

Collection #  
M 1265

## WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT CLUB RECORDS ADDITION, 1983–2009

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 and 1/2 manuscript boxes, 1 color photo folder, 1 black-and-white photo folder, 1 negative envelope
COLLECTION DATES:	1983–2009
PROVENANCE:	Woman's Department Club of Indianapolis, IN; October 2016
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Woman's Department Club M1189
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2016.0292
NOTES:	This forms part of the Woman's Department Club Collection.

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Organized by Mrs. Luella McWhirter in 1912, the Woman's Department Club was and remains active in community service and education projects throughout Indianapolis. In 1912, McWhirter gathered support from interested women to form the club. Inspired by the Mishawaka Woman's Club, McWhirter adopted their departmental organization. Department Clubs, like Mishawaka, were divided into sections, or departments. The Indianapolis Woman's Department Club had a number of these divisions such as the Art Department; Home, Literature, and Drama Department; and Community Service Department. The club originally met in the rooftop garden of the Hume-Mansur Building, but, in 1917, the club purchased a home at 1702 North Meridian Street. This building would serve as the clubhouse until 1964.

The club has had a number of functions in the Indianapolis community and has been involved in service work, education, and the arts. Their motto was and is, "Service means growth; growth means life; let us live." The Community Service Department, Visiting Nurse Auxiliary Association, and the Monday Guild (an organization for sightless women) are examples of the community service work the club participated and participates in.

The club has offered scholarships and educational loans. Throughout their history, they offered educational courses and activities for the community such as the Mothers Round Table and Citizenship Classes.

The Women's Department Club Art Department purchased artwork for the clubhouse, held exhibitions, and organized the Indiana Federation of Art Clubs. They have been actively involved with Hoosier Salon and have donated works from their collections to the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

In addition to these activities, the club has donated books to the Indianapolis Public Library, and made monetary donations to a number of organizations throughout the community including the Riley Children's Hospital, Indiana State School for the Blind, YWCA, and others. The club's long history reflects its emphasis on service work, arts, and education within the Indianapolis community.

Sources:

Materials in collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This addition includes a variety of club records, such as asset reviews, meeting minutes and agendas, department reports, election materials, endowment records, finance committee records, general account records, treasurer's reports, membership reports, and tax exemption records. Other materials, related to the club's activities and projects, include annual luncheon materials, rental agreements, contribution materials, correspondence, a history booklet, Hoosier Art Salon materials, Indiana Artists Club materials, Indianapolis Council of Women directories, an agreement with the Indianapolis Museum of Art, local school project materials, scholarship and award paperwork, program contracts, and Riley program materials.

## CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Annual luncheon materials, 1994–2001	Box 1, Folder 1
Asset reviews, 1999–2000	Box 1, Folder 2
Board of Directors meeting agendas, 1990–2001	Box 1, Folder 3
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1990–2001	Box 1, Folder 4
Carmel office rental materials, 1994–98	Box 1, Folder 5
Clowes Hall rental materials, 1987–2001	Box 1, Folder 6
Contributions materials, 1983–2001	Box 1, Folder 7
Correspondence, 1998–2001	Box 1, Folder 8
Department reports, 2000–02	Box 1, Folder 9
Election materials, 1986–2001	Box 1, Folder 10
Endowment records, 2002	Box 1, Folder 11
Endowment records, 2003	Box 1, Folder 12
Endowment records, 2004	Box 1, Folder 13
Endowment records, 2005	Box 2, Folder 1
Endowment records, 2006	Box 2, Folder 2
Endowment records, 2007	Box 2, Folder 3
Endowment records, 2008	Box 2, Folder 4
Endowment records, 2009	Box 2, Folder 5
Finance and budget committee records, 1984–2000	Box 2, Folder 6
General account records, 2000	Box 2, Folder 7
General account records, 2001	Box 2, Folder 8
General account records, 2002	Box 2, Folder 9

General account records, 2003	Box 2, Folder 10
General account records, 2004	Box 2, Folder 11
General account records, 2005	Box 2, Folder 12
General account records, 2006	Box 2, Folder 13
General account records, 2007	Box 2, Folder 14
General account records, 2008	Box 2, Folder 15
General account records, 2009	Box 2, Folder 16
General Club annual meeting minutes, 1996–97	Box 2, Folder 17
General Club and Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1991–2001	Box 3, Folder 1
History booklet, 2000	Box 3, Folder 2
Hoosier Art Salon materials, 1997–2000	Box 3, Folder 3
Hoosier Art Salon programs, 1997–2000	Box 3, Folder 4
Indiana Artists Club materials, 1995–98	Box 3, Folder 5
Indiana Department of Revenue correspondence, 1995	Box 3, Folder 6
Indianapolis Council of Women correspondence, 1993–99	Box 3, Folder 7
Indianapolis Council of Women directories, 1995–2000	Box 3, Folder 8
Indianapolis Museum of Art agreement, 1991	Box 3, Folder 9
IPS School #44 project, 1997	Box 3, Folder 10
IPS School #44 project negatives, 1997	Visual Collections: 35 mm Acetate color negatives
IPS School #44 project photos, 1997	Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Folder 1
Lettie P. Trefz educational scholarship, 1983–98	Box 3, Folder 11
Membership secretary reports, 1990–2001	Box 3, Folder 12

Memorial merit award, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 13
Meridian Street United Methodist Church correspondence and agreement, 1997–2000	Box 3, Folder 14
Miscellaneous photos, n.d.	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 1
POLIS archive study materials, 1993–95	Box 3, Folder 15
President guidelines, n.d.	Box 4, Folder 1
President's letters, 1991–2001	Box 4, Folder 2
Programs and contracts, 1989–95	Box 4, Folder 3
Riley program materials, 1997	Box 4, Folder 4
Safe deposit box materials, 1984–95	Box 4, Folder 5
Tax exemption materials, 1995	Box 4, Folder 6
Treasurer's reports and investment committee materials, 1989–2001	Box 4, Folder 7