



Ford Foundation records, Mexico City Field Office Program and Subject Files

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Mexico City Field Office Program and Subject Files
ID:	FA1530
Date [inclusive]:	1962-1984
Physical Description:	14.6 Cubic Feet 38 boxes (34 letter document containers, 4 legal document containers, and 1 half letter document container)
Language of the Material:	English and Spanish

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

The Ford Foundation began providing grants to programs in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1959. Within the Latin America and the Caribbean program, the Foundation opened a field office in Mexico in 1962 with three major goals: 1) to help build institutions for research and training, 2) foster leadership and managerial talent by providing grants to institutions and tailored research support to individuals, and 3) study pervasive problems (such as issues in agricultural development). These goals were originally focused in the natural sciences, engineering, economics, community development/management, and agriculture.

By 1967, the Ford Foundation had programs and offices in Argentina, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the Caribbean. In the 1970s, the Ford Foundation widened its program areas in Latin America and the Caribbean to include projects in political science, sociology, social anthropology, women's issues, international affairs, child development, human rights, and demography. In response to the rise of repressive regimes in such countries as Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Argentina, the Foundation also worked to find employment for displaced social scientists within the region in the 1970s.

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Scope and Contents

This collection primarily consists of correspondence (defined by the Ford Foundation as subject files) received by the Ford Foundation's Mexico City Field Office. The correspondence is related to the Ford Foundation's work in Mexico, Central America, and South America. The topics covered in the correspondence include: agriculture, anthropology, communication, economics, education, work with foundations, human rights, international relations, law and society, Mexico-US relations, nutrition, pollution, population, public management, resources and the environment, rural development, science and technology, social sciences, urban studies, conference files, and trip files.

Correspondence from the following individuals can be found in this collection:

Emily Vargas Adams

Judith D. Albert

Verne S. Atwater

Calvin P. Blair

Frank Cajka

Peter S. Cleaves

Norman Collins

Nancy Dennis

Robert Drysdale

Richard Dye

Peter Fraenkel

Santiago Friedman

John Funari

William K. Gamble

James A. Gardner

Lowell Hardin

Oscar Harkavy

Eugene Havens Reed Hertford

James Himes

Frank L. Keegan

Robert Myers

John Nagel

John P. Netherton

Siobhan Oppenheimer-Nicolau

K. N. Rao

Nanneke Codd Redclift

Peter Ruof

John Santos

Enid Schoettle

Barry Schuman

Ozzie G. Simmons

Dorothy Tanck

James Trowbridge

Eduardo Venezian

Carl White

Robert S. Wickham

Don Winkelmann

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 5 series:

1. Mexico Programs, 1962-1982
2. Central America, 1962-1983
3. Caribbean Programs, 1964-1972
4. Latin America Program, 1962-1984
5. International Programs

Each series contains subseries that relate to various Ford Foundation program goals (agriculture, population, etc.). The Ford Foundation's original classifications/titles for series and subseries have been retained.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Processing Information

Standard processing by Katie Martin, July 2019

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This material was transferred to RAC in 2019 by the Ford Foundation and ingested by RAC as Accessions 2019:012, 2019:015, and 2019:028.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Related materials include:

[Ford Foundation records, International Division, Latin America and the Caribbean, Jamaica and Mexico City Field Office Files, 1958-1974 \(FA612\)](#)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Agriculture -- Research -- Mexico
- Community development -- Mexico -- Mexico City
- Ford Foundation
- Ford Foundation -- Program development -- Education
- Ford Foundation programs -- Latin America
- Human rights
- International relations -- Ford Foundation
- Social sciences -- Research -- Population
- Women -- Ford Foundation

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Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation began population work in Mexico in 1964. Foundation staff moved to provide financial support for training and research in Mexican institutions that would stimulate awareness in both public and private sectors of the facts and meaning of population growth. The Foundation supported research on bio-medical, sociological, and demographic issues related to population, and training of persons who would be capable of contributing to policy and action on population issues.

The Ford Foundation scaled back its population work in Mexico in the 1970s as the country began accepting population funds from large donors such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the World Bank as well as committing its own resources to population programs. The Foundation continued to fund smaller programs, including the PIACT de Mexico (Program for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology) and training teachers in population/social communication at the Iberoamerican University in Mexico City.

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Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation's human rights program began in 1980 and served grantees in Central America who, according to selection criteria established by the Mexico City Office, qualified as intellectual refugees. Between 1980 and 1982, thirty refugees were awarded grants. These awardees were university professors and administrators, but the program was also open to journalists, writers, and labor union workers. Most of these grantees designed research proposals dealing with their professional background with the purpose of locating gainful employment in the country of exile.

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