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**Civic Affairs Forum Records
1971-1993
MssCol 6211**

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Summary

- Main entry:** Civic Affairs Forum
- Title:** Civic Affairs Forum records, 1971-1993
- Size:** 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)
- Source:** Donated by Stanley Turkel, 2004
- Abstract:** The Civic Affairs Forum was established in 1971 as an informal coalition of citywide civic organizations concerned with the welfare of New York City. The records include correspondence, internal memoranda, meeting minutes, and printed ephemera documenting the group's efforts to improve urban planning, economic development, housing, education and social services. The Forum remained active in municipal politics until its dissolution in 1993.
- Access:** Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
- Preferred citation:** Civic Affairs Forum Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Related materials note

Stanley Turkel Collection of City Club Memorabilia. Manuscripts and Archives Division. The New York Public Library.

Historical note

The Civic Affairs Forum was established in 1971 as an informal coalition of citywide civic organizations concerned with the welfare of New York City. By 1985, twenty-nine civic groups belonged to the Forum including; the New York Metropolitan chapter of the American Planning Association, the Association for a Better New York, Citizens Budget Commission, Citizens Committee for Children, Citizens Committee for New York City, Citizens Housing and Planning Council, Citizens Union, City Club of New York, Community Council of Greater New York, Community Service Society, Council on Municipal Performance, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, League of Women Voters, Municipal Art Society, National Municipal League, New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New York Interface Development Project Inc., New York Urban Coalition, New York Urban League, Parks Council, Public Education Association, Regional Plan Association, Settlement Housing Fund, United Neighborhood Houses, United Parents Association, Women's City Club of New York.

Formed during a period of extreme fiscal crisis, the Forum helped initiate measures to address what it considered the city government's failure to undertake citywide, long-range planning. Partly due to the Forum's efforts, the Office of Strategic Planning was created in 1989 as part of the Department of City Planning. The Forum was also active in city elections and addressed such issues as poverty, homelessness, crime, waste management, and neighborhood development.

Scope and content note

The records of the Civic Affairs Forum include correspondence, internal memoranda, meeting minutes, membership mailings and directories, questionnaires, and printed ephemera reflecting the activities of the organization. The collection contains material dating from the first meetings of the Forum at the Citizen's Union in 1971 until the group's dissolution under the chairmanship of Stanley Turkel in 1993. Issues discussed in the records include support for mass transit, recycling and solid waste disposal, long-range strategic planning, employment, neighborhood development, and efforts to involve new civic organizations in the work of the Forum.

Arrangement note

Files are arranged chronologically.

Container list

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	1971-1976
	2	1977-1979
	3	1978-1980
	4	1981
	5	1982
	6-7	1983
2	1-2	1984
	3	1985
	4	1986
	5	1987
	6	1988
	3	1-5
6-7		1990
8		1991
4	1	1991
	2	1992
	3	1993