



# Thompson (Marcia T.) papers

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Thompson, Marcia
<b>Title:</b>	Marcia T. Thompson papers
<b>ID:</b>	FA1489
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1936-2006
<b>Physical Description:</b>	13.75 Cubic Feet 35 boxes (30 letter document containers and 5 legal document containers)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php>

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## Biographical / Historical

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Marcia Aldrich Thompson was born on Oct. 2, 1923 in Hankow, China. Thompson attended Columbia University School of General Studies, the New School for Social Research, and earned a certificate from a Katherine Gibbs School. She worked at the The New York Times as the Assistant to the Sunday Editor from 1956-1951. Then, she worked at the International Press Institute as Assistant to the Chairman and Associate Director, Conference Coordinator until 1953.

In 1953, Thompson joined the Ford Foundation where she worked as a Program Officer Ford Foundation until 1983. She was involved at the outset with formation and development of the Foundation's program in humanities and the arts and all major subsequent initiatives through 1983, including programs for individual artists as well as institutional development in the arts (\$80.2 million Symphony Orchestra Program, support for development of companies and professional training in classical dance, the Program for Administrative Interns, the Program for Curatorial Training, the Program for Catalogues of American Fine Arts Collections, the Cash Reserve Program - from which the National Arts Stabilization Fund evolved - and many others).

Thompson left the Ford Foundation to found and serve as president of the National Arts Stabilization Fund (NASF) in December 1983 and then served as the president. She was responsible for all aspects of NASF's operations including development of principles and policies, fundraising, project development and oversight, administration, planning, board relations and external affairs until 1991. She served as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Vice Chairman of the NASF from 1991-1993. She also served as a board member of the School of American Ballet, Theater for a New Audience and the Scherman Foundation. Marcia Thompson died in March 2019.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection contains the personal and professional files of Marcia T. Thompson, longtime promoter of financial stabilization projects in the arts. The collection includes reports and correspondence related to the Trude Lash Fellowship Program, reports and correspondence from Thompson's time at the Ford Foundation, and financial reports, correspondence, and long-term planning materials from the National Arts Stabilization Fund (NASF). There are many files related to the School of American Ballet, the New York City Ballet, and arts stabilization projects in major cities across the United States.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged into three series:

1. Trude Lash Fellowship Program, 2004-2006
2. Personal Correspondence, Newsletters, and Reports, 1973-2004
3. Arts Stabilization Projects, 1936-2000

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

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[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

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

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

This material was transferred to the RAC in 2018 by Janet E. Merrill, Executor of the Marcia Thompson Estate, and was ingested by the RAC as Accession 2018:130.

### Conditions Governing Access

Open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

### Processing Information

Standard processing by Katie Martin, February 2019.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Ford Foundation records, Arts and Humanities Program Files, Marcia T. Thompson (FA1482) <http://dimes.rockarch.org/FA1482/collection>

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## Controlled Access Headings

- Arts -- Finance
- Ballet
- Ballet companies -- United States -- Finance
- Ford Foundation
- Performing arts -- United States
- Symphony orchestras -- United States
- Theatre

## Collection Inventory

### Trude Lash Fellowship Program, 2004-2006

Title/Description	Instances	
Lash - Fundraising , 2004-2005	box 1	folder 1
Lash - Steering Committee Minutes, 2004-2006	box 1	folder 2
Lash - Selection Committee, 2005	box 1	folder 3
Lash - Steering Committee, 2004-2005	box 1	folder 4
Lash - Memorandum of Understanding for The Steering Committee of the Trude Lash Fellowship Program, 2005	box 1	folder 5
Fund for Social Change, 2004	box 1	folder 6
Lash - Application Materials, 2001-2006	box 1	folder 7-8
Lash - Correspondence, Call for Applicants, Application Background Materials, 2004-2006	box 1	folder 9-10

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### Personal Correspondence, Newsletters, and Reports, 1973-2004

Title/Description	Instances	
Arts Organizations Newsletters, Real Estate Documents, and Magazine Clippings, 1992-1999	box 1	folder 11

## Scope and Contents

Materials related to Central Park Views, the School of American Ballet, Park Avenue Real Estate Lyric Opera, Dartmouth Alumni, Theatre Communications Group, Corporate Council for the Arts, Campaign for Thirteen WNET

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Foundation Reports and Correspondence, 1989-1993

box 2

folder 12

## Scope and Contents

Includes: 1988 NACUBO Endowment Study: Executive Summary; Oregon Arts Commission; National Arts Stabilization Fund; Endowment Issues; Managing Foundation Assets, The Foundation Center; Council on Foundations; Managing Endowment Funds for Arts Organizations

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Endowments Issues, 1984-1991

box 2

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## Scope and Contents

Memo - Notes on Endowment Self-Evaluation Issues

American Symphony Orchestra League Conference -1989

NASF Spending Policy

Articles Regarding Endowment Spending

Special Report on the Finance Committee: The High Art of Strategic, Directors and Boards

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Personal Correspondence and Newsletters, 1995-2000

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Personal correspondence with David Hawkanson of the Guthrie Theater (MN) and Robert F. Branscombe

Clippings and materials related to the Hacienda Del Sol in Tucson

NASF Press Release - Opera/Columbus Awarded First Stabilization Grant

The New York Committee of the Garden Club of America newsletter, 2000

Guthrie Theater Report, 1996-1998 and news clippings

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Museum of Fine Arts - Newsletters and Reports, 1975-1993

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Danny Newman and the Lyric Opera of Chicago, 1991-2004

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## Scope and Contents

File also includes 3 issues of The Livable City, A  
Publication of the Municipal Art Society (1991-1993)

The Carlisle Project: A Center for Choreographic Development and Professional Ballet Studies, Barbara Weisberger, Artistic Director, 1993-1996	box 2	folder 17
Danny Newman - Correspondence, Clippings, and Drafts (4 folders), 1981-2004	box 2	folder 18
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Note from folder: Danny Newman of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, good friend of Marcia, met doing stabilization of the arts

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Michael George Photography - Photographic Book Projects - CV and Correspondence, 1988-1992	box 3	folder 23

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## Arts Stabilization Projects, 1936-2000

### Scope and Contents

This series includes reports, correspondence, clippings, and speeches related to arts stabilization projects at the National Arts Stabilization Fund and various Ford Foundation programs. There are a number of reports and correspondence from Marcia Thompson's board membership with the School of American Ballet

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National Arts Stabilization Fund - List of Press Releases, 1993 December	box 3	folder 24
National Arts Stabilization Fund - Investment and Financial Strategy Materials, 1986-1991	box 3	folder 25
Ten Years of Service to Arts Organizations, National Arts Stabilization Fund, c. 1993	box 3	folder 26
National Arts Stabilization Fund: The First Phase (2 copies), 1987	box 3	folder 27
National Arts Stabilization in Arizona: A Report to the Community, The Flinn Foundation, c. 1997	box 3	folder 28
National Arts Stabilization Fund - Arizona Project, 1993-1994	box 3	folder 29
National Arts Stabilization Fund Seattle Program, 1994	box 4	folder 30
The National Arts Stabilization Fund, Inc. - Meeting of the Finance Committee - Dec. 7, 1993, 1993	box 4	folder 31



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Recommended Grant Actions Documents for:

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Maryland Institute, College of Art

Baltimore Opera Company, Inc.

Kansas City Art Institute

National Arts Stabilization Fund - Ford Foundation Symphony Orchestra Program Analysis, 1985-1987	box 4	folder 34
National Arts Stabilization Fund - Mellon Foundation Analysis, 1987	box 4	folder 35
National Arts Stabilization Fund - Reports and Correspondence with Grantees/Partner Organizations (2 folders), 1983-1992	box 4	folder 36-37

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Folder 36:

Correspondence with:

Empire Brass Quintet

Fuller Museum of Art

Handel and Hadyn Society

Boston University Theatre

Institute of Contemporary Art

New England Conservatory

Greater Boston Arts Fund

Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities

Hall Family Foundations

Clearinghouse for Midcontinent Foundations

Arizona Academy

Tucson Symphony Orchestra

Illinois Arts Foundation

Actors Theatre of Louisville

Albany Museum of Art

Alliance of Independent Colleges of Art

Amas Repertory Theatre

American Place Theatre

The Atlanta Opera

Ballet Oklahoma

BankAmerica Foundation

Berkely Repertory Theatre

The British Council

Brooklyn Academy of Music

Brooklyn Children's Museum

Folder 37:

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Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago

Cincinnati Art Museum

Clear Lake Chamber Music Society

Colorado Council on the Arts and Humanities

Colorado Music Festival

Opera Colorado

Colorado Philharmonic Orchestra

Colorado Springs Symphony

Community Foundation of Greater Washington (DC)

Contemporary Arts Museum (Houston)

D-Art Visual Art Center

Dayton Performing Arts Fund

The Duluth Playhouse

Ohio Arts Council

Eugene Arts Foundation

Eugene Ballet Company

Film Forum

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

The Edison Institute: Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield  
Village

Frederick Gash Foundation

Gannett Foundation

The Goodman Theatre

LaClaire Portraiture

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Howard Heinz Endowment

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The Dun and Bradstreet Corporation

Indiana Repertory Theatre

The James Irvine Foundation

The JBSpeed Art Museum

Just Causes

Peter Kiewit Foundation

Knight Foundation

Knoxville Opera Company

Samuel H. Kress Foundation

La Mama Etc.

Medicine Show Theatre Ensemble

Memphis Arts Council

Miami City Ballet

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission

Minnesota Council on Foundations

Music-Theatre Group

National Public Radio

Opera Theatre of Saint Louis

Opinion Research Association, Inc.

The Oram Group

Orange County Performing Arts Center

Ordway Music Theatre

National Dance Institute

ATT Foundation

Education and Culture Committee: A Supplement to Part II:  
Results

Ford Foundation

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Harlem School for the Arts

The Loretto Hilton Repertory Theatre

The Repertory Theatre

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Confidential

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2. Ballet Hispanico
3. Boys Choir of Harlem
4. Bronx Museum of the Arts
5. Caribbean Cultural Center
6. Dance Theatre of Harlem
7. El Museo del Barrio
8. Harlem School of the Arts
9. INTAR
10. Jamaica Arts Center
11. Jazzmobile
12. Pan Asian Repertory Theatre
13. Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre
14. Repertorio Espanol
15. Studio Museum in Harlem
16. New York City Project Committee
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Kansas City Project Comments Binder

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2. Kansas City Symphony
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2. Boston Ballet
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5. Boston Film/Video Foundation
6. Boston Shakespeare Company
7. Concert Dance Company
8. Danforth Museum of Art
9. DeCordova Museum and Dana Museum
10. Empire Brass Quintet
11. Fuller Museum of Art
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5. Greater Boston Arts Fund December 12, 1983 news release [excerpted]
6. GABF Officers and Members of the Board
7. Boston Stabilization Project: Commitment of Local Donors
8. Initial Reactions to Announcement of GBAF
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10. The Stabilization Strategy: What It Is and How It Works
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