

Finding aid for the S.O.U.L. (Sharing our Uncommon Legacy) of Philanthropy Project Collection 369

Finding aid prepared by Jen Morrison

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
2009
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	S.O.U.L. of Philanthropy.
Title	S.O.U.L. (Sharing our Uncommon Legacy) of Philanthropy Project
Date [inclusive]	2006-2009
Extent	2.9 Linear feet Six boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The S.O.U.L (Sharing Our Uncommon Legacy)of Philanthropy project was a grassroots effort by a group of Grand Rapids, Michigan historians and film makers working together during 2006-2009. The group researched and interviewed twenty-eight Grand Rapids philanthropists using high definition video technology. This collection includes research files on each interviewee, the footage of the interviews (along with transcripts and related material) and the documentary, The Gift of All, (in various formats) that the group created from the footage.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

The SOUL (Saving Our Uncommon Legacy) of Philanthropy project began as the inspiration of Pam Daugaveitis, a Grand Rapids freelance writer. She created the Spectrum Health Foundation newsletter for several years and developed an appreciation for the role of philanthropy in the community. Daugaveitis held a series of meetings with local professionals, including former city historian, Gordon Olson, Calvin College film professor, Daniel Garcia, and members of the Association of Personal Historians. Among the latter were John and Jennifer Morrison, and Jennifer's position on the staff of the Grand Rapids Public Library's local history department ensured a collaboration between SOUL and the library from the early stages.

Bill Martindill, a local philanthropist and friend of Daugaveitis consulted on the project and assisted with fund-raising. The Grand Rapids Community Foundation served as the fiduciary agent for the project.

The SOUL team raised the necessary funds and interviewed 28 of Grand Rapids' most prominent philanthropists, including Fred and Lena Meijer, Ralph Hauenstein, Rich and Helen DeVos, Peter Cook, David VanAndel, Tom Fox and Peter Secchia. The interviewers from the SOUL team included Steve Goolian, Deb Moore, Annette Remsburg, Gordon Olson and Jennifer Morrison. Some philanthropists were interviewed multiple times at the request of the documentary creators for the sake of film and interview quality.

SOUL created a roughly one hour documentary celebrating the history of philanthropy in Grand Rapids entitled "The Gift of All" and directed by Daniel Garcia. The finished documentary aired twice on WGVU-TV, initially at 8:00 pm, Wednesday, November 26, 2008. Still photos and moving images from the GRPL's local history department were used as B roll for the film.

SOUL's website was: www.soulofphilanthropy.org.

Scope and Contents note

"The Gift of All" is a documentary about philanthropy, but more broadly about community building in Grand Rapids. Completed in 2009, the film features clips of interviews with 28 Grand Rapids philanthropists, the majority of whom were wealthy, socially prominent and seventy years old or older at the time. Some younger interviewees were included largely so that their parents' contributions would be represented. The SOUL group also attempted to represent diversity in the selection of interviewees. In general the project captures the voice of the generation that grew up during the Great Depression, lived through World War II, observed the decline of the central city and urban renewal, and subsequently contributed to the revitalization of downtown by supporting its higher education, entertainment and health care industries.

The insight offered by “The Gift of All” is important but is limited by what is achievable in a roughly 50 minute documentary. Future researchers will find the broader collection rich in raw materials that they can put to a variety of uses. Each interview is an approximately two hour conversation with an important witness to the twentieth century development of the city of Grand Rapids. Most interviewees were key figures in the advancement of the community as well as generous and honest with their observations. Researchers will find history of local institutions, interpretations of developments and personal recollections.

Users will also find an impressive range of media to choose from within the collection. Interviews can be read, listened to or watched. Since the SOUL group was a temporary collaboration, all material and the rights to it were given to GRPL. Any subsequent broadcast of the documentary must be arranged through GRPL (see the head of the local history department). While the paper transcripts will probably be most comfortable for those simply interested in the information, the collection contains the documentary and the interviews in a variety of formats, including digital and broadcast quality.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department 2009

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

SOUL Project, accession number 2009.055.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- oral histories

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Citizenship -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Community life -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Corporations -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Charitable contributions
- Endowments -- Michigan
- Foundations -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Philanthropists -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Interviews
- Voluntarism -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Volunteers -- Michigan -- Interviews

Appendix. Participants/Release forms. (30 total)

Filed with the Archival Release Forms.

John Canepa

Peter C. Cook

Richard M. DeVos

Helen J. DeVos

Thomas S. Fox

June B. Hamersma

Ralph Hauenstein

Robert L. and Judith S. Hooker (2)

John R. Hunting

Mary Ann Keeler

Fred P. Keller

Harvey Lemmen

Wilbur Lettinga

Arend D. (Don) Lubbers

Bill Martindill

Frederik H. Meijer and Lena Meijer (2)

Jake W. and Delores A. Robinson (2)

Charles L. (Chuck) and Stella A. Royce (2)

Vernis L. Schad

Peter Secchia

Margaret Sellers-Walker

William E. (Bill) Sprague

Louis A. Tomatis

David VanAndel

Francisco M. Vega

B. Margaret Voss (Bunny Voss)

Casey Wondergem

Robert A. Woodrick

Richard W. (Dick) Young

Series I. Paper

Collection Inventory

Series I. Paper

Scope and Contents note

Each interview was transcribed and the transcripts donated to the library in paper form in a bound notebook as well as a text document on CD. Interviewees were given the opportunity to review their transcripts and subsequently supply additions/corrections or have sections blocked out.

Jennifer Morrison researched each interviewee using internet and GRHSCC resources, and created a paper file for each primarily comprised of newspaper, magazine, and website articles. Multiple copies of each file were made and one given as preparation to the SOUL interviewer. A second copy was given to the GRHSCC and filed into its clipping files on the public floor. A third copy was eventually given to the GRHSCC for this collection.

The other material in this series is generally self-explanatory and is listed in the contents section.

Project Documentation

	Box	Folder
Web Site Pages, 5/22/2009. http://soulofphilanthropy.org/	1	1
Invitation to June 1, 2009 event at the Ladies Literary Club celebrating the transfer of materials from SOUL to GRPL	1	1
Copyright Assignment form. Legal Document transferring ownership from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation to the Grand Rapids Public	1	2

Transcripts of Interviews

Library, Jan. 9, 2009. (copy; original located in the Archival Accession Files)		
GRPL Photos used as B-roll. Photocopies of GRPL photos plus relevant information used or considered for the documentary	1	3
Transcripts of Interviews		
		Box
Binder of transcripts arranged in alphabetical order by last name of interviewee		Binder
Research Files		
		Box
Canepa		1
Cook (Includes a copy of Cook's biography, Sharing the Wealth by Michael Lozon, signed by Cook to Pam Daugaveitis)		1
Devos, R.		1
Devos, H.		1
Fox		1
Hamersma		1
Hauenstein		1

Research Files

Holton	1
Hooker	2
Hunting	2
Keeler	2
Keller	2
Lemmen	2
Lettinga	2
Lubbers	2
Martindill	2
Meijer	2
Robinson	2
Royce	2
Schad	2
Secchia	2

Series II. Media

Sellers Walker	2
Sprague	3
Tomatis	3
Van Andel	3
Vega	3
Voss	3
Wege	3
Wundergem	3
Woodrick	3
Young	3

Series II. Media**Scope and Contents note**

The interviews, interview transcripts, documentary and related material are included in various formats listed in the contents section.

Peter Wege and Earl and Donnalea Holton were researched but not ultimately interviewed due to conflicts with their schedules. For archival purposes, the Council of Michigan Foundations provided the SOUL project with a DVD of Wege relevant to his receiving the Mawby Award in 2006. The interview

Fred Keller

with Fred Keller, done late in the project, was captured strictly on audiotape. Former city historian, Gordon Olson; Grand Rapids Community Foundation president, Diana Sieger; Calvin College professor of history, James Bratt; and Grand Valley State University professor of philanthropy, Joel Orosz are also featured on the documentary but their remarks were scripted rather than edited from fuller interviews.

	Box	Folder
2 CDs with digital copies of the interview transcripts.	3	10
		Box
Videotape cassettes (mini dvs) of raw footage for each interview (filed alphabetically)		5

Fred Keller

	Box	Folder
Two audio cassette tapes, Tapes 1 and 2. Fred Keller, 3/17/2008 interview. Interviewers Jen and John Morrison	3	11
(4 cds=CD 1 and 2, 2 copies of each) of the above interview	3	12
	Box	Folder
DVD. Peter Wege. 2006 Mawby Award. Provided by Robert S. Collier, Council of Michigan Foundations	3	13
“The Gift of All : a Community of Givers”. Master DVD. Jan. 15, 2009. Video DVD.	3	14
Usage copy of above with case and cover art	6	1

Fred Keller

2 HDCAM Digital HDVS Master tapes NOTE: Documentary for broadcast, one with closed captioning. SONY 155 124 tapes. 2009.055.2. 00362DM2: General Master, 55:23; 00362DM1: CC Encoded HD Master	6	2, 3
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Box

4 computer hard drives with raw footage of all interviews plus other material (such as B roll) created for the documentary.	4
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