



## Archives and Records

### Finding Aid

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** Coll. #67  
Act Up / Boston Collection

#### COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Creator(s):** Various individuals  
**Title:** Act Up / Boston  
**Extent:** .5 linear feet  
**Date Span:** 1987 - 1994  
**Repository:** The History Project, Archives, and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives, and Records Department by Libby Bouvier and William Holden, Board Members.

#### Biographical Note:

AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) is an international advocacy group working to impact the lives of people with AIDS, and the AIDS pandemic to bring about legislation, medical research and treatment and policies.

ACT UP was formed in March 1987 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in New York. Larry Kramer, American playwright, author, public health advocate, and LGBT rights activist, was asked to speak as part of a rotating speaker series, and his well-attended speech focused on action to fight AIDS. Kramer spoke out against the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), which he perceived as politically impotent. Kramer had co-founded the GMHC but had resigned from its board of directors in 1983. Approximately 300 people met two days later to form ACT UP.

The Boston Chapter of Act Up officially formed on January 6, 1988 at their first public meeting held at Boston City Hall. By March of that year, they held their first event, a public "die-in" held at Mass General Hospital.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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

Contact the History Project for further information:

29 Stanhope Street  
Boston, MA 02116  
617.266.7733  
[info@historyproject.org](mailto:info@historyproject.org)  
[www.historyproject.org](http://www.historyproject.org)

## **Scope and Content Notes:**

The collection consists of documents pertaining to the organization itself, along with flyers, newspaper clippings, photographs and a few items of ephemera. While the collection is not a complete record of the activities of the Boston Chapter, it does shed light into the early efforts of activists in Boston.

### **Box 1:**

#### **Series I: Organization**

- Folder 1: Chronology, 1987-1989
- Folder 2: Copyright Applications, 1989
- Folder 3: Donations and Merchandise, 1990-1993
- Folder 4: Police Reports, 1989

#### **Series II: Events and Flyers**

- Folder 5: Act Up / Boston Summit, 1995
- Folder 6: Advocacy Flyers
- Folder 7: Event Flyers

#### **Series III: Attitude Newsletters**

- Folder 8: Attitude, 1989 - 1991
- Folder 9: Attitude, 1992 - 1994

#### **Series IV: Articles and Clippings**

- Folder 10: Articles and Clippings

#### **Series V: Photos and Ephemera**

- Folder 11: Photographs
- Folder 12: Act Up Dollar Bills
- Item 1: Act Up Fight Back AIDS and HEPC Stamp
- Item 2: AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power Stamp
- Item 3: Act Up Coffee Mug (Black)
- Item 4: Needle Exchange Program Plaque