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Guide to the

Nelam L. Hill papers

1952-1991

Sc MG 466

Home to Harlem Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Hill, Nelam L., 1926-1992

Title: Nelam L. Hill papers

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Abstract: The Nelam L. Hill Papers document his activities as a filmmaker and producer, his extensive career as an urban planner, and affiliations he maintained with a variety of organizations. Correspondence with friends and colleagues is also included. Papers pertaining to The Cry of Jazz (written by Hill, Edward O. Bland, and Mark Kennedy) and Hill's production company, KHTB Productions include scripts, notes, correspondence, distribution and publicity material, reviews and financial records. The American Hero written by Hill and Edward O. Bland, is documented by a filmscript, treatment, notes on the characters and story idea, analysis of the script and financial records.

Preferred citation: [Item], Nelam L. Hill papers, Sc MG 466, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Nelam L. Hill (1926-1992), urban planner specializing in housing, management, zoning, ecology and general community development. He held many positions in the field, and in the 1970's was Assistant Director for the Borough of Brooklyn, New York State Urban Development Corporation (UDC), where he was responsible for initiative to renew residential units. He then became project director for the newly developed UDC subsidiary, Harlem Development Corporation. In 1978, Hill was instrumental in founding the Vanguard Urban Improvement Association, Inc. a community group committed to improving the physical and social conditions of the Bedford Stuyvesant community in Brooklyn. He also

served as Coordinator of the Master Plan Task Force for Newark, New Jersey (1977).

In the 1960's to early 1970's, Hill held several urban planning positions, including Director of Planning with Lucas & Edwards, a planning consultant firm. He was also Director for the Model Cities Program, Jersey City, New Jersey. From 1979, until his death in 1992, he managed his own consulting firm, Nelam L. Hill & Associates.

Hill's primary other interest was filmmaking, and under KHTB Productions he was one of the producers and writers of *The Cry of Jazz* (1958) and of *The American Hero* (1971).

Scope and Content Note

The Nelam L. Hill Papers document his activities as a filmmaker and producer, his extensive career as an urban planner, and affiliations he maintained with a variety of organizations. Correspondence with friends and colleagues is also included. Papers pertaining to *The Cry of Jazz* (written by Hill, Edward O. Bland, and Mark Kennedy) and Hill's production company, KHTB Productions include scripts, notes, correspondence, distribution and publicity material, reviews and financial records. *The American Hero* written by Hill and Edward O. Bland, is documented by a filmscript, treatment, notes on the characters and story idea, analysis of the script and financial records. Significant amounts of material document Hill's activities as an urban planner with several agencies and companies including the Urban Development Corporation (1970-1973) and the Harlem Urban Development Corporation (1970's). HUDC material includes minutes, correspondence, proposals and reports for many projects such as the 125th Street Corridor, Harlem-Manhattan North Development Study, a hotel and convention center and housing projects. Additional records represent Hill's position as Coordinator for the Task Force that completed the 1978 Master Plan for Newark, New Jersey and planning for Bedford Stuyvesant in Brooklyn with the Vanguard Urban Improvement Association and Lucas & Edwards, Inc. His work became more diverse upon establishing his own consulting firm, Nelam L. Hill and Associates. Among the documents from that company is a proposal for a laboratory and manufacturing plant to make intravenous fluids and allied products for a health service system in Nigeria. Personal papers are represented by his journal, correspondence with Edward O. Bland, a script for a film entitled *The Cool World*, and transcriptions of interviews with Brigadier General David M. Hall for a biography Hill was preparing. There is also significant correspondence with Hansel C. Hall, Equal Opportunity Director for Housing and Urban Development and brother of David Hall.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American motion picture producers and directors -- New York (State) -- New York
City planners -- United States
City planning -- New Jersey
City planning -- New York (State) -- New York
Housing development -- New Jersey
Housing development -- New York (State) -- New York
Housing policy -- United States
Urban renewal -- New Jersey
Urban renewal -- New York (State) -- New York

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Minutes (administrative records)

Scripts

Names

Bland, Edward O

Hall, David M., 1928-

Hall, Hansel C., 1927-

Hill, Nelam L., 1926-1992

Harlem Urban Development Corporation

Model Cities Program (Newark, N.J.)

New York State Urban Development Corporation

Vanguard Urban Improvement Association

Container List

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- b. 1 f. 5 Personal Journal 1980-1988
- b. 1 f. 6 Letters Seeking Employment 1963-1979
- b. 1 f. 7 Poetry
- b. 1 f. 8-12 Bland, Ed
- b. 1 f. 13 Brown, Roscoe C., Jr. - Articles 1966
- b. 1 f. 14 Clarke, Shirley and Lee, Carl - "The Cool World" 1962
- b. 1 f. 15 Campanella, Roy 1977
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- b. 2 f. 11 Higgenbotham, A. Leon, Jr
- b. 2 f. 12 Johnston, Percy - African American Philosophy Association 1988-1989
- b. 2 f. 13 Sutton, Percy 1977
- b. 2 f. 14 Tennov, Dorothy - Includes Article Written by Hill 1980

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- b. 2 f. 15 Abyssinian Housing for the Elderly
- b. 2 f. 16 Minority General Contractors 1982
- b. 2 f. 17 New America Cinema Group 1962
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- b. 3 f. 8 Analysis of Script
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- b. 3 f. 12-13 KHTB Productions - Correspondence 1960-1963
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 - b. 4 f. 35 Order Form for Booking Film
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The American Hero

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- b. 5 f. 2-4 Film Treatment 1960-1962
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- b. 5 f. 28-30 Analysis of Script 1960-1975
 - b. 5 f. 31 Hill's Comments on Film
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 - b. 5 f. 33 Budget and Bills 1971-1973
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- b. 6 f. 1 Chicago - Dept. of City Planning 1961
- b. 6 f. 2-3 New Jersey Division of State and Regional Planning 1962-1963
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 - b. 6 f. 4 Relocation in the Holland Tunnel Project Area as of June 30, 1965
 - b. 6 f. 5 Proposed Comprehensive Master Plan for Jersey City, N.J 1966
 - b. 6 f. 6 1967
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- b. 6 f. 19 News Clippings re Establishment of UDC 1968
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- b. 6 f. 25-26 Harlem River Park - Public Hearing and Management 1967-1971
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- b. 6 f. 29 Moratorium on Housing 1971-1973
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- b. 6 f. 37 Publicly-Aided Housing Development - N.Y.C. Housing Authority 1968
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- b. 6 f. 40 Press Release, Printed Matter 1970-1975
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- b. 6 f. 43 Community Service Society of New York - Committee on Housing and Urban Development - Annual Report 1964-1965
- b. 6 f. 44 "Guide to Practice Open Housing Under Law" - Chicago 1970
- b. 6 f. 45 Community Youth Services Directory - The 79th Precinct Area, Brooklyn 1974
- b. 6 f. 46 "Practical Urban Renewal in San Francisco" 1962
- Harlem Urban Development Corporation (HUDC)
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- b. 8 f. 1 State Office Building 1972
- b. 8 f. 2 Renewal Plan
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- b. 8 f. 8 "Harlem UDC as the Planning Agency for Harlem" - Thesis by Josephine Schwartz 1973
- b. 8 f. 9-11 "A Survey of Leadership Attitudes Toward the Quality of Life in Harlem" - Sections I-III 1973
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- b. 12 f. 24-25 Preservation Development Corporation, Yonkers, N.Y. - Proposal 1987
- b. 12 f. 26 "Mayor Koch and the Black Electorate" by Nelam Hill 1983

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