

Lawrence M. Irvin Collection
M/A 1994.22.01-03

Finding aid prepared by Wendy Guerra

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

July 2016

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Irvin, Lawrence M., 1915-1984
Title	Lawrence M. Irvin Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1975-1981
Date [inclusive]	1957-1984
Extent	2.33 Linear feet 3 boxes
Language	English

Biography

Lawrence M. Irvin "Larry" (1915-1984) was born in Ohio and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Ohio State University. After completing his education, Irvin worked as Director of Slum Clearance and Assistant Director of the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority for six years. In 1958, he moved with his wife and children to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he served as head of the Minneapolis Planning Department for twenty-three years. Irvin acted as the Director of City Planning and Development from 1958-1978. As a result of department reorganization in 1978, Irvin worked as Director of Planning Emeritus doing special planning, research, grant work, and maintaining relationships formed between the City and other agencies until his retirement in December 1981.

Throughout his years of service, Irvin was consistently recognized at both national and international levels for his city planning accomplishments. Major projects that characterize Minneapolis, such as the skyway system, Nicollet Mall, fringe-style public parking, Loring Park Development District, City Center, and Cedar Riverside redevelopment, were all accomplished with Irvin's direction and supervision. With the assistance of his department, he was directly responsible for the creation of Minneapolis' first truly comprehensive city plan. Irvin facilitated and promoted collaborative public-private planning partnerships, which resulted in three award winning city plans: Central Area Plan 1959-1960, Metro Center 1985, and Metro Center 1990. In addition to his local work, Irvin served as a NATO "Challenges of a Modern Society" committee member, and as an elected member of the Board of Governors of the American Planning Association from 1970-1973.

Description of Collection

This collection documents the career of Minneapolis city planner Lawrence Irvin. While the whole of the collection dates from 1957-1984, the bulk of the material reflects the later years of Irvin's career, dating from the mid-1970s through 1981. Although much of the material was created by Irvin when he served as Planning Director Emeritus, the subject contents heavily reflect work done early in his career. Collection materials include newspaper clippings; major project presentations, publications, reports, and studies; correspondence; a selection of Irvin's writings; and a small number of photographs and audio tapes.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library July 2016

Donor Information

The collection, consisting of material from Irvin's home office, was donated to the Minneapolis Public Library by his wife Harriett R. Irvin in 1984.

Related Materials

Related Materials in Hennepin County Library Special Collections:

City Planning Department Collection (M/A 2000.179.01-04)

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Minneapolis (Minn.). City Planning Department.

Geographic Name(s)

- Cedar-Riverside Neighborhood (Minneapolis, Minn.)
- Nicollet Mall (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Subject(s)

- Central business districts -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis
- City planning -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Economic development -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis
- Urban renewal -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis

Biographical Material

Collection Inventory

Biographical Material 1957-1958, 1970-1984

	Box	Folder
Newspaper Clippings 1957-1958	1	1
Newspaper Clippings 1970-1976, 1980-1982, 1984	1	2
Photograph of Lawrence Irvin undated photocopy	1	3

Correspondence 1971-1981**Scope and Contents note**

Series consists of correspondence written by, or addressed to Irvin from 1971-1981. The bulk of the series consists of general office correspondence that covers work-related projects. A significant amount of the correspondence is between Irvin and his successor Oliver Byrum, as well as O.D. Gay of the Downtown Council. Also included are inter-office memos, requests for Irvin to serve as a work reference, requests for information on the Skyway System, Nicollet Mall, and comprehensive city planning, as well as thank you notes for hosting and educating various peers from around the country and world.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, Notes of Thanks 1972-1979	1	4
Correspondence, General 1971-1975	1	5

Correspondence

Correspondence, Visit from London 1974	1	6
Correspondence, General 1976-1979	1	7
Correspondence, General 1976-1979	1	8
Correspondence, General 1976-1979	1	9
Correspondence, Memos 1974, 1976, 1978-1979	1	10
Correspondence, General 1979	1	11
Correspondence, General 1975-1979	1	12
Correspondence, International and National Inquires 1978-1979	1	13
Correspondence, Visit to Sweden 1978	1	14
Correspondence, Twin Cities Urban Corps Interns 1978, 1980	1	15
Correspondence, General 1979-1980	1	16
Correspondence, General 1980-1981	1	17
Correspondence, Partners for Livable Places 1981	1	18
Corrspondence, General March-June, 1980	1	19

Project and Subject Files

Correspondence, General July-October, 1980	1	20
Correspondence, General November-December, 1980	1	21
Correspondence, General January-March, 1981	1	22
Correspondence, General June-September, 1981	1	23
Correspondence, Oliver Byrum 1981	1	24
Correspondence, O. D. Gay on Downtown Council 1977-1978	1	25
Correspondence, O. D. Gay on Housing, Jobs, and Demographics 1980	1	26
Correspondence, O. D. Gay on Downtown Inquiries and Chicago Tribune Report Card 1981	1	27
Correspondence, Personal Scotland 1978-1979	1	28
Correspondence, Foreign 1974, 1978-1979	1	29
Correspondence, Visit to London 1974	2	23
Project and Subject Files 1959-1981		
Scope and Contents note		
Series consists of studies/surveys, notes, reports, publications, meeting minutes, and development plans related to various projects Irvin was involved in throughout his career in the City Planning department.		

Skyway System

A substantial portion of the materials are dated late in Irvin's career, but describe projects he worked on years before, including the skyway system, Cedar Riverside redevelopment, and Nicollet Mall. Materials relating to the city plan Metro '90 and Loring Park Development District were produced at the time Irvin actually worked on them. Includes a substantial amount of information related to the Urban Affairs Bilateral Mission of 1979, a project sponsored by the U.S. International Communications Agency in which Irvin and others from the City of Minneapolis and the private sector travelled internationally with the goal of sharing ideas with other planning and development professionals.

Skyway System 1973-1981

	Box	Folder
Skyway Bridges and Time Sequences 1978-1981	1	30
Skyway Information undated, 1973, 1977, 1979	1	31
Skyway Narratives 1973-1975, 1979, 1981	3	1

Cedar Riverside Redevelopment 1971-1981

	Box	Folder
Future of Cedar Riverside 1, Speech 1977	1	32
Future of Cedar Riverside 2, Speech 1977	1	33
Newspaper Clippings on Cedar Riverside Settlement 1980-1981	1	34
Development and History of Cedar Riverside Project 1971	1	35

Nicollet Mall

Nicollet Mall 1959, 1967-1980		
	Box	Folder
List of Mall Documentation 1980	1	36
Action Program and Fact Sheet 1959, 1969	1	37
Correspondence on Mall Business Statistics 1967-1979	1	38
Script and Information for Federal Department of Transportation Video 1968, 1980	1	39
"Nicolett Mall: a leap of faith" 1979	1	40
Scope and Contents note		
"Mass Transit" article		
Landmarks on the Mall 1968, 1979	1	41
Transcript to Audiovisual Presentation on Mall 1971-1972	1	42
Mall Dedication, Correspondence, and Meeting Notes 1973-1974	1	43
Nicollet Mall Background Information undated, 1967, 1975	1	44
Assessment Procedure for Chapter 430, Elwell Law undated	1	45

City Center

City Center 1971-1981

	Box	Folder
Downtown Council Minutes and "How City Center Came to Be" 1971-1980	1	46
Scope and Contents note		
Meeting minutes and summer intern paper written for Irvin.		
Block E Analysis and Real Estate Research Corporation Recommendations 1979	1	47
Block E Development Proposals 1981	1	48
Oxford Properties' Development Plans 1977-1980	1	49
City Costs 1980	1	50
Metro '90 1977-1981		
	Box	Folder
Reaffirmation Project on the Central Business District (RFP on the CBD) 1980	1	51
General Services Administration Adjustment of the Central Business District Boundries 1978-1980	1	52

Loring Park Development District

Downtown Council and the Gruen Associates' Study 1981	1	53
Real Estate Research Corporation's Central Business District Projections 1977	1	54
Future of Minneapolis, Downtown Council's Past and Present Plans 1977, 1979-1980	1	55
Scope and Contents note		
Draft speech for Metro '90 Update Task Force's first meeting, newspaper article on Minneapolis planning, speech about Minneapolis's future, and request by Irvin for Metro '90 proposal illustrations.		
Diagrams-Planning Process undated	1	56
Space Use Forecasts 1979-1980	1	57
Central Business District Articles undated, 1977	1	58
Comments on Gruen Associates' Study May-June, 1981	3	2
Loring Park Development District 1972-1980		
	Box	Folder
Downtown Slideshow Outline and Studies undated, 1971-1974	1	59
Progress and Development undated, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1980	1	60

RICE Center Study

Land Use Proposals and Correspondence 1979-1980	1	61
RICE Center Study 1980-1981		
	Box	Folder
Drafts and Annotations 1981	2	1
Case Study Documentation 1980-1981	2	2
RICE Center Correspondence 1980-1981	2	3
International Communications Agency (ICA) Urban Affairs Bilateral Mission 1974, 1978-1979		
	Box	Folder
Concept and Resumes 1978	2	4
Payroll Correspondence 1979	2	5
Correspondence with William D. Miller 1978-1979	2	6
Correspondence with Dorothy Slak 1974, 1979	2	7
Singapore Correspondence 1978-1979	2	8
Singapore Introduction and Itinerary 1979	2	9
Singapore Correspondence, Minneapolis Team 1978-1979	2	10

Economic Development

Singapore Brochure on Minneapolis Team 1979	2	11
Singapore Daily Schedule 1979	2	12
Alaska Correspondence 1978-1979	2	13
Japan Correspondence 1979	2	14
Tokyo Correspondence 1979	2	15
Kanazawa Japan Correspondence 1977-1979	2	16
Bangkok Correspondence 1979	2	17
India Correspondence 1979	2	18
Saudia Arabia Correspondence 1979	2	19
Israel Correspondence 1979	2	20
Planning Department News, Trip Itinerary 1979	2	21
ICA Bilateral Mission Final Report 1979	2	22
Economic Development 1979-1981		
	Box	Folder

Miscellaneous

Downtown Job Estimates 1980	2	24
McManis Work 1979-1980	2	25
McManis Work 1980	2	26
Downtown Development Words for Mayor 1980	2	27
Urban Economics 1979, 1981	2	28
Planning and Urban Growth 1980-1981	2	29
Miscellaneous 1960-1981		
	Box	Folder
Public Parking Ramp Financing undated, 1978-1979	2	30
Status and Observation Report on Off-Street Parking 1981	2	31
Gentrification Survey/Study 1978	2	32
39 Years of Zoning in Minneapolis 1980	2	33
Policy Position Statement for Nicollet Island 1981	2	34
Urban Development Action Grant 1979, 1981	2	35

Professional Activities

Chronological Downtown Development undated, 1960-1981	2	36
Professional Activities 1960-1981		
Scope and Contents note		
<p>Series consists of numerous papers, articles, and presentations authored by Irvin from 1980-1981; includes one presentation from 1966. Also includes a small amount of material relating to Irvin's professional involvement with various organizations, such as the Rotary Club, and excerpts from the Central Area Plan 1959-1960, Metro Center 1985, and Metro Center 1990 submitted as application documentation for the American Planning Association's Meritorious Program Award, which the Minneapolis City Planning Department received in 1979.</p>		
Awards 1979		
	Box	Folder
American Planning Association Award Application and Documentation 1960, 1977-1979	2	37
American Planning Association Meritorious Program Award 1979	3	3
Writings and Presentations 1966, 1970, 1980-1981		
	Box	Folder
"Downtown Scenario Exhibit A" 1980	2	38
"Quarter Century of Progress" 1981	2	39

Organizations

"Getting the Most Out of Downtown Planning" undated	2	40
Article Review Replies 1970, 1980	2	41
Community Partnerships 1981	2	42
Economic Development Data Systems 1980	2	43
"Skyway News" Articles on Downtown Minneapolis 1981	2	44
For the Mayor and "Skyway News" 1980-1981	2	45
"The Community Renewal Program as a Battle Plan to Save Our Cities" 1966	2	46
"Revitalizing Downtown Minneapolis" 1980	2	47
Organizations 1975-1981		
	Box	Folder
Urban Land Institute 1980	2	48
Heritage Preservation Committee 1975, 1977-1978	2	49
Rotary Club Community Service 1981	2	50
Rotary Club Preservation Plaques 1980-1981	2	51

Media

Media 1970s		
Photographs		
	Box	Folder
ICA Bilateral Mission, Donald Jacobson undated	2	52
ICA Bilateral Mission, Singapore 1979	2	53
ICA Bilateral Mission, Kanazawa Japan 1979	2	54
ICA Bilateral Mission, Kanazawa Japan 1979	2	55
Negatives		
	Box	Folder
ICA Bilateral Mission, Kanazawa Japan 1979	2	56
Slides		
	Box	Folder
ICA Bilateral Mission, Singapore 1979	2	57
Friends in Scotland 1978	2	58
Scope and Contents note		

Audio Cassette Tapes

See also box 1 folder 28.

Audio Cassette Tapes 1970s 7 tapes

Box

2

Scope and Contents note

Recordings of lectures and audio from various components of the ICA Bilateral Mission.