



# **Ford Foundation records, Asset Building and Community Development Program (ASSETS), Office of the Vice President, Office Files of Laurice Wassef**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator:</b>	Ford Foundation
<b>Title:</b>	Ford Foundation records, Asset Building and Community Development Program (ASSETS), Office of the Vice President, Office Files of Laurice Wassef
<b>ID:</b>	FA516
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1998-2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.6 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation note

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## Biographical / Historical

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### Segment 4. Period Sketch - The Post-1989 Shift Away from Cold War Dichotomies

Between 1989 and 1991, dramatic changes in the external international conditions created a significantly different context for Ford Foundation's international activities both in the United States and overseas. In November, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell. In February 1990, in South Africa, Nelson Mandela was released from prison. In December 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved. As a consequence, the Cold War was over, Western Europe no longer had a special strategic role in the Foundation, and program-related activities in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union multiplied. The Foundation not only continued the earlier efforts to fund leadership in the region; from 1990-1994, Ford also spent \$1 million on the training of newly-elected parliamentarians in Eastern Europe and the former USSR. By 1993, half of the funds for grantmaking related to the former Soviet bloc were going to in-country individuals and institutions.

In 1989, Thomas also instituted a major restructuring of the Foundation to fulfill his vision of "One Foundation." All programs were put into one division led by Vice President Susan Berresford. Carmichael joined the Institute of International Education to run a program on Soviet and Eastern

European Affairs and then higher education in South Africa. All the Foundation grant programs - domestic and international - reported to Berresford: Africa and the Middle East (AME, formerly MEA), Asia (ASIA), Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC/OLAC), Human Rights and Governance (HRG), Education and Culture (EC), Program-Related Investments (PRI), and International Affairs (IA).

The change in South Africa opened up many new opportunities to work in partnership with a range of South Africa partners to promote and sustain the transition to democracy. The Foundation supported women's groups working on law, development and reproductive rights. It contributed, for example, to the groups working on the Women's Chatter in South Africa, resulting in the adoption in 1994 of the first constitution anywhere that specifically included sections on women's rights.

During the 1990s, the promising political changes in African countries and elsewhere provided a positive perspective to counteract the continuing economic constraints facing the Foundation and the rising debt in developing countries. Both to reinforce local democratic initiatives and to address its economic challenges, the Foundation's field offices across Africa and the developing world shifted their support toward the promotion of smaller scale community-based initiatives.

Thomas supported work on arts and culture, not as a goal in itself, but, instead, as a means for promoting social justice, education, and human rights, both in the United States and in developing countries. At the same time, while reducing support for cultural institutions in the United States, such institutions received support overseas to preserve and celebrate national and local cultural heritages. While in South Africa, for example, the Foundation provided support for Johannesburg anti-apartheid theatre groups, in West Africa it funded for nearly two decades a program to preserve and make accessible cultural heritage by expand the training of museum leaders and strengthening museum exhibit and outreach capabilities.

In the early 1990s, the Foundation through its India office helped establish an independent foundation to enhance sustainability in the arts community. Ford envisioned new opportunities for cultural institution to rely on local resources focus on new forms of creativity and encourage young artists, in particular. Similar to the Indian effort, the Ford office in Egypt in 1993 provided support for an arts-focused foundation.

When Susan Berresford became president in 1996, with a strong commitment to globalization as well as concern for the uncertainty it created, she reorganized the Foundation in to three large program themes that would inform grantmaking in the United States and developing countries: Assets with a focus on poverty, Peace and Social Justice on rights issues, and Education, Media, Arts and Culture to pull together related endeavors. She also created a separate communications program. Each program was led by a vice president. Berresford strongly reinforced the institutional and grantmaking goal of affirmative action, an organizational goal that had been initiated in the Bundy era.

She maintained significant support, domestically and internationally for women's issues. She endorsed and encouraged the worldwide meetings staff members and grantees to continue to hold joint meetings in order to create a greater sense of partnership and shared purpose. The more promising international situation enabled the Ford Foundation in 1996 to open an office in Russia (Moscow) and in Vietnam (Hanoi). Berresford encouraged the development of local and regional peace and security programs in developing countries. A regional security, peace, and cooperation program in India, for instance, focused on the work of civil society groups as an increasingly prominent regional interest in South Asia.

In this period, the Foundation gave renewed the prominence of arts and culture in the US and maintained the commitment in developing countries. By 2000, funding levels for the Education, Media, Arts and Culture division were approaching parity with the other two, Assets and Peace and Justice.

Berresford also encouraged each of the programs to hold worldwide meeting to promote cross-program and cross-national collaboration in fields such as human rights, income generation, cultural preservation, and building capacity in the arts and arts management. One persistent question of such initiatives. Toward that end, and building on the earlier experiences in India and Egypt, Berresford worked closely with her senior vice president, Barry Gaberman and other staff to establish new foundations at the local and national levels, particularly in developing countries. Gaberman had been at the foundation since 1973, starting as assistant to the representative in Indonesia. After serving in a number of different positions, by 1984, under Thomas, he served as deputy vice president in the U.S. and International Affairs program. After the 1989, Thomas and Berresford appointed him deputy vice president. 1996, Berresford appointed him senior vice president.

As the twentieth century came to a close, the economic conditions of the 1970s and 1980s that had resulted in so much global debt, with special impact on the developing world, were slowly turning around. Many countries were experiencing economic growth and burgeoning democratic initiatives. Not only was the global economic situation improving but the Foundation's assets were also growing. Consequently, the Foundation was in a strong position to bring attention to long-standing issues holding back developing countries. The grants programs addressed the pressing need both for advanced training of young- to mid-career adults living in marginalized and disadvantaged conditions along the equally, and for strengthening and building sustainability of universities across sub-Saharan Africa, along with enhancing broadband access for improved internet communications, promoting women in higher education, and strengthening postgraduate education.

Reacting to the tragedy of September 11, 2001, the Foundation provided immediate relief to affected local institutions in the United States. The Foundation also helped launch support a fund at the Institute of International Education to support scholars at risk in countries in conflict and under terrorist threats, especially in, but not limited to, the Middle East.

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## Biographical / Historical

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### Segment 4. Period Summary - The Post-1989 Shift Away from Cold War Dichotomies

Franklin Thomas's presidency, lasting until his retirement in 1995, was defined by a commitment to connect the Foundation's US and international activities around a few key themes. These themes were addressed through grants that created private sector partnerships, enhanced support for local community groups, and enlarged initiatives to promote human rights, with special attention to women's rights. Throughout Thomas's tenure, Ford staff reinforced his special commitment to bolstering marginalized communities and broadening access to the law and educational opportunity. The Ford Foundation led the way in building the fields of international security studies, arms control, human rights, and governance.

Moreover, in this period, Ford was innovative in drawing together the fields of international cooperation and human rights into one program.

Susan Berresford in her tenure as president from 1996-1997 continued and expanded the activities she helped initiate under Thomas. She and her colleagues increased support for the arts and established a variety of major international collaborative efforts implementing the concept of one foundation. Ford staff in this period drew on the Foundation's time-tested grantmaking strategies (supporting individuals and new institutions as needed), while concentrating on under-addressed issues and underserved populations. With Berresford's encouragement, Foundation staff explicitly took into account the new global context, increasing opportunities for inclusion of disadvantaged populations in all of their activities.

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## Scope and Contents

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Primarily contains records of meetings and presentations.

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## Arrangement

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As received.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

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## Processing Information

Level 1 Minimal Processing has been conducted to establish basic intellectual and physical control of the material and assess immediate preservation and conservation needs. Material remains as received, in original folders and storage boxes.

## Conditions Governing Use note

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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

Records more than 10 years old are open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC. Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) or audiovisual material (audio cassettes, VHS, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
DD Role and Responsibility -- Regular Meetings, 1998	box 1 (43786)
Program Leadership Meeting, 1998	box 1 (43786)
Leadership Retreat -- Regular Meetings, 1999	box 1 (43786)
Cairo Planning Agendas, 2000	

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Program Budget Review FY 2000 -- Management Budget, 1999	box 1 (43786)
Guidelines -- Learning Enhancement Funds, 2000-2001	box 1 (43786)
Committee on Indigenous Peoples, 2000	box 1 (43786)
American Indian Research and Grants Assessment Project Final Draft Report, Jul 2001	box 1 (43786)
Leadership Meeting -- Regular Meetings, Mar 2001	box 1 (43786)
Leadership Retreat -- Regular Meetings, Jun 2001	box 1 (43786)
Leadership Retreat -- Regular Meetings, Sep 2001	box 1 (43786)
Leadership Retreat -- Regular Meetings, Dec 2001	box 1 (43786)
OVP Team Meeting -- All Assets OVP and OVP Grants Admin Staff, 2001	box 1 (43786)
Laufer Green Isaac -- Background, 2001	box 1 (43786)
LEF Project -- Asset Building Breakthroughs, 1997-2000	box 1 (43786)
Laufer Green Isaac -- Brochures, 2001	box 1 (43786)
Laufer Green Isaac -- Strategy, 2001	box 1 (43786)
Learning Enhancement FAP, Feb 2000	box 1 (43786)
University of Michigan, Feb 2000	box 1 (43786)
LGI Committee Handbook, 2002-2003	box 1 (43786)
Laufer Green Isaac -- Spanish translation, [2002]	box 1 (43786)
Laufer Green Isaac -- Vietnamese Translation, 2002	box 1 (43786)
LEF -- Laufer Green Isaac -- Positioning Piece, 2003	box 1 (43786)
Program Leadership, Mar 2003	



	box 1 (43786)
Learning Presentations 1999, 1999	box 2 (43787)
About Learning Presentation, 1999	box 2 (43787)
Communications Plan -- Learning Agenda, [2000]	box 2 (43787)
Assets Program Forum, Sep 14, 2000	box 2 (43787)
Learning Program Updates, Jun 2000	box 2 (43787)
Asset Building and Community Development Seminar, 2000	box 2 (43787)
Learning Tools, 1999-2000	box 2 (43787)
ASSETS Learning Publications Inventory, [2002]	box 2 (43787)
Learning Tools -- RCD Chart, 1996-1998	box 2 (43787)
Learning Tools -- Senior Director Ideas, 1999	box 2 (43787)
Learning/Practice Methodologies Soc Behavior Change, 2000	box 2 (43787)
Learning Systems -- PSJ, 2000	box 2 (43787)
Kahane -- Private Sector Inventory Learning Projects, 2001	box 2 (43787)
Kahane -- Corporate Involvement Initiative, 2001-2002	box 2 (43787)
Private Sector -- Markets, 2002	box 2 (43787)
Barry -- Community Based Forestry, 2000	box 2 (43787)
Barry -- Lessons from Hurricane Mitch, 2002	box 2 (43787)
Davie -- Black Church Assessment Project, 1999-2000	box 2 (43787)
Lopez -- E&D Centers of Excellence Extranet, 2001	box 2 (43787)
Mallee -- Natural Resource Degradation and Population Growth, 2000	box 2 (43787)

Mallee -- Ford Foundation Work with Forestry Departments of Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces SW, 2002	box 2 (43787)
Menzies -- K-Rep, 2001	box 2 (43787)
Pearson -- Ford Foundation Grants to Support New and Emerging Foundations, 2001	box 2 (43787)
Pradhan -- Water Systems as Community Assets in India, 2002	box 2 (43787)
Rizvi -- Fifty Years -- Ford Foundation Work in India, 2001	box 2 (43787)
Winters -- Expanding Ford Foundation's Response to AIDS, 2000	box 2 (43787)
Program Officers Working with Community Foundations Meeting, 1996-1997	box 3 (43788)
Affinity Learning Group -- Indigenous Peoples, 2000	box 3 (43788)
Committee on Indigenous Peoples (CIP) Project, 2000	box 3 (43788)
Affinity Group on Development Finance (AGDF) -- General, 1997-1999	box 3 (43788)
Affinity Group on Development Finance (AGDF) -- Meeting Memos/Miscellaneous, 1999	box 3 (43788)
Affinity Group on Development Finance (AGDF) -- Schedule, 1999	box 3 (43788)
Affinity Group on Development Finance (AGDF) -- Operating Plan/ Status 1, 1999	box 3 (43788)
Affinity Group on Development Finance (AGDF) -- Workplans FY 2001, 1999-2000	box 3 (43788)
Environment and Development Affinity Group (EDAG) -- Annual Meeting -- Tucson, 1998	box 3 (43788)
Environment and Development Affinity Group (EDAG) -- Meeting (Zimbabwe-Mozambique), 1999-2000	box 3 (43788)
Environment and Development Affinity Group (EDAG) -- Meeting Notes/Workplan, 2000-2001	box 3 (43788)
Environment and Development Affinity Group (EDAG) -- 2002 Annual Meeting, 2001-2001	box 3 (43788)
Reproductive Health Affinity Group (RHAG) -- Workplan, 1998-2000	box 3 (43788)
Reproductive Health Affinity Group (RHAG) -- Meeting -- Bahia, Brazil, Oct 1999	box 3 (43788)
Natural Resources Affinity Group (NRAG), 1996	

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Natural Resources Affinity Group (NRAG) -- Istanbul, 1997	box 3 (43788)
Natural Resources Affinity Group (NRAG), 1997	box 3 (43788)
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