



Archives and Records

Finding Aid

COLLECTION NUMBER: Coll.44
TITLE: AIDS Action Committee Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator(s): The History Project
Title: The History Project
Extent: 1/2 Linear Foot
Date Span: 1983 – ongoing
Repository: The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives and Records Department by Robert Johnston, student in the GSLIS Archives masters degree program at Simmons College, under the supervision of Andrew Elder, Spring 2010.

SUBJECTS TERMS

Subject Names:

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts

Subject Topics:

AIDS (Disease)—Government policy—Massachusetts.
AIDS (Disease) in women—United States.
AIDS (Disease)—Law and legislation—Massachusetts.
AIDS (Disease)—Massachusetts.
AIDS (Disease)—Social aspects—United States.

Document Types:

Newspapers Clippings
Pamphlets
Newsletters
Booklets

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Terms of Use/Copyright: Unrestricted, though some items in the collection are copyrighted by individuals and/or organizations outside The History Project.
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HISTORICAL NOTE

Founded in 1983, AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc. (AAC) is an advocacy and support group for people with AIDS in Boston that also focuses on AIDS education and prevention throughout the New England area. An April 1983 newsletter explained that the organization "has many goals, including distributing printed educational materials, hospice training, possible emergency financial assistance to AIDS patients, and administrative expenses." The organization offers free support to thousands of people living with AIDS and runs a pair of statewide phone hotlines,

A benefit walk, AIDS Walk Boston, is held every year to support AAC; the first walk took place on Sunday, June 1, 1986. The organization also hosts a variety of other events throughout the year to raise both awareness and funds.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of publications, promotional material for events, and other documents relating to AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts. The bulk of the collection consists of the publications, which include a pair of early newsletters from April and June of 1983, as well as the more official AAC *Update* newsletter from June of 1986 through the winter of 1992 (incomplete) and later editions from 2001 and 2003 through 2006 and 2009. There are also other miscellaneous publications from AAC, including issues of *SST Express*, *Wellspring*, *Forward Living* and the 2008 AAC annual report. There are also a variety of pamphlets and booklets published by AAC, some of which promote the organization itself. Many advocate safe sex and the use of condoms, oftentimes using graphic terminology.

The collection also contains material relating to the annual AIDS Walk Boston, beginning with pamphlets from the very first walk held in 1986. The material consists of pamphlets, booklets, flyers and newspaper clippings. There are also donation appeals from AAC, public service advertisements (many are photocopies) and newspaper articles about the organization. There are also two printed finding aids for the AAC records at the Northeastern University Archives in Boston, MA.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series I: Publications (newsletters, pamphlets and booklets published by AAC)

Series II: Events (promotional material relating to events held over the years by AAC)

Series III: Other Documents (donation appeals, PSAs and newspaper articles from and about AAC)

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series I: Publications

- Folder 1: *AIDS Action Committee News*, 1983
- Folder 2: *Update Newsletter*, Jun. 1986–Nov. 1988
- Folder 3: *Update Newsletter*, Dec. 1988–Jan. 1990
- Folder 4: *Update Newsletter*, Feb. 1990–Winter 1992
- Folder 5: *Update Newsletter*, Spring 2001; Fall 2003–Spring 2006; Summer 2009 –
- Folder 6: Miscellaneous Publications, 1985; 1987-1988; 1993; 2004; 2008; Undated
- Folder 7: Pamphlets, Undated
- Folder 8: Booklets, 2006; Undated
- Folder 9: Blank Survey Booklets, Undated

Series II: Events

- Folder 10: AIDS Walk Boston, 1986-2000
- Folder 11: AIDS Walk Boston, 2001-2009
- Folder 12: Miscellaneous Events, 1987-2008; Undated
- Folder 13: Academy Awards Night, March 25, 1991

Series III: Other Documents

- Folder 14: Donation Appeals, 1983; 1989; 1990; Undated
- Folder 15: Public Service Advertisements, Undated
- Folder 16: Miscellaneous Documents, 1983-1994; Undated
- Folder 17: Newspaper Articles, 1986; 1987; 1999; 2003-2004; Undated
- Folder 18: Northeastern University Special Collections – finding aids for related collections

Related Materials/See also: Coll.4 – AIDS Ephemera Collection; Coll.57 – Above + Beyond Collection; Coll.58 – Fenway Health Collection