

Women's World Center Collection 1982-1986

Creator: Lorraine Nadis

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact WLArchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Women's World Center Records, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: The materials were donated by Lorraine Nadis on July 26, 2011 (WLA2011.57).

Processor: Angela Rothman, 2019

Processing Information: Finding aid updated September 2026.

Separations: None

See Also: Chicago World's Fair--1992 Authority, Women's Committee records [manuscript], 1982-1986; Chicago 1992 Committee records [manuscript], 1976-1988; Chicago 1992 World's Fair collection [manuscript], 1979-1985; Women's World Center records [manuscript], 1982-1988; and Chicago World's Fair 1992 Authority records [manuscript], 1982-1985, at the Chicago History Museum Records Center.

Administrative History

The Women's World Center began as the Women's Committee, which was part of the planning for the 1992 Chicago World's Fair, called "The Age of Discovery." Prior to this time, the fair with the most inclusive participation of women was the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, where the Board of Lady Managers worked to build the Women's Building. Nevertheless, a distinct lack of female recognition in official planning for World's Fairs had continued since then.

After the 1981 Women's Heritage Conference, women's groups advocated for a female voice in the Fair planning. The Women's Committee officially organized in December 1981. According to the history article in the by-laws and history folder, the Committee wanted to ensure that "women fully participate in the organization, planning, development, and exhibits of the Fair." The Committee formally became part of the private organization, the Chicago World's Fair – 1992 Corporation, in June 1984. The Women's Committee primarily worked to make sure women were active participants in the fair's development, while at the same time planning a Women's Pavilion at the

Fair and an International Women's Museum in Chicago. Its activities ranged from membership and planning meetings to fundraising events. One such event was the Bertha Palmer Awards Dinner, which honored individuals who contributed to the betterment of women.

Ultimately, however, the 1992 World's Fair lost support and was never realized. When the fair was cancelled, the Women's Committee reinvented itself into the Women's World Center during the summer of 1986. The Center attempted to combine its original ideals into an educational center, museum, and conference center. Its first newsletter stated that its goals were to "educate and inform men, women and children about women's heritage, to promote international communication and to document changes to women." The records do not provide any additional information about the organization after 1986.

Scope and Content

The Women's World Center Collection documents the work of the 1992 World's Fair Women's Committee from 1982-1986, and its transition into the Women's World Center in 1986. These materials were collected by Lorraine Nadis as part of her involvement with the project. Nadis served as the head of the Media Relations Committee. This collection consists of 0.5 linear feet. Folders are organized chronologically.

The materials include press releases, media relations items, objects and materials related to the Bertha Palmer Award, a booklet of papers on the 1992 World's Fair Forum, bylaws and historical background on the Women's Committee, and signatures. Also included are two advertisements for the Parkway Eleanor Club, which was a private residence for women. Subjects covered include the operations of the Women's Committee, the 1992 Chicago World's Fair, Inc., organization for the Women's World Center, and planning for the Bertha Palmer Award and Dinner.

Subjects:

Women's Committee
1992 Chicago World's Fair, Inc.
Women's World Center
Bertha Palmer Award

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Women's World Center Collection 1982-1986</i>	
1	1	Press Releases	1982-1984, undated
1	2	Media Relations Committee	1982-1984
1	3	Photographs, Negatives, and Slides	1982-1983
1	4	Statement to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Scoping Meeting	1983
1	5	Correspondence	1983, undated
1	6	Bertha Palmer Award: Nominations and Invitation	1984
1	7	Press Kit for Conference Signing of Agreement with Chicago World's Fair – 1992 Corporation	1984

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1	8	1992 World's Fair Forum Papers, Volume II: Women's Participation in Chicago's Fairs: Past and Future	1984
1	9	Report from the Women's Committee	1984
1	10	Women's World Center	1984-1986, undated
1	11	Women's Committee, 1992 Chicago World's Fair by-laws and history	undated
1	12	List of table numbers and individuals	undated
1	13	Guest signatures	undated