

Collection #  
SC 2931  
DVD [0246, 0247]

**SUSAN WILLIAMS  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 2011**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folders, 2 DVDs (1 master and 1 copy)

COLLECTION DATES: 6 December 2011

PROVENANCE: Indiana Historical Society project, 2011-

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0120m0004

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Susan Williams was born in Chicago, Illinois, but spent most of her childhood in Brownsburg, Indiana. She attended Brownsburg High School where she excelled in leadership roles through organizations such as student council and Honor Society. Encouraged by a high school teacher, Williams attended Franklin College, majoring in social studies education. She was hired into the district she graduated from, Brownsburg Community School Corporation, where she taught government and economics. After teaching for seven years, and beginning her master's degree at Indiana University, Williams took a position with Senator Birch Bayh's campaign staff. From there her political career blossomed including working for the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, where she met her husband, David Rimstidt. They have two adopted sons. Williams' talents were recognized by Bingham Summers Welsh & Spilman who hired her as business administrator for the firm in 1981. Filling an unexpected vacancy, she joined the Indianapolis Marion County City Council in 1986, a position she held for fourteen years. Before leaving the council, Williams accepted then Governor Frank O'Bannon's offer of the executive directorship of the Indiana State Office Building Commission during which she led the construction of the Indiana State Museum. Her next endeavor was president of the Indiana Sports Corporation from 2006 until 2012 when she retired. Throughout her life she has been committed to various efforts to improve Indianapolis. She and her husband were one of the first families to restore their home in the historic Chatham Arch neighborhood. She has served on boards including the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission and the Riley Area Revitalization Program. She was integral in saving the old Sears and Roebuck building, which now houses O'Malia's Foods as well as other downtown businesses. In preparation for the 2012 Super Bowl, Williams served on the Host Committee Board of Directors, leading work on the Eastside Legacy Center.

Sources: Materials from the collection

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Folder 1 contains the transcript of an oral history interview with Susan Williams and a life history form, resume, and photograph. The DVDs contain a WAV file audio recording of Williams' oral history interview (1 master and 1 copy). Williams was interviewed as part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Project (ICB), an ongoing project collecting oral histories of outstanding individuals continually work to advance Indiana. The primary goal of this project is to collect life stories from remarkable people whose involvement in Indiana philanthropy, business, politics, religion, and education continues to enhance the Indiana community. Through these individual lives, we can witness the development of Indiana's recent past. IHS believes collecting these reflections also extends our capacity as Indiana's Storyteller because we can better understand Indiana history from a personal and professional perspective. Including both perspectives illustrates each individual's contributions to Indiana and their personal connections to all Hoosiers.

Interview topics include: growing up in Indiana; being a Jewish family in Brownsburg; influences provided by family; elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education; employment experiences; challenges and successes faced (especially as a woman); philanthropy and volunteerism; change of Indianapolis/Indiana over time, sports in Indianapolis, and personal legacy. The interview was conducted by Kendra E. Clauser on December 6, 2011 at the Indiana Historical Society. Clauser has been the Project Archivist for ICB since April of 2011.

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### CONTENTS

### CONTAINER

Susan Williams life history form, resume, and photograph

Folder 1

Susan Williams oral history interview, transcript

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Transcript page</b>	<b>Time hh:mm:ss</b>
Childhood & Family	Pg. 1	00:00:00
Being Jewish in Brownsburg	Pg. 2	00:01:53
Brownsburg Schools	Pg. 3	00:03:56
Franklin College	Pg. 4	00:06:15
Teaching in Brownsburg	Pg. 7	00:13:28
Masters at IU	Pg. 10	00:20:31
Transition to politics	Pg. 10	00:22:21
Working at Bingham law firm	Pg. 13	00:29:27
Women practicing law	Pg. 14	00:30:11
Husband, David Rimstidt	Pg. 16	00:37:05
City-County Council		41:09;
	Pg. 18, 30	1:09:48
Transforming Mass Ave	Pg. 21	00:48:37
Indianapolis Arts Council	Pg. 22	00:51:07
Indianapolis public art	Pg. 24	00:56:18
Restoring home, Chatham Arch	Pg. 26	00:58:57
Living downtown	Pg. 27	1:01:27
Sons	Pg. 29	1:07:51
Indiana State Museum	Pg. 35	1:23:48
Leading the Sports Corporation	Pg. 38	1:30:30
Sporting Events	Pg. 41	1:38:29
Super Bowl XLVI/Legacy Center	Pg. 42	1:39:14
Building community	Pg. 46	1:50:08
Leadership qualities	Pg. 48	1:57:19

Susan Williams oral history interview, audio WAV file on  
DVD (1 master and 1 copy)

DVD 0246, 0247

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC2931).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.