

Finding Aid for the Cultural Services Consolidation Committee records Collection 161

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
March 1993
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Cultural Services Consolidation Committee.
Title	Cultural Services Consolidation Committee records
Date [inclusive]	1955-1986
Extent	7.8 Linear feet 17 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Cultural Services Consolidation Committee was organized in 1984 by the Grand Rapids City Commission to plan the consolidation of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, John Ball Zoo and area libraries. The effort ended on May 13, 1986, when Kent County residents voted against the proposed \$2.1 million millage necessary to implement the consolidation. The collection contains reports, correspondence, meeting minutes, financial records, and plans of the Cultural Services Consolidation Committee. The material provides a look into each aspect of the Committee, from funding, budget and expenditures to press coverage and millage information.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

The Cultural Services Consolidation Committee (CSCC) was formed in the spring of 1984 by the Grand Rapids City Commission. The commission hired Bruce Robinson to serve as the CSCC's professional manager, and Charles McCallum was appointed chairman.

The goal of the CSCC was to consolidate the John Ball Zoo, the Grand Rapids Public Museum and the city and county library systems, thereby providing county-wide support for these institutions. Prior to the formation of the CSCC, a Library Study Committee had already begun planning consolidation of the city and county library systems.

The rationale for consolidation was based, in part, on the steadily decreasing population of Grand Rapids, while the population of surrounding communities was rising. As a result, visitors to the zoo and museum were made up largely of non-city residents. The CSCC felt that Grand Rapids residents were paying more than their share of costs and could not meet the demands of improved service. Non-city residents had little or no voice in the governance of these institutions. Further, the city and county library systems duplicated services and it was felt that consolidation could avoid some of this duplication.

On May 13, 1986, Kent County residents voted against the proposed \$2.1 million millage, ending consolidation plans. CSCC supporters were both stunned and frustrated by the election's outcome. Only 15% of the registered voters turned out to participate, of which 72% voted against the CSCC's proposal.

Scope and Contents note

The collection provides a detailed look at each aspect of the CSCC as it progressed. Although a few items date back to the 1950s and the 1970s, the bulk of the records cover the years 1982 to 1986. Records are organized alphabetically according to topic.

Topics include the following: information concerning Action Arts Plan 2000 from 1985; the CSCC budget from 1984-1986; the Campaign Coordinating Committee, 1986; the Citizen's Committee on Consolidation of Governmental Services, 1981-1983; clerical support information from 1984-85; the Committee of the Whole, 1983-86; Consultants, 1984-85; Correspondence to and from Kent County Library System, 1984-85; legal correspondence, 1983-86; the CSCC agenda containing approval of minutes, zoo information, Grand Rapids Public Library information and museum information from 1984; CSCC work plan, 1984; CSCC proposal, 1984; expenditures, 1984-88; the final report, 1986; a financial statement, 1986; funding information, 1983-1986; general information concerning the Grand Rapids Public Museum, 1980-82, n.d.; general information concerning the Kent County Library system, 1972, 1977-78, 1983-85; Library Consultant Proposal, 1980-85; the Library Study Committee, 1977-78, 1981-84; millage/voter information, 1982-86; minutes, 1984-86; press coverage, 1971-1978,

1983-86; public notice of meetings, 1985-86; sub-committee information, 1978, 1984-86; John Ball Zoo information and master plan, 1984-85; Metro Zoo information, 1978, 1983-84.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department March 1993

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Will Jones, June 2, 1986; accession number 1986.399

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 109, Grand Rapids Public Library Administrative Archives, contains some files on the consolidation initiative from the Library's perspective.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Grand Rapids Public Library (Grand Rapids, Mich.).
- Grand Rapids Public Museum.
- John Ball Zoo.
- Kent District Library (Kent County, Mich.).

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Kent County (Mich.) -- Cultural policy

Subject(s)

- Libraries and state -- Michigan -- Kent County
- Social sciences and state -- Michigan -- Kent County
- Zoos -- Michigan -- Kent County

Cultural Service Consolidation Committee

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Action Arts Plan 2000, 1985	1	1
Campaign Coordinating Committee, 1986	1	3
Budget, 1984-1986	1	2
Citizen's Committee on Consolidation of Governmental Services, 1981-1983	1	4
Clerical support, 1984-1985 – RESTRICTED	1	5-6
Committee of the Whole, 1983-1986, n.d.	1	7-9
Kent County Library, 1984-1985	1	12
Legal, 1983-1985	1	13-16
Legal, 1985-1986	2	1
Miscellaneous, 1965, 1983-1986	2	2
Cultural Service Consolidation Committee		
	Box	Folder

Grand Rapids Public Museum

Agenda, 1984	2	3-6
Background information, work plan, 1984	2	7
Biographical information on the following People: Larry Earl Bone; Lee B. Brawner; Laurie Anne Hardaway; David M. Henington; Richard L. Waters, n.d.	2	8
Miscellaneous information, 1983, 1986, n.d.	2	9
Proposal, 1984	2	10-11
Expenditures, 1984-1985	2	12-14
Final report, 1986	2	15-16
Financial statement, 1986	2	17
Funding, G.R. Public Museum, 1984-1986, n.d.	2	18
Funding, CSCC sub-committees, 1983-1984, n.d.	2	19
Funding, CSCC sub-committees, 1985-1986	3	1
Funding, John Ball Zoo, 1984-1985	3	2

Grand Rapids Public Museum

Libraries, general information

	Box	Folder
Economic impact study, n.d.	3	3
General information, 1984-1986, n.d.	3	4-9
Master plan report, 1982	3	10
Surveys, 1980	3	11-12
Legal issues, 1984-1985	3	13
Libraries, general information		
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Genesee County, 1976, 1983	3	14
Jackson District, 1983	4	1
Kent County, 1955, 1972, 1983-1984, n.d.	4	2-6
Lakeland, 1977-78, 1983	4	7
Library consultant proposals, 1980-1981, 1983-1985, n.d.	4	8-14
Library Study Committee, 1977-1978, 1981-1982, n.d.	4	15
Library Study Committee, 1983-1984, n.d.	5	1-4

Minutes

Management Services, 1981-1985	5	5
Millage/voter information, 1982-1986, n.d.	5	6-9
Minutes		
	Box	Folder
CSCC, 1984-1985	5	10-11
CSCC, 1985-1986	6	1-2
Funding Sub-Committee, 1984-1985,	6	3-4
Library Consolidation Study Committee, 1983-1985	6	5-7
Steering Committee, 1984-1985	6	8
Structure and Governance Sub-Committee, 1984-1985	6	9-10
Press coverage		
	Box	Folder
Jackson County Library System consolidates city and county libraries.	6	11
Plans to consolidate Kent Co./Grand Rapids libraries, 1971-1978	6	11
CSCC, 1983-1986	6	12-14

Sub-Committees

CSCC, 1986, n.d.	7	1
Public notice of meetings, 1985-1986	7	2
Sub-Committees		
	Box	Folder
Library Consolidation, 1978, 1984-1986, n.d.	7	3-5
Steering Committee, 1984-1986	7	6
Structure and Governance, 1984-1985, n.d.	7	7
Zoo		
	Box	Folder
John Ball, master plan, gen. info., 1979, 1984-1985	7	8-10
Metropolitan Zoological Park, gen. info., 1978, 1983-84	7	11