

The Whitney Library
New Haven Colony Historical Society

Manuscript Register

MSS #237

NEW HAVEN DOWNTOWN COUNCIL

Records, 1979 - 1988

Arranged and described

by

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3 Boxes
3 Linear Feet

Introduction

The New Haven Downtown Council was founded in 1979 by a group of New Haven businessmen who felt the need to promote the development of the center of New Haven, Connecticut. A "Consent for Incorporation in Lieu of Organization Meeting" was drawn up by Charles N. Schenck, III and presented at the first meeting on 8 February 1979 at the Quinnipiac Club. The original membership of twenty included the following ex-officio members:

Frank Logue, Mayor of New Haven
A. Bartlett Giamatti, President of Yale University
H. Langdon Bell, Chairman of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
Robert S. Reigeluth, Chairman of the New Haven Development Commission

At the first meeting, the consent of Incorporation was approved, by-laws were adapted and officers were elected. F. Patrick McFadden was the first president.

F. Aldrich Edwards was retained as the first Executive Director and served through 1988. As Executive Director, he was appointed to the boards of many organizations in the New Haven community and performed his duties on those boards as a function of his work in the Downtown Council. This was evident in his work with the New Haven Preservation Page 1 Trust.

The Downtown Council was involved with a wide variety of projects having an impact on downtown New Haven. They varied from taxi operations and street lighting to work on the huge Ninth Square development project. Directly sponsored projects were given the Council's full support both financial and manpower. Non-sponsored projects were aided with promotional work and staff support. The Council also worked closely with the New Haven Register in the publishing of supplements which promoted New Haven events.

For the Ninth Square project, the Council provided testimony before the Board of Aldermen and prepared several brochures to help promote the development. The council was also involved with the Foundation for the New Haven Green where it acted as the Contract and fiscal Manager for the project. Edwards was on the Steering Committee and chairman of the Community Awareness Committee which included the Speakers Bureau.

The papers included in this collection were given to the Historical Society in 1988.

According to an article in the New Haven Register, the Downtown Council was merged into the Chamber of Commerce in 1991. Prior to that time, a very reduced Council staff had been sharing space, and membership rolls, in the offices of the Chamber of Commerce.

Description of the Papers

This collection consists of three boxes with reports, minutes of meetings, financial reports, office records, correspondence with organizations and papers relating to various projects with which the Downtown Council was involved. The minutes and records are not complete since they only cover the years between the start of the organization and 1988 when the papers were given to the Historical Society. The collection is organized as follows:

Series I - Reports and Minutes

Included in this series are minutes of the Executive Committee for 1979 and interim reports of council activities through 1988.

Series II - Administration

This series consists of financial and administrative records involved with the operations of the Council offices as well as staff records. There are also papers on objectives and plans for the Council. Included in the series are several speeches made by Council personnel along with briefings for the Development Commission.

Series III - Correspondence

Outgoing correspondence from 1979 to 1983 is filed in chronological order. Other folders include correspondence between 1984 and 1982 including a folder of congratulatory letters from 1980 and 1981.

Series IV - Organizations

The Downtown Council interacted with many organizations whose purpose was related to the development of New Haven. This series consists of folders on many organizations that were both sponsored and non-sponsored by the Council. In some cases, the relationship of an organization to the council was through the Executive Director who was active member of that organization's board.

Series V - Projects

The projects included in this series are generally those that were initiated and administered by the Downtown Council although in several instances the role of the Council is that of administrator for a phase of a project that was under the control of another organization. This was the case of the Ninth Square and the New Haven Green Restoration projects.

Series I - Reports and Minutes

Box/Folder	Contents
1/A	Executive Committee Minutes - Feb. 1979 to Dec. 1979 Includes Consent of Incorporator - Feb. 8th, 1979
1/B	Interim Reports - 1979 - 1986
1/C	Economic Development, An Overview - 1978 - 1986
1/D	Mid-year Report - 1980
1/E	Annual Report - 1980
1/F	Downtown Development Report - 1982 Includes Development Program
1/G	Weekly Update - 1986
1/H	Annual Report - 1986
1/I	Miscellaneous Reports

Series II - Administration

Box/Folder	Contents
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Financial

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1/J | Budget & Balance Sheets - July - November 1979 |
| 1/K | Budget 1980 - 1981, Planning for 1980 & Balance Sheets - 1980 |
| 1/L | Invoices and Canceled Checks - 1979 |

Office Operations

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1/M | Equipment - Postage Meter, Copier etc. |
| 1/N | Telephone |
| 1/O | Maintenance Services |
| 1/P | Office at 159 Orange Street |

Staff

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1/Q | Alperstein |
| 1/R | Bickel |
| 1/S | Carr |
| 1/T | Childs |
| 1/U | Edwards, F. Aldrich - Executive Director 1979 - 1980 |
| 1/V | Edwards, Ann |
| 1/W | Epstein |
| 1/X | Fiedler |
| 1/Y | Filer |

Series II - Administration Continued

1/Z	Fletcher
1/AA/1	Gardener
1/AA/2	Gregson
1/BB	Hauser
1/CC	Kriscenski
1/DD	Lawrence
1/EE	Mansfield
1/FF	McBride
1/GG	Mulvihill
1/HH	Segal
1/II	Short
1/JJ	Simon
1/KK	Stevens, Executive Director - 1988
1/LL	Uribe
1/MM	Marketing Director Search
	<u>Office Administration</u>
1/NN	Downtown Council Exhibits - 1980, 1981
1/OO	Fund Raising Coordination
1/PP	Halcyon Consultants
1/QQ	Membership Lists - 1987, 1988
1/RR	Logo - 1980

Series II - Administration Continued

Planning

- 1/SS Purposes and Objectives 1979 - 1982
- 1/TT Questionnaires - 1980
- 1/UU 3 Year Plan - 1987 through 1989
- 1/VV Internal Planning including report on Merger Failure, 1979

Talks and Speeches

- 1/WW Talks By Edwards
- 1/XX Briefings for New Haven Development Commission - 1982

Series III - Correspondence

Box/Folder	Contents
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Out-going Correspondence

2/A	1979 Oct. - Dec.
2/B/1	1980 Jan. - Mar.
2/B/2	1980 Apr. - June
2/C	1980 Jul. - Sept.
2/D	1980 Oct. - Dec.
2/E	1981 Jan. - Mar.
2/F	1981 Apr. - June
2/G	1981 Jul. - Sept.
2/H	1981 Oct. - Dec.
2/I/1	1982 Jan. - Mar.
2/I/2	1982 Apr. - June
2/I3	1982 July - Sept
2/J	1982 Oct. - Dec.
2/K	1983 Jan. - Mar.
2/L	1983 Apr. - June
2/M	1983 Jul - Sept.

General Correspondence

2/N	1980 & 1981 Congratulatory
2/O	1982

2/P 1984

2/Q 1985 & 1986

2/R 1987

Series III Correspondence Continued

2/S 1988 & 1989

Series IV - Organizations

Box/Folder	Contents
2/T	The Advertising Club of New Haven County, Inc.
2/U	Arts and Business Alliance
2/V	Bankers
2/W	Chamber of Commerce - Strategy 1982 & 1983
2/X	Chamber Orchestra of New England
2/Y	Commercial Union
2/Z	Connecticut Business Journal
2/AA	Connecticut Transit Bus Service
2/BB	Downtown Development Program
2/CC	Downtown Restaurant Association
2/DD	Hello New Haven
2/EE	Hosts Association
2/FF	Junior league of New Haven
2/GG	New Haven Free Public Library
2/HH	National Trust for Historic Preservation
2/II	New Haven Convention and Visitors Bureau
2/JJ	New Haven Foundation
2/KK	New Haven Preservation Trust
2/LL	Rideworks of Greater New haven
2/MM	Rouse Co.

Series IV Organizations Continued

2/NN Shubert Theater

2/OO Yale - New Haven Teachers Institute

2/PP YMCA

Series V - Projects

Box/Folder	Contents
	<u>General</u>
3/A	Association of Yale Alumni Tour and Exhibit, 1987
3/B	Car Pool
3/C	Coliseum Replacement
3/D	Development Project Reports, 1983 & 1986
3/E	Downtown Cultural Events, 1980
3/F	Employment Linkage Program, 1984 (New Haven Service Delivery Area Private Industry Council)
3/G	Farmers Market
3/H	Historic Resources Survey, 1979 (With New Haven Preservation Trust)
3/I	Hosts Program, 1980 & 1981
3/J	Litter Recepticals
3/K	New Haven 350th Anniversary, 1988 See Also MSS #235
3/L	North Haven Mall Protests, 1982
3/M	Office Space Survey, 1987
3/N	"Our New Haven" Event, 1985
3/O	Reception, July 1 1981
3/P	Recycling, 1987
3/Q	Schenck Fountain, 1987
3/R	Shubert Theater Support, 1981

Series V - Projects Continued

- 3/S Space Survey, 1988
- 3/T Street Performances, 1988
- 3/U Taxi Services, 1984
- 3/V Union Station, 1985
- 3/W Window Displays, 1980

Ninth Square Association

- 3/X Brochure - "The Critical Issue" 1985
- 3/Z Brochure - "A Chronicle" 1985
- 3/AA Testimony Before The Board of Aldermen - 1986
- 3/BB Private Lenders - 1986
- 3/CC Energy Project - 1987
- 3/DD Correspondence

Foundation for the New Haven Green

See also MSS #249

- 3/EE Design and Management Services, Grant Application - 1985
- 3/FF Community Awareness Committee - 1987
- 3/GG School Programs Subcommittee - 1987 & 1988
- 3/HH Speakers Bureau Subcommittee - 1987 & 1988
- 3/II Speakers Information Package - 1987
- 3/JJ Schenck Speeches 1987 & 1988
- 3/KK Print Communications - 1987