

Guide to the

Irene Diamond Fund records

1986, 1994-2012 MssCol 18808

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield and Weatherly Stephan, 2013.

Summary

Creator: Irene Diamond Fund

Title: Irene Diamond Fund records

Date: 1986, 1994-2012

Size: 39.16 linear feet (93 boxes, 1 oversized folder)

Source: Donated by Irene Diamond Fund (Jane Silver), 2012 and 2014.

Abstract: The Irene Diamond Fund was a philanthropic organization active from 1994 to 2012. The fund was established by Irene Diamond to provide large scale funding for a select group of charitable causes, and the bulk of its grants were awarded to New York City-based organizations supporting research in HIV/AIDS, minority education, and the arts. The Irene Diamond Fund records document annual grants funded by the organization between 1994 and 2012, with annual appeals, award letters, and printed material about the grantee programs.

Conditions Governing Access:

Video recording is unavailable for use pending preservation transfer.

Preferred citation: Irene Diamond Fund records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Valerie Wingfield and Weatherly Stephan, 2013. Additions to the collection were processed in 2017 by Valerie Wingfield.

Creator History

The Irene Diamond Fund was a New York City-based philanthropic organization founded by Irene Diamond in 1994. The fund was a vehicle for Irene Diamond's personal charitable contributions, concentrating on the support of medical research related to HIV/AIDS and the performing arts in New York City.

Irene Diamond (1910-2003), a Hollywood talent scout and script writer, and her husband Aaron Diamond, a New York real estate developer, established the Aaron Diamond Foundation in 1986 to support a wide range of causes, including biomedical research, public health, social welfare, human rights, and the performing arts. Irene Diamond served as president. The Aaron Diamond Foundation operated until 1996 and distributed over \$200 million in grants. Most notably, the foundation provided major financial support for the creation of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center.

As the Aaron Diamond Foundation approached the end of its endowment, Irene Diamond moved her focus to a new organization, the Irene Diamond Fund. Diamond was again president, and Vincent McGee, who had worked as the executive director of the Aaron Diamond Foundation, was appointed the fund's vice president. Like its predecessor organization, the fund operated under a mandate to disburse its assets within ten years of Diamond's death, with the intention of making a major impact on selected issues. To this end, the Irene Diamond Fund awarded large-scale funding to grantee organizations working within the fund's fields of interest. While the fund's early support centered on HIV/AIDS research and the performing arts, grants were awarded to social activist organizations focused on human rights, prison reform, and gun control as the fund matured.

Many of the grantee organizations received perennial support from the fund. In addition to continued general support grants for the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, the fund also awarded annual grants to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and its resident companies, including the Julliard School, the New York City Ballet, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. While the fund focused on research in immunology and AIDS, organizations that worked toward HIV prevention also received support, such as needle exchanges and education programs.

Jane Silver was hired as the fund's president in 2002, and remained in that role until the fund's closing. The fund closed as intended in 2012, having disbursed over \$280 million in grants throughout its existence.

Scope and Content Note

The Irene Diamond Fund records date from 1994 to 2012 and document the organization's annual grant program. The records consist of annual reports, correspondence, financial audits, memorandum, printed material on grantee organizations, press clippings, and grant program reports. While the majority of the collection pertains to grant awardees, there is a limited amount of documentation on rejected grant applicants.

The collection is organized into two series. Series I: Grantees consists of chronological files for grants funded between 1994 and 2012. Grantees files include annual appeals, award letters with descriptions of the grant-funded project, agreements between the fund and the grantee organizations, grant evaluation reports, and one video recording. Series II: Administrative Files contains office correspondence, including award letters, rejection letters, and responses to general inquiries, as well as spreadsheets listing awarded and rejected projects throughout the lifespan of the fund.

Key Terms

Subjects

Charities -- New York (State) -- New York

OccupationsPhilanthropists

Genre/Physical Characteristic Video recordings

Names

Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center

Container List

Series I: Grantees 1994-2012 (35 linear feet (84 boxes))

Series I contains files for grantee organizations supported by the fund between 1994 and 2010. Grantee files contain funding checks; annual appeals, award letters, and other correspondence; executed grant agreements; documentation about the grantee organization; reports on the grant project; and grant data worksheets. Grant evaluation reports, submitted at six months and at the conclusion of the funding year, contain an organization's self-evaluation of the grant project and details on how the funds were used in the project budget. Grant data worksheets were generated by the fund's database system, and provide the current funding status for the grantee organization, the fund's internal notes on the project, a payment schedule, and recommendations on file such as considerations for renewal. Documentation about the grantee organization, which was both submitted with reports and collected by fund staff, includes newsletters, clippings, annual reports, financial audits, program brochures, and proof of the organization's non-profit tax status. If the fund elected to support multiple programs within an institution over one funding year (e.g. a general support grant and a fellowship program grant), award letters, grant agreements, reports, and grant data worksheets are present for each grant program.

This series also includes one video recording from the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center's 2009 Irene Diamond Award Gala. The short film discusses Mrs. Diamond's interest in AIDS research and the impact of the research center's innovations on AIDS treatment. The video recording is unavailable for use pending preservation transfer.

Files in this series are arranged chronologically by grant year, then alphabetically by organization name within each year. Multiple files for perennially funded organizations are therefore found throughout the series.

1994

b. 1 f. 1-2	Brown University Leadership Alliance
b. 1 f. 3	New Israel Fund
b. 1 f. 4-6	New York Chamber Symphony
b. 1 f. 7-8	New York Philharmonic
b. 1 f. 9-11	Pediatric AIDS Foundation
b. 2 f. 1	Pediatric AIDS Foundation
	1995
b. 2 f. 2	Brown University Leadership Alliance
b. 2 f. 3	Hospital of Saint Raphael Child & adolescent psychiatry
b. 2 f. 4	Human Rights Watch
b. 2 f. 5	The Nation Institute
b. 2 f. 6	Natural Resources Defense Council
b. 2 f. 7	New Israel Fund
b. 2 f. 8	New School for Social Research
b. 2 f. 9	New York Chamber Symphony
o. 2 f. 10-12	New York City Ballet
b. 3 f. 1	New York Philharmonic
b. 3 f. 2	Thirteen/WNET
	1996
b. 3 f. 3-4	Actors Fund of America
b. 3 f. 5-6	Brown University Leadership Alliance
b. 3 f. 7-8	Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
b. 4 f. 1-2	Jazz at Lincoln Center

	1996 (cont.)
b. 4 f. 4	Museum for African Art
b. 4 f. 4	New Israel Fund
b. 4 f. 5	New York Chamber Symphony
b. 4 f. 6	New York Philharmonic
b. 4 f. 7-9	Sundance Institute
b. 4 f. 10	Young Concert Artists, Inc
	1997
b. 4 f. 11-13	Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center
b. 4 f. 14	American Museum of Natural History
b. 4 f. 15	Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health
b. 5 f. 1	Asia Society
b. 5 f. 2	Ballet Tech
b. 5 f. 3	Bargemusic
b. 5 f. 4	Brooklyn Academy of Music
b. 5 f. 5	Brooklyn Education Programs
b. 5 f. 6-7	Carnegie Hall
b. 5 f. 8-9	Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
b. 5 f. 10	Chess-in-the-Schools
b. 5 f. 11-12	Children's Defense Fund
b. 5 f. 13-14	Citizens Committee for Children
b. 6 f. 1	City Center
b. 6 f. 2	CUNY School of Law, Queens College
b. 6 f. 3	Classical Action
b. 6 f. 4	Concert Association of Florida
b. 6 f. 5-6	Correctional Association of New York
b. 6 f. 7	Dance Theatre of Harlem
b. 6 f. 8	Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center
b. 6 f. 9	Film Society of Lincoln Center
b. 6 f. 10	Funders Concerned About AIDS
b. 6 f. 11-12	Institute for Education and Social Policy
b. 7 f. 1	Jazz at Lincoln Center
b. 7 f. 2	Jewish Museum
b. 7 f. 3-4	Lar Lubovitch Dance Company
b. 7 f. 5	Meet the Composers
b. 7 f. 6	Metropolitan Museum of Art
b. 7 f. 7	Metropolitan Opera Association
b. 7 f. 8-9	Museum for African Art
b. 7 f. 10	Museum of the City of New York
b. 7 f. 11-12	Museum of Modern Art
b. 7 f. 13	Museum of Television and Radio
b. 7 f. 14	The Nation Institute

Series I: Grantees (cont.) 1997 (cont.) b. 7 f. 15 National Dance Institute b. 8 f. 1 Nelson Mandela Children's Fund b. 8 f. 2 New York Academy of Medicine b. 8 f. 3 New York Botanical Garden b. 8 f. 4-6 New York Chamber Symphony b. 8 f. 7 The New Press b. 8 f. 8 New York City Ballet b. 8 f. 9 **New-York Historical Society** b. 8 f. 10 New York Philharmonic b. 8 f. 11 New York Public Library Funding for Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture b. 8 f. 12 New York Youth Symphony b. 8 f. 13-14 Rockefeller University b. 9 f. 1-2 School of American Ballet b. 9 f. 3 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum b. 9 f. 4 Studio in a School Association b. 9 f. 5-6 Thirteen/WNET b. 9 f. 7 Whitney Museum of American Art b. 9 f. 8 Yale Law School b. 9 f. 9 Young Concert Artists, Inc 1998 b. 9 f. 10-11 Aaron Davis Hall b. 9 f. 12 Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center b. 9 f. 13-14 Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre b. 9 f. 15 American Composers Orchestra b. 10 f. 1-4 American Museum of Natural History b. 10 f. 5 Asia Society b. 10 f. 6 **Ballet Tech** b. 10 f. 7 Bargemusic b. 10 f. 8 Brooklyn Academy of Music b. 10 f. 9 Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra b. 10 f. 10 Brown University. Leadership Alliance b. 10 f. 11-14 Carnegie Hall b. 10 f. 15-16 **Chamber Music Society** b. 11 f. 1 Chess-in-the-Schools b. 11 f. 2-3 Citizens Committee for Children of New York b. 11 f. 4 City Center b. 11 f. 5 CUNY School of Law, Queens College b. 11 f. 6 Classical Action b. 11 f. 7-8 Community Food Resource Center b. 11 f. 9-10

Compassion & Choices

Series I: Grantees (cont.) 1998 (cont.)

	1998 (cont.)	
b. 11 f. 11	Concert Association of Florida	
b. 11 f. 12-13	Correctional Association of New York	
b. 12 f. 1	Creative Arts Workshop for Kids	
b. 12 f. 2-3	Dance Theatre of Harlem	
b. 12 f. 4	Eugene O'Neill Theater Center	
b. 12 f. 5	Film Society of Lincoln Center	
b. 12 f. 6	Gateway Institute for Pre-College Education, CUNY	
b. 12 f. 7	Harlem Educational Activities Fund	
b. 12 f. 8-9	Harlem School of the Arts	
b. 12 f. 10	Human Rights Watch	
b. 12 f. 11	Institute for America's Future	
b. 12 f. 12-13	Jazz at Lincoln Center	
b. 13 f. 1	Jazz at Lincoln Center	
b. 13 f. 2	Jewish Museum	
b. 13 f. 3	Lar Lubovitch Dance Company	
b. 13 f. 4-6	Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts	
b. 13 f. 7	Literary Partners, Inc	
b. 13 f. 8	Meet the Composers	
b. 13 f. 9	Metropolitan Museum of Art	
b. 13 f. 10	Metropolitan Opera Association	
b. 13 f. 11	Museum for African Art	
b. 13 f. 12	Museum of the City of New York	
b. 13 f. 13	Museum of Modern Art	
b. 13 f. 14	Museum of Television and Radio	
b. 14 f. 1	The Nation Institute	
b. 14 f. 2	National Dance Institute	
b. 14 f. 3-4	The New Press	
b. 14 f. 5	New School for Social Research	
b. 14 f. 6	New York Botanical Garden	
b. 14 f. 7	New York Chamber Symphony	
b. 14 f. 8-10	New York City Ballet	
b. 14 f. 11-12	New York City Opera	
b. 15 f. 1	New York Philharmonic	
b. 15 f. 2-3	New York Public Library Funding for Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and other programs of the NYPL	
b. 15 f. 4	New York Youth Symphony	
b. 15 f. 5	Paul Robeson Foundation	
b. 15 f. 6	Pratt Institute Black Alumni	
b. 15 f. 7-10	Rockefeller University	
b. 15 f. 11	School of American Ballet	
b. 15 f. 12	Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum	

Series I: Grantees (cont.) 1998 (cont.) b. 15 f. 13 Studio in a School Association b. 16 f. 1 Thirteen/WNET b. 16 f. 2 Whitney Museum of Art b. 16 f. 3 Yale Law School b. 16 f. 4-5 Zipporah Films. Inc 1999 b. 16 f. 6 Aaron Davis Hall b. 16 f. 7 Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center b. 16 f. 8-9 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater b. 16 f. 10-11 American Museum of Natural History b. 16 f. 12 Asia and Pacific Islander Coalition b. 16 f. 13 Asia Society b. 17 f. 1 **Ballet Tech** b. 17 f. 2 Bargemusic b. 17 f. 3 Brooklyn Academy of Music b. 17 f. 4 Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra b. 17 f. 5 Brown University Leadership Alliance b. 17 f. 6-7 Carnegie Hall b. 17 f. 8-9 **Chamber Music Society** b. 17 f. 10 Chess-in-the-Schools b. 17 f. 11 City Center, New York City b. 17 f. 12 CUNY School of Law, Queens College b. 17 f. 13 Classical Action b. 17 f. 14 Community Resource Exchange b. 17 f. 15 Compassion & Choices b. 18 f. 1 Compassion & Choices b. 18 f. 2 Concert Association of Florida b. 18 f. 3-5 Correctional Association of New York b. 18 f. 6 Creative Arts Workshop for Kids b. 18 f. 7-8 Dance Theatre of Harlem b. 18 f. 9 Eugene O'Neill Theater Center b. 18 f. 10-12 Irene Diamond Professorship in Immunology Program b. 19 f. 1 Irene Diamond Professorship in Immunology Program b. 19 f. 2 Film Society of Lincoln Center b. 19 f. 3 Funders Collaborative for Gun Violence Prevention b. 19 f. 4-5 Harlem School of the Arts b. 19 f. 6-7 Institute for America's Future b. 19 f. 8 Iris House b. 19 f. 9 Jazz at Lincoln Center b. 19 f. 10 Jewish Museum b. 19 f. 11 Lar Lubovitch Dance Company

Series I: Grantees (cont.) 1999 (cont.)

b. 19 f. 12-13	Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
b. 20 f. 1-3	Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
b. 20 f. 4	Literary Partners, Inc
b. 20 f. 5	Metropolitan Museum of Art
b. 20 f. 6	Mothers' Voices
b. 20 f. 7	Museum for African Art
b. 20 f. 8	Museum of the City of New York
b. 20 f. 9-10	Museum of Modern Art
b. 20 f. 11	Museum of Television and Radio
b. 20 f. 12	The Nation Institute
b. 20 f. 13	National Dance Institute
b. 20 f. 14	The New Press
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b. 21 f. 3-4	New York Chamber Symphony
b. 21 f. 5-7	New York City Ballet
b. 21 f. 8	New York City Opera
b. 21 f. 9	New York Philharmonic
b. 21 f. 10	New York Public Library
b. 21 f. 11	New York Youth Symphony
b. 21 f. 12	Perlman Music Program
b. 21 f. 13	Pratt Institute Black Alumni
b. 21 f. 14-15	Rockefeller University
b. 22 f. 1	School of American Ballet
b. 22 f. 2	Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
b. 22 f. 3	Studio in a School Association
b. 22 f. 4	Thirteen/WNET
b. 22 f. 5	University of Colorado Hospital
b. 22 f. 6	Whitney Museum of American Art
b. 22 f. 7	Yale Law School
b. 22 f. 8	Young Concert Artists
	2000
b. 22 f. 9	Aaron Davis Hall
b. 22 f. 10	Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center
b. 22 f. 11	Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
b. 22 f. 12-15	American Museum of Natural History
b. 23 f. 1	Ballet Tech
b. 23 f. 2	Bargemusic
b. 23 f. 3	Baylor College of Medicine
b. 23 f. 4-6	Brooklyn Academy of Music
b. 23 f. 7	Brown University Vartan Gregorian Scholarship

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Series I: Grantees (cont.)

Series I: Grantees (cont.) 2002 (cont.) b. 37 f. 3 American Academy of Arts & Sciences b. 37 f. 4-5 American Museum of Natural History b. 37 f. 6-7 **Ballet Tech** b. 37 f. 8 Bargemusic b. 37 f. 9-10 Brooklyn Academy of Music b. 38 f. 1-2 Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center b. 38 f. 3 Chess-in-the-Schools b. 38 f. 4-5 City University of New York b. 38 f. 6 Classical Action b. 38 f. 7-8 Community Food Resource Center b. 38 f. 9 Compassion & Choices b. 38 f. 10-11 Correction Association of New York b. 39 f. 1-2 Correction Association of New York b. 39 f. 3-6 Dance Theatre of Harlem b. 39 f. 7 Family Health Project b. 39 f. 8 Film Society of Lincoln Center b. 39 f. 9 Fountain House b. 39 f. 10 Founders Collaborative for Gun and Violence Prevention b. 39 f. 11-12 Gateway Institute for Pre-College Education, CUNY b. 40 f. 1-3 Human Rights Watch b. 40 f. 4 Institute for America's Future b. 40 f. 5-6 Irene Diamond Professorship in Immunology b. 40 f. 7-8 Jazz at Lincoln Center b. 40 f. 9 Juilliard School b. 40 f. 10-11 Lar Lubovitch Dance Company b. 41 f. 1-3 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts b. 41 f. 4 Literacy Partners, Inc b. 41 f. 5 Martha Clarke b. 41 f. 6 Museum for African Art b. 41 f. 7 Museum of Modern Art b. 41 f. 8 The Nation Institute b. 41 f. 9 National Dance Institute b. 41 f. 10 The New Press b. 41 f. 11 New School for Social Research b. 41 f. 12 New York Botanical Garden b. 42 f. 1 New York Chamber Symphony b. 42 f. 2-3 New York City Ballet b. 42 f. 4 New York City Opera b. 42 f. 5 New York Philharmonic b. 42 f. 6-7 New York Youth Symphony

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Proposals Submitted to Board Meetings 2011

Series II primarily consists of the fund's outgoing correspondence chronological file, but also includes documentation about the fund's grant program as a whole. The chronological file is divided between grantees and rejected applicants. Grantees files contain grant award letters, check enclosure letters, and unsigned grant agreements. Other administrative correspondence, such as responses to general inquiries, are interfiled with grantees letters, though sporadically. Rejected Applicants files hold all outgoing rejection letters between 1998 and 2001, as well as a spreadsheet listing rejected applicants from 2002 to 2011. Grant Commitments consists of a spreadsheet of the fund's grant disbursements between 1994 and 2010, listing payee organization, project description, program area (e.g. music, dance, health), followed by an annual payment amount. The grant commitments spreadsheet is a helpful reference tool for its detailed chronological overview of the fund's grant awards from the organization's founding to its final years. Lastly, this series includes a photograph of Irene Diamond and resolution of appreciation both relating to the Aaron Diamond Foundation's contributions to the New York Public Library's children's collections.

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