



Ford Foundation records, Peace and Social Justice Program (PSJ), Governance and Civil Society, Office Files of Urvashi Vaid

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Vaid, Urvashi
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Peace and Social Justice Program (PSJ), Governance and Civil Society, Office Files of Urvashi Vaid
ID:	FA667
Date [inclusive]:	1992-2005
Physical Description:	2.62 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	<p>The Office Files of Urvashi Vaid, Deputy Director of the Ford Foundation's Governance and Civil Society (GCS) unit from 2001-2005, document her oversight of grants to support citizens' groups working for social and economic justice, to strengthen civil society organizations and to improve government performance. The bulk of the records pertain to the Collaborations that Count Initiative. The collection spans the years 1992-2005 and consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, grant proposals, meeting materials and publications. There are substantial records that document grant work prior to Vaid's tenure, including files created by former GCS staff members Michael Lipsky and June Zeitlin, and GCS Director Michael Edwards. The files were transferred to the Ford Foundation Archives in August 2005. The arrangement of the collection follows the original order maintained by Vaid, though a few unfolded and stray items have been interfiled by the processing archivist.</p>

Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <https://rockarch.org/collections/access-and-request-materials/#citations>

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Biographical / Historical

Social activist, attorney and foundation executive Urvashi Vaid was born in India in 1958 and moved to the United States when she was eight years old. She became politically active at age eleven by participating in marches protesting the U.S. war against Vietnam. Vaid attended Vassar College on an academic scholarship and graduated in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in English and political science. She then spent three months as a volunteer intern with the Women's Prison Project and worked as a legal secretary and administrative assistant for a Boston law firm. During the early 1980s, Vaid helped found the Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance and the Allston-Brighton Greenlight Safehouse Network, an anti-violence neighborhood project. Vaid attended the Northeastern University School of Law, and received a J.D. degree in 1983. From 1983-1986, Vaid worked for the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prisons Project, where she conducted class action lawsuits to improve conditions in American prisons. She then joined the staff of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, serving as Media Director (1986-1989), Executive Director (1989-1992), and Policy Institute Director (1997-2000).

Vaid joined the Ford Foundation in 2000 as a Program Officer, and in January 2001 was appointed Deputy Director of the Governance and Civil Society program. A major emphasis of her work was the Collaborations that Count initiative, which was launched in 1998 to support cooperation among state-level organizations working for social and economic justice. Vaid also played a role in the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, and oversaw grants to support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights organizations. Vaid left the Ford Foundation in 2005 to head the Arcus Foundation.

Vaid is author of *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation* (Anchor, 1996), and is co-editor, with John D'Emilio and William Turner, of *Creating Change: Public Policy, Sexuality and Civil Rights* (St. Martin's Press, 2000).

The Governance and Civil Society unit was established as part of a significant reorganization of the Ford Foundation during 1996-1997. The program incorporated much of the work and staff of the former Governance and Public Policy unit, and at its inception aimed "to improve governmental performance and accountability, stimulate new approaches to designing and implementing public policies, and enhance the role of civic organizations, particularly philanthropies, in promoting democratic values." (Ford Foundation Annual Report, 1996)

Collaborations that Count, originally known as the "Devolution Initiative," was launched by GCS in 1998. During the mid-1990s federal funds and decision-making power for many U.S. government social programs were transferred to the state and local level. To succeed in this new political environment, state-based public policy and civil society groups needed to develop new leadership skills, broaden membership, enhance organizational infrastructures and work together more effectively. Towards these ends, Collaborations that Count provided over \$18 million in funds to support cooperative projects in Alabama, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. Public policy and social issue groups in these states formed new coalitions that organized conferences and workshops, developed staff training programs, improved technology access, commissioned research and reached out to the public. Specific issues addressed by collaborators included welfare and tax reform, immigrant rights, healthcare access, affordable housing and racial justice. Significant policy outcomes linked to the work of Collaborations that Count-supported groups

included minimum wage and labor contract reforms (Idaho), food stamp reform (Oregon) and increased funding for education (Mississippi).

In her role as Deputy Director for Ford Foundation GCS work, Urvashi Vaid coordinated Collaborations that Count during 2001-2004.

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Scope and Contents

The Office Files of Urvashi Vaid document grant-making by the Ford Foundation's Governance and Civil Society and Governance and Public Policy programs during the period 1992-2005. The collection measures two linear feet and is contained in two record cartons. The bulk of the records relate to the Collaborations that Count project, 1998-2004. The files contain correspondence, memoranda, reports, grant proposals and meeting materials. There are substantial records that document grant work prior to Vaid's tenure, including files created by former GCS staff members Michael Lipsky and June Zeitlin, and GCS Director Michael Edwards.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following series and subseries:

Series I. Collaborations That Count, 1998-2005

Series I. Subseries A. State Collaborations, 1998-2005

Series I. Subseries B. Ancillary Organizations, 1998-2003

Series I. Subseries C. Administration and Evaluation, 1998-2004

Series II. Subjects, 1992-2005

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ford Foundation archive was deposited at RAC in 2011. Ford Foundation records, correspondence, reports, program files and officers papers were transferred to, and accessioned by, RAC beginning in 2011. Accessions continue as necessary.

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

FA592 Ford Foundation records, Peace and Social Justice (PSJ), Governance and Civil Society, Deputy Director, Office Files of Urvashi Vaid, 1982-2005.

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Collection Inventory

Collaborations that Count, 1998-2005

Arrangement

This series is arranged into 3 subseries.

State Collaborations, 1998-2005

Arrangement

Files are arranged alphabetically by state name.

Scope and Contents

Grant proposals, grantee reports, correspondence, memoranda, publications and other materials documenting activities funded by the Ford Foundation in the eleven states targeted by the initiative.

Title/Description	Instances	
Alabama: Alabama Organizing Project, 1999-2001	box 1	folder 1
Idaho: The Idaho Collaborative, 1998-2002	box 1	folder 2
Kentucky: Kentucky Economic Justice Alliance, 1998-2004	box 1	folder 3
Mississippi: Mississippi Education Working Group – Southern Echo, Inc., 1998-2003	box 1	folder 4
Nevada: Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, 1998-2005	box 1	folder 5
North Carolina: North Carolina Alliance for Economic Justice, 1998-2002	box 1	folder 6
Oregon: The Oregon Collaborative – Rural Organizing Project, 1998-2002	box 1	folder 7
South Carolina: South Carolina Policy and Organizing Project – Carolina Alliance for Fair Employment (CAFE), 1998-2003	box 1	folder 8
Tennessee: Tennessee Partnership on Organizing and Public Policy – Save Our Cumberland Mountains, 1998-2002	box 1	folder 9
Texas: ProTex: Network for a Progressive Texas, 1998-2002	box 1	folder 10
Washington: Washington Living Wage Movement – Washington Association of Churches, 1998-2005	box 1	folder 11

Ancillary Organizations, 1998-2003

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by organization name.

Scope and Contents

In addition to providing direct funding for eleven state-based collaborations, the Ford Foundation gave over \$5.2 million to organizations that provided technical assistance, research, training and other services to the project. Files pertaining to these grants contain memoranda, correspondence and reports.

Title/Description	Instances	
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Alliance for Justice, 1998-2002	box 1	folder 12
Community Resource Exchange, 2001-2002	box 1	folder 13
Creative Communications, 1998-2000	box 1	folder 14
Education Resources Group, 1999-2000	box 1	folder 15
John J. Koprowski and Associates, Inc., 1999	box 1	folder 16
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations, 2002-2003	box 1	folder 17
Progressive Technology Project, 1999-2000	box 1	folder 18
Southern Partners Fund, 2000-2001	box 1	folder 19
Western States Center, 1999-2001	box 1	folder 20

Administration and Evaluation, 1998-2004

Scope and Contents

Subseries includes project planning memos and reports, requests for proposals, regional meeting agendas and materials, publicity material, evaluation planning proposals and a copy of the final project evaluation, "Power, Participation and State-based Politics" (2004).

Arrangement

Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Title/Description	Instances	
Devolution Initiative, 1998-1999	box 2	folder 1
Devolution Team Binder, 1998	box 2	folder 2
Evaluation briefing, 2004	box 2	folder 3
Evaluation report – Applied Research Center. "Power, Participation and State-based Politics", 2004	box 2	folder 4
Evaluation proposals, 2001-2004	box 2	folder 5
Foundation Administered Project (FAP) grant, 2001	box 2	folder 6
Initiative Statement, 2002	box 2	folder 7
National Meeting, 1998, 2001	box 2	folder 8-9
Northwest Regional Meeting, 2000-2001	box 2	folder 10
Publicity material, 1998-2000	box 2	folder 11
Request for proposals, 2001	box 2	folder 12
Southern Regional Meeting, 2001-2002	box 2	folder 13-14
Web site, 2000	box 2	folder 15
Work plans, 2000-2001	box 2	folder 16

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Subjects, 1992-2005

Scope and Contents

Records concerning a variety of Ford Foundation activities, including grant initiatives, conferences, program officer meetings and Trustee trips. There is a substantial file containing memos and correspondence pertaining to the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative. Several folders document meetings of program officers from the Civil Society unit with staff from other program areas to discuss shared strategies and themes for grantmaking (Box 2, Folders 18, 19, 22). There are also briefing books and related materials pertaining to trips to Alabama and China by Ford Foundation Trustees who served on the Peace and Social Justice Committee.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Title/Description	Instances	
Campus Compact National Student Summit, 2002	box 2	folder 17
Civil Society and Community Development meeting, 2002	box 2	folder 18
Civil Society and Social Justice meeting, 2001	box 2	folder 19
Conference on Diversity and Coexistence in Asia, 2003	box 2	folder 20
Convening on GLBT Rights and Issues and Religious Traditions in the US: Framing Difficult Dialogues and Seeking New Partnerships, 2004	box 2	folder 21
Governance and Civil Society meeting, 2002	box 2	folder 22
Non-profit Infrastructure Funders Group, 2002-2005	box 2	folder 23
Peace and Social Justice accomplishments, 2002	box 2	folder 24
Peace and Social Justice Trustee Committee Spring Trip to Alabama, 2002	box 2	folder 25
Peace and Social Justice Trustee Committee Spring Trip to China, 2004	box 2	folder 26
Post 9/11 September 11, 2001 grants, 2001-2003	box 2	folder 27
Program Division Joint Worldwide Meeting, 2002	box 2	folder 28
Replenishing Democracy Initiative, 2003	box 2	folder 29
Social movements, 2002	box 2	folder 30
State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, 1992-2004	box 2	folder 31

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