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Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.POETRYCENTER

Title Poetry Center of Chicago. Records

Date 1974-2006

Size 7 linear feet (8 boxes)

Repository Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract The Poetry Center of Chicago was founded in 1973 and is a non-profit arts organization that strives to make poetry accessible to the public through education and events, as well as promote poets' careers. The Poetry Center of Chicago Records contain articles, brochures, posters, correspondence, administrative documents, annual reports, publications, and audio-visual material.

Acknowledgments
The Poetry Center of Chicago Records were processed and preserved as part of the "Uncovering New Chicago Archives Project," funded with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Information on Use

Restrictions on Use
Series II, Audio-Visual, does not include access copies for part or all of the material in this series. Researchers will need to consult with staff before requesting material in this series.

The collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Poetry Center of Chicago. Records, [Box#, Folder#], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note
Though founded in 1973, the groundwork for the Poetry Center of Chicago began in 1968 when Paul Carroll, former editor of Big Table, hosted and organized readings to promote his new Big Table Books series. Interest and awareness developed and in 1973, Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs gave readings at the official inception of the Poetry Center. Paul
Carroll was the first board president and other board members included Lisel Mueller, Mark Perlberg, and John Resek. Early members were poets such as Barry Schechter, Bill Knott, Paul Hoover, Michael Anania, Bill Hunt, Candace Rackenger, Rich Friedman, Peter Kostackis, Neil Hackman, Rose Simon, and Maxine Chernoff. Past Poetry Center presidents include Paul Hoover, Mark Perlberg, John Van Doren, and John Rezek.

The Poetry Center makes poetry accessible to the general public through programming and education. One such program is "Hands on Stanzas" which gives elementary school students an opportunity to learn and write about poetry. The Poetry Center also organizes and/or sponsors poetry readings, exhibits, movies, festivals, and other community events.


**Scope Note**

The Poetry Center of Chicago was founded in 1973 and is a non-profit arts organization that strives to make poetry accessible to the public through education and events, as well as promote poets’ careers. The Poetry Center of Chicago Records are organized into four series: Series I, Administrative; Series II, Events and Publications; Series III, Audio-Visual; and Series IV, Broadsides and Posters. The records contain articles, brochures, posters, correspondence, administrative documents, annual reports, publications, and audio-visual material.

Series I, Administrative, contains annual reports, board meeting documents, and advertising invoices. Board meeting materials include photocopies and originals of agendas, minutes, correspondence, and articles. The annual reports are photocopies of correspondence, grant proposals, federal tax exemptions, letters from Paul Carroll indicating officers and directors, and Articles of Incorporation. Also included is an application for Columbia College's 2002-2003 Paul Berger Arts Entrepreneurship Award.

Series II, Events and Publications, contains articles, advertisements, brochures, and announcements about Chicago’s poetry events. Events include poetry readings and festivals featuring poets such as Diane Ackerman, Sandra Cisneros, Lucille Clifton, Andrei Codrescu, Billy Collins, Donald Hall, Garret Hongo, Amy Ling, W.S. Merwin, Lisel Mueller, Ron Padgett, Mark Perlberg, Alice Randall, Robert Siegel, Sahara Spain, and James Tate. Also included are exhibit captions from Words of Art: Exhibitions of Broadsides. The publications are primarily chapbooks and published volumes from the "Hands on Stanza" program as well as chapbooks from the Annual Juried Readings.
Series III, Audio-Visual, contains compact discs, a videotape, and a DVD. The compact discs are of events featuring Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Luciano Erba. The videotape and DVD are of "Hands on Stanzas Documentary" directed by Kenneth Clarke.

Series IV, Broadsides and Posters, contains signed broadsides of poems from poetry readings and posters of readings and other poetry events.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Carroll, Paul. Papers

Subject Headings
• Carroll, Paul
• The Poetry Center of Chicago
• American poetry -- 20th century
• American poetry -- Illinois -- Chicago
• Poetry, Modern -- 20th century

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Series I: Administrative
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**Series II: Events and Publications**

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    Exhibitions of Broadsides, 2003

**Box 2**
**Folder 7**
    Exhibit, Words of Art: Exhibitions of Broadsides, 2003

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Publications, ANGSTa, undated
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Publications, Chapbook, "Big Table Poetry Group," 2004
Box 5
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Publications, Chapbook, "Digimon" by Aysha Estrada, 2005
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Folder 5
Publications, Chapbook, "How Far" by the girls of Off the Street Club, 2004
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Publications, Chapbook, "The Williams Poems" edited by Matthias Regan, 2005
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Series III: Audio-Visual

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Folder 2
Compact Disc; Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Live At the Poetry Center, 2002
Box 6
Folder 3
Compact Disc; Luciano Erbai; Far Beyond the Frozen Seas, undated
Box 6
Folder 4
Compact Disc; Reverse, undated
Box 6
Folder 5
DVD; Hands on Stanzas Documentary, 2005
Box 6
Folder 6
Videocassette; The Poetry Center of Chicago, Hands on Stanzas Documentary, 2005

Series IV: Broadsides and Posters

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Folder 1
Broadsides, 2001
• Codrescu, Andrei
• Collins, Billy
• Graham, Jorie
• Tate, James

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**Folder 2**
Broadsides, 2002
• Clarke, K.C.
• Ferlinghetti, Lawrence
• Lynch, Thomas
• Mueller, Lisel
• Padgett, Ron
• Peacock, Molly
• Perlberg, Mark
• Spain, Sahara Sunday
• Waldman, Anne
• Wright, Charles

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**Folder 3**
Broadsides, 2003
• Anania, Michael
• Clarke, K.C.
• Corgan, Billy
• Duhamel, Denise
• Grotz, Jennifer
• Kinzie, Mary
• Komunyakaa, Yusef
• Lansana, Quraysh Ali
• Lee, Li-Young
• Madhubuti, Haki R.
• McGrath, Campbell
• Muench, Simone
• Wiman, Christian

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**Folder 4**
Broadsides, 2004
• Bowen, Kristy
• Clifton, Lucille
• Gluck, Louise
• Greenberg, Arielle
• Harper, Misty
• Hollo, Anselm
• Quick, Dan Beachy
• Strand, Mark
• Streckfus, Peter
• Vandenberg, Katrina
• Williams, Lucinda and Miller Williams
• Williams, Miller
• Wright, Franz

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**Folder 5**
- Broadsides, 2005
  - Black, Baxter
  - Brown, Garrett J.
  - Brown, Rosellen
  - Castillo, Ana
  - Craig, Joel
  - Cumpian, Carlos
  - Forbes, Calvin
  - Hemon, Aleksandar
  - Monson, Ander
  - Muldoon, Paul
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  - Reddy, Srikanth
  - Scott, Jill
  - Soto, Gary
  - Wehle, Ellen

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**Folder 6**
- Broadsides, 2006
  - Ellis, Thomas Sayers
  - Kooser, Ted
  - Linehan, Moira
  - McManus, James
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  - Ryan, Kay

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- Broadsides, Drafts, 2003

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**Folder 11**
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**Box 8**

**Folder 1**
- Posters, 1974-1975
• Brodsky, Josip, Tymoteusz Karpowicz, and Djordje Nikolic
• An Evening of Poetry & Art to Honor Frank O’Hara
• Ginsberg, Allen and William S. Burroughs
• Knott, Bill
• Poets Look at Paintings

Box 8
Folder 2
Posters, 1975-1976
• Brutus, Dennis
• Carroll, Paul, Martha Friedberg, Ralph J. Mills, Jr., Alice Notley, and Mark Perlberg
• Edson, Russell and Charles Simic
• Kumin, Maxine
• Operation Minotaur

Box 8
Folder 3
Posters, 1976-1977
• Ashbery, John
• Atwood, Margaret
• Bellow, Saul
• Brooks, Gwendolyn and Etheridge Knight
• Glück, Louise
• Hoover, Paul, William Hunt, Peter Kostakis, and Lisel Mueller
• Jarman, Joseph
• Kunitz, Stanley
• Levertov, Denise

Box 8
Folder 4
Posters, 1977-1978
• Bly, Robert
• Chernoff, Maxine, Barry Schechter, Walter Bradford, and G.E. Murray
• Levine, Philip
• Logan, John
• Paley, Grace
• Petrakis, Harry Mark
• Walcott, Derek

Box 8
Folder 5
Posters, 1978-1979
• Berrigan, Ted and Ron Padgett
• Bonnefoy, Yves
• Bradley, Ardyth, Richard Friedman and Ted Schaefer
• Knoepfle, John and Lucien Stryk
• McPherson, Sandra
• Moss, Stanley
• Stafford, William
Folder 6
Posters, 1979-1980
• Anania, Michael and John Frederick Nims
• Cheever, John
• Justice, Donald
• Kicknosway, Fay and Naomi Lazard
• Kinnell, Galway
• Libbey, Elizabeth and Ross Talarico
• Rothenberg, Jerome

Box 8
Folder 7
Posters, 1980-1981
• Benedikt, Michael
• Etter, Dave and John Dickson
• Homage to Anna Akhmatova
• Koch, Kenneth
• Pastan, Linda
• Rorem, Ned
• Smith, Dave
• Van Duyn, Mona

Box 8
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Posters, 1981-1982
• Cutler, Bruce and James Schevill
• Duncan, Robert
• Elmslie, Kenward and John Koethe
• An Evening with Studs Terkel "Homage to Nelson Algren"
• Haviaras, Stratis
• Ryerson, Alice and Leslie Ullman
• Strand, Mark

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Posters, 1982-1983
• Baraka, Amiri
• Dugan, Alan
• Homage to Cesar Vallejo: An Evening with Clayton Eshelman
• Lange, Art and Bob Perelman
• Laughlin, James
• Levis, Larry and Constance Urdang
• Segal, Lore

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Folder 10
Posters, 1983-1984
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• Chase, Joan and June Brindel
• Levertov, Denise
• Poetry in Motion
• Spender, Stephen

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• Robert Creeley
• Elizabeth Hardwick
• Ted Kooser and A.K. Ramanujan
• James Merrill

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• Marjorie Perloff
• Carl Rakoski
• Gary Soto

**Box 8**

**Folder 13**
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• Joan Colby and Robert Dana
• Frederick Morgan
• Ron Padgett
• Charles Simic
• William Carlos Williams

**Box 8**

**Folder 14**
Posters, 2003-2004
• Billy Corgan
• Lucinda Williams and Miller Williams

**Box 8**

**Folder 15**
Posters, General Events, 2000-2002

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**Folder 16**
Posters, Reading Series, 1994-2005