

**William Way LGBT Community  
Center ephemera files  
1972-2012, 47 linear feet**

**Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen  
and Michael Gubicza through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's  
Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit  
March 15, 2016

John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center

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## Summary Information

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| <b>Repository</b>                        | John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center  |
| <b>Creator</b>                           | William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center (Philadelphia, Pa.).  |
| <b>Title</b>                             | William Way LGBT Community Center ephemera files  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]</b>                  | 1972-2012   |
| <b>Extent</b>                            | 47.0 Linear feet  |
| <b>General Physical Description note</b> | 23 file drawers and flat file   |
| <b>Language</b>                          | English   |
| <b>Abstract</b>                          | The William Way LGBT Community Center ephemera files, 1972-2012, consists of flyers, newsletters, advertisements, posters, and other ephemera from LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) organizations, events, businesses, community groups, etc. |

## Biographical/Historical Note

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The direct descendant of the William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center is the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia (GCCP), which was located at 326 Kater Street from April 1976 to November 23, 1981. From 1982 to 1995, the organization continued as Penguin Place.

"The William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center was formed in 1996, when a group of community leaders came together with the goal of creating a stronger, more stable community center out of Penguin Place, the community center at the time.

"After an extensive search, the Community Center purchased the former Engineers' Club of Philadelphia in March 1997. Soon after, renovations began, and the building opened to the public in July 1997. Since then, the Center has developed an array of programming and services that target LGBT groups, and community organizations have moved permanent offices into the Community Center. In addition, over 70 groups meet at the Community Center on a regular basis, and many more use the facility for special events. The building is open seven days a week and is currently [as of 2012] used by over 2,500 people each month."

### **Bibliography:**

Quoted text from: William Way Community Center. "About Us." Accessed June 25, 2012. <http://waygay.org/aboutus/default.asp>.

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## Scope and Content Note

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This collection consists of flyers, newsletters, advertisements, posters, and other ephemera from LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) organizations, events, businesses, and community groups. Most are based in the Philadelphia area, but there are also materials from other localities.

A listing of subjects in the ephemera file is available to on-site researchers.

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## Administrative Information

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### **Publication Information**

John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center

## Conditions Governing Access Note

Contact John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia for information about accessing this collection.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Ephemera collected over time by volunteers of the William Way LGBT Community Center.

## Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2011-2012 as part of a pilot project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia directly for more information.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center (Philadelphia, Pa.).

### Geographic Name(s)

- Philadelphia (Pa.)

### Subject(s)

- Gay community
- Gays

- Lesbians
- Sexual minorities