



William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center records, 1972-2012 : Ms.Coll.21

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by staff of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories using data provided by the John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia on

PDF produced on July 17, 2019

John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
archives@waygay.org

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical/Historical Note	3
Scope and Content Note	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5

Summary Information

Repository:	John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center
Creator:	William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center (Philadelphia, Pa.).
Title:	William Way LGBT Community Center records
ID:	Ms.Coll.21
Date [inclusive]:	1972-2012
Physical Description:	38.75 Linear Feet
Physical Location:	Collections 3-4 and filing cabinet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Since the 1970s the William Way Community Center and its predecessors, the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia and Penguin Place, have provided encouragement, support, and advocacy for the well-being and acceptance of sexual and gender minorities through service, recreational, educational, and cultural programming. The William Way LGBT Community Center records, 1972-2012, are comprised of the institutional records of the center, including administrative and financial records, and some photographs, ephemera, and newsletters.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical/Historical Note

The direct descendant of the William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center is the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia (GCCP), which was located at 326 Kater Street from April 1976 to November 23, 1981. From 1982 to 1995, the organization continued as Penguin Place.

"The William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center was formed in 1996, when a group of community leaders came together with the goal of creating a stronger, more stable community center out of Penguin Place, the community center at the time.

"After an extensive search, the Community Center purchased the former Engineers' Club of Philadelphia in March 1997. Soon after, renovations began, and the building opened to the public in July 1997. Since then, the Center has developed an array of programming and services that target LGBT groups, and

community organizations have moved permanent offices into the Community Center. In addition, over 70 groups meet at the Community Center on a regular basis, and many more use the facility for special events. The building is open seven days a week and is currently [as of 2012] used by over 2,500 people each month."

Bibliography:

Quoted text from: William Way Community Center. "About Us." Accessed June 25, 2012. <http://waygay.org/aboutus/default.asp>.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content Note

This collection is comprised of the institutional records of the William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center. The records span from the organization's founding as the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia (GCCP), through the period it was known as Penguin Place, to its current appellation, the William Way Community Center. The collection consists of administrative records, financial records, and event photographs.

The administrative records include Board minutes (1972-1995), correspondence, visitors and volunteers logs, press releases, event-related materials, and other types of documents. There are files of ephemera and newsletters dating from the start of GCCP (1974) through the present (2012).

The financial records in the collection include materials such as: reports, treasurer's records, invoices, deposit slips, fiscal pledges, bank statements, and utility bills.

The collection also includes a small number of event photographs, circa 2000s.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center

1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
archives@waygay.org

Conditions Governing Access Note

Some files in this collection are restricted. Contact John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

The John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia is the repository for archival records of the William Way LGBT Community Center.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2011-2012 as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR), using data provided by the John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia. The HCI-PSAR project was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was done in the HCI-PSAR project.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- AIDS activists
- Gay community
- Gays
- Lesbians
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Sexual minorities
- William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center (Philadelphia, Pa.).