

Anna Stonum Papers
1958-1999, n.d.

Creator: Stonum, Anna (1958-1999)

Extent: 0.5 linear ft.

Processor: Unknown

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright remains with the original creator for all materials in this collection and has not been transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Women and Leadership Archives. Anna Stonum Papers. Box #, Folder #.

Provenance: Donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Mike Ervin on February 17, 2000 (WLA2000.05).

Separations: Unknown

Biographical History

Anna Marie Stonum was born on October 14, 1958, in Granite City, Illinois, to Robert and Julia Sedej Stonum. She moved to Chicago in 1980 to attend Mundelein College, where she earned a bachelor of fine arts degree. Anna suffered from Friedreich's Ataxia, a degenerative condition that affects coordination and eventually caused her to use a wheelchair for much of her adult life. Consequently, she became involved in advocacy for disability rights along with her husband, Mike Ervin, a playwright who is also disabled. In the early 1980s, Anna and Mike were founding members of the Chicago chapter of Americans Disabled for Accessible Public Transit (ADAPT), now known as Americans Disabled for Attendant Programs Today. The group advocated for lifts to be installed on all Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) buses to make them more accessible to the disabled. Anna also served on the board of the Disability Arts and Culture Center at the University of Illinois as well as the board of the Progress Center and the Council for Disability Rights. Through her numerous affiliations with disability rights groups, she advocated for more accessible public transportation, higher wages for home aides serving the disabled, and initiated a national protest against Jerry Lewis' telethon for the way he portrayed the disabled. In 1988, Anna was part of the first delegation of disabled American activists to meet with the National Association of Cubans with Disabilities.

Anna was also an accomplished artist and started her own graphic design company, Designs for All, in 1994. She operated the company out of her home in Chicago and much of her work consisted of designs for newsletters. She also created the "Adapt or Perish" logo that was used by Chicago and national disability rights organizations. Anna died on February 6, 1999 at the age of 40.

Scope and Content

The Anna Stonum Papers contain biographical and professional materials than span Anna's lifetime. Many of the materials relate to Anna's disability rights advocacy efforts and her work as a graphic artist. This collection also contains unpublished papers, short stories, and poetry written by Anna.

Series 1: Biographical and Professional, 1958-1999, n.d., Box 1

This series contains both personal and professional items related to Anna's life. The materials include artwork, newspaper articles, newsletters, photographs, and unpublished writings. It also contains materials related to a lawsuit Anna helped bring against the Chicago Cubs regarding their noncompliance with Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations at Wrigley Field.

Subjects:

ADAPT

Disability rights

Friedreich's Ataxia

Graphic arts

Stonum, Anna

Women artists

Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series 1: Biographical and Professional, 1958-1999, n.d.			
1	1	Birth Certificate	1958
	2	Birthday Cards	1998-1999
	3	Obituary	1999
	4	City of Chicago Resolution	1999
	5	Computer Artwork	n.d.
	6	Computer Artwork	n.d.
	7	Computer Artwork	n.d.
	8	Computer Artwork	n.d.
	9	Computer Artwork	n.d.
	10	Computer Artwork: EKA Marketing and Distribution	1995
	11	Computer Artwork: Oversized	n.d.
	12	Designs for All	1995
	13	Art Exhibit Flyers and Articles	1995-1999
	14	ADAPT	1993-1997
	15	Photograph Negatives	1990
	16	Progress Center for Independent Living	1996
	17	Newspaper Article	1984
	18	“The Cuban Disabled: Is There a Revolution within the Revolution?” <i>COPH Bulletin</i>	1989
	19	“Comparison of Chinese and Japanese Art”	n.d.
	20	“Chinese Art”	n.d.
	21	“Don’t They Know” and “Tea for One”	n.d.
	22	“The Rainy Season”	n.d.
	23	“No Questions Asked”	1986
	24	“Untitled, Number 5”	1986
	25	“The First Kiss”	1993
	26	“Big Possums” Commentary	1995
	27	Chicago Cubs Lawsuit	1995
	28	<i>New Mobility Magazine</i>	1999
	29	The Nth Degree Catalog	1999
	30	Chicago Foundation for Women Symposium	1999