detroit banker who had served as advisor to the DSWG, was named executive director.

the WCSA began negotiations for land on a riverfront site, entered into negotiations with Fetzer, Ford and Bruce Norris, owner of the Detroit Red Wings, hockey team, and began to raise the \$126 million needed, in bonds, to be repaid over forty years, to finance the stadium.

It had the help of a number of private groups, including the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Renaissance, and the Stadium Center Development Corporation.

In 1972, two different groups, claiming to represent area taxpayers and municipalities, challenged the legality of the bond issue in court. One group lost in Federal Court, but the other prevailed before the Michigan State Supreme Court in June, 1972.

The court ruled against the WCSA on a technicality. Over the next two years WCSA sought alternatives to overcome court objections in order to build a riverfront stadium.

But time, money and Pontiac, Michigan finally caught up with the WCSA. The devastating inflation of the early 1970s eventually made the cost of a large stadium prohibitive. City fathers in Pontiac, a small city north of Detroit,

convinced Ford, who was always skeptical about a downtown stadium site, to move the Lions to their 80,000-seat domed stadium that opened in the fall, 1975.

Ultimately, the Tigers worked out an agreement with Detroit that led to the refurbishing of an aging Tiger Stadium. Some of the riverfront land set aside for the stadium was used by Max Fisher to build luxury high-rise apartments. The remainder of the land was used to build Joe Louis Arena, a 20,000-seat, all-purpose facility that is now home to the Red Wings, rock concerts, circuses and conventions, including the 1980 Republican Convention.

The Detroit Economic Development Corporation records reflect the planning and negotiations for a downtown Detroit stadium from 1969 to 1973 and the legal entanglements which eventually led to the demise of the project.

Some important subjects in the collection are:

Architectural Studies and Proposals Bond
Sales Land Purchases Legal Battles
Tenant Negotiations

Among the important correspondents are:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Adams, Thomas | Oszustowicz, Richard |
| Ashcraft, Thomas | Parson, Don |
| Bohn, Daniel | Pelham, Alfred |
| Bursley, Gilbert | Saunders, Nelis |
| Cherry, Michael | Sweaney, Robert |
| Fetzer, John | |
| Fisher, Max | |
| Gehrke, Hans | |
| Gribbs, Roman | |
| Levin, Sander | |
| McCabe, Robert | |
| Martin, G. Merritt | |
| Milliken, William | |
| Norris, Bruce | |

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on page 9

Contents

12 manuscript boxes

Series I, Downtown Stadium Working Group (DSWG), 1969-1971, Boxes 1-2:

Correspondence, minutes and charts, budgets, land studies, notes, of the DSWG. The selection of architects and engineers for the project is begun in this series. Arranged alphabetically.

Series II, Stadium Planning, 1970-1974, Boxes 2-7:

Correspondence, minutes and charts, budgets, the change of group from DSWG to the Wayne County Stadium Authority (WCSA) are covered in this series. Ways of financing the stadium are covered, also information regarding potential tenants, plans and proposals by architects, contracts and agreements. Arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Series III, Funding the Riverfront Stadium, 1970-1974, Boxes 8-10: This series covers the crucial funding of the new stadium with promissory notes and bond sales. Also included is proposed legislation for a Hotel/Motel Tax as a possible source of revenue. The change from the Wayne County Stadium Authority to the Stadium Center Development Corporation (SCDC) is covered in this section. Arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Series IV, Lawsuits and Afterward, 1972-1976, Boxes 11-12:

The lawsuits Alan vs. WCSA and Havstad vs. WCSA, from beginning to end are covered. There is correspondence from the attorneys and various principals involved, clippings and legal documents. The final correspondence is from the SCDC to its financial backers, informing them of the demise of the projected stadium and the end of their financial commitment. Arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Non-manuscript Material:

Several photos relating to the architects' renderings of the Riverfront Stadium, the principals, Pontiac Stadium Site, downtown Detroit and its riverfront. Also included are schematic drawings, and an editorial cartoon. These have been placed in the Archives Audio Visual Collection.

Series I

Downtown Stadium Working Group, 1969-71

Boxes 1-2

General correspondence, minuets and charts, budgets, expense accounts, land studies, organizational notes and correspondence between principals and political leaders. The selection of architects and engineers to design and build the stadium is begun in this series. Arranged alphabetically.

Box 1

1. Additional Revenue Sources, Apr 1970
2. Architects' Bids and Selection; memos, May 1970
3. Bills; invoices; expense - statements; budgets, Mar-Nov 1970
4. Biographies of Principals, ca. 1970
5. Budgets, Apr-Dec 1970
6. Cancelled Promissory Notes, Mar 1971
7. Cherry, Michael, correspondence, Dec 1969-Jan 1970
8. " " , Feb-Mar 1970
9. " " , Apr-Sep 1970
10. Chesapeake & Ohio R.R. Land; corres. & agreements, May 1970-Aug 1971
11. Clippings, Aug 1970-Mar 1972
12. DSWG Special Report
13. Domed Stadium Report, Mar 1970
14. Downtown Stadium Study, Jul 1970
15. Executive Committee correspondence, Jun 1970
16. Final Dome Stadium Study, Jan 1971
17. Financial Committee Meeting, Mar 1970
18. " " , Apr-Dec 1970

Box 2

1. Financial Committee Report to Tom Adams, Feb 1970
2. " " Roman Gribbs, Feb 1970
3. Formation & History; memos, Oct 1969-Aug 1971
4. General correspondence; memos, Dec 1969-Jan 1970
5. " " , Apr-Sep 1970
6. Inital Meetings; Fin. reports; corres.; memos, Dec 1969-Jan 1970
7. Land Use; Parking & Traffic; reports & studies, Mar-May 1970
8. " " , Jan-Jul 1970
9. Land Use; Parking Studies; corres. , Aug 1970-Mar 1972
10. " " , Jun 1971-Apr 1972

Series II
Stadium Planning, 1970-1974
Boxes 2-7

General correspondence, minutes and charts, budgets, expense accounts and correspondence between members of the Wayne County Stadium Authority (WCSA) and potential tenants. This series includes formal presentations by potential architects, contracts and agreements, employment policies, various plans for financing the Riverfront Stadium, insurance coverage, selection of the architects and engineers, land purchases and information relating to other stadia across the country. There are surveys, charts, plans, an Economics Impact Summary, cost analyses and clippings in this series as well as correspondence relating to the negotiations with the Detroit Tigers baseball team, the Detroit Lions football team, and the Detroit Red Wings hockey team. Arrange alphabetically and chronologically.

Box 2 cont'd

11. Accountant's File, Mar 1971-Jan 1972
12. Accounts Payable, Sep 1971-Jan 1973

Box 2 cont'd

13. Architect/Engineer Selection, May-Jun 1971
14. Architect Presentation Schedule, Dec 1970-Jan 1971
15. Architects and WCSA Agreements, Mar 1971 and Jun 1971
16. " " , May-Aug 1971
17. Architects' Presentation of Plan, Vol. I; corres.; Mar 1971

Box 3

1. Architectural Presentations; corres., Sep-Dec 1970
2. " " ; memos, Dec 1970-Jan 1971
3. " " , Dec 1970-Jan 1971
4. Architect Selection and Rating; corres.; lists; charts, Mar 1971
- 5-8. Architectural Proposal, Nov 1970

Box 4

1. Architectural Proposal, Dec 1970
2. Articles of Incorporation, B&S Land Co.; mtg. minutes; by-laws
3. Bank Deposits, Jan 1971-Dec 1972
4. Bills; invoices, Mar-Nov 1971
5. " " ; expenses, corres.; lists; charts, Mar-Dec 1972
6. Budgets; corres.; memos, 1971-Dec 1975
7. Cash Disbursement, Mar 1971-Aug 1972
8. Cherry, Michael, expense account, Apr 1971-Mar 1972
9. Cohen, Burrell, Stadium Consultant; corres., Dec-Apr 1972
10. Computer Program, Mar-May 1971
11. Detroit Lions information; corres.; memos, Mar 1970-Oct 1972
12. Detroit News Property; corres.; option; memos, Jan-Apr 1972
13. Detroit Red Wings; corres.; memos; study, Jul 1971-Feb 1972
14. " " , Feb-May 1972
15. Detroit Tigers corres.; memos, Feb 1970-Jul 1972
16. " " legal documents; corres.; memos, Feb-May 1972
17. " " negotiations, corres.; plans
18. " " & WCSA Contract; corres.; memos, Dec 1970-Jan 1972

Box 5

1. Economic Impact Summary, Oct 1971
2. Employee Hiring, Sep 1971-Jun 1972
3. Equal Employment Policy; corres.; memos, 1971
4. Examination of Use of Bond Proceeds, Jul 1971
5. Final Projection for Stadium, Sep 1971-May 1972
6. Financial Statements, Mar-Oct 1971
7. Finances; statements; corres.; report, Nov 1971-Nov 1972
8. Funding Requests & Refinancing Report, Sep 1970-Jan 1971
9. GDCC Directors; corres.; finances; memos, Apr 1973-Feb 1974
10. GDCC Newsletter, Apr 1970-May 1972
11. " " , Jun 1972-Feb 1973
12. GDCC Support, 1971
13. Insurance--applications, policies, bonds, corres., Feb-Mar 1971
14. " " , corres.; policy, Apr 1972-Apr 1974
15. Land Acquisition; corres.; memos; agreement, Apr-May 1971
16. " " , agreement, May 1971-May 1972
17. Land Purchase; agreements; corres.; memos, Aug 1971-Sep 1972

Series III

Riverfront Stadium Funding, 1970-1974

Boxes 8-10

This series covers the vital topic of Bond Sales to finance the Riverfront Stadium. The finances, legal ramifications, sales ordinances, intent to issue, and actual sales, including copies of the various bonds themselves. As well as bonds, from idea to execution, are the numerous promissory notes issued to many leading individuals and institutions as well as local companies in the metropolitan Detroit area. Legislation regarding a Hotel/Motel tax is also discussed. This is the period when the organization changes its name from WCSA to the Stadium Center Development Company (SCDC). The series is arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Box 8

1. Bonds: County Support, 7 Aug 1970
2. Bonds; Examples; corres. , Mar-Aprl 1972
3. Bonds: " " , Apr-Jul 1972
4. Bonds; Finance Commission, Sep 1971
5. Bonds: " " , Mar-May 1972
6. Bonds: Financial Consultant, Aug 1971-Jan 1972
7. Bonds: Intent to Issue; corres.; clippings, Sep 1971-Feb 1972
8. Bonds: Investment Papers; corres.; memos, n.d.
9. Bonds: Joint Counsellors; corres., Feb 1971-Mar 1972
10. Bonds: Moneys Invested; corres., Apr-Jun 1972
11. Bonds: Ordinance; clippings, corres, Oct 1971-Mar 1972
12. Bonds: Ratings; corres.; memos; survey, Mar 1972
13. Bonds: Sale; corres.; schedule; notice, Feb-Mar 1972
14. Bonds: " " ; notice, Apr 1972-1973
15. Bonds: : Sale Ordinance, 27 Sep 1971
16. Bonds: Small Denominations; corres.; memos, Oct 1971
17. Detroit Renaissance corres., Jan-Jun 1972
18. Hotel/Motel Tax; corres.; memos, Apr-Jul 1971
19. " " ; minutes, Aug-Nov 1971
20. " " ; clippings, Nov 1971-Jan 1972

Box 9

1. Interim Financing; memos; charts, Apr-Jun 1971
2. " " , Aug 1971
3. Promissory Notes; corres., Jan-Feb 1971
4. " " , Feb-Mar 1971
5. " " ; corres., Jan 1971- Jul 1973
6. " " , Jan-Jun 1971
7. " " , Jan-May 1971
8. " " , Feb-Mar 1971
9. " " , Feb-Jun 1971
10. " " , Apr-Jun 1971
11. " " , May 1971
12. " " , Jun-Jul 1971
13. " " , Jun-Dec 1971
14. " " , Jul 1971-Feb 1972
15. " " , Jul 1971-Feb 1974
16. " " , Dec 1971
17. Racing Funds; corres.; memos, Apr 1971-Feb 1972

Box 9 cont'd

18. Racing Funds; corres.; memos, Apr 1971-Dec 1972
19. Revenue corres., Feb 1971-Jun 1972
20. Revenue Legislation; corres.; Senate House Bills, Feb 1971-ca.1972
21. Revenue Proposals; corres.; memos, Oct-Dec 1971

Box 10

1. Revenue services; corres.; Jan-Jun 1971
2. Riverfront Development Corporation, Jul 1970-Aug 1971
3. SCDC corres.; chart; memos; minutes, Apr-Jun 1971
4. " "; memos; plan, Jun 1971-Mar 1972
5. SCDC proposed budget, Jul 1971
6. SCDC loan request, ca. 1971
7. SCDC structure; corres.; min; legal papers, Apr-Jun 1971
8. " "; by-laws, Jul-Aug 1971
9. Seed money, Nov 1970-Jan 1971
10. " ", Jan 1971-Jan 1972
11. " "; corres. , Jul-Aug 1973 and n.d.
12. " "; promissory notes, Jul 1974-Sep 1975
13. Stadium Center Development Corporation (SCDC), Sep 1969-Mar 1971
14. WCSA stadium Bonds: Transcript, 1 Jan 1972
15. " ", 28 Mar 1972
16. WCSA statements re: bonds, Mar-Apr 1972

Series IV

The Lawsuits and Afterwards, 1972-1976

Boxes 11-12

This series primarily deals with the lawsuits which effectively doomed the planned Riverfront Stadium. The cases were Alan vs. WCSA and Havstad vs. WCSA. Included are various legal documents: briefs, court opinions, rulings, and other legal documents. Both cases were placed by taxpayers groups. There is correspondence from the attorneys involved and the WCSA (SCDC) principals. There are also general correspondence, financial statements, meeting notes and agendas, clippings, material on the Pontiac stadium (The Silver dome), which was eventually built in place of the proposed Riverfront Stadium. Finally, there is correspondence from the organization to its financial supporters informing them of the demise of the project and releasing them from their financial commitments. This series is arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Box 11

1. Alan vs. WCSA; corres.; clippings, Apr-Sep 1972
2. " "; court papers, Apr-May 1972
3. " "; memos, May 1972 and n.d.
4. " "; answers to interrogatories, 16 May 1972
5. " "; Circuit Court opinion, j Jun 1972
6. " "; corres., Jun 1972
7. " "; Michigan Supreme Court, Jun 1972
8. " ", opinions, Jun 1972
9. " ", rulings, Jun-Jul 1972
10. " ", clippings, Jun and Sep 1972

Box 11 cont'd

11. Alan vs. WCSA, petition to rehear, Sep-Oct 1972
12. Detroit Riverfront Stadium History, Jun 1974
13. End of Bond Obligation; corres., Aug-Sep 1974
14. " " , Sep-Oct 1974
15. Financial Obligations; corres., Jun-Sep 1972
16. Financial Statement Report, Nov 1972-Jan 1973
17. General correspondence; bills, Dec 1972-Apr 1974
18. Havstad vs. WCSA; legal actions, Apr-Jun 1972

Box 12

1. Havstad vs. WCSA; legal actions, corres., Jun 1972 and Aug 1973
2. Legal alternatives; corres.; clippings; charts, Jun 1972-Mar 1977
3. " " ; memos; plans, Apr 1973-May 1974
4. Meetings; notes; agenda; corres., Dec 1972-Nov 1973
5. Pontiac Stadium; corres.; agreement; clippings, Mar 1969-Dec 1971
6. " " ; study of, clippings, Jan-Feb 1972
7. " " ; clippings; corres.; agenda, Mar 1972-Apr 1976
8. Stadium sites; corres.; memos, Oct 1973-Aug 1974

Index to Subjects and Correspondents
(correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>*Adams, Thomas, 1:5, 1:7-9, 1:15, 2:1, 2:3-7, 2:10-11, 2:17, 3:4, 4:9, 5:12, 5:15, 6:11, 6:15-17, 6:20, 7:4-5, 7:8, 7:12-13, 7:16, 7:21, 8:5-6, 8:9, 8:14, 8:17, 8:20, 9:3, 9:6, 9:19-20, 10:4, 10:9-11, 11:1, 11:13, 11:15-16, 12:3, 12:5</p> <p>*Ashcraft, Thomas, 4:12-13, 5:15-16, 5:18, 6:2, 6:5, 7:6, 7:12-13, 7:18, 7:21, 10:3, 12:3, 12:6, 12:8</p> <p>*Berrarducci, Alfred, 7:3</p> <p>*Bohn, Daniel, 2:7, 4:5, 4:12, 4:14, 6:13, 6:21, 7:3-4, 7:7, 7:13, 7:19, 8:13, 11:3</p> <p>Bursley, Gilbert, 1:7-8</p> <p>*Bursley, Gilbert, 1:9, 2:5, 9:17</p> <p>Cherry, Michael, 6:15, 9:1</p> <p>*Cherry, Michael, 1:5, 1:7-10, 2:7-11, 2:13, 2:15, 4:2, 4:4-6, 4:8-10, 4:12, 4:14-18, 5:2-3, 5:7, 5:12-18, 6:1, 6:5, 6:8, 6:10, 6:15, 6:21, 7:3-4, 7:6-7, 7:12-13, 7:16, 7:18-21, 8:2-3, 8:6-7, 8:9, 8:12-14, 8:16-17, 8:19-20, 9:16-17, 10:1, 10:3, 10:10, 10:13, 11:1, 11:3, 11:15</p> <p>*Cohen, Burrell, 4:9, 4:17</p> | <p>*Colombo, Frank, 1:9, 2:4</p> <p>*Copeland, William, 9:17-18</p> <p>*Daugherty, Gerald, 1:7-9, 2:8</p> <p>Duke, Keith, 1:14, 1:16, 2:8</p> <p>*Duke, Keith, 1:8</p> <p>*Fetzer, John, 4:15, 4:17-18, 12:3</p> <p>Financing of Stadium, 1:1, 1:6-7, 1:9, 2:4-6, 3:1, 5:8, 6:16-17, 7:5, 7:9, 8:1, 8:4-7, 8:15, 9:1-16, 9:19, 9:21, 10:1, 10:6, 10:9-12</p> <p>Fisher, Max, 12:3</p> <p>*Fisher, Max, 4:15, 6:16, 8:17, 9:3, 10:2, 10:9, 12:2</p> <p>*Fitzpatrick, Robert, 2:8</p> <p>*Ford, Henry II, 10:12</p> <p>*Ford, William Clay, 4:11, 9:20, 12:15</p> <p>*Gehrke, Hans, 1:6, 2:4, 4:11, 6:13 7:12, 9:3-4, 10:1, 10:3, 10:9, 11:15, 12:2-3</p> <p>*Glancy, Albert, 2:4</p> <p>*Gordon, Lou, 11:1</p> <p>GDCC (Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce), 4:5, 5:9, 5:12, 6:11, 8:18-19, 9:19-20, 10:7-8, 12:2</p> <p>*GDCC, 1:1-3, 1:5, 1:10, 2:4-5, 2:8, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15-17, 6:19, 7:5, 8:4, 10:13</p> |
|--|--|

Index Continued

Gribbs, Roman, 1:9, 2:2 *Gribbs,
 Roman, 2:5, 2:17, 4:11,
 4:15, 6:17, 6:20, 7:12 Land
 Acquisition, 1:10, 2:4, 4:12,
 5:15-18, 6:1, 6:4, 6:11-12,
 6:19, 6:21, 7:13, 7:20, 10:3,
 10:13, 12:8 Land
 Studies, 2:7-9, 5:4, 6:2,
 7:2-4, 7:18, 12:8 Lawsuits,
 Alan vs. WCSA, 11:1-11;
 Havstad vs. WCSA, 11:18, 12:1
 *Levin, Sander, 6:22 *McCabe, Robert,
 1:10, 5:15, 5:17,
 6:19, 12:2 *McNally, Harry,
 6:11, 6:13 *Manoogian, Richard, 1:6,
 6:16, 7:5 *Martin, G. Merritt, 1:1,
 1:3, 1:5,
 1:7, 1:10, 2:3-6, 6:15-17, 10:13
 *Milliken, William, 1:15, 2:3, 6:15,
 6:20, 10:13 *Norris, Bruce,
 5:13. 12:3 Oszustowicz, Richard, 1:4,
 5:12, 8:4 *Oszustowicz, Richard, 4:3,
 4:5, 5:13,
 7:21, 8:10, 9:5, 9:13, 11:15
 *Parsons, Don, 1:6-9, 1:17, 2:4, 2:6,
 2:8, 6:16-17, 7:5 *Pelham,
 Alfred, 1:4, 6:8, 7:21, 8:5,
 8:7, 8:14-15 Roselle,
 Robert, 1:4 *Roselle, Robert, 5:16,
 5:18, 7:19,
 7:21 *Rosetti, Louis, 1:15,
 3:2 *Saunders, Nelis, 4:11, 9:20
 *Surdam, Robert, 10:2 Sweaney,
 Robert, 1:3, 7:17 *Sweaney, Robert,
 1:2-3, 1:10, 1:15,
 2:3, 2:14, 3:2, 3:4, 4:5,
 4:11-12, 4:15, 4:17, 5:9,
 5:14-15, 5:17, 6:1, 6:5-6, 6:8,
 6:10-11, 6:14-15, 6:17, 6:19-20,
 7:3-4, 7:12, 7:15-16, 7:18, 7:22,
 8:9, 8:18-20, 9:3, 9:7-8, 9:17-18,
 9:20-21, 10:1, 10:7-8, 10:12, 11:13.
 11:16, 12:2-3, 12:5, 12:8
 *Trainor, James, 1:15
 *Traye, Gordon, 1:1, 1:3, 8:18
 *Welton Becket & Associates, 3:4, 5:8
 *Whitlock, E.M., 2L7, 2:10
 *Wilson, Thomas, 1:10
 *Woodcock, Leonard, 9:14, 10:1
 *Young, Coleman, 12:3
 *Zak, Albert, 1:4, 1:9, 2:5, 6:20