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Finding aid for the Greater Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Center collection Collection 288

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on May 07, 2024.

Description is written in: Undetermined.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Prepared by R. Mayne, 2000-2005

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Business Number: 616-988-5497

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/history/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Title:	Greater Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Center collection
ID:	Collection 288
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1930-2004
Physical Description:	1.2 Linear Feet Four boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains material from the Grand Rapids, Michigan convention and visitor's bureau. The organization has been known as the Grand Rapids Convention Bureau, the Greater Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Center, the Kent County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Experience Grand Rapids. Included are photographs and slides showing Grand Rapids views, primarily the downtown area. These images were used for publications and presentations and given to the archives when replaced by a later generation image. Also included are minutes from 1931 and several publications.

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Scope and Contents

The holdings found here are representative of the work of this organization, but do not provide a comprehensive view. The bulk of the collection currently is the images. Providing, as they do, some good recent views of Grand Rapids, they add to the popular and historical representation of Michigan's second largest city during the later decades of the 20th century.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
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Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Greater Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Center, accessions 1998.063, 1986.417, 00.[1265].1, 2003.062 and 2007.006.2.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

See also Collection 240 for maps issued from the Bureau.

Many Convention and Visitor's Bureau publications are found in other collections in the Archives. In particular, Coll. 216, the GRPL Ephemera Collection, is likely to contain their materials.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Tourism -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- photographs
- government records

- Tourism -- Michigan -- Kent County
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Collection Inventory

Series I. Documents.

Grand Rapids Convention Bureau.

Title/Description	Instances	
Meeting Minutes. Jan.-Apr. 1931 + Letter, Mar. 31, 1931 to Joseph H. Brewer, President ...Bureau, with March minutes [photocopies] including planning for Devaux-Hall Dinner. 1986.417	Box 1.5	Folder 1
Website prints, Mar. 14, 2005: About Us; Links; Fact Sheet; Image Library into sheet.	Box 1.5	Folder 1.5
[Conference Planning Packet] 2002.	Box 1.5	

Scope and Contents

Paper folder including Meeting Planner's Guide; 20 Years into the Millennium. Calendars for 1999 to 2020; Grand Rapids 2002 Grand Rapids/Kent County Visitors Guide; Amway Grand Plaza brochure; Flyer with new DeVos Place Convention Center floor plan; DVD - DeVos Place / Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Grand Rapids, Michigan. Naturally. Box 1.5

Scope and Contents

1985 Era Conference documents and correspondence, sent to Public Library Association representative, Chicago. 00.[5462].1

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Series II. Publications.

Title/Description	Instances	
Grand Rapids Invites You. Your Host, Grand Rapids-- Cover / GR Convention Bureau, et al. Ca. 1930-1940s. Formerly MKG91.G65n 00.[1265].1	Box 1.5	Folder 2

Grand Rapids / Kent County Visitors Guide

Title/Description	Instances
1999 00.[0594].1	Box 1.5
2000 00.[0601].1	Box 1.5
2001 00.[1166].2	Box 1.5
2002 00.[2590].1	Box 1.5
2003 2007.079	Box 1.5
2004 00.[2727].1	Box 1.5
2005 00.[4077].2	Box 1.5
2006 00.[5016].1	Box 1.5
2007 2007.006.2	Box 1.5
2008 00.[5525].1-2	Box 1.5
2009 2009.014.4.1	Box 1.5

Brochures.

Title/Description	Instances
Grand Rapids : the Other Side of Michigan / Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau. n.d. Ca 2000? 00.[5323].1	Box 1.5

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Series III. Graphics

Accession 1998.063

Black and white photographs

Title/Description	Instances
Aerial of GR City Center toward SE / LaBakk Studio, n.d. (2 copies)	Box 1 Folder 3
Bird's eye, Grand Center, toward SE, n.d. (2 copies)	Box 1 Folder 4
River view of Grand Center, toward SE., n.d. (3 prints of different quality)	Box 1 Folder 5
Grand Center overlooking Grand River, n.d.	Box 1 Folder 6
River view of Downtown highrise (Amway Grand) with Pearl St. Bridge, n.d.	Box 1 Folder 7
Grand Center, Welsh Auditorium, Interior. ASAE East Central Regional Convention & Exposition, May 20-22, 1987. Robinson Studio photo.	Box 1 Folder 8

Grand Center Trade Show, n.d. Interior. (2 copies)	Box 1	Folder 9
Grand Rapids Welsh Civic Expansion. Daverman Associates, Architects & Engineers, DA 7601-10. July 12, 1977.	Box 1	Folder 10
Grand Center (Convention Center, Civic Auditorium, Welsh Auditorium, Pantlind, Amway Grand) (1)	Box 1	Folder 10
View of Monroe Avenue looking toward Pantlind Hotel. Robinson Studio photo, Aug. 11, 1949.	Box 1	Folder 11
Old Kent River Bank Run, n.d., crowd and close-up / From Amway Corp. PR Dept.	Box 1	Folder 12
3 Photos of Annual Charity Jam! Macker Charity Jam. Including the Calder.	Box 1	Folder 13
Fish ladder, Bird's eye, n.d.	Box 1	Folder 14
2 photos of Grand Rapids Art Museum (Federal Building, old Post office)	Box 1	Folder 15
Gerald R. Ford Museum and surround (8 snapshots)	Box 1	Folder 16
John Ball Park, John Ball stature with children climbing. (1)	Box 1	Folder 17
Images for brochures attached to light board: Grand Rapids Public Museum (Streets of Old GR Interior), Ballet, Art Museum Exhibit, Symphony with director Catherine Comet, Monroe Mall park toward Pantlind, Roxy's Night Club, Grand Haven Pier	Box 1	Folder 18
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre "On Borrowed Time" a comedy by Paul Osborn, Jan. 6-22, 1994. Two production stage views with Fred Bogaert, Audrey Willis, Dane Clark, Jon Beebe, Elizabeth Stokes (dog)	Box 1	Folder 19
Squires Street Square (Rockford, Mi.) Schoolmarm's Barn Antiques (2 copies)	Box 1	Folder 20

Color photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Aerial. Snapshot of city center toward SE, with Grand River.	Box 1	Folder 21
Aerial view of Grand Center and Amway Grand Plaza Hotel., n.d. (2 copies)	Box 1	Folder 22
Grand Rapids City View, Grand Center. (blue tone, view to SE with river in background) (2 copies)	Box 1	Folder 23
Monroe Street Level View of Grand Center toward SW	Box 1	Folder 24
Pedestrian Bridge from Gerald R. Ford Museum to Amway Grand Plaza, n.d.	Box 1	Folder 25

Grand Center View to SE from west side with Grand River in foreground (4 copies)	Box 1	Folder 26
Grand Center View to NE, Welsh Auditorium view, Grand River in foreground (4 copies)	Box 1	Folder 27
Grand River view of Grand Rapids city center, NE toward Amway Grand, Sept. 21, 1985.	Box 1	Folder 28
Grand Center Grand Hall Banquet Facility Interior (3 copies)	Box 1	Folder 29
Unidentified event with crowd watching from cement overhead walkway and from sidewalks along Monroe, from Amway Corp. PR Dept.	Box 1	Folder 30
Three views of the City Center on the Monroe Mall, Downtown Shopping Plaza	Box 1	Folder 31
Public Museum of Grand Rapids, with Grand River in foreground.	Box 1	Folder 32
Scene Downtown Grand Rapids with trees in foreground, possibly view from Crescent Street hill (2 copies)	Box 1	Folder 33
Gerald R. Ford Museum (3 views, 1 with astronaut, all with fountain)	Box 1	Folder 34
Voigt House Museum on College Ave., n.d. (2 copies)	Box 1	Folder 35
Thomas Gilbert Home, 55 Lafayette Ave NE, Heritage Hill	Box 1	Folder 36

Laser copies or prints

Title/Description	Instances	
Rendering of Van Andel Arena n.d. or architect given.	Box 1	Folder 37
Color. Van Andel Living Shores Aquarium, John Ball Zoological Garden, Opening 1995. Exhibit rendering (2 copies of different quality, 2 sheets each)	Box 1	Folder 38
Color. Van Andel. Children with museum exhibit. Interior	Box 1	Folder 38

Negatives (3)

Title/Description	Instances	
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum	Box 1	Folder 39
Grand Center Banquet Hall Interior	Box 1	Folder 39
Grand Rapids Public Museum, Gaslight Village	Box 1	Folder 39

Slides

Box 2

Scope and Contents

Box 3

Approximately 250, mostly color. Includes images such as: Kent County Airport, many by David Sticklen; Monroe Center/Monroe Mall; John Ball Park; City Center (Centre); Voight House; Downtown Grand Rapids; Cross Country Skiing; Van Andel Museum; Amway Grand Plaza Hotel; Gerald R. Ford Museum; Welsh Auditorium; Festival '86; Fish Ladder; Winter Carnival; Polish Festival '79; Italian Festival

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Series IV. Ephemera

Title/Description	Instances	
Board Meeting 2003 Mailer card. 2003.062 (3 COPIES)	Box 1.5	
DeVos Place [flyer] [ca. 2004] 00.[2661].1	Box 1.5	
Grand Rapids Hometown Hero card. Promo for the Center inviting meeting planners bring their professional organizations to Grand Rapids. 00.[3569].1	Box 1.5	
Large brown paper bag with handle, with the Visitor's Center logo ID printed on it. 2007.010.2	Collection 224	Box 20

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