

**Collection #  
M 1474  
OM 0744  
DVD 2306-2309**

**MARY BYRNE  
COLLECTION, 1977-2007**

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Processed by

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 manuscript boxes, 5 oversize manuscript folders, 1 flat file folder, 1 folder color slides, 1 folder of photographs, 1 cold storage color photographs folder, 1 folder OVB Photographs, 4 DVDs, 2 videocassettes, 25 printed items, 5 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1977-2007

PROVENANCE: Gift of Mary Byrne, Paducah, KY

RESTRICTIONS: Materials in cold storage need at least 4 hours to acclimate, so patrons should call ahead if they wish to view materials that are in cold storage.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Mary Byrne and Tammara Tracy Oral History Interview, SC3331

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2018.0274

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mary Byrne (b. July 1, 1951) grew up in Rushville, Indiana before moving to Chicago, Illinois when she was a teenager. She attended college at Eastern Illinois University and came back to the Indianapolis after she graduated. She began her career working as a counselor at an organization called Stopover, which served youth who had run away from home. In the mid-1970s, after attending the Michigan Women's Music Festival, she was inspired to find or organize a space for women's music and community in Indianapolis. The result of this pursuit was the Labyris bar, opened in 1979, and located at 631 E. Michigan St. downtown Indianapolis. The Labyris hosted concerts, open mic nights, pool tournaments, Euchre nights, discussion groups, and even coffeehouse nights where no alcoholic beverages were served. Byrne's other entrepreneurial pursuit was Out Word Bound bookstore, which was owned in part by her wife, Tammara Tracy, and Byrne joined the business as the manager in 2005. Out Word Bound was located at 625 N. East Street in Indianapolis and catered to the LGBTQ community with books, music, gifts, and was also a community gathering and concert space. In 2008, Byrne became the Executive Director of Indiana Youth Group, an organization which provides a safe haven for LGBTQ youth in the state. In addition to these professional pursuits, Byrne devoted time to producing the National Women's Music Festival in Bloomington and Muncie Indiana. Byrne and her wife Tammara have also been active in political organizing on behalf of the LGBTQ community. They were early members of GIFA, or the Greater Indianapolis Fairness Alliance, which would eventually morph into the Indiana Equality organization. Mary Byrne and Tammara Tracy were married in their Quaker meeting in 2004 and they had their union legally recognized in 2014. Byrne retired from Indiana Youth Group in 2017 and relocated with Tammara to Paducah, Kentucky.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

"Indiana Youth Group Names New Executive Director." *NUVO*. 21 July 2017.  
[https://www.nuvo.net/slash/indiana-youth-group-names-new-executive-director/article\\_95dcd002-6e40-11e7-9881-87a0a4816e7b.html](https://www.nuvo.net/slash/indiana-youth-group-names-new-executive-director/article_95dcd002-6e40-11e7-9881-87a0a4816e7b.html)

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains manuscripts, photographs, publications, and artifacts from Mary Byrne's professional, artistic, and political pursuits during her time living in Indianapolis, Indiana. The collection is divided into series that reflect each of these topics and is arranged chronologically.

Series 1 contains papers, color slides and artifacts related to two of Byrne's businesses, the Labyris bar and Out Word Bound Bookstore. This includes slide images showing the renovations Byrne did on the Labyris space before it opened as well as some of the performances that took place there and the monthly newsletters and calendars she designed, wrote, and mailed out to bar patrons to keep them apprised of goings on at the bar.

Series 2 contains papers related to Byrne's activities as a political activist and community organizer for the LGBTQ community. There are a few newsletters and papers from the late 1970s and early 1980s from both LGBTQ and feminist groups' social and political organizing. The rest of the series documents Byrne's role in the formation of GIFA, the Greater Indianapolis Fairness Alliance, which organized around 2002 when a measure to recognize domestic partnerships was put forward in the City-County Council, and the records continue through 2006, when Byrne needed to scale back on political activities.

Series 3 and Series 4 document Byrne's involvement with music, theatre and writing. For seventeen years, Byrne produced the National Women's Music Festival, and Series 3 contains festival programs and posters. Additionally, Series 4 contains the *I Know You Know* magazine, where Byrne was the managing editor from 1984-1985.

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### Series 1: Business Papers

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Hiatus Logo Details, ca. 1970s	Box 1, Folder 1
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Labyris Concert Posters, ca. 1970s-1980s [Barbara Bell, Donna Jones, Meg Christian, Holly Near]	OM0744 Folder 2 of 5
Labyris Sign [hung in back of the stage], ca. 1970s-1980s	Artifacts: 2018.0274 [Use digital file]
Cloth Pouch Printed with Labyris Logo, ca. 1970s-1980s	Artifacts: 2018.0274
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Business Plan, Out Word Bound, 1998-2001	Box 2, Folder 11

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Out Word Bound T-Shirt, ca. 2000s	Artifacts, 2018.0274
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Minutes, Clippings and Correspondence, Indianapolis Lesbian/Gay Coalition, 1982-1983	Box 3, Folder 11
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Minutes and Correspondence, Meeting Logistics Subcommittee, Marion County-Indianapolis Coalition, 2002	Box 3, Folder 20
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[Unidentified Woman Playing Guitar], ca. 1970s	Visual Collections: OVB Photographs, Folder 1 of 1
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Programs, National Women's Music Festival, 1982, 1986, 1988, 1990	Box 5, Folder 8
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Kate Niles Photography Greeting Card, ca. 1982	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 1 of 1
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