

**Palm Springs Art Museum
Institutional Archives Collection**

Finding Aid

Frank Lopez
August 2012, Update June 2017

PALM SPRINGS
ART MUSEUM



101 Museum Drive
Palm Springs, California 92263
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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Title:

Palm Springs Art Museum Institutional Archives Collection

Date (inclusive):

1938 to date

Creators:

Palm Springs Art Museum (formerly Palm Springs Desert Museum)

Extent:

Approximately 150 linear feet

Repository:

Palm Springs Art Museum
Palm Springs, California 92263

Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:

The collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only.

Literary Copyright/Publication Rights:

No interpretive restriction is placed on material. Separate permissions to be obtained for publishing material. Property rights to the physical object belong to the Palm Springs Art Museum. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or his or her heir for permission to publish where Palm Springs Art Museum does not hold the copyright.

Contact the Archivist/Librarian for permissions. Credit line for use in exhibition or publishing should read: Palm Springs Art Museum.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of Item], Palm Springs Art Museum.

Name of Cataloger/Date Completed:

Frank Lopez, August 2012; Updated June 2017.

Biographical Note:

Palm Springs Art Museum was founded in 1938 as the Palm Springs Desert Museum, specializing in Native American artifacts, the natural sciences, and the environment of the surrounding Coachella Valley.

The museum moved several times within the downtown Palm Springs area before building its first permanent structure in 1958, located on the southwest corner of Tahquitz-McCallum Way and Indian Ave.

In 1974, architect E. Stewart Williams was commissioned to design the current building on Museum Drive. Further growth resulted in the construction of the Doris and Walter N. Marks Administration Building, Buddy Rogers Box Office, and the 1996 completion of the Steve Chase Wing and the Education Center.

In April 2004, the Board of Trustees of the Palm Springs Desert Museum instructed the director and staff to shift the museum's focus from a multi-disciplinary museum to a world-class art museum with a performing arts program. One year later, in April 2005, the museum officially changed its name to the Palm Springs Art Museum to reflect its emphasis on the visual and performing arts.

Nine active councils interface with museum efforts: Annenberg Theater Council, Architecture and Design Council, Artists Council, Contemporary Art Council, Docent Council, Museum Associates Council, Museum Service Council, Photography Collection Council and Western Art Council.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection represents a broad selection of materials documenting the activities, events and history of the Palm Springs Desert Museum, later renamed the Palms Springs Art Museum. The collection includes administrative records, documents, correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, architectural drawings, awards, exhibition catalogs, annual reports, newsletters, ephemera, and other materials dating from 1938 to date. A detailed spreadsheet is available to aid in identifying resources.

There are eight series in the collection:

- I. Architectural and Engineering Drawings and Blueprints
 1. Museum Construction

- II. Awards
 1. Certificates
 2. Plaques
 3. Proclamations
 4. Trophies

- III. Ephemera and Memorabilia

- IV. Multi-Media
 1. Audio Recordings – Discs, audiotapes, audiocassettes
 2. Video Recordings – Videocassettes, DVD's

- V. Papers – includes correspondence, clippings, letters, reports, press releases, pamphlets, brochures, announcements, minutes, manuals, postcards, manuscripts.
 1. Board of Trustees
 2. Museum Councils
 3. Museum Departments
 4. Museum Directors

VI. Photographs and Slides

1. Art Objects
2. Buildings
3. Events
4. People

VII. Publications and Printed Materials

1. Annual Reports
2. Exhibition Catalogs
3. Mailings
4. Member Magazines, Newsletters, and Calendars

VIII. Scrapbooks

1. Newspaper and Magazine Clippings

Indexing – Names

Williams, E. Stewart (1909-2005)

Indexing – Subjects

Palm Springs Art Museum - Archives

Palm Springs Desert Museum - Archives

Indexing – Geographical

Palm Springs, California