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Finding Aid for the
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Collection, 1924-2017,
bulk 1990-1999

Collection Overview

Title: Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Collection

Dates: 1924-2017

ID: WCC

Primary Creator: Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

Extent: 1.28 linear feet

Arrangement: Arranged at the collection level, alphabetically by topic.

Forms of Material: Documents, objects, photographic materials

Language of materials: English

Abstract

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Collection documents the activities of the Chamber and its affiliated organizations, between 1924 and 2007. The collection includes documents and photographs related to annual events, fundraising, community programs, local government, and outreach to business owners and residents. The collection is organized at the collection level.

Administrative History

The first business group in Wilmington, California was known as the Board of Trade, established in 1904. Andrew Young served as president and Fred Morris as secretary. Two years later, the group was organized and incorporated as a Chamber of Commerce, with J. M. Brannon elected as the first president. In 1906, the Chamber spearheaded a project to raise \$75,000 in order to dredge a channel from Mormon Island to the foot of Canal Street, now Avalon Boulevard. One of the organization's first major events was a banquet held in August 1907, in celebration of a Supreme Court decision upholding Wilmington's incorporation as a city.

As Wilmington's business and industry sector developed, and the need for infrastructure improvements and efficient transport of goods and services grew, consolidation with the City of

Los Angeles gained favor. In early 1909, a petition was circulated among the citizens of Wilmington calling for consolidation with the City of Los Angeles. Wilmington Chamber of Commerce members, F. S. Cary, E. Opp, and E. W. Sanderson, Jr., formed a Consolidation Commission, which participated in joint meetings with members of the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Municipal Waterways Association, the Merchant and Manufacturers Association, the Los Angeles Harbor Commission, the Municipal League, and representatives from San Pedro and Los Angeles Chambers of Commerce, to implement a campaign for consolidation. Wilmington and San Pedro were both consolidated with the City of Los Angeles on August 28, 1909.

By February 1910, the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution of protest against the delay in making municipal improvements promised by the City of Los Angeles prior to consolidation. Among the organization's most pressing grievances were failures to follow through with a bond election intended to provide funds for harbor improvements, road construction delays, price gouging by public utilities, and the failure to establish a police department, fire department, and municipal ferry. The Chamber was also vocal regarding attempts by the City of Los Angeles to send Wilmington high school students to San Pedro. Their lobbying efforts were ultimately successful, and the cornerstone for a permanent Wilmington High School was laid in May 1912.

From its inception, the mission of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce has been to promote and support business and industry. The Chamber's goals also encompass a broad spectrum of programs, projects, and events aimed at improving the lives of Wilmington residents, including sponsorship of local schools and youth groups, cultural and arts organizations, social service organizations, and charitable institutions. In addition, the Chamber has a long history of representing the interests of Wilmington business owners and residents through relationships with local politicians and the Los Angeles City Council.

Scope and Contents

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Collection primarily documents the activities and events of the Chamber and its affiliated organizations, between 1924 and 2007. The collection includes materials related to annual installations, fundraising and sponsored events, community programs, local government and politics, and outreach to business owners and residents. It consists of a variety of formats, including flyers, invitations and programs, calendars, business directories, and street maps and guides, and photographs, with a small amount of material related to administration of the organization. The collection is organized at the collection level, alphabetically by topic.

Subjects/Access Terms

Creator

Organization Name:

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

Subject Headings

Topical Terms:

Business enterprises--directories
Boards of trade
Brochures

Geographical Locations:

Los Angeles County (Calif.)
Wilmington (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Documentary Forms:

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Holli Teltoe, 2023

Processing of this collection is made possible by generous donations from Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Wilmington Neighborhood Council, Fast Lane Transportation, I.L.W.U. Credit Union, Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, Avalon Arts and Cultural Alliance, and Russell and Laura Mohberg.

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Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation: Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Collection. Wilmington Historical Society.

Acquisition: The source and date of acquisition is unknown.

Collection Contents

Box 1

Folder 1: 1995 City Map and Guide

Folder 2: Administrative Documents, 1929, 1933, 1959, 1988-2000

Folder 3: Affiliated Organizations, 1993-1999, 2001

Folder 4: Annual Black Tie Dinner Dance Invitations and Programs, 1988, 1994-2000

Folder 5: Annual Installation Invitations and Programs, 1970, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1981, 1990, 1991, 1993-1996

Folder 6: Annual Installation Invitations and Programs, 1997-2001, 2003, 2004

Folder 7: Board of Directors, 1987-1988, 1991, 1994-1995

Folder 8: Brochure Maps, ca. 1946-ca. 1950, 1958, 1975, 1976

Folder 9: Brochure Maps, 1978, 1995

Box 2

Folder 1: Brochure Maps, 2000

Folder 2: By-laws, 1924

Folder 3: Calendar of Events, 1992, September 1993-November 2001

Folder 4: Chamber Member Outreach, 1994-1998

Folder 5: Chamber Member Sticker, 2016-2017

Folder 6: Chamber Sponsored Events, 1972, 1974, 1981, 1989-1990, 1992-2002, 2011

Folder 7: Community and Business owners Outreach, 1996-1997

Folder 8: Directory Draft, 1993

Folder 9: Financial Records, 1990-1991, 1995

Folder 10: Newsletters, 1976, 1980, 1989-1995

Folder 11: Newsletters, 1995-1996

Folder 12: Newsletters, 1997-1998

Box 3

Folder 1: Newsletters, 1998-2001, 2009

Folder 2: *The Pride of Wilmington: Our Voice of the Future*, January-May 1993

Folder 3: Promotional and Event Photographs, 1961, 1969-1981, 1996-1998, 2005

Folder 4: Promotional and Event Photographs

Folder 5: Wilmington Business Directory, 1981, 1991-1992, 1993, 1993-1994

Folder 6: Wilmington Business Directory, 1998, 2007, 2008-2009

Folder 7: Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Fact Book and Buyer's Guide, 1969-1970, 1973

Box 4

Item 1: 10th Annual Black-Tie, Souvenir Flashlight, September 1997

Item 2: 11th Annual Black Tie, Souvenir Playing Cards (2), 1998

Item 3: 12th Annual Black-Tie, Souvenir Wine Glass, 1997

Item 4: 13th Annual Black-Tie, Souvenir Mug (2), 2000

Item 5: Gavel, President Ernest J. Brower, 1965

Item 6: Wilmington, Heart of the Harbor Souvenir Pin (3)

Map Case

Flat File 1: Welcome to Wilmington, Heart of the Harbor Maps, 1991, 2000

[end of box list]