

NEWCOMB ARCHIVES
Newcomb Center for Research on Women
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Tulane University
New Orleans, LA 70115
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INVENTORY OF THE
WOMEN IN THE MAINSTREAM COLLECTION
23 APRIL 1991

Women in the Mainstream

Women in the Mainstream (c. 1982-1984)

Collection, c. 1982-1986

30 linear ft.

Location: Newcomb Archives: NAC-146 - 171, NAB-041

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:

There is some confusion as to the precise donors of material represented in this collection. While several individuals were recorded as "presenting" files (see chronology of events, March 1986), not all of these individuals apparently have material represented in this collection. Also, within the original file is a note recording the removal of several boxes of material from this collection, which at that time was in storage at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women. It is not noted if these items were returned. However, it is known that the bulk of this material comes from two sources: Ernestine Thurman-Swartzwelder and Dorothy Furlong-Gardner. Other sources are Linda Perret and Martha Owens.

RESTRICTIONS:

None.

ORGANIZATION & ARRANGEMENT:

The material has been arranged within individual collections.

GENERAL NOTE:

A chronology of events has been constructed in an effort to assist research and retrieval.

FINDING AIDS:

Inventory available.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY:

This collection contains the papers of several individuals who worked within an organization formed for a specific goal: to produce the Women's Pavilion for the Louisiana World Exposition of 1984. The Exposition featured many pavilions constructed by several countries, focusing on special topics, etc. WITM was organized to raise funds, design, and coordinate a pavilion that focused on women's achievements in the world since 1884, the date of the women's pavilion in the last world's fair. The 1984 women's pavilion was planned to have several sections, including a celebration of specific women of achievement in the world and in Louisiana, an art exhibit, and a changing exhibit/multipurpose room. The art exhibit was expanded to be both invitational and juried exhibits, managed by another organization, Women's Caucus for Art (WCA).

The organization's final efforts were substantially reduced from their initial plans. Well documented internal quarreling within every area of the organization led to much fractioning and resentment. Ultimately, WCA withdrew all support of the art exhibit and not all the work was shown.

SCOPE & CONTENT:

Spanning the years 1970-1985, with the bulk of the material dating after 1982, this collection offers several first-hand perspectives of events. Two of the participants kept detailed journals concerning their thoughts and feelings about the organization, the other individuals involved, and specific interactions.

One of the individuals whose papers are collected here is Dorothy Furlong-Gardner, who acted as the liaison between WCA and WITM. After handling the agreement between the two groups, she then was placed on the Executive Board, and was WITM's Exhibit Committee chair. However, as time passed, Furlong-Gardner grew more upset with WITM's handling of the Art Exhibit, the lack of promised fund-raising success, and the amount of time and stress her massive job required. She requested WITM to pay her a retainer, which they apparently agreed to do,

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but evidently did not pay. She also expressed her discontent with WITM's handling of artist's work and change of plans without consulting WCA. Ultimately, Furlong-Gardner and WCA withdrew all support of the WITM art exhibit.

Another donor of files is Ernestine Thurman-Swartzwelder, who coordinated the Women of Achievement project, which entailed many people nominating individual women throughout history for the title, reviewing biographical data, and organizing the voting. Much of the original nominating and reviewing material is here, along with some personal files. Importantly, Thurman leaves us another personal journal, her notes on the daily arguments and happenings within the WITM office.

Linda Perret and Martha Owens, donors of small quantities of files, acted as the Chair of the Committee of the Multipurpose Room for WITM. This section featured changing exhibits throughout the Exposition. However, the files contain little personal or non-duplicate material.

The importance of this collection lies in its documentation of an organization entirely of women, formed to celebrate women, and how that organization functioned. It also details the interaction between two entirely different organizations, WITM and WCA, which maintain entirely different foci and goals. Unfortunately, not all records of the production of the Women's Pavilion are here. Significantly missing are architectural details and other information concerning the final dispensation of the Women's Pavilion.

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WITM COLLECTION SERIES DESCRIPTION

I. Office files general files, including a date book which appears to have been added to by many different people (NAC-146-148)

II. Dorothy Furlong-Gardner Papers

These papers document Furlong-Gardner's interaction with WITM and WCA. Much of the material was brought to the archives placed in colored folders by topic (NAC-149-154)

A. Personal journals: frequent notes concerning Gardner's feelings and activities concerning the WCA/WITM project

B. Project notebooks: notebooks devoted particular tasks and subjects (i.e. "finances"); also includes correspondence with artists and others [create file headings]

III. Martha Owens general files, mostly material regarding general management of the office, including membership lists, financial information, etc. (NAC-155)

IV. Linda Perret general files, mostly general WITM/LWE information, as well as some correspondence and advertising packets gathered in regard to the changing exhibits room. (NAC-156)

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V. Ernestine Thurman-Swartzwelder Papers

These papers, produced by a noted etymologist ca. 1970-1986, contain materials accumulated during the WITM, as well as many clippings, organized topically, constructed from ca. 1970-1979, and ca. 1980-1986.

A. Women of Achievement files

1. **General/Miscellaneous Women of Achievement files** (NAC-157 - 161) includes files created on WITM/LWE general topics, copies of biographical packets prepared for voting on Women of Achievement, nomination forms, miscellaneous clippings on LWE

2. **Review of candidates:** biographical information about Women of Achievement "losers"

a. **Women of Louisiana** (NAC-162)

b. **Women of the World** (NAC-163)

3. **Material for the opening ceremony; letters and certificates to the recipients of the award** (NAC-164)

4. **Geographic files:** clippings and articles concerning women, divided by region, used to organize nomination material (NAC-165)

a. **United States**

b. **Other**

5. **Occupational files:** contains clippings, articles and other information concerning women as a group and individual women within professions, used to organize nomination material (NAC-166)

a. **General**

b. **Science, medical professions**

c. **Arts**

d. **Public figures**

6. **Final descriptions of Women of Achievement "winners":** includes nomination form(s), biographical information, etc.

a. **Women of Louisiana** -- file headings listed (NAC-167)

b. **Women of the World** -- file headings listed (NAC-168)

1) **Nobel Prize Winners**

2) **National Women's Hall of Fame**

3) **Astronauts**

4) **Sports**

B. Personal journal of the WITM experience (NAB-041)

C. Subject files

1. **ca. 1970-1979** -- file headings listed (NAC-169 - 170)

2. **ca. 1980-1986** (NAC-171)

D. General personal files: includes files on Zonta, a videotape of the Mother/Daughter beauty pageant, etc. (NAC-172)

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:

Note: This chronology of events was created by the Archivist during the initial processing of the collection, in an effort to understand the pertinent events of the time. It is included here as a service to researchers. An effort has been made to document the source for each detailing of events. "MINUTES" refers to Executive Meeting Minutes, found in several places; "EHT notes" refers to the personal notes of Thurman-Swartzwelder papers; "GARDNER" refers to the Furlong-Gardner papers; "PERRET" is Linda Perret's papers. Some common abbreviations used within quotes include:

Lambert: Betsy Bussoff-Lambert
Gardner: Dorothy Furlong-Gardner
K.W.: Kathy Willingham
M.O.: Martha Owens
WCA: Women's Caucus for Art
WITM or wtms: Women in the Mainstream
B.R.: Baton Rouge

july- aug 1982

MINUTES: fund raising, sites, high salaries for executive director, and administrative assistant design competition

nov - dec 1982

MINUTES: getting budget, bylaws, and other plans together

jan 1983

18 - MINUTES: WCA proposes handling art exhibit/juring, with WITM handling fundraising; Martha Dempsey executive director; professional firm (Ackerman) doing marketing research

feb 83

19 - MINUTES: GARDNER joins executive committee

april 83

24 - PERRET files: letter from Dot Waldrup to Danae Columbus (vice president in charge of resource development) threatening with move for removal, for "refusal to perform work responsibilities" and "continuing breach of confidence of the committee and statements made which damage the image of the corporation"

26 - PERRET files: Columbus resigns, complaining of lack of communication and improper methods of WITM

28 - PERRET files: certified letter Waldrup to Columbus saying WITM will consider removal

27 - MINUTES: Dot Waldrup noted as president, called for voting members of committee to remain for an executive session

may 83

3 - PERRET files: letter from Columbus to WITM of confusion and pain

12 - OWENS files - notarized document delineating agreement between Columbus, Waldrup, and WITM, stating that there is a disagreement between the two "concerning the proper and effective management of WITM, Inc." and both resign, promising never to be associated with the organization again [note: Columbus later is involved with WITM]

31 - EHT notes: "Betty Burnside new [now?] President, wtms"; "-nominating committee. trying to fill 7 positions on Board - Too many women originally on the Board are not really participation = need to remove them-"

* sometime in here Waldrup stopped being president, Lambert, originally vice president, promoted

june 83

8 - Martha Dempsey, executive director, resigns

8 - MINUTES: WITM and WCA negotiations complete; no Waldrup, but "president" still recorded as being present

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10 - EHT notes: "Martha Dempsey resigned last night after Board meeting -... Tremendous loss to have Martha Dempsey leave"

22 - MINUTES: "Voss", in administrator's report: 35 Board members yes to staying on Board, 29 no.

22 - EHT notes: "Bettyane Lambert-Bussoff, now President. Dot Waldrup resigned with Dempsey"

July 83

27 - MINUTES: waters\gula exhibit designers

aug 83

10 - MINUTES: Perret sent out multipurpose room guidelines to organizations

24 - MINUTES: art prospectus developed

sept 83

21 - MINUTES: Willingham and Owens hired on contractual basis for fund-raising and operations, respectively

PERRET files: notes in letter that loss of president and executive director over last 6 mths has contributed to confusion in WITM

oct 83

17 - MINUTES: Public Relations firm hired

10 - EHT notes: "Willingham has new secretary. Willingham does not have the academic background nor degree she needs for corporate fund raising - Martha worked in the office to 12:30 pm last night"

11 - EHT notes: "M.O. upset - new ♀ who is trying to take over office --- more than corp. fund raising - "

13 - EHT notes: "Willingham taking over the office - Dominican -Trying to be Executive Director!"

14 - EHT notes: "Willingham had walls put up around her desk to separate herself from the personnel in the office - she phoned Betsy Lambert and took off to speak in person - ... Too much tension in office Willingham and her secretary are too aggressive and not capable enough -"

23 - GARDNER to Bussoff-Lambert: asks for \$500/mth retainer

28 - Gloria Steinem breakfast

26 - MINUTES: exhibition space noted as 2000 ft

30 - EHT notes: "Willingham had politicked to get herself promoted to Executive Director in order to accomplish her Corp. fund raising - action taken by B.R. committee members, not by the Board of Directors and they asked Martha to continue on a volunteer as coordinator - She declined, of course."

31 - MINUTES: Kathy Willingham executive director

31 - EHT notes: EHT did not discuss the charge with Willingham who insists on having a private office for herself and her secretary, Donna - Plans to hire 'new talent' for 2nd secretary, new designer and fund raisers - Plans to put all volunteers on stairway landing and in the hall!!"

nov 83

3-9 - EHT notes: Day by day, hour by hour description of Willingham, her secretary Donna, EHTurman, Owen, Proud, and volunteers. Role confusion, power plays by Willingham and pettiness by all decayed into shouting matches, the turning away of volunteers, all workers other than Willingham and her secretary being moved out onto the stairwell, a tug of war with files, Willingham changing the lock on the office door. Ultimately, Lambert asked Martha Owens to take over again.

15- EHT notes: "Martha explained [to Mary Gehman] that there was not any way to change K.W. being Executive Director -"

21 - EHT notes: "Donna had goofed with large mailing recently and did not pay enough postage. 4 large bags are being held in P.O. downtown."

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29 - MINUTES: GARDNER reported as having difficulty with mailing prospectus due to "diminished volunteer effort at Dominican office" Gardner wrote in margins: "polite way of covering of my report of mail bag sabotage"

dec 83

1 - EHT notes: office closed for 2 wks. No one supposed to go in without KW being there.

2 - EHT notes: article in Times-Picayune, which detailed infighting in WITM, referred to as "the Truth" being published

6 - GARDNER to WITM wants \$500/mth retainer (11/83-5/84) or will resign chair of exhibition committee on 12/15/83

9 - EHT notes: "Still no money raised - not even the original companies Avon etc - will support women pavilion now"

16 - GARDNER: note to Lambert: written confirmation of conversation of 12/15/83 outlining duties and agreement on retainer of \$500/mth dec1-june30

jan 84

26 - MINUTES: discussion of scaling down of pavilion

23 - EHT notes: resigned: Everett, Basile, Harris, Bournett

feb 84

27 - MINUTES: motion of if pavilion having to be scrapped, would still go ahead with art show carried; raffle

5 - GARDNER resignation to WITM, will continue as dir of national women's art exhibition cosponsored by WITM and WCA. requests \$500/mth for feb-may

28 - EHT notes: "K.W. must decide today to resign today (effective 2/29) or agree to stay day-to-day until March 10th - She doesn't work well with Patsy Barnes and so far has not followed instructions from anyone but Betsy Lambert..."

mar 84

1 - EHT notes: "Kathy W. - Fair officials afraid to stop WITM - Barnes is type to go on TV in BR [Baton Rouge] & blame Fair for failure of Women's Pavilion - ..."

3 - GARDNER letter to artists: opening reception delayed temp

20 - EHT notes: "Dr. Anna Crawford resigned today as Treasurer of WITM (lack of proper documentation of expenditures) Martha Owen at Executive Committee last night asking for her loan of \$2,000 to be repaid."

28 - EHT notes: "Dot Gardner in, asking for \$500/mo honorarium from WITM - she expects to take over my desk when I am finished with it!! Dot thinks K. Proud is either FBI or CIA. Dot says Patsy Barnes, Bette Bornside, and Betsy Lambert interviewed K.Willingham!! There is not an application nor resume from K.W. in the files - " [note: K. Proud was the archivist for WITM]

apr 84

GARDNER blue invitational artist folder, note on Hannah Wilke corresp.: Hannah Wilke's art (showed by invitation), on arrival at Dominican College office, was opened by several members of WITM, who decided several photos (of Wilke and her mother after breast surgery) were "offensive". They recreated and returned them. "Self-appointed jurors" Gardner calls them.

4 - EHT notebook: Fight between EHT and P. Barnes

5 - EHT notebook: B.R. acting contrary to Board's vote to close operations on March 15 if \$60,000 were not raised & pd. to LWE -"

5 - EHT notebook: Barnes resigned as Operations Manager

6 - EHT notebook: state trooper to pick up data on women; sending to B.R.?; EHT says "'Damn it - one person can not do all B.R. directs -...I've had enough!"; Eileen Armstrong operations manager.

9 - EHT notes: "Eileen blasted Lucy because Lucy left office at 3 pm Friday"

10 EHT notes: "♀ sheriff in E.B.R. parish evaluated higher than Madame Curie!!" in Women of Achievement vote

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11 - EHT notes: Lambert wants to keep EHT's name off list and out of press. Others try to get Executive Comm to change this.

16 - EHT notes: "Jes demanding I stop WITM now!"

18 - EHT notes: Big changes. Lambert to be full time paid (hourly \$60 or \$80/hr) for a month, other paid staff changes, including Martha Owen back as organizer, Melowae as secretary and Lucy. B.R. women still pushing for operation headquarters to be moved there. Bornside threatening to resign

23 - EHT notes: Lucy reluctant to talk with EHT about plans for exhibit

29 - EHT notes: "Bornside told EHT that Betsy was trying to get rid of Shirley Marvin from Exec Committee - while Shirley has moved that Betsy be forced to resign as President of WITM -"

GARDNER: notifies artists of cancellation of women's pavilion

may 84

GARDNER: Lambert to Gardner re lease

GARDNER letter to artist: opening reception delayed indefinitely, WITM no space. Invitational to be shown at Pavilion and juried show at Contemporary Arts Center

GARDNER: by then, several invitational artists say no or pull out because of short notice, etc.

6 - GARDNER to WITM management committee: received \$500 in jan, now wants \$2000 due by 14th

8 - EHT notes: "Lucy offered Exec. Dir. of WITM" ...later Lucy is telling everyone that EHT "really goofed" over something

14 - GARDNER note to Lucy Fedorkowicz: have put into writing that WCA no longer endorses exhibit, due to default by WITM

15 - GARDNER note in daily journal: "today must make decision...no amount of money can make up the losses I've suffered. I have a difficult time communicating with WITM...my career, my marriage, and my health are being threatened..."

22 - GARDNER proposal to WITM: trying to get artist's work shown fairly, and be compensated

30 - EHT notes: Lambert upset over writeups

june 84

4 - EHT notes: Lucy "spoke with Betsy (apparently about EHT resigning...)"

5 - EHT notes: confusion and hurt feelings over Exec. Committee. (esp Lambert) wish to not honor elected women of achievement if they work with WITM

6 - GARDNER: sent WITM bill \$2100 due

25 - EHT notes: 2 pm appointment - Danae Columbus, Sandra Miller. "call to Betsy for authorization to provide data from files to them - OK per [?] Betsy...Files not to leave office - Files to be available to historians, etc - except for confidential data, e.g. Scores of achievement -"

27 - EHT notes: "M.E. drafted letter-" concerning the refusal of honorees voted on by panelists "needs charter...to determine authority of Exec. Committee. to over ride Board -"

GARDNER: opening canceled and juried exhibit shown half at a time at pavilion; Gardner and jurors outraged: Josiene: "go back to playing bridge and shopping"

28 - GARDNER journal: notes abused art at fair

30 - GARDNER journal: ribbon cutting ceremony: "I am sick and full of shame for the way the artists and their work have been so mistreated"

july 84

EHT notes: confusion of who should be honored, especially if EHT should be included as a Woman of Achievement

2 - OWENS files: letter from EHT to Exec Committee re their action of taking an honoree, selected by the judges, off the list on their

2 - EHT notes: "Artists are upset about the exhibition - No one likes the way paintings are hung"

5 - EHT notes: Owens wrote letter to exec committee re their eliminating honoree (inc EHT); Lambert signed contract with Danae Columbus for merchandizing

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11 - EHT notes: "Lucy resigned last night ... Betsy refused to attend any more Exec. Committee meetings - can't take that any longer -...Betsy probably will resign too...Carmen resigning from Exec. Committee...." refers to letter sent to Lambert, and reports that Exec. Committee is now trying to censor the art judges selections of the paintings - "

12 - "EHT called Martha - not to send ltr to Gula - keep it private - I hope it stays that way"

GARDNER: noWCA to WITM: want catalogue of exhibit, as promised to artists

aug 84

1 - EHT notes: "B.R. wants all files to be sent to B.R. 'for posterity' - Carman told Lucy the Women of Achievement files would have to go to BR. Lucy objected - N.O. is the location of the International office and files should be kept in N.O. also, EHT did the work on W of A and paid for almost all costs - supplies and duplicating - "

8 - EHT notes: Lucy's last day

10 - "Sandra Miller gave up on trying raise funds - BR women refused to sign her contract" "Files of WITM are at Newcomb for storage"

13 - EHT notes: Willinger's number, and "Newcomb very interested - yes, bring files of WITM for storage"

14 - EHT notes: "'Carmen is now Proj Director - Lucy wanted too much money about \$3000/month - So she went to Honduras'"

28 - EHT notes: "EHT possibly director of Programs on Newcomb faculty" interested in research fellowship at NCCROW

sept 84

19: GARDNER to juried artists: "due to unsuccessful fundraising, WITM has been unable to produce the pavilion as planned" politely says WITM screwed up, WCA is cutting themselves off from WITM officially, Gardner will try to keep control over the funds she has control over to use it for shipping. advises artists to write WITM for information about the location and disposition of their art

oct 84

5 - EHT notes: "Eileen and (Polly Williams?) to be at Newcomb today to search files for records on paying Gula-"

18 - Frances Cox to GARDNER: demanding copy of letter to artists, accusing Gardner of not completing obligations, Gardner responds nicely, reminding them that she resigned last May

31 - EHT notes: "Carmen asked about what was at Newcomb -- files - EHT insisted every thing should go there for immediate housing - including tapes and slides - EHT to box things on 9th and 10th of Nov. Nothing can be moved after the 11th - A large bg. is to be constructed to house memorabilia for the Fair - in BR or N. Orleans. Newcomb has space, accuracy [?], space for display, air conditioning and plans for International Hall of Fame (1987-) EHT has been asked to work in organizing the materials - Some volunteers have offered to help -"

nov 84

mar 86

26 - EHT files, NC 10th Anniversary: EHT, Martha Owen, Linda Perrett, and Danae Columbus presenting files. EHT "2 boxes of files of data on the 160 women of accomplishment who were honored in the Women's Pavilion, In the storage area here there are two boxes of files concerning the finalists and other nominees. There are six more boxes of data which I have collected on women from 93 countries."