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Summary Information

Repository:	DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library
Title:	D.C. Oral History Collaborative Collection
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Scope and Contents

D.C. Oral History Collaborative (DCOHC) is a citywide initiative to train community members in oral history skills, fund new and ongoing oral history projects, connect volunteers with oral history projects, and publicize existing oral history collections. DCOHC is a project of DC Public Library, HumanitiesDC, and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. This collection contains oral history interviews, transcripts, and indexes produced by DCOHC grantees.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Oral History
- Digital materials
- Audio

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Whitman-Walker Health Oral History Project

Biographical / Historical

Whitman-Walker Health, formerly Whitman-Walker Clinic, is a non-profit community health center in the Washington, DC metropolitan area that specializes in HIV/AIDS treatment and LGBTQ healthcare. Founded as an affirming health center for the gay and lesbian community in 1978, Whitman-Walker was one of the first responders to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in DC and became a leader in HIV/AIDS education, prevention, diagnosis and treatment. In recent years, Whitman-Walker has expanded its services to include primary healthcare services, a stronger focus on queer women's care, and youth services.

Scope and Contents

The Whitman-Walker Health Oral History Collection contains 10 audio interviews of members of the Whitman-Walker community. The interviews were conducted by Hannah Byrne and Jewel Addy in late 2017 and early 2018 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Whitman-Walker Health. Transcripts are included for all interviews.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Reproductive health services
- HIV (Viruses)
- Families
- LGBTQ people -- GLBTQ people

Sub-Series 1: Interviews

Title/Description

Instances

Barbara Lewis interview, 2017-08-17

Biographical / Historical

Barbara Lewis is a healthcare professional, longtime Whitman-Walker Clinic volunteer, and current Physician Assistant at Whitman-Walker Health.

Scope and Contents

Barbara Lewis discusses her healthcare background, her relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Carl Corbin interview (part 1 of 2), 2017-08-17

Biographical / Historical

Carl Corbin is a patient and former Patient Advisory Committee member at Whitman Walker.

Scope and Contents

Carl Corbin discusses his background, coming to terms with his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Carl Corbin interview (part 2 of 2), 2017-08-17

Biographical / Historical

Carl Corbin is a patient and former Patient Advisory Committee member at Whitman Walker.

Scope and Contents

Carl Corbin further discusses his background, coming to terms with his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

D Magrini interview (part 1 of 2), 2017-09-27

Biographical / Historical

D Magrini is the Community Commitment and Training Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

D Magrini discusses growing up in Washington, DC, her military service, her previous non-monogamous marriage, power lifting, the emergence of HIV in DC in the 1980s, and her work in Lesbian healthcare.

D Magrini interview (part 2 of 2), 2017-10-15

Biographical / Historical

D Magrini is the Community Commitment and Training Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

D Magrini further discusses growing up in Washington, DC, her military service, her previous non-monogamous

marriage, power lifting, the emergence of HIV in DC in the 1980s, and her work in Lesbian healthcare.

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox interview, 2017-07-23

Biographical / Historical

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox is an LGBT activist and patient at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox discusses his background, how he came to use the services at Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Gerard Tyler interview, 2017-11-19

Biographical / Historical

Gerard Tyler is a patient mentor and longtime volunteer at Whitman-Walker's Gay Men's Health and Wellness Clinic.

Scope and Contents

Gerard Tyler discusses growing up in Fairfax Village, being a mentor at Whitman-Walker, his work with Whitman-Walker's STP clinic, his meningitis diagnosis, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Joanne Sincero interview, 2017-11-13

Biographical / Historical

Joanne Sincero is a Welless Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

Joanne Sincero discusses her work with the Lesbian Services Program at Whitman-Walker, her transition to a full time position with Whitman-Walker, the joys of a queer-friendly workplace, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Kermit Turner interview, 2017-09-20

Biographical / Historical

Kermit Turner is a longtime patient at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

Kermit Turner discusses his childhood in Annapolis, MD, being the first African American page at Anne Arundel County Public Library, moving to Boston, his return to

DC, his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and his Lymphoma diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

Shawn Henderson interview, 2017-11-27

Biographical / Historical

Shawn Henderson is an artist and longtime patient at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

Shawn Henderson discusses his life in Virginia and Washington, DC, his love for sports, parenthood, his religious upbringing, living with HIV, and his experiences at Whitman-Walker as a patient.

Sub-Series 2: Transcripts

Title/Description	Instances
Barbara Lewis transcript, 2017-09-15	

Biographical / Historical

Barbara Lewis is a healthcare professional, longtime Whitman-Walker Clinic volunteer, and current Physician Assistant at Whitman-Walker Health.

Scope and Contents

Barbara Lewis discusses her healthcare background, her relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Carl Corbin transcript (part 1 of 2), 2017-09-28

Biographical / Historical

Carl Corbin is a patient and former Patient Advisory Committee member at Whitman Walker.

Scope and Contents

Carl Corbin discusses his background, coming to terms with his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Carl Corbin transcript (part 2 of 2), 2017-09-28

Biographical / Historical

Carl Corbin is a patient and former Patient Advisory Committee member at Whitman Walker.

Scope and Contents

Carl Corbin further discusses his background, coming to terms with his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

D Magrini transcript (part 1 of 2), 2017-11-08

Biographical / Historical

D Magrini is the Community Commitment and Training Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

D Magrini discusses growing up in Washington, DC, her military service, her previous non-monogamous marriage, power lifting, the emergence of HIV in DC in the 1980s, and her work in Lesbian healthcare.

D Magrini transcript (part 2 of 2), 2017-11-08

Biographical / Historical

D Magrini is the Community Commitment and Training Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

D Magrini further discusses growing up in Washington, DC, her military service, her previous non-monogamous marriage, power lifting, the emergence of HIV in DC in the 1980s, and her work in Lesbian healthcare.

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox transcript, 2017-09-05

Biographical / Historical

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox is an LGBT activist and patient at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

Derrick "Strawberry" Cox discusses his background, how he came to use the services at Whitman-Walker, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Gerard Tyler transcript, 2017-11-27

Biographical / Historical

Gerard Tyler is a patient mentor and longtime volunteer at Whitman-Walker's Gay Men's Health and Wellness Clinic.

Scope and Contents

Gerard Tyler discusses growing up in Fairfax Village, being a mentor at Whitman-Walker, his work with Whitman-Walker's STP clinic, his meningitis diagnosis, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Joanne Sincero transcript, 2017-11-20

Biographical / Historical

Joanne Sincero is a Welless Coordinator at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

Joanne Sincero discusses her work with the Lesbian Services Program at Whitman-Walker, her transition to a full time position with Whitman-Walker, the joys of a queer-friendly workplace, and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Kermit Turner transcript, 2017-09-28

Biographical / Historical

Kermit Turner is a longtime patient at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

Kermit Turner discusses his childhood in Annapolis, MD, being the first African American page at Anne Arundel County Public Library, moving to Boston, his return to DC, his HIV diagnosis, his relationship with Whitman-Walker, and his Lymphoma diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

Shawn Henderson transcript, 2017-11-26

Biographical / Historical

Shawn Henderson is an artist and longtime patient at Whitman-Walker.

Scope and Contents

Shawn Henderson discusses his life in Virginia and Washington, DC, his love for sports, parenthood, his religious upbringing, living with HIV, and his experiences at Whitman-Walker as a patient.

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Biographical / Historical

Mount Pleasant is a neighborhood in Ward 1 of Washington, D.C., and is bordered by Adams Morgan, Columbia Heights, and Cleveland Park. In 1991, rioting was sparked in the neighborhood by the shooting of a Salvadoran man by an African American police officer. These interviews touch on memories of the riots, community-police relations, the history of Mount Pleasant, gentrification, and how the neighborhood changed in response to the events of 1991.

Scope and Contents

The Mount Pleasant Riot Oral History Collection contains 10 audio interviews of people who were members of the Mount Pleasant, D.C. community during the riot of 1991. The interviews were conducted by Pat Scallen in late 2017 and early 2018. Transcripts are included for all interviews.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Riots
- Mount Pleasant (Washington, D.C.)
- Racism
- Police--Washington (D.C.)

Sub-Series 1: Interviews

Title/Description

Instances

Alice Kelly interview, 2018-01-10

Biographical / Historical

Alice Kelly has lived on Lamont Street in Mt. Pleasant since 1983. She has been actively involved in the neighborhood since, serving as chair of the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) as well as working with Historic Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Pleasant Main Street, the Mt. Pleasant Business Association, and the DC Latino Civil Rights Task Force. Ms Kelly has headed the policy office of the District Department of Transportation for the past 14 years.

Scope and Contents

Alice Kelly discusses her initial move to Mount Pleasant, her original impressions of the neighborhood, the improvements at the local elementary school, community efforts to improve the main street, her involvement with the ANC, and the Mount Pleasant riot.

Arturo Griffiths interview, 2018-01-04

Biographical / Historical

Arturo Griffiths is a longtime resident of Mt. Pleasant and community activist. Born in Panama, he attended DC public schools from grade school through high school and studied at Howard University. He is a co-founder of the Latin American Youth Center and has worked in a variety of capacities organizing in the past several decades. Currently he runs Trabajadores Unidos, an organization

which supports day laborers in the Washington, DC region.

Scope and Contents

Arturo Griffiths discusses his childhood in Panama, his family's move to DC, learning English, attending Howard University, his political awakening, DC's latino community, Mayor Barry's relationship with the latino community, the ways in which the 1991 riot affected latinos in Mount Pleasant, and the effects of gentrification in the neighborhood.

Charlene Howard interview, 2017-10-31

Biographical / Historical

Charlene Howard is a longtime Mt. Pleasant resident who lives in the same house that she grew up in on Hobart St NW. Her household is one of the few remaining multi-generational African American families in the neighborhood. She fondly recalls her formative childhood and adolescent years in Mt. Pleasant and reflects upon their importance in shaping her personal values and understanding of the importance of community and diversity. Charlene returned to Hobart St to raise her children and remains actively engaged in local affairs.

Scope and Contents

Charlene Howard discusses her childhood in Adams Morgan, the political activism of Mount Pleasant residents in the 1970s, drug use in Washington DC, police-community language barriers, her memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, and gentrification of the neighborhood.

Elinor Hart interview, 2017-11-10

Biographical / Historical

Elinor Hart has been a homeowner on Hobart St. in Mt. Pleasant since 1974. During this time she has worked closely with the Mt. Pleasant Main Street Association and Historic Mt. Pleasant. Ms Hart has a strong interest in affordable housing and currently coordinates a school partnership for the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs in addition to promoting statehood for Washington, DC.

Scope and Contents

Elinor Hart discusses moving to Mount Pleasant in 1974, changing demographics of the neighborhood, the controversy of the neighborhood's Historic District designation, her memories of the 1991 riot, police-community relations, and gentrification.

José "Chico" Diaz interview, 2017-12-15

Biographical / Historical

José (Chico) Diaz has been affiliated with the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) for over two decades as a participant in its youth programs and later as an employee. As a child in El Salvador, Mr. Diaz battled polio while living in a zone of conflict between guerrilla and military forces. He arrived in Washington, DC, attended DC public schools, and has since made the District his home. Mr. Diaz is the Director of Information Technology at LAYC.

Scope and Contents

José Diaz discusses moving to the US at age 15, his recovery from polio, Mount Pleasant in the 1980s, tensions between latino and african-american youth, the Mount Pleasant riot, and community-police relations.

José Sueiro interview, 2017-11-25

Biographical / Historical

José Sueiro has lived in Adams Morgan and has been intimately involved in the Washington, DC Latino community since the 1970s. He has worked with area youth as Executive Director of the Latin American Youth Center and as a soccer coach at local high schools. Mr. Sueiro is also the unofficial scribe of the Latino community, having edited several local newspapers (both in Spanish and in English) focused on DC's Latino community. He worked in city government under Mayor Anthony Williams and currently consults with Metro DC Hispanic Contractors Association while running a blog on local Latino affairs, metrodiversity.com.

Scope and Contents

José Sueiro discusses his studies at GW university, his move to Panama, his return to DC, his start in the newspaper industry and work at El Latino, DC police's lack of experience with latino youth, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, and Mayor Barry's close relationship to the latino community in DC.

Mark Poletunow interview, 2017-11-18

Biographical / Historical

Mark Poletunow served the Latino community in DC for over two decades as a Capuchin friar. During this time, he worked at the Capilla Latina (now Our Lady Queen of the Americas Catholic parish), served as associate pastor at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, coordinated Hispanic Catholic catechism for the Archdiocese of Washington,

and was the Executive Director of the Hispanic Catholic Center. Mr. Poletunow currently is president of the Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA.

Scope and Contents

Mark Poletunow discusses his arrival in DC, teaching English as a second language to Spanish-speaking people, identification with immigrant communities, his work at the Spanish Catholic Center, poor treatment of the latino community by DC police, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot and their aftermath.

Pedro Avilés interview, 2017-11-15

Biographical / Historical

Pedro Avilés is a Salvadoran American and a longtime resident of Mt. Pleasant. He has worked closely with and has represented the Latino community in Washington, DC in a variety of positions, including serving as a founding member and the executive director of the DC Latino Civil Rights Task Force. Mr. Avilés is an organizational development specialist who has consulted for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the World Bank, the government of El Salvador, and a variety of non-profit agencies.

Scope and Contents

Pedro Avilés discusses moving to Adams Morgan in 1974, his memories of Mount Pleasant, his involvement with the Sacred Heart Church Theatre Group, racial identity, tensions between teachers at DC Public Schools and non-English-speaking students, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, his subsequent involvement with DC's Latino Task Force, and police-community relations in DC.

Robert Fleming interview, 2017-10-30

Biographical / Historical

Robert Fleming is a longtime resident and homeowner in Mt. Pleasant. He moved into the neighborhood in 1975 and from the beginning was intimately involved in neighborhood affairs. He served three terms as an ANC commissioner during the 1980s and co-founded Neighbors Consejo, a local community organization that provided bilingual rehabilitation services to indigent alcoholics. Mr. Fleming has organized workshops on home security and street safety for women and is a founding board member of the Mount Pleasant Village, a mutual support organization for seniors.

Scope and Contents

Robert Fleming discusses moving to Mount Pleasant, his struggle with alcohol, his involvement in the Mount Pleasant ANC, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, gentrification, public intoxication, the improvements in community policing in the neighborhood after the riot, and inter-community relations in Mount Pleasant.

Suann Hecht interview, 2017-11-17

Biographical / Historical

Suann Hecht is a social worker and community activist who has worked with at-risk youth in Washington, DC for 22 years. Known affectionately as Mama Suann during her time at the Latin American Youth Center's Drop-in Center, Ms Hecht has since devoted her efforts to working with juveniles in detention centers and as wards of the city. She retired in 2017 and spends her time between Columbia Heights and Latin America.

Scope and Contents

Suann Hecht discusses moving from New York City to a group house in Mount Pleasant in 1972, her memories of the neighborhood, her involvement with the Latin America Youth Center, the city's handling of the Mount Pleasant riot, the demographics of the neighborhood, and the aftermath of the riot.

Sub-Series 2: Transcripts

Title/Description	Instances
Alice Kelly transcript, 2018-02-02	

Biographical / Historical

Alice Kelly has lived on Lamont Street in Mt. Pleasant since 1983. She has been actively involved in the neighborhood since, serving as chair of the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) as well as working with Historic Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Pleasant Main Street, the Mt. Pleasant Business Association, and the DC Latino Civil Rights Task Force. Ms Kelly has headed the policy office of the District Department of Transportation for the past 14 years.

Scope and Contents

Alice Kelly discusses her initial move to Mount Pleasant, her original impressions of the neighborhood, the improvements at the local elementary school, community efforts to improve the main street, her involvement with the ANC, and the Mount Pleasant riot.

Arturo Griffiths transcript, 2018-02-09

Biographical / Historical

Arturo Griffiths is a longtime resident of Mt. Pleasant and community activist. Born in Panama, he attended DC public schools from grade school through high school and studied at Howard University. He is a co-founder of the Latin American Youth Center and has worked in a variety of capacities organizing in the past several decades. Currently he runs Trabajadores Unidos, an organization which supports day laborers in the Washington, DC region.

Scope and Contents

Arturo Griffiths discusses his childhood in Panama, his family's move to DC, learning English, attending Howard University, his political awakening, DC's latino community, Mayor Barry's relationship with the latino community, the ways in which the 1991 riot affected latinos in Mount Pleasant, and the effects of gentrification in the neighborhood.

Charlene Howard transcript, 2018-01-25

Biographical / Historical

Charlene Howard is a longtime Mt. Pleasant resident who lives in the same house that she grew up in on Hobart St NW. Her household is one of the few remaining multi-generational African American families in the neighborhood. She fondly recalls her formative childhood and adolescent years in Mt. Pleasant and reflects upon their importance in shaping her personal values and understanding of the importance of community and diversity. Charlene returned to Hobart St to raise her children and remains actively engaged in local affairs.

Scope and Contents

Charlene Howard discusses her childhood in Adams Morgan, the political activism of Mount Pleasant residents in the 1970s, drug use in Washington DC, police-community language barriers, her memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, and gentrification of the neighborhood.

Elinor Hart transcript, 2018-01-25

Biographical / Historical

Elinor Hart has been a homeowner on Hobart St. in Mt. Pleasant since 1974. During this time she has worked closely with the Mt. Pleasant Main Street Association and Historic Mt. Pleasant. Ms Hart has a strong interest in affordable housing and currently coordinates a school partnership for the Washington Lawyers Committee for

Civil Rights and Urban Affairs in addition to promoting statehood for Washington, DC.

Scope and Contents

Elinor Hart discusses moving to Mount Pleasant in 1974, changing demographics of the neighborhood, the controversy of the neighborhood's Historic District designation, her memories of the 1991 riot, police-community relations, and gentrification.

José "Chico" Diaz transcript, 2018-02-02

Biographical / Historical

José (Chico) Diaz has been affiliated with the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) for over two decades as a participant in its youth programs and later as an employee. As a child in El Salvador, Mr. Diaz battled polio while living in a zone of conflict between guerrilla and military forces. He arrived in Washington, DC, attended DC public schools, and has since made the District his home. Mr. Diaz is the Director of Information Technology at LAYC.

Scope and Contents

José Diaz discusses moving to the US at age 15, his recovery from polio, Mount Pleasant in the 1980s, tensions between latino and african-american youth, the Mount Pleasant riot, and community-police relations.

José Sueiro transcript, 2018-02-08

Biographical / Historical

José Sueiro has lived in Adams Morgan and has been intimately involved in the Washington, DC Latino community since the 1970s. He has worked with area youth as Executive Director of the Latin American Youth Center and as a soccer coach at local high schools. Mr. Sueiro is also the unofficial scribe of the Latino community, having edited several local newspapers (both in Spanish and in English) focused on DC's Latino community. He worked in city government under Mayor Anthony Williams and currently consults with Metro DC Hispanic Contractors Association while running a blog on local Latino affairs, metrodiversity.com.

Scope and Contents

José Sueiro discusses his studies at GW university, his move to Panama, his return to DC, his start in the newspaper industry and work at El Latino, DC police's lack of experience with latino youth, his memories of the

Mount Pleasant riot, and Mayor Barry's close relationship to the latino community in DC.

Mark Poletunow transcript, 2018-01-27

Biographical / Historical

Mark Poletunow served the Latino community in DC for over two decades as a Capuchin friar. During this time, he worked at the Capilla Latina (now Our Lady Queen of the Americas Catholic parish), served as associate pastor at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, coordinated Hispanic Catholic catechism for the Archdiocese of Washington, and was the Executive Director of the Hispanic Catholic Center. Mr. Poletunow currently is president of the Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA.

Scope and Contents

Mark Poletunow discusses his arrival in DC, teaching English as a second language to Spanish-speaking people, identification with immigrant communities, his work at the Spanish Catholic Center, poor treatment of the latino community by DC police, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot and their aftermath.

Pedro Avilés transcript, 2018-02-09

Biographical / Historical

Pedro Avilés is a Salvadoran American and a longtime resident of Mt. Pleasant. He has worked closely with and has represented the Latino community in Washington, DC in a variety of positions, including serving as a founding member and the executive director of the DC Latino Civil Rights Task Force. Mr. Avilés is an organizational development specialist who has consulted for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the World Bank, the government of El Salvador, and a variety of non-profit agencies.

Scope and Contents

Pedro Avilés discusses moving to Adams Morgan in 1974, his memories of Mount Pleasant, his involvement with the Sacred Heart Church Theatre Group, racial identity, tensions between teachers at DC Public Schools and non-English-speaking students, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, his subsequent involvement with DC's Latino Task Force, and police-community relations in DC.

Robert Fleming transcript, 2018-01-24

Biographical / Historical

Robert Fleming is a longtime resident and homeowner in Mt. Pleasant. He moved into the neighborhood in

1975 and from the beginning was intimately involved in neighborhood affairs. He served three terms as an ANC commissioner during the 1980s and co-founded Neighbors Consejo, a local community organization that provided bilingual rehabilitation services to indigent alcoholics. Mr. Fleming has organized workshops on home security and street safety for women and is a founding board member of the Mount Pleasant Village, a mutual support organization for seniors.

Scope and Contents

Robert Fleming discusses moving to Mount Pleasant, his struggle with alcohol, his involvement in the Mount Pleasant ANC, his memories of the Mount Pleasant riot, gentrification, public intoxication, the improvements in community policing in the neighborhood after the riot, and inter-community relations in Mount Pleasant.

Suann Hecht transcript, 2018-01-26

Biographical / Historical

Suann Hecht is a social worker and community activist who has worked with at-risk youth in Washington, DC for 22 years. Known affectionately as Mama Suann during her time at the Latin American Youth Center's Drop-in Center, Ms Hecht has since devoted her efforts to working with juveniles in detention centers and as wards of the city. She retired in 2017 and spends her time between Columbia Heights and Latin America.

Scope and Contents

Suann Hecht discusses moving from New York City to a group house in Mount Pleasant in 1972, her memories of the neighborhood, her involvement with the Latin America Youth Center, the city's handling of the Mount Pleasant riot, the demographics of the neighborhood, and the aftermath of the riot.

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Series 3: Buzzard Point Oral History Project

Biographical / Historical

Buzzard Point is an industrial area in Washington D.C. that is currently being redeveloped. It will be the site of the largest PEPCO substation in the city and the new D.C. United soccer stadium, as well as new high-rise condominiums and retail. These oral history interviews document family history in the neighborhood and experiences with pollution and gentrification.

Scope and Contents

The Buzzard Point Oral History Collection contains 9 audio interviews of residents of the Buzzard Point, D.C. community. The interviews were conducted by Jesse Card in 2017. Transcripts are included for all interviews.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Buzzard Point (Washington, D.C.)
- Community development, Urban
- Neighborhood associations
- Gentrification

Sub-Series 1: Interviews

Title/Description

Instances

Linda Brown Interview, 2017-07-25

Biographical / Historical

Linda is a native Washingtonian, growing up and spending much of her adult life in Northwest Washington, DC in/around Columbia Heights and attending McKinley Technical High School in Eckington, Northeast Washington, DC. She has lived in public housing in Southwest for 10 years, currently at Greenleaf Senior with her daughter, Chaya. Much of Linda's adult life has been defined by her role as a caretaker for Chaya and the struggles that has necessitated due to historical inadequacies in DC disability services. Linda is active in advocating for increased disability services, organizing opportunities and activities for youth through the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, and, more recently, in organizing for increased housing rights for disadvantaged and low-income families through Empower DC.

Scope and Contents

Linda Brown discusses growing up in Washington, DC and moving to Southwest; the experience of raising her daughter, Chaya, a child with disabilities, and their relationship with the community; her role as an advocate for people with disabilities and her involvement with several organizations, such as TASH, University Legal Services, and Empower DC; public housing; and the redevelopment and historical value of the Southwest neighborhood.

Carolyn Mitchell Interview, 2017-08-07

Biographical / Historical

Carolyn came to DC from Detroit, MI in 2004. She works for the American Society of Landscape Architects and spent much of her time since moving to DC helping to develop community-led visions for the future of development in Southwest. Like many Southwest

residents, she has become disenchanted with the process and promises of public participation programs, feeling that officials consistently ignore the plans she and other community members create, opting instead for development initiatives that hurt rather than help residents who currently live in the neighborhoods near the Buzzard Point industrial area.

Scope and Contents

Carolyn Mitchell discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her work with the American Society of Landscape Architects; changes and issues within the Southwest neighborhood; her involvement in the community and experience working with local organizations; and gentrification and redevelopment throughout Southwest.

Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert Interview, 2017-08-22

Biographical / Historical

Vanessa is a native Washingtonian, living much of her life in Southwest in the very home in which she was born. She has always been very active in her community and has come to be a significant point of access for community members to public officials and offices to ensure public services are benefitting residents of Southwest DC. She has also been passionate about expanding access to and involvement in the arts.

Scope and Contents

Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert discusses her early life in Washington, DC and experience living in Southwest; her involvement in the community and relationship with the children and families in the area; changes and issues related to the neighborhood and its residents; redevelopment and construction in Southwest; and her continued efforts and hopes to improve the community.

Ryan Pierce Interview, 2017-08-28

Biographical / Historical

Ryan is a young professional living in Southwest DC for three and a half years. He works for the National Park Service and volunteers on the History Task Force of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. In this interview he discusses what makes DC a great place to live while addressing the many challenges associated with development, gentrification, and access to public resources.

Scope and Contents

Ryan Pierce discusses moving to Washington, DC; his educational background and work related to historic preservation; the history and architecture of Southwest; his involvement with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and its History Task Force; redevelopment and gentrification in the area, as well as residents' input and responses to these changes; and his thoughts on the future of the neighborhood.

Brian Hamilton Interview, 2017-09-06

Biographical / Historical

Brian—along with his wife, Ruth—is a co-pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Southwest DC. He has lived and worked in the community for 21 years and is passionate about improving community relations and the social and economic conditions of Southwest residents. In this interview he provides a lot of historical analysis to explain how current social and economic conditions came to be, as well as how they might be improved. Brian also discusses the many initiatives Westminster Church has undertaken toward that goal.

Scope and Contents

Brian Hamilton discusses moving to Washington, DC and living and raising a family in Southwest; his work with the Westminster Presbyterian Church; the history of the neighborhood and the church; the church's involvement in the Southwest community; urban renewal, gentrification, and changes and issues in the neighborhood; and his thoughts and hopes related to the future of the area.

Bruce Kellogg Interview, 2017-09-19

Biographical / Historical

Bruce is a retired 35-year resident of Southwest. He has traveled extensively in maritime service and with the Peace Corps and USAID. He married an Afghan during his travels, and his dual-nationality household has been a stable presence in the Carrollsburg neighborhood, with his wife and children also very active in local and international volunteer work.

Scope and Contents

Bruce Kellogg discusses what brought him to Washington, DC and his time spent living in Southwest; his time spent working and traveling with international agencies and organizations such as the Peace Corps, USAID, and the United Seaman's Service; how he met his wife and the experience of raising their three children in DC; development plans for the neighborhood and residents'

reactions; some of his hobbies and volunteer efforts; and the rivers and waterfront areas in Southwest.

David Ehrlich Interview, 2017-09-25

Biographical / Historical

David is an 80-year-old resident of Southwest. He is retired, but performs chamber music locally and is, with his wife, very active in local events and the arts. In this interview he highlights some of the changes Southwest has seen over his 38 years living there as well as the many reasons he prefers living in DC to other urban and suburban areas.

Scope and Contents

David Ehrlich discusses what brought him to Washington, DC and the Southwest neighborhood, in particular; his work history and experience as a pianist and chamber music performer; his thoughts on the changes, amenities, and construction and redevelopment in the area; and his and his wife Barbara's travels and involvement in the community.

Thelma D. Jones Interview, 2017-09-26

Biographical / Historical

Thelma is a passionate and life-long community advocate and retiree of the World Bank. She is a breast cancer survivor who has dedicated significant personal resources and time to helping others across the entire life cycle: from helping the youth of Southwest to become job ready through skills training and mentorship to starting the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund to help reduce incidence and mortality of cancer. In this interview she describes her incredible achievements through local organizations and through her career at the World Bank and discusses challenges associated with ongoing development in Southwest DC.

Scope and Contents

Thelma D. Jones discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her work with the World Bank and its summer jobs training program for youth; the history of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and her involvement with the organization and many of its task forces, especially the Youth Activities Task Force; the Southwest Neighborhood Small Area Plan; the creation and mission of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund; and changes and developments in the Southwest neighborhood.

Barbara Ehrlich Interview, 2017-09-28

Biographical / Historical

Barbara is a 47-year resident of Southwest DC, coming to the area by way of Pennsylvania in a mid-life transition to public health work from teaching and working with the U.S. Army. She has been deeply involved in coordinating and planning large festivals along the Southwest waterfront and in establishing the Waterfront Village: a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to supporting senior members of the community in remaining in their homes as they age.

Scope and Contents

Barbara Ehrlich discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her educational background and work experience, especially in Public Health; her involvement with local organizations and events such as the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Southwest Arts Festival Committee, the DC Arts Commission, the Washington Waterfront Association, and the National Cherry Blossom Festival; changes and developments in the neighborhood; and the concept of aging in place.

Sub-Series 2: Transcripts

Title/Description	Instances
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Linda Brown Transcript, 2017-07-25

Biographical / Historical

Linda is a native Washingtonian, growing up and spending much of her adult life in Northwest Washington, DC in/around Columbia Heights and attending McKinley Technical High School in Eckington, Northeast Washington, DC. She has lived in public housing in Southwest for 10 years, currently at Greenleaf Senior with her daughter, Chaya. Much of Linda's adult life has been defined by her role as a caretaker for Chaya and the struggles that has necessitated due to historical inadequacies in DC disability services. Linda is active in advocating for increased disability services, organizing opportunities and activities for youth through the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, and, more recently, in organizing for increased housing rights for disadvantaged and low-income families through Empower DC.

Scope and Contents

Linda Brown discusses growing up in Washington, DC and moving to Southwest; the experience of raising her daughter, Chaya, a child with disabilities, and their relationship with the community; her role as an advocate

for people with disabilities and her involvement with several organizations, such as TASH, University Legal Services, and Empower DC; public housing; and the redevelopment and historical value of the Southwest neighborhood.

Carolyn Mitchell Transcript, 2017-08-07

Biographical / Historical

Carolyn came to DC from Detroit, MI in 2004. She works for the American Society of Landscape Architects and spent much of her time since moving to DC helping to develop community-led visions for the future of development in Southwest. Like many Southwest residents, she has become disenchanted with the process and promises of public participation programs, feeling that officials consistently ignore the plans she and other community members create, opting instead for development initiatives that hurt rather than help residents who currently live in the neighborhoods near the Buzzard Point industrial area.

Scope and Contents

Carolyn Mitchell discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her work with the American Society of Landscape Architects; changes and issues within the Southwest neighborhood; her involvement in the community and experience working with local organizations; and gentrification and redevelopment throughout Southwest.

Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert Transcript, 2017-08-22

Biographical / Historical

Vanessa is a native Washingtonian, living much of her life in Southwest in the very home in which she was born. She has always been very active in her community and has come to be a significant point of access for community members to public officials and offices to ensure public services are benefitting residents of Southwest DC. She has also been passionate about expanding access to and involvement in the arts.

Scope and Contents

Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert discusses her early life in Washington, DC and experience living in Southwest; her involvement in the community and relationship with the children and families in the area; changes and issues related to the neighborhood and its residents; redevelopment and construction in Southwest; and her continued efforts and hopes to improve the community.

Ryan Pierce Transcript, 2017-08-28

Biographical / Historical

Ryan is a young professional living in Southwest DC for three and a half years. He works for the National Park Service and volunteers on the History Task Force of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. In this interview he discusses what makes DC a great place to live while addressing the many challenges associated with development, gentrification, and access to public resources.

Scope and Contents

Ryan Pierce discusses moving to Washington, DC; his educational background and work related to historic preservation; the history and architecture of Southwest; his involvement with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and its History Task Force; redevelopment and gentrification in the area, as well as residents' input and responses to these changes; and his thoughts on the future of the neighborhood.

Brian Hamilton Transcript, 2017-09-06

Biographical / Historical

Brian—along with his wife, Ruth—is a co-pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Southwest DC. He has lived and worked in the community for 21 years and is passionate about improving community relations and the social and economic conditions of Southwest residents. In this interview he provides a lot of historical analysis to explain how current social and economic conditions came to be, as well as how they might be improved. Brian also discusses the many initiatives Westminster Church has undertaken toward that goal.

Scope and Contents

Brian Hamilton discusses moving to Washington, DC and living and raising a family in Southwest; his work with the Westminster Presbyterian Church; the history of the neighborhood and the church; the church's involvement in the Southwest community; urban renewal, gentrification, and changes and issues in the neighborhood; and his thoughts and hopes related to the future of the area.

Bruce Kellogg Transcript, 2017-09-19

Biographical / Historical

Bruce is a retired 35-year resident of Southwest. He has traveled extensively in maritime service and with the Peace Corps and USAID. He married an Afghan during his travels, and his dual-nationality household has been

a stable presence in the Carrollsbury neighborhood, with his wife and children also very active in local and international volunteer work.

Scope and Contents

Bruce Kellogg discusses what brought him to Washington, DC and his time spent living in Southwest; his time spent working and traveling with international agencies and organizations such as the Peace Corps, USAID, and the United Seaman's Service; how he met his wife and the experience of raising their three children in DC; development plans for the neighborhood and residents' reactions; some of his hobbies and volunteer efforts; and the rivers and waterfront areas in Southwest.

David Ehrlich Transcript, 2017-09-25

Biographical / Historical

David is an 80-year-old resident of Southwest. He is retired, but performs chamber music locally and is, with his wife, very active in local events and the arts. In this interview he highlights some of the changes Southwest has seen over his 38 years living there as well as the many reasons he prefers living in DC to other urban and suburban areas.

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Biographical / Historical

Thelma is a passionate and life-long community advocate and retiree of the World Bank. She is a breast cancer survivor who has dedicated significant personal resources and time to helping others across the entire life cycle: from helping the youth of Southwest to become job ready through skills training and mentorship to starting the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund to help reduce incidence and mortality of cancer. In this interview she describes her incredible achievements through local organizations and through her career at the World Bank and discusses challenges associated with ongoing development in Southwest DC.

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Barbara Ehrlich Transcript, 2017-09-28

Biographical / Historical

Barbara is a 47-year resident of Southwest DC, coming to the area by way of Pennsylvania in a mid-life transition to public health work from teaching and working with the U.S. Army. She has been deeply involved in coordinating and planning large festivals along the Southwest waterfront and in establishing the Waterfront Village: a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to supporting senior members of the community in remaining in their homes as they age.

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Barbara Ehrlich discusses moving to Washington, DC and her time spent living in Southwest; her educational background and work experience, especially in Public Health; her involvement with local organizations and events such as the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Southwest Arts Festival Committee, the DC Arts Commission, the Washington Waterfront Association, and the National Cherry Blossom Festival; changes and developments in the neighborhood; and the concept of aging in place.

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Series 4: ARTS DC: CETA and the Arts in the District of Columbia 1977 – 1982

Biographical / Historical

ARTS DC was a CETA arts program that employed over 300 theater artists, musicians, painters, dancers, poets, and other artists and arts workers in over 100 District of Columbia theaters, dance companies, galleries, music ensembles, and other arts organizations from 1977 to 1982. Artists who were employed in ARTS DC-funded jobs reflect on their ARTS DC experience, how the ARTS DC job affected their artistic careers and lives, and the impact of the program on the DC arts community. Oral history is an ideal tool to connect the stories of individual artists with the larger historical narrative of the DC arts community and of federal support of arts employment going back to the Work Projects Administration of the 1930s, and to document how the District's use of federal CETA funds for arts employment was different from that of other cities. This project was created as part of the D.C. Oral History

Collaborative, a citywide initiative to train community members in oral history skills, fund new and ongoing oral history projects, connect volunteers with oral history projects, and publicize existing oral history collections. The D.C. Oral History Collaborative is a project of D.C. Public Library, HumanitiesDC, and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. Learn more about the DC Oral History Collaborative on the HumanitiesDC website.

Scope and Contents

ARTS DC: CETA and the Arts in the District of Columbia 1977 – 1982 collection contains five audio interviews of ARTS DC artists. The interviews were conducted by Jonetta Rose Barras in 2017. Transcript and indexes are included for all interviews.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Artists
- Arts
- Racism
- Poets

Sub-Series 1: Interviews

Title/Description

Instances

Anne Becker interview, 2017-10-06

Biographical / Historical

Born in Chicago, Illinois Anne Becker grew-up in the southern Maryland towns of Takoma Park and Silver Spring. She attended Beloit college to study anthropology. After a brief stint studying abroad in France she dropped out, finally finishing her education at Johns Hopkins. Her work and reading have made an impact on the DC poetry scene and beyond, as well as the work that she has done with some of the 20th centuries best loved poets as part of her work for the CETA funded program Watershed.

Scope and Contents

Poet and CETA Arts DC participant, Anne Becker reflects on her life and work with some of the most celebrated poets of the later half of the 20th century, including work with June Jordan, Dennis Brutus, Shirley Kaufman and Nobel prize winners Joseph Brodsky and Czeslaw Milosz. She also speaks about her seventeen years at Watershed Foundation, the work site for Anne Becker's tenure as an Arts DC CETA participant, where she developed develop her own poetry, eventually becoming the poet laureate for Takoma Park, MD.

Lorenzo A. Calender II interview, 2017-11-02

Biographical / Historical

Lorenzo A. Calender II was born and raised in Southeast Washington, D.C., where he graduated from Ballou High School. His life and work have revolved around storytelling, including significant contributions to D.C.

radio, youth empowerment, and preserving the art of storytelling.

Scope and Contents

Storyteller Lorenzo A. Calender II speaks about how he came to fall in love with poetry and science fiction at an early age, his work with radio that led him to interview such notable figures as Nikki Giovanni and Stevie Wonder, his work with youth that exposed him to "the power of storytelling", as well as what led him to create the persona, master storyteller Baba-C. Lorenzo Calender was an early recipient of ARTS:DC CETA funding.

Sheila Crider interview, 2017-11-02

Biographical / Historical

Born in West Virginia, Sheila Crider moved to D.C. at 8 years old when her father got a job as a guard at the Department of Engraving. Sheila Crider grew up in a mixed income black community in Southeast Washington, D.C. A recipient of ARTS DC CETA funding, Sheila is an accomplished poet and visual artist.

Scope and Contents

Sheila Crider reflects on her life in the arts. She speaks about growing up in Southeast Washington DC and falling in love with reading as a child. And reflects on how living in Washington, DC, and the black intellectual movements of the 1970s helped to share her literary works. Time abroad in the Peace Corps, switching from literary to visual arts while living in France, time as an apprentice in Japan, and jobs that she took early a supplementary income, such as 10 years posing as a model for artists at the Corcoran, are some of the other topics that she touches upon. Central to the narrative is her work as a founding member of "Free DC," and the ways that ARTS DC: CETA funding helped her to develop her career.

George Koch interview part 1, 2017-09-29

Biographical / Historical

George Koch was born and raised in a small town in Ohio, where he came of age in the 1950s. He was one of the first Americans to serve in the Peace Corps, and it's U.S. equivalent VISTA. He attended college at Bowling Green State University and worked in the federal government, where his position on his union's organizing committee led to him becoming active in the labor right and Anti-Vietnam War movement in the 1960s. Having a love for painting, in 1969, just as Washington, DC was reeling from riots that burned huge swaths of the city, George opened an art studio in Adams Morgan, and has

been a prominent member of the Washington, DC arts community ever since.

Scope and Contents

George Koch reflects on growing up in a family of German immigrants in a small Ohio town. He speaks about the influence of his time in the Peace Corps, in the VISTA program, and his time on the organizing committee of a union for federal employees, and how these came to influence his politics and outlook on life. George talks about how he then solidified his prominent role in the Washington, DC arts community when he opened a studio in Adams Morgan, a year after the 1968 riot that had left much of the city burned.

George Koch interview part 2, 2017-09-29

Biographical / Historical

George Koch was born and raised in a small town in Ohio, where he came of age in the 1950s. He was one of the first Americans to serve in the Peace Corps, and it's U.S. equivalent VISTA. He attended college at Bowling Green State University and worked in the federal government, where his position on his union's organizing committee led to him becoming active in the labor right and Anti-Vietnam War movement in the 1960s. Having a love for painting, in 1969, just as Washington, DC was reeling from riots that burned huge swaths of the city, George opened an art studio in Adams Morgan, and has been a prominent member of the Washington, DC arts community ever since.

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Rogelio Maxwell interview, 2017-10-28

Biographical / Historical

Rogelio Maxwell reflects on the different influences that he brings to his art, as well as his role in the development of Washington, DC's art scene in the 1970s and 80s and how he decided to turn his exhibits into multimedia art experiences. He speaks about learning the congas at a very young age and being quickly recognized for his artistic

talents while growing up in Brooklyn. His life is changed when one of his professors at the School for Visual Arts in Brooklyn encourages to drop out of school and let life influence his art. He then moved to Washington DC where he would eventually open Hardart studio and became a recipient of ARTS DC: CETA funding. Rogelio Maxwell continues to make innovative mixed medium art to this day.

Scope and Contents

Rogelio Maxwell was born in Panama City, Panama. When he turned nine his mother brought him to Brooklyn, NY, where he was raised, went to school, and eventually attended the college at the School of Visual Arts (SVA). Convinced that he needed to experience life in order to be an artist, he dropped out of art school and made his way to Washington, DC where he would eventually set up a studio. With a background in both visual arts and music, he would eventually combine the two to become a pioneer in the multimedia art that fuses different mediums.

Sub-Series 2: Transcripts

Title/Description	Instances
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Anne Becker transcript, 2017-10-06

Biographical / Historical

Born in Chicago, Illinois Anne Becker grew-up in the southern Maryland towns of Takoma Park and Silver Spring. She attended Beloit college to study anthropology. After a brief stint studying abroad in France she dropped out, finally finishing her education at Johns Hopkins. Her work and reading have made an impact on the DC poetry scene and beyond, as well as the work that she has done with some of the 20th centuries best loved poets as part of her work for the CETA funded program Watershed.

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Lorenzo A. Calender II transcript, 2017-11-02

Biographical / Historical

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Storyteller Lorenzo A. Calender II speaks about how he came to fall in love with poetry and science fiction at an early age, his work with radio that led him to interview such notable figures as Nikki Giovanni and Stevie Wonder, his work with youth that exposed him to "the power of storytelling", as well as what led him to create the persona, master storyteller Baba-C. Lorenzo Calender was an early recipient of ARTS:DC CETA funding.

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Sheila Crider reflects on her life in the arts. She speaks about growing up in Southeast Washington DC and falling in love with reading as a child. And reflects on how living in Washington, DC, and the black intellectual movements of the 1970s helped to share her literary works. Time abroad in the Peace Corps, switching from literary to visual arts while living in France, time as an apprentice in Japan, and jobs that she took early a supplementary income, such as 10 years posing as an model for artists at the Corcoran, are some of the other topics that she touches upon. Central to the narrative is her work as a founding member of "Free DC," and the ways that ARTS DC: CETA funding helped her to develop her career.

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Biographical / Historical

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Sub-Series 2: Indexes

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