

Finding Aid for the Keeler Public Art Collection Collection 446

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

September 10, 2015

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September 2015
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Keeler Public Art Collection
Date [inclusive]	1960 - 1980
Extent	0.5 Linear feet 1 Box
Language	English
Abstract	The Keeler Public Art Collection contains records, reports, and correspondences concerning many of the public art projects Mary Ann Keeler was involved with. Within are materials about The Grand by Alexis Smith; Calder; Mark diSuvero; Sculpture off the Pedestal; Steven Urry; Clement Meadmore; G.R. Symphonic Chorus; G.R. Symphony Society; and Dale Eldred.

Biographical/Historical note

Mary Ann Keeler grew up in Grand Rapids and graduated from Ottawa Hills High School. She worked at the Grand Rapids Press and is known for her philanthropy and leadership in public art and downtown revitalization. She married Mike Keeler of the Keeler Brass Company family in 1948.

She played a key role in bringing Calder's sculpture, La Grande Vitesse, to Grand Rapids and was on the committee that built the Grand Center. She was on the board of directors for the Grand Rapids Symphony from 1952 to 1970 and donated 1.2 million dollars to renovate the addition to the downtown Public Library Branch. The addition was renamed the Keeler Wing in 1999. The couple have also donated considerable amounts to Grand Valley State University, the Diocese of Grand Rapids, and other institutions.

Scope and Contents note

The items donated by Mary Ann Keeler are mostly photocopies of her project reports and correspondences. She has also included the bound autobiography of her father, Miner S. Keeler, the founder of the Keeler Brass Company. The organization of these materials have not been changed and reflect the curatorial decision of Mrs. Keeler at the time they were donated.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department September 2015

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift from Mary Ann Keeler, accession number 1986.470

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Collection 1: Nancy Mulnix Tweddale Papers ...Calder Vandenberg Sculpture Project ...

Collection 109: Grand Rapids Public Library Administrative Archives

Collection 118: Grand Rapids Public Library Urban Renewal Pictorials

Collection 224: Grand Rapids Public Library Art & Graphics Collection

Collection 269: Paul Collins Biographical & Exhibit Catalogs Collection

Collection 402: Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids records

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- letters (correspondence)

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Biography

Personal Name(s)

- Keeler, Mary Ann

Subject(s)

- Art -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Artists -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Biography

- Arts -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Grande Vitesse -- Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Correspondences with Gordon Olsen	1	1
Materials concerning the unveiling of "The Grand" a mixed media art installation at Devos Hall	1	2
Notes from Mark di Suvero. G.S.A. Report by Mary Ann Keeler.	1	3
Report on The Grand Rapids Federal Building Sculpture Story by the Initiator and Coordinator, Mary Ann Keeler	1	4
Report on the "Sculpture Off the Pedestal" Show. November 27, 1974	1	5
Dedication Ceremonies for ARCH "1973" by Steven Urry. June 29, 1975.	1	6
GR Press article "Split Ring to Stay Here" November 7, 1973.	1	7
History of Grand Rapids Symphonic Choir	1	8
Report on the Grand Rapids Symphony Society. Its Role in the Community and its Search for a Music Hall. By Mary Ann Keeler.	1	9
Walking Tour Information. Mini-Calder for the Blind in Vandenberg Plaza.	1	10

GR Press Article "Sculpture Bought as Gift to GVSC" December 25, 1973.	1	11
Signed Petition to accept the sculpture created by Mark diSuvero	1	12
Copies of Various Correspondences	1	13
Calder Roof-top Painting Report	1	14
Calder Report	1	15
"Life - Village Days" Autobiography of Miner S. Keeler.	1	16