



Archives and Records

Finding Aid

COLLECTION NUMBER: Coll.44
TITLE: AIDS Action Committee Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator(s): The History Project
Title: The History Project
Extent: 1/2 Linear Foot
Date Span: 1983 – ongoing
Repository: The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Administrative Information:

Processing Note: Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives and Records Department by Robert Johnston, student in the GSLIS Archives masters degree program at Simmons College, under the supervision of Andrew Elder, Spring 2010. Materials added 2017 by William Holden, Board Member.

Terms of Use: Materials described in the finding aid are available for research at The History Project. Contact info@historyproject.org to make an appointment.

Digital Repository: If none available state Not Applicable.

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

Contact The History Project for further information.

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SUBJECTS TERMS

Subject Names:

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts

Subject Topics:

AIDS (Disease)—Government policy—Massachusetts.
AIDS (Disease) in women—United States.
AIDS (Disease)—Law and legislation—Massachusetts.
AIDS (Disease)—Massachusetts.
AIDS (Disease)—Social aspects—United States.

Document Types:

Newspapers Clippings
Pamphlets
Newsletters
Booklets

HISTORICAL NOTE

Founded in 1983, AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc. (AAC) is an advocacy and support group for people with AIDS in Boston that also focuses on AIDS education and prevention throughout the New England area. An April 1983 newsletter explained that the organization “has many goals, including distributing printed educational materials, hospice training, possible emergency financial assistance to AIDS patients, and administrative expenses.” The organization offers free support to thousands of people living with AIDS and runs a pair of statewide phone hotlines,

A benefit walk, AIDS Walk Boston, is held every year to support AAC; the first walk took place on Sunday, June 1, 1986. The organization also hosts a variety of other events throughout the year to raise both awareness and funds.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of publications, promotional material for events, and other documents relating to AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts. The bulk of the collection consists of the publications, which include a pair of early newsletters from April and June of 1983, as well as the more official AAC *Update* newsletter from June of 1986 through the winter of 1992 (incomplete) and later editions from 2001 and 2003 through 2006 and 2009. There are also other miscellaneous publications from AAC, including issues of *SST Express*, *Wellspring*, *Forward Living* and the 2008 AAC annual report. There are also a variety of pamphlets and booklets published by AAC, some of which promote the organization itself. Many advocate safe sex and the use of condoms, oftentimes using graphic terminology.

The collection also contains material relating to the annual AIDS Walk Boston, beginning with pamphlets from the very first walk held in 1986. The material consists of pamphlets, booklets, flyers and newspaper clippings. There are also donation appeals from AAC, public service advertisements (many are photocopies) and newspaper articles about the organization. There are also two printed finding aids for the AAC records at the Northeastern University Archives in Boston, MA.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series I: Publications (newsletters, pamphlets and booklets published by AAC)

Series II: Events (promotional material relating to events held over the years by AAC)

Series III: Other Documents (donation appeals, PSAs and newspaper articles from and about AAC)

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series I: Publications

Folder 1: Boston Public Schools AIDS Policy, 1985

Folder 2: History of AIDS Action Committee, 1989

Folder 3: *AIDS Action Committee News*, 1983

Folder 4: AIDS Action Committee Lifelines, 1983 - 1985

Folder 5: *Update* Newsletter, 1986 - 1988

Folder 6: *Update* Newsletter, 1989 - 1992

Folder 7: *Update* Newsletter, 1003 - 1999

Folder 8: *Update* Newsletter, 2001 - 2010

Folder 9: Miscellaneous Publications, 1985; 1987-1988; 1993; 2004; 2008; Undated

Folder 10: Pamphlets, Undated

Folder 11: Booklets, 2006; Undated

Folder 12: Blank Survey Booklets, Undated

Series II: Events

Folder 12: AIDS Walk Boston, 1986-2000

Folder 13: AIDS Walk Boston, 2001-2011

Folder 14: Miscellaneous Events, 1987-2008; Undated

Folder 15: Academy Awards Night, March 25, 1991

Folder 16: Community Recognition Awards, 1989 - 2003

Folder 17: Bayard Rustin Breakfast, 1994-2009

Series III: Other Documents

Folder 16: Donation Appeals, 1983; 1989; 1990; Undated

Folder 17: Public Service Advertisements, Undated

Folder 18: Miscellaneous Documents, 1983-1994; Undated

Folder 19: Newspaper Articles, 1986; 1987; 1999; 2003-2004; Undated

Folder 20: Northeastern University Special Collections

Folder 21: HIV/AIDS Articles, 2007-2008

Folder 22: Client Services Handbook

Related Materials/See also: Coll.4 - AIDS Ephemera Collection; Coll.57 - Above + Beyond Collection; Coll.58 - Fenway Health Collection