



Archives and Records

Finding Aid

COLLECTION NUMBER: Coll.4
TITLE: AIDS Ephemera Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator(s): Various; materials collected by Libby Bouvier and members of The History Project
Title: AIDS Ephemera Collection
Extent: 2 phase boxes, approximately 1 linear feet
Date Span: 1981 - present
Repository: The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives and Records Department by Diane Pierce-Williams, Simmons College intern, May 2006. Updated by Robbin S. Robbins, Spring 2009.

SUBJECT TERMS

Subject Names:

AIDS Action Committee
Fenway Community Health

Subject Topics:

AIDS (Disease)—Education—Massachusetts—Handbooks, manuals, etc.
AIDS (Disease)—Massachusetts—Boston—Prevention
AIDS (Disease)—Treatment—Massachusetts
Gay Rights—United States—History—20th Century

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Terms of Use/Copyright: Unrestricted, though some items in the collection are copyrighted by individuals and/or organizations outside The History Project.

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ABSTRACT

The AIDS Ephemera Collection consists of materials gathered over time by various members of The History Project, including board member Elizabeth Bouvier. Designed to be eye-catching advertisements for AIDS awareness events, these items were given out at community activities or picked up from displays in public places. The collection consists of a range of media: cards and flyers, novelty items, stickers and buttons – formats that normally do not lend themselves to easy preservation, as they were primarily meant as disposable reminders to convey information and raise awareness, to announce a program or service, or to induce action. However, because of this they provide a unique sample of grassroots efforts to educate the community about HIV/AIDS.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

While the bulk of the AIDS Ephemera collection is made up of cards and flyers, it also includes a broad and sometimes unusual ¹ range of materials including pamphlets, brochures or booklets, stickers, magnets, business cards, posters, bookmarks, newspapers, newsletters, article reprints, e-mails, and buttons. All materials in the collection deal with aspects of the response to the HIV/AIDS crisis – awareness and information; benefits and fundraisers; and resources, programs, and services – for a range of communities and/or ethnicities including women of color, lesbians, gay men, transsexuals, African-Americans, Latinos, Asians. The collection spans the period from the early 1980s to 2006 (although a large percentage of the materials are undated), with the heaviest concentration in the period between 1995 and 2005.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series I: Awareness

The bulk of the collection is included within this series. It is composed of materials that provide basic or general information about HIV/AIDS. Topics include getting tested and HIV prevention, available support groups and helplines, HIV/AIDS resource guides, and newsletters. Also included are medical topics from wellness to vaccine research and vaccine trials. Many of the items in this series were created by Aids Action Committee and Fenway Community Health

Series II: Fundraising

This series covers fundraisers and benefits, ranging from rides and walks to dinners and club events.

Series III: Women

This series contains materials that focus on the subject of women and HIV/AIDS, in the form of resource guides and support groups, and flyers for fundraisers, political action marches and demonstrations. Also represented are the topics of health care for and health issues pertaining to women, including Pap smears, breast cancer, and abortion rights.

Series IV: Youth

This series is comprised of materials targeted at teens and young people. Most are created by Justice Resource Inc. and are information resources about HIV/AIDS.

¹ In one instance, candy.

Series V: Multicultural

This series concerns gay pride and HIV/AIDS resources within the black, Latino, or Asian-Pacific communities. Organizations such as Men of Color Against AIDS and Massachusetts Asian Pacific Islanders (MAP) for Health created these materials to notify their constituencies about various programs and services, forums, fundraisers, and opportunities to get involved with research or clinical studies.

Series V: Safe Sex

This series contains materials promoting safer sex techniques – methods of preventing the transmission of STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) such as herpes, syphilis, and HIV/AIDS. As such, the researcher should note that much of the material in this series is of a sensitive or graphic nature. The materials are in a variety of formats, most notably unusual are actual condoms and lubricant, a card with Life Savers candy attached, and a phone card.

A particular strength of this series is material advocating condom use in preventing HIV transmission. Also highlighted are materials discussing the link between substance abuse and unsafe sex practices; in particular, the dangers of using recreational or “club” drugs (such as crystal meth or Ecstasy), and sharing needles.

SERIES AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series I: Awareness

Folder 1: General
Folder 2: General
Folder 3: AIDS Action Committee
Folder 4: Fenway Community Health

Series II: Fundraising

Folder 5: General
Folder 6: AIDS Action Committee

Series II: Women

Folder 7: Women

Series IV: Youth

Folder 8: Youth

Box 2

Series V: Multicultural

Folder 9: Afro-American
Folder 10: Asian-Pacific
Folder 11: Latino/a

Series VI: Safe Sex

Folder 12: Safe Sex

Series VII: Photocopies

Folder 13: Photocopies