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Mabel B. Curtis Files Regarding the People's Art Center, 1941-1968, 1989

5 boxes

Processed by Elizabeth Kellerman, 1993

REPOSITORY

Missouri History Museum Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was donated to the Missouri Historical Society in 1992 by Erma Curtis and Thomas A. Curtis, III, the daughter-in-law and grandson of Mabel Curtis.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The People's Art Center began as a Works Progress Administration Missouri Artists' Project for artists registered on federal relief. An interracial Sponsoring Committee, meeting in 1941, decided to form a community arts center to serve all races, creeds, and colors. Using WPA art teachers and workmen, and private funds for supplies, the committee rented a building from the Episcopal Church of Holy Communion, where interracial art classes were held for children and adults. After the termination of support from the WPA in 1943, the members of the Sponsoring Committee incorporated the People's Art Center Association as a non-profit organization. At the time of incorporation Elizabeth Green was the acting chairman, Anna Hensley was the secretary, and Henry S. Williams was the treasurer.

Elizabeth Green maintained strong ties to the People's Art Center, serving on the Executive Committee and the board of directors. Green also raised funds for the center through her connections with wealthy art patrons in St. Louis and around the country. In 1945 the board of directors read like a "who's who" of influential black and white St. Louisans, including President Charles Nagel, director of the City Art Museum; John T. Clark, executive secretary of the Urban League of St. Louis; Fannie Cook, noted author; and Reverend Hohenschild of the Episcopal Church of Holy Communion.

In 1949 Mabel Curtis (1896-1988) served as president of the board of directors. The following year marked the beginning of her salaried employment at the People's Art Center. Mrs. Curtis served as the executive director from 1950 to 1963. As an outspoken critic of racial segregation and discrimination, she ran into trouble with the more conservative members of the board of directors. Although cognizant of the fact that they served an interracial organization, these board members nevertheless were wary of too hasty a program for ending racial segregation and in some cases refused to respond to areas deemed as outside the "proper" provenance of the People's Art Center. In 1962 Mabel Curtis resigned as executive director of the center, and briefly came back to serve as an unpaid director in 1963. Ultimately, her advanced age and her refusal to be mollified on racial issues, led to her break with the center.

As a small, interracial group operating in a segregated city, the People's Art Center depended upon financial backing from its members and students, through membership dues and class fees. Ultimately, these funds were not enough to support the center. The center was granted financial support from the United Charities, which in 1945 became known as the Greater St. Louis Community Chest. The People's Art Center applied for and received funding from the United Fund, which by 1956 included the Greater St. Louis Community Chest. In 1960 the United Fund eliminated funding for the center. The Spirit of St. Louis Fund was formed in 1960 to provide resources for the People's Art Center and other social and cultural groups dropped by the United Fund. A 1963 survey commissioned by Civic Progress, Inc., led to the formation of the Greater St. Louis Arts Council. Coincidentally, around this time the Spirit Fund dissolved and future funding for the center from the new Arts Council was doubtful. According to Mabel Curtis, a probable factor in the center's funding problems was the hostile racial climate in the city of St. Louis, which in turn was reflected in the leadership of the various civic groups. The People's Art Center was not immune from these divisive struggles. Mabel Curtis was censured by the board leaders for her outspoken condemnation of segregation and her refusal to let the hypocrisy of board meetings held in segregated facilities go unnoticed.

Racial tensions and financial uncertainties proved to be the downfall of the People's Art Center. Mabel Curtis's association with the center apparently ended in 1963. A newspaper notice dated March 21, 1968, provides the final story on the People's Art Center. The notice is for a trustee's sale of the property belonging to the center, due to a loan default.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Mabel B. Curtis Files consist mainly of papers regarding the People's Art Center. The primary focus of these papers is the years of direct involvement by Mrs. Curtis, in her capacity as executive director from 1950 to 1963. The collection also includes papers from the founding of the People's Art Center in 1942. Most of the materials from the 1940s are from Elizabeth Green.

The primary focus of this collection is on the difficulties the People's Art Center faced in trying to reconcile its stated philosophy with its corporate practices, especially in the turbulent racial atmosphere of the late 1950s and early 1960s. The collection includes the center's founding records and several written histories and minutes from board of directors meetings and other committees. The minutes and reports are not complete. It appears that when Mabel Curtis realized the racial and financial issues within the center were becoming more rancorous, she began saving and copying correspondence and related information. Thus the bulk of materials are from the mid-1950s onward.

The collection is divided into ten series. Series I contains the truncated legal and administrative papers of the People's Art Center, from the articles of incorporation in 1943 to the by-laws and personnel codes of the 1960s.

Series II contains founding statements and histories of the center and its members, along with a scrapbook titled "A Glimpse of Activities" from 1945.

Series III consists of annual reports in brochure form, with several years missing.

Series IV contains financial records. These incomplete records include financial statements, balance sheets, and income and expense reports, both actual and estimated. This series also includes numbered receipts for classes, art materials, contributions, memberships, and rent for part of 1961 and all of 1962.

Series V is the largest series and contains organizational records. This series is divided into eight subseries and includes records for the board of directors, the Executive Committee, the Research and Building Fund Committees, the Nominating and Membership Committees, the Personnel Committee, other committees, outside funding, and the Elizabeth Green papers. Most of the records on the growing tension surrounding Mabel Curtis and the center are included in Subseries B, the Executive Committee.

Series VI contains class schedules and teachers. This is an incomplete listing of class schedules for various times and places, including extension classes. Some breakdown on enrollment figures, with race, location, regular school attended, and child and adult divisions are noted. Current teachers, with educational and work experiences, are listed in each annual report from the third series.

Series VII contains limited exhibition records and also includes brochures on related art openings, conference materials and reports, and brochures from similar art centers.

Series VIII consists of limited information on the center and its activities between 1964 and 1968.

Series IX contains personal papers of Mabel Curtis.

Series X consists of one folder of miscellaneous items.

The following two collections in the Missouri History Museum Archives also include material relating to the People's Art Center: Fannie Cook Papers and Dr. John Green Papers. (Dr. John Green was the father of Elizabeth Green.)

Series I: Legal and Administrative Papers

Box 1

Folder 1 Legal and administrative papers, 1943-1961, no date: Materials include Articles of Incorporation, 1943 March 16 (copy); State of Missouri Pro Forma Decree of Incorporation, 1943 March 25 (copy); By-Laws, Amended, Dates last amended 1951 April 11, 1958 February, 1961, no date; and Personnel Codes, two copies, no date.

Series II: Statement of Purpose/History

Folder 2 Histories, 1946-1947, no date: Includes "The PAC: Why and How It Was Established," 2 pages, 1946[?]; History of the PAC, by Elizabeth Green, 1947 May 22; History of the PAC, 5 pages, 1946-1947[?]; Benefits to blacks from PAC, 2 pages, no date; and "Design for Democracy," printed pamphlet with brief history, 1941-1946.

Folder 3 Histories, 1960: "A History of the PAC, 1942-55," by Henry S. Williams (original treasurer). Postscript, 1960. 23 pages

Folder 4 History and Mabel B. Curtis biographical data, 1963, no date: Consists of People's Art Center history and brief biographical background on Mabel Curtis, no date, 5 pages, incomplete; and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* article regarding problems at the People's Art Center, includes brief history, 1963 April 21.

Folder 5 Statements of purpose, 1956, 1961, no date: Includes Statement of Purpose and an "Evaluation of the PAC," 1961; People's Art Center aims and objectives, no date, 1 page; and People's Art Center "Interpretive Statement," 1956[?], 2 pages, includes breakdown for classes and activities attendance for 1954, 1955, first six months of 1956 and estimate for 1956 whole year.

Folder 6 Mission, 1949: "Art Education For Children," by Howard Wallace McConeghey, 1949 June, thesis, Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree, copy, 29 pages.

Folder 7 Scrapbook, 1943-1945: "A Glimpse of Activities," People's Art Center scrapbook, photographs and articles, with objectives, attendance totals for 1943-1945.

Series III: Annual Reports

Folder 8 Annual reports, 1950-1961 (incomplete): Includes 10th anniversary (1952) and 20th years of service (1961) reports.

Series IV: Financial Records

Folder 9 Financial statements, 1960 October-1963 February: Incomplete.

Folder 10 Balance sheets, 1954 January 31-1963 January 31: Incomplete. Includes General Fund Balance Sheet, 1960 March 31.

- Folder 11 Income and expense statements, 1954 January-1962 October: Incomplete.
- Folder 12 Proposed budgets: Includes 1960 for United Fund of Greater St. Louis; 1960 October 1-1961 June 30; budget breakdown for funding request, no date, 5 pages, includes information for fiscal year 1960 July 1-1961 June 30 and budget requests for 1962-1963; approved budget 1961 July 1-1962 June 30; and estimate for 1962 July 1-1963 June 30.
- Folder 13 Lists and inventories: Includes material and equipment inventory, 3 pages, no date; insurance due list for 1961 October 1-1962 June 30; anticipated expenditures for classes, appears to be class revenues list, divided by children/adult and amount of students and cost per class, 1962 January 1-June 30; and balance sheet for live model fund, 1959 May 18.

Box 2

- Folder 1 Partial receipts, 1961 July 3-December 29.
- Folders 2-8 Receipts, 1962.

Series V: Organizational Records

Subseries A: The Board of Directors

Box 3

- Folder 1 Minutes, 1954 January 13-1959 May 13: Incomplete.
- Folder 2 Minutes, 1961 February 15-July 10: Abridged report and transcript.
- Folder 3 Minutes, 1962 January 10-December 19: Includes minutes of May 31 special meeting; copy of letter of Louis J. Schaefer to Julius Klyman, 1962 September 14, regarding Spirit Fund; copy of Personnel Committee report with recommendations to board of directors; agenda with attached copies of financial statement from October (November 14); and discussion of Mabel Curtis resignation letter and other resignations (December 18 and 19).
- Folder 4 Minutes, 1963 February 13-July 9: Incomplete, includes February 13 meeting's controversy with Mabel Curtis.
- Folder 5 Correspondence, prospective board members, 1953: Names and addresses, includes notification of meeting.
- Folder 6 Board nominating correspondence, 1956-1958, and 1960-1961.
- Folder 7 Board nominating correspondence, no date: Includes application forms.
- Folder 8 Board member analysis: For terms expiring in 1958, 1959, 1960, and 1961; 2 pages, 1960. Board member slate for 1957-1960 term.

- Folder 9 Board of Directors list, 1959-1964: With names and addresses.
- Folder 10 Memorandum, 1958 January: Regarding 1957 annual report.
- Folder 11 Correspondence, 1960: Consists of copy of amendments to by-laws presented at board meeting, 1960 April 13. Five letters to board members about program suggestions, 1960 May 23.
- Folder 12 Correspondence, 1961: Consists of minutes with 1st page missing from 1961 July 7, 20 pages; and board of directors meeting notice about Temple Israel site, 1961 July 3.
- Folder 13 Mabel Curtis memorandum, 1961: Regarding problems with position/duties of executive director (herself), 1961 August 8, carbon copy with ms notation "Exhibit B."
- Folder 14 David Millstone letter to board of directors, 1961: About goals of the People's Art Center and problems with Mabel Curtis, 6 pages, 1962 October 10.
- Folder 15 Data regarding board service, 1960-1963, no date: Consists of board terms of service, 1960-1963; board voting requirements, 1963; and agenda for board meeting, no date. Voter signatures, copy, no date.
- Folder 16 Board business: Election notification with ballot names, 1962, 1963. Notices of meetings, 1963 January 23, February 5. Board of Director resignations, 1963[?], first page missing. Press release, new board officers, lists Mabel Curtis as first vice-president, 1963 March 12.

Subseries B: Executive Committee

- Folder 17 Executive Committee meeting announcements and minutes, 1945, 1962: Meeting announcement on People's Art Center letterhead with Board of Directors, 1945 August 21; and corrected minutes for 1962 June 5, September 6, and October 18.
- Folder 18 Executive secretary/director reports, 1950 March-1962 September.
- Folder 19 Executive Committee report, 1950 September: Regarding problems with executive director, 9 pages.
- Folder 20 Betty Chamberlain report, 1951: Formal report and recommendations on the People's Art Center, by Betty Chamberlain, 10 pages, 1951 May 15; and correspondence from Chamberlain and Charles Nagel, 1951.
- Folder 21 Executive Committee correspondence regarding Mabel B. Curtis, 1959: Correspondence about Mabel Curtis' use of People's Art Center stationery for

letter in support of an accommodations bill for city of St. Louis, controversial because no official position taken by the People's Art Center, 1959.

- Folder 22 Executive Committee correspondence regarding Mabel B. Curtis, 1961-1962: Consists of letter detailing growing friction between center programs and benefactors, 1961 August 9; memorandum from Edna Earl Brooks about problems with Mabel Curtis, 1961 July (added date); letter of support from Betty Chamberlain to Mabel Curtis, 1962 April 17; and letter on People's Art Center stationery concerning problems, 1962 December 10.
- Folder 23 Executive Committee correspondence with Mabel B. Curtis, 1961-1963: Letter from Julius Klyman to Mabel B. Curtis, problems in the People's Art Center, 1962 October 3; letter from Mr. Conway to M. Curtis, concerns and problems, 1962 November 9; unsigned letter probably from M. Curtis, regarding racial problems in the People's Art Center, no date, page 9, rest missing; and unsigned memorandum to executive director, 1963 February 15.
- Folder 24 Mabel B. Curtis memorandum, [1962?]: Critique of racial problems at the People's Art Center.
- Folder 25 Correspondence and newsclippings regarding Culture Center, 1962: Letter questioning proposed Cultural Center, 1962 October 18, unsigned (probably by Mabel B. Curtis); and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* article on culture center sites, 1962 December 16.
- Folder 26 "Special Meeting of the Members of the PAC," 1962: Bound copy by General Law Reporters, 1962 December 12, 85 pages.
- Folder 27 Mabel B. Curtis resignation, 1962: Letter of resignation as executive director from Mabel Curtis to board of directors, 1962 December 16; press releases from Mabel Curtis, resignation, 1962 December 20, 1963 January 9; letter from Leon Strauss, president of board of directors, accepting Mabel Curtis' resignation, 1963 January 8; and two letters of support to Mabel Curtis 1962[1963] January 11, 1963 March 14.
- Folder 28 Newspaper clippings: Regarding Mabel B. Curtis' and others' resignations and fight over control of the People's Art Center, 1962-1964.
- Folder 29 Press releases, 1963: Releases regarding new members of board of directors, 1963 February 1; and copies of M. Curtis and Ben Read resignations.
- Folder 30 Correspondence regarding Mabel B. Curtis, 1963: Correspondence about Mabel B. Curtis serving as volunteer executive director for six months, 1963 February.
- Folder 31 Memorandum from Leon Strauss, 1963: With interpretation of problems and solutions about the People's Art Center, 1963 March 6.

- Folder 32 Correspondence, memoranda, and address, 1963: Consists of copy of address to the People's Art Center membership from Mabel B. Curtis, 1963 January 31; memorandum regarding possible solutions to the People's Art Center's problems, 1963 March 8; and letter from Charles Nagel to Mabel B. Curtis regarding resignation from board of directors, 1963 March 26.
- Folder 33 Mabel B. Curtis correspondence regarding funding controversy, 1963: Letter to newspaper reporter from M. Curtis, explanation of controversy over funding and racism in the People's Art Center, 1963 May 10, 3 pages; and "Fraud at PAC," memorandum accusing D. Millstone of fraud, unsigned, no date [1963?].
- Folder 34 Memoranda, regarding problems at the People's Art Center, no date: three separate memos on problems at the People's Art Center, rough drafts, no date.
- Folder 35 Memoranda, list of board members, no date: Memo, list of members present for November 14 resignation meeting of board of directors, no date.

Subseries C: Research/Building Fund Committee

Box 4

- Folder 1 Research Committee minutes, 1956 April-October: Includes minutes from meetings; agenda for 1956 October 20 meeting; correspondence of Research Committee service, 1956; and board notification of meetings.
- Folder 2 "Progress Report of the Research Committee," no date: Stated objectives of the People's Art Center and suggestions for improvement.
- Folder 3 Building program--studies and questionnaires, 1959-1961: Consists of "Memorandum Concerning Past Studies, Costs and Other Considerations Related to Space Needs and Building Program of PAC Assoc.," includes estimate of building costs, chart showing breakdown between adults and kids with zip code distribution, 1959 January 8, two copies; response to questionnaire about need for new space, 1959 June 20, typed with notations and drawings (area and costs); copy of original questionnaire with memorandum dated 1959 May 13; and correspondence with architects, 1961 March.
- Folder 4 Building fund correspondence, 1946: "Letters about building fund," letters to and from the People's Art Center, 1946. Most are personal appeals to friends and acquaintances by Elizabeth Green. Also invoices and repair estimates.

Subseries D: Nominating and Membership Committee

- Folder 5 Committee reports, 1950-1963: Nominating, Dinner, and Letter Committee report, 1950 March 8, includes membership totals for beginning of 1950; Nominating Committee reports, 1955-1957; letter to Mabel Curtis from Edna Gellhorn with enclosed copy of Nominating Committee report, no date; and Nominating Committee report and slate, 1957, 1958, 1963.

- Folder 6 Committee assignments, 1959: Correspondence with individuals regarding invitations to serve on committees.
- Folder 7 Committee members list, 1958-1959, 1962-1963.
- Folder 8 Membership reports, 1945-1962, no date: Consists of "Annual Report of Memberships for 1950," by Elizabeth Green, "Chairman," 1951 January 1; Membership Committee report, donations broken down by race and amount, no date, 1945[?]; Membership Committee meeting, 1961 December 7, two versions; 1962 July 9; and proposed committee discussion groups agenda each with leader and secretary, no date.
- Folder 9 Solicitations, 1962: Various solicitation letter forms to current and prospective members for 1962 dinner meeting. List of organizations to be solicited for donations or memberships. Rough drafts of meeting agenda included.

Subseries E: Personnel Committee

- Folder 10 Personnel Committee meeting, no date: Also copy of personnel code with editing marks, no date.
- Folder 11 Memoranda and recommendations, 1943-1962: Memorandum on organizational duties, 2 pages, no date [1943?]; two separate Personnel Committee recommendations, no date and 1962 October; and committee report on executive director duties, 1950.
- Folder 12 Job analyses, no date: For program director, no date; executive director, no date; executive secretary, no date; and administrative personnel with salaries, no date.
- Folder 13 Elizabeth Green correspondence regarding personnel problems, 1945-1950.
- Folder 14 Correspondence regarding program director position, 1960.

Subseries F: Other Committees

- Folder 15 Treasure Hunt Committee, 1951-1952: (rummage sale held by the People's Art Center for two years), minutes, 1951 January 25; sales plan for 1951 hunt; correspondence and press releases; sample treasure hunt stationery for 1951 and 1952; and report and sales figures for 1952.
- Folder 16 Fannie Cook Scholarship Committee, 1954-1957: Reports, 1954-1957; applications and notices for 1957, including winner, Allan R. Schickman; and program of demonstrations, Fannie Cook Scholarship Evening, 1955.
- Folder 17 Program Committee, 1961-1962: Minutes, 1962, includes Ben Read's analysis and proposal and individual statements of policy, 1961; and statement of aims, objectives, policy statement, and preamble, 1961.

- Folder 18 Christmas Shop Committee, 1960-1961: Report, 1961; supplier correspondence and invoices, 1960-1962; purchases, 1960; exhibitor list, no date; items sold, 1961.
- Folder 19 New Center Planning Committee, 1961-1962: Minutes, 1961-1962; Policy and Organization Committee report, 1962 May 7; and House and Grounds Committee report, 1962 May 1.

Subseries G: Outside Funding

- Folder 20 United Fund, 1956: United Fund applications, 1956 September 10, includes statistics on children's and youths' summer classes for 1956; United Fund acceptance of the People's Art Center, copy of letter, 1956 September 24; and United Fund application, 1956 August 24, includes brief history of the People's Art Center funding sources.
- Folder 21 United Fund, 1960: Notification of the People's Art Center and six other groups dropped from United Fund, 1960 April 28; United Fund letter to Dr. Hackett, fund dispersal [Metropolitan Church Federation?], 1960 April 26; correspondence on plans for seven groups to unite for fundraising, initiated by the People's Art Center, 1960; thank you letters for individual and corporate donations after the People's Art Center was dropped from United Fund, 1960 May; letter to United Fund from U.S. Congressman Thomas Curtis asking why the People's Art Center was dropped, 1960; and clippings of articles, editorials, and letters to the editor protesting the People's Art Center being dropped from the United Fund, with copies of letters that show editing by papers, 1960.
- Folder 22 Spirit of St. Louis Fund, 1960-1962: Formation of Spirit of St. Louis Fund, for social/cultural group funding; copy of press release from Spirit Fund public relations firm, 1960 June 18; correspondence about the Spirit of St. Louis Fund and Temple Israel, 1961; minutes of joint meeting of board of directors, 1961 July 12; questionnaire responses about the People's Art Center, initial application for funds, 1961-1962; notification to board of directors of the People's Art Center from Spirit Fund regarding possible merger with Civic Progress, 1962 September 14; and correspondence between the People's Art Center and Spirit Fund, 1961-1962.

Subseries H: Elizabeth Green Records

- Folder 23 Elizabeth Green correspondence, 1942-1943: WPA correspondence, Holger Cahill, 1942 September; "WPA Staff at People's Art Service Center," lists name, race, position, hourly and monthly wages, no date, with editing marks; fundraising letter to United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, detailing withdrawal of WPA financial aid, 1943 February 11; and letter to McKenzie about personnel, 1943 February 14.

- Folder 24 Elizabeth Green correspondence, 1944-1945: List of gifts, with names and amounts, 1944; correspondence about annual meetings, problems with war rationing, 1944-1945, and progress reports, 1944-1945; and sample fundraising letter, with notation "Mr. Clark's [executive secretary of Urban League] letter to prominent Negro leaders: revised by E. Green," no date.
- Folder 25 Elizabeth Green correspondence, 1945: Correspondence, fundraising and publicity, 1945; and information, including staff salaries, for National Retirement Plan, 1945.
- Folder 26 Elizabeth Green correspondence, 1946.
- Folder 27 Elizabeth Green/Life Magazine correspondence, 1945-1946: Letters to *Life Magazine* asking for publicity, 1945-1946; and "A Soldier Speaks -- Somewhere in the Southwest Pacific," poem, two copies with one signed by Cpl. Wesley C. Northern, no date.
- Folder 28 Elizabeth Green correspondence with Charles Nagel and Mr. Putzel, 1944-1946: Includes informal employee reviews by E. Green, 1944 July 26; E. Green regrets to C. Nagel over his resignation as president of board of directors of the People's Art Center, 1946 May 12; and problems with Mrs. Dickerson's performance as acting executive director, 1945-1946.
- Folder 29 Elizabeth Green original letters: fragile originals from which photocopies were made and placed in their appropriate sequence.

Series VI: Class Schedules and Teachers

Box 5

- Folder 1 Class schedules, 1946: Spring class schedule and party announcements, 1946; art supply list for watercolor class, no date; announcement letter from Elizabeth Green, 1946 October 5.
- Folder 2 Class schedules, 1951-1952, 1955-1959: Many include course descriptions, teachers, and registration forms, many with breakdown between adult, youth, and children's classes. Also staff memo, 1958 June.
- Folder 3 Class schedules, 1960-1963: Containing same types of information as in the 1950s schedules. Also staff memo 1963 March 20.
- Folder 4 Class schedules, no date.
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1945-1959: Fundraising letter with class size data, from Charles Nagel, 1945 June 26, and Reverend W.W.S. Hohenschild, 1955 March; letters of resignation from two instructors, 1951; free classes, wards of the court, 1958; and class notification letters to corporations, 1959.

- Folder 6 Statistics and evaluations, 1961-1963: Tally of schools with number of students enrolled at the People's Art Center, 3 pages, 1961; registration statistics, 1961; press releases, class schedules, 1961 and 1963; Ford Foundation certificate of commendation for work/study program with Sumner High School students, 1962 May 17; and evaluation of the People's Art Center by W. Ron Rish, instructor, tough critique, no date, early 1960s.
- Folder 7 Extension programs, 1962-1963, no date: Extension programs, Westminster Presbyterian Church, no date; extension programs, 1963 February and March; three extension class lists of students and class fees, JCCA-Yalem branch, 1962 November 24 and 30; no date; and press release, 1962 September 12.
- Folder 8 Stationery samples and correspondence, 1960.

Series VII: Exhibition Records

- Folder 9 Exhibition records, 1956: Schedule of events, 1956 May and June, list of works with sale prices for Fifth Out-Door Sculpture Show, 1956 June 3-9; and show correspondence, 1956.
- Folder 10 Exhibition records, 1958: Exhibition Committee reports, 1958 June 21, July 16, and September 4; sample exhibit information letter, 1958; memoranda, exhibit, 1958; regrets for exhibit opening, from Harry Truman with signature, 1958; exhibition report with sales figures, 1958; and letters to prominent St. Louisans, e.g., Joseph Pulitzer Jr., requesting patronage during 1958 sale.
- Folder 11 Exhibition records, 1961-1962: Letter to Adult Education Council from the People's Art Center, exhibition schedule, 1961 September 5, 1961-1962, and 1962; and solicitation letter to potential exhibitors, 1962 March.
- Folder 12 Printed matter: 1954-1962: Exhibition notices and brochures, 1954, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962; eighth annual outdoor show list of sculptors with prices, 1961; and board of directors and staff exhibition list, 1962 September.
- Folder 13 Correspondence and brochures, 1953-1954, 1960-1963: Greater St. Louis Arts Council, brochure with budget, 1963; brochure from "The Community Arts Center," Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1953-1954, letter to Mabel Curtis from executive secretary enclosed; letter seeking assistance for artist, 1962 December 13; thank you letter for exhibit support, 1960; and letter to Ron [Rish?] from Mrs. Ernest Stix, Jr., about exhibitions, 1963 February 15.
- Folder 14 Gateway Craftsmen newsletters, 1961-1963: Includes lists of officers and lists exhibits from 1961, 1962 March.
- Folder 15 Contemporary art workshop and gallery correspondence, 1962: Correspondence with owner John Kearney in Chicago, Illinois.

Folder 16 Conference and trip reports, 1951[?], 1960: Report on trip to New York City to attend the 10th Conference on Art Education, 3 pages, unsigned, 1951[?]; and “The Art in Art Education,” conference papers from the 18th Annual Conference of the National Committee on Art Education, New York City, 99 pages, M. Curtis attended, 1960 May.

Folder 17 Miscellaneous correspondence and printed matter, 1959-1962: Letters from American teacher in Liberia, asking about art supplies, 1962 August and September; and UNICEF correspondence, greeting cards and television advertisements, 1962. Includes sample card on the People’s Art Center Christmas shop opening, 1962; People’s Art Center information brochure, 1959, 1961; sample Christmas card by the People’s Art Center, no date; and Christmas card from Peter McKay, London architect, no date.

Series VIII: New location of the People’s Art Center

Folder 18 Correspondence and papers regarding the People’s Art Center’s new location, 1964-1968: Letter to members from David Millstone, president of the People’s Art Center, new letterhead and address, 1964 January 9, 3 pages; People’s Art Center has moved brochure, 1964; New address, Mason D. Cloyd, M.D., acting chairman, 1965 January 14; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* article, People’s Art Center revival, 1965 January 20; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch Pictures Magazine* article, David Millstone, artist, ex-president of the People’s Art Center, 1966 January 23, with responses in letters to editor, clippings; and trustee’s sale, People’s Art Center real estate, 3724 Grandel Square and 3730 Grandel Square, loan default, *St. Louis Daily Record*, 1968 March 21.

Series IX: Mabel B. Curtis Personal Papers

Folder 19 Mabel B. Curtis personal papers, 1952-1963: St. Louis Housing Authority stationery, listing Mabel Curtis as tenant relations advisor; letters to Mabel Curtis from the Museum of Modern Art, curator of Museum Collections, about Mr. Holger Cahill’s papers, 1962 September 7; letter of American Association of University Women, 1962 December 10, thanking M. Curtis for a presentation; and from artist Marguerite W., 1963 August 28; copy of address to Ethical Society of St. Louis by M. Curtis, 1952 August 10, 3 pages; photographs of M. Curtis, no date; and newspaper clippings on People’s Art Center and related events, 1957-1962.

Series X: Miscellany

Folder 20 Miscellany, 1989, no date: Includes “Season’s Greetings--Edgar Kaufmann, Jr.,” printed card, no date; two envelopes, unused, with stamp hologram, 1989.