

Carol Moseley Braun Papers ***1980-2018***

Preliminary Finding Aid

Creator: Carol Moseley Braun

Extent: Approximately 100 linear feet

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: Some materials are restricted due to private information. See archivist for more information.

Usage Restrictions: Some materials in the collection are restricted due to personal information. See archivist for details.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Carol Moseley Braun Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Carol Moseley Braun materials to the Women and Leadership Archives on July 16, 2012 (WLA2012.30); August 30, 2012 (WLA2012.38); April 2016 (WLA2016.14); and December 9, 2019 (WLA2019.63). Chicago History Museum donated additional materials to Loyola University Chicago's Women and Leadership Archives on May 12, 2016 (WLA2016.15).

Processor: Melanie Chambliss and Megan Naylor, July 2017; Caroline Giannakopoulos, 2022.

Processing Information: This collection is partially processed. This preliminary finding aid was created in 2022. See archivist for more information.

Separations: About 2 linear feet of duplicates and unrelated material were discarded.

See Also: Carol Moseley Braun's Senate Records housed at the Chicago History Museum.

Biographical History

Carol Elizabeth Moseley (later Braun) was born on August 16, 1947, in Chicago, IL to Joseph and Edna Moseley. Braun attended both Catholic parochial and public schools in her youth and graduated from Parker High School. She attended the University of Illinois, where she graduated with a B.A. in Political Science in 1969. She went on to study at the University of Chicago's Law School.

Following graduation from law school in 1972, Carol married classmate Michael Braun. Moseley Braun gave birth to her son, Matthew in 1977. The marriage ended in 1986. Moseley Braun worked briefly in private practice before becoming a prosecutor in the Office of the U.S. Attorney from 1973 until 1977. In 1975, she won the Attorney General's Special Achievement Award for her work in civil litigations. She was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1978, where she served as a member and assistant majority leader for a decade. In 1988, she was elected Recorder of Deeds for Cook County, IL. She was the first woman and first African American to hold an executive office in Cook County.

After gaining experience in local government, Moseley Braun set her sights on Washington. She entered the senatorial race in November 1991 as a Democratic candidate and was elected in 1992, becoming the first African-American woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate, the first woman to defeat an incumbent U.S. Senator in an election, and the first female Senator from Illinois. Moseley Braun was one of five women elected to the Senate that year, leading to some labeling 1992 as “The Year of the Woman.” She was the only African American in the Senate for her entire term, which lasted from 1993 to 1999.

As a U.S. Senator, Moseley Braun was the first woman to serve as a permanent member of the Senate Finance Committee and served on the Subcommittee for International Trade. She also was a member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the Committee on Small Business, Committee on Aging, and the Bipartisan Commission on Taxes and Entitlements. She sponsored and co-sponsored bills for school construction, women’s pension equity, transportation subsidy, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment, among others.

In 1993, Senators Moseley Braun and Barbara Mikulski wore pants onto the U.S. Senate floor in defiance of a rule that required women to wear skirts. Female support staff followed soon after, and the rule was amended later that year by Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Martha Pope to allow women to wear pants on the floor so long as they also wore a jacket.

Moseley Braun faced controversy during her time in the Senate when she was investigated for misused campaign money in 1993 and a Medicaid fraud case associated with her mother. She was cleared of any wrongdoing in all cases, but the allegations damaged her campaign for reelection.

In 1998, Moseley Braun ran for reelection and lost. After her term as Senator ended, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa. She served as what she called “Ambassador to Paradise” until George W. Bush’s election in 2001, when she was removed from the position by the new administration.

On February 18, 2003, Moseley Braun officially announced that she would run for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. She dropped out of the race in January 2004. She also ran for Mayor of Chicago in 2011, losing to Rahm Emmanuel.

In 2005, Moseley Braun founded Ambassador Organics and its parent company Good Food Organics, Inc. The company sold tea, coffee, and other goods grown with organic and environmentally sustainable practices. She officially launched the company at the Organic Trade Association Show in May 2006. The company distributed its food and beverage products for over a decade, but ended operations as of 2020.

Along with her accomplishments in public service, Moseley Braun worked as a business consultant, performed speaking engagements, and taught political science courses at Northwestern University, DePaul University, and other institutions. In 2001, a school in Calumet City, Illinois was named Carol Moseley Braun Elementary School.

Scope and Content

The Carol Moseley Braun Papers contain approximately 100 linear feet of materials spanning the years 1988-2018. The collection includes reports, correspondence, manuals, speeches, event programs, fundraising materials, litigations records, newspaper clippings and publications, VHS tapes, audiocassettes, handwritten notes, floppy disks, campaign buttons and stickers, photographs, film/negatives, awards, books, calendars, and memorabilia. Materials primarily relate to Moseley Braun's political campaigns for U.S. Senate, President, and Mayor of Chicago and her time as U.S. Senator and Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa. Materials also cover her time as Cook County Recorder of Deeds, founder and president of Good Food Organics, Inc., and other professional endeavors. The Chicago History Museum holds additional records pertaining to Moseley Braun's Senate career.

Materials are arranged into series by subject and folders are arranged chronologically. Speeches, correspondence, and events are organized according to the major time periods of Moseley Braun's Senate career, ambassadorial tenure, and presidential and mayoral campaigns. Any speeches that occurred outside of these years can be found in either her Professional, Personal, or Correspondence series.

Series 1: Senate (1992-2000)

This series contains materials relating to Moseley Braun's term as a U.S. Senator from 1993-1999 and her associated campaigns. Materials include correspondence, fundraising records, campaign files, reports, speeches, books, audiovisuals, and memorabilia. The Chicago History Museum holds a collection measuring 371 linear feet documenting Moseley Braun's term as United States senator from Illinois (Democrat, 1993-1999) and some additional materials from her senatorial campaigns in 1992 and 1998. Some materials in this series are restricted. See archivist.

Sub-series 1.1: Election Campaign of 1992

Sub-series 1.2: Campaign Finances and Investigations, 1992-2000 Correspondence, reports, and other documents (evidence) gathered during Federal Elections Committee FEC investigation. Some materials in this sub-series are restricted. See archivist for details.

Sub-series 1.3: Senate Activities

Sub-series 1.4: Re-election Campaign of 1998

Sub-series 1.5: Contact Information

Sub-series 1.6: Campaign Memorabilia: Contains correspondence to and from Moseley Braun during her Senate term.

Subseries 1.7: Litigation, 1992-1999: Some materials in this sub-series are restricted. See archivist for details.

Sub-series 1.8: Articles

Sub-series 1.9: Official Papers: Contains official papers and forms from Moseley Braun's Senate term.

Sub-series 1.10: Staff Memos or Reports: Staff memos or reports for Moseley Braun's Senate staff.

Sub-series 1.9: Media: Contains other media besides articles.

Sub-series 1.10: Speeches

Series 2: Ambassadorship (1999-2005)

Contains materials relating to Carol Moseley Braun's New Zealand and Samoa ambassadorship from 2000-2001 including calendars, schedules, correspondence, handbooks, meeting minutes, pamphlets, and press. Some materials in this series are restricted. See archivist for details.

Sub-series 2.1: Administrative Files, 1992-2005, undated: This subseries contains reports, correspondence, manuals, staff directories, briefings, reports, and reference materials related to the operations of the embassy and Moseley Braun's transition into the role. Also included are several folders related to the United States Antarctic program and Moseley Braun's trip to Antarctica in 2000.

Sub-series 2.2: Ambassador's Residence, 1999-2002: This subseries contains correspondence, itineraries, and event guest lists related to maintenance and upkeep of the residence and gardens and visitors to the residence. Also included is a visitor's book with signatures. Correspondence and itineraries for guests.

Sub-series 2.3: Appointment and Confirmation Process for Ambassadorship, 1999: This subseries documents the process for Moseley Braun's confirmation as ambassador including the confirmation hearing and the rally of support for her confirmation. Materials include completed applications and questionnaires, interview transcripts, press releases, news clippings, and correspondence.

Sub-series 2.4: Audiovisual, 2000-2001, undated: This subseries contains VHS tapes, CDs and DVDs containing information on New Zealand, including a PowerPoint presentation from the U.S. Embassy in Wellington.

Sub-series 2.5: Contact Information, 198-2005, undated: This sub-series contains directories, contact lists, and Moseley Braun's compiled "Rolodex" of contacts. It also contains contact information and business cards for Moseley Braun during her time as the Ambassador.

Sub-series 2.6: Correspondence, 1996-2005, undated: This sub-series contains the majority of the correspondence to and from Moseley Braun between 2000 and 2001. Other correspondence from this time period may be found in the Schedule and Events sub-series.

Sub-series 2.7: Embassy Finance, Embassy Finance, 1999-2001: This sub-series contains correspondence, credit card statements, travel itineraries, invoices, reports, and an airline boarding pass related to Moseley Braun's expenses, particularly expenses from the Ambassador's travel in New Zealand.

Sub-series 2.8: End of Ambassadorship Tenure, 2000-2001, undated: This sub-series contains materials related to Moseley Braun's departure from her post in New Zealand including briefing books and information sheets from the Department of State, copies of farewell letters written to Moseley Braun, and a draft of a document called "Promises Made, Promises Kept," summarizing Moseley Braun's accomplishments as Ambassador.

Sub-series 2.9: Embassy Activities and Meetings, 2000-2001: This series contains reports, meeting notes, and updates from meetings of the Country Team (all top Embassy staff) and committees. It also contains weekly status reports and notices from the embassy and related government offices.

Sub-series 2.10: New Zealand Reference Materials, 1993-2000, undated: This series contains information about New Zealand used as research and reference material by Moseley Braun. The reference material is in the form of reports from the U.S.

Department of State, reports from other sources, and printed articles sent by the British Consulate to New Zealand and other contacts. It also contains a photocopy of a catalog from the Field Museum exhibit, "Ruatēpūpūke: A Maori Meeting House."

Sub-series 2.11: Personal Information, 1990-2001: Materials in this series relate to Braun's move to New Zealand, personal finances, and employee identification. Some materials in this sub-series are restricted. See archivist for details.

Sub-series 2.12: Preparation for Ambassadorship, 1996-1999: Contains manuals and handouts from the training Moseley Braun received prior to her start as ambassador

Sub-series 2.13: Press, 1998-2001: Contains media such as newspaper and magazine articles, as well as correspondence with media outlets.

Sub-series 2.14: Schedule and Events, 1999-2001: Contains mostly invitations, information, guest lists and printed calendars for Moseley Braun, but other items can be found within these folders as originally contained within Moseley Braun's files

Sub-series 2.15: Special Interest Groups, 1998-2002, undated

Sub-series 2.16: Speeches, 1999-2001, undated

Sub-series 2.17: Travel Pamphlets, 1990-2000, undated

Sub-series 2.18: Miscellaneous, 1996-2001, undated

Series 3: Presidential Campaign (2002-2004), 1973-2006

Contains materials relating to Carol Moseley Braun's presidential campaign in the 2004 election including research on national and state issues, speeches, correspondence, staff memos and notes. Other materials include press, promotional material/campaign paraphernalia, schedules, events, and audiovisuals. Some materials in this series are restricted. See archivist for details.

Sub-series 3.1: Administrative Files, 1995-2006, undated: Contains memos, notes, official forms, and campaign information addressed to Moseley Braun's campaign staff.

Sub-series 3.2: Campaigning for Other Candidates, 2002-2004

Sub-series 3.3: Correspondence, 1996-2005, undated: Contains correspondence to and from Moseley Braun between 2002-2004. This sub-series is divided into letters to and letters from Moseley Braun. Correspondence can also be found in the Events sub-series for this series.

Sub-series 3.4: Events, 2002-2004, undated: Contains papers, folders, and correspondences containing information and invitations for events that Moseley Braun may or may not have attended. Additional event information can also be found in the Speeches and Special Interest Group Sub-series.

Sub-series 3.5: Fundraising, 2003: Some materials in this series are restricted. See archivist for details.

Sub-series 3.6: Itineraries and Schedules, 2002-2004, undated

Sub-series 3.7: Litigation, 2004: Some materials in this series are restricted. See archivist for details.

Sub-series 3.8: Platforms, 2003-2004, undated

Sub-series 3.9: Press, 1992-2004, undated: Contains various press materials related to Moseley Braun and the other presidential candidates including newspaper articles, newspaper clippings, magazines, magazine articles, and interview materials. All folders in this Sub-series are organized by month of publication.

Sub-series 3.10: Promotional Materials, undated: Contains items such as buttons, stickers, flyers, and other campaign materials created to promote Moseley Braun's presidential candidacy.

Sub-series 3.11: Research and Reference Material, 1973-2004, undated: Contains materials related specifically to research on current events, state-level and national issues, Moseley Braun's opponents, election data, and the process of running a presidential campaign.

Sub-series 3.12: Special Interest Groups, 2003-2004, undated: Contains booklets, reports, and correspondences addressed to Moseley Braun from special interest groups.

Sub-series 3.13: Speeches and Press Statements, 2002-2004

Sub-series 3.14: Writings and Publications, 2003

Sub-series 3.15: Miscellaneous, 1983, 2003, undated

Series 4: Mayoral Campaign (2010-2011), 1997-2011, undated

Contains materials related to Moseley Braun's campaign to become Mayor of Chicago including flyers, speeches, fundraising materials, event information, research papers, press, correspondence, and staff notes/memos. Some materials in this series are restricted. See archivist for details.

Sub-series 4.1: Administrative Files, 2010-2011

Sub-series 4.2: Contact Information, 2009-2010

Sub-series 4.3: Correspondence, 2010-2011: This sub-series contains the majority of the correspondence to and from Moseley Braun between 2010 and 2011. Correspondence can also be found in the Events sub-series for this series.

Sub-series 4.4: Events and Schedules, 2010-2011

Additional event information can also be found in the Speeches and Special Interest Group sub-series.

Sub-series 4.5: Fundraising, 1997-2011

Sub-series 4.6: Platforms, 2007, 2010

Platforms are also located in the Special Interest Groups Sub-series for this series.

Sub-series 4.7: Press, 2010-2011

Sub-series 4.8: Promotional Materials, undated

Sub-series 4.9: Research and Reference Material, 2002-2011

Sub-series 4.10: Special Interest Groups, 2010-2011: Questionnaires or surveys for the mayoral candidates from different special interest groups are located in some of these folders as well.

Sub-series 4.11: Speeches, 2011, undated

Sub-series 4.12: Miscellaneous, undated

Series 5: Good Food Organics, Inc., 2001-2018, undated

Contains materials related to the businesses started by Carol Moseley Braun Good Food Organics and Ambassador Organics. Materials include business plans, operations manual, research materials, marketing materials, coffee roasting logs, financial documents, business

memberships, . Also included are certifications for suppliers and products from organic certification boards.

Series 6: Professional, 1973-2011, undated

Contains materials and documents related to Moseley Braun's professional career outside of her prominent government work. Materials cover her early positions in local government, professional speaking engagements, and work as a business consultant.

Sub-series 6.1 Careers and Education, 1973-2010: Includes information on Moseley Braun's organics business, her tenure as a local elected official, some employment as an attorney, and her work with GoodWorks International. Some overlap may exist between correspondence, events, and schedules found in the GoodWorks International sub-grouping and other similarly named Sub-series under the Professional series in general

Sub-series 6.2: Contact Information, 1998-2004

Sub-series 6.3: Events and Schedules, 1998-2010: Certain folders within this sub-series was organized based on the way Moseley Braun's office had organized them by compiling the schedule alongside event information, correspondence and other items. Original order was preserved for the items contained in those folders.

Sub-series 6.4: Press, 1980-2006

Sub-series 6.5: Special Interest Groups, 1999-2009

Sub-series 6.6: Speeches, 2001-2005, undated

Sub-series 6.7: Writings and Publications, 2001-2004

Sub-series 6.8: Miscellaneous, 1995-2007

Series 7: Personal

Contains materials and documents from Moseley Braun's personal, private life.

Sub-series 7.1: Biographical, 1947-2002

Sub-series 7.2: Lifestyle, 1999-2007

Sub-series 7.3: Events, 1999-2007: Speeches can also be found in this Sub-series as appropriate to the event.

Sub-series 7.4: Family, 1921-2006

Sub-series 7.5: Interests, 2007, undated

Sub-series 7.6: Memberships, 1985-2007

Series 8: Correspondence

Contains personal and professional letters, greeting cards, and printed emails sent to and from Moseley Braun. Additional correspondence can be found in other series based on its subject, time period, and the original arrangement of the donor. Some materials in this series are restricted. See archivist for details.

Sub-series 8.1: General, 1999-2002

Sub-series 8.2: Correspondence to Moseley Braun, 1998-2008

Sub-series 8.3: Correspondence from Moseley Braun, 2000-2007

Sub-series 8.4: Email Correspondence, 2001-2007

Sub-series 8.5: Greeting Cards, 1999-2008

Series 9: Photographs

Contains photographs from Moseley Braun's political, professional, and private life. This series also includes negatives, photo contact sheets, and CDs containing photo files. Some photographs are in frames and some others were removed from frames.

Series 10: Awards and Certificates

Some certificates are framed and others have been removed from frames.

Series 11: Memorabilia and Awards

This series contains awards received by Braun in the form of trophies, plaques, and certificates, as well as other objects and memorabilia. Many of the items in this series were displayed in Braun's home and professional offices. Most items were removed from frames.

Series 11: Audiovisual

Contains audiocassettes, VHS tapes, floppy disks, and CDs.