William Way LGBT Community Center

subject files on media and entertainment, circa 1970-1997 : Ms.Coll.36

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 on

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# Summary Information

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<tr>
<th>Repository:</th>
<th>John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator:</td>
<td>William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center (Philadelphia, Pa.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>William Way LGBT Community Center subject files on media and entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID:</td>
<td>Ms.Coll.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>circa 1970-1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>7 Linear Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Location:</td>
<td>Grey filing cabinet; bottom drawer of beige filing cabinet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of the Material:</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract:</td>
<td>The William Way LGBT Community Center subject files on media and entertainment, circa 1970-1997, include book catalogs, playbills, photographs, clippings, advertisements, and related materials,</td>
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# Biographical/Historical Note

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."

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Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of various materials relating to the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) community and media and entertainment. It includes: a series of catalogs from LGBT presses and bookstores, circa 1986; materials related to LGBT stage performances, actors, musicians, and playwrights, including playbills, headshots, clippings, sheet music, etc., circa 1982-1995; gay men's pornographic film and intimate apparel advertisements, circa 1970-1990; and files on American and foreign LGBT films.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
archives@waygay.org

Conditions Governing Access Note

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Materials 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.

Controlled Access Headings

- Gay community
- Gays
- Gays and the performing arts
- Lesbians
- Mass media and gays
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Sexual minorities