The New York Public Library
New York Public Library Archives

Guide to the
Mott Haven Branch records
1905-2001

Compiled by Jim Moske; machine readable finding aid created by Jim Moske.

Summary

Creator: New York Public Library. Mott Haven Branch.

Title: Mott Haven Branch records

Date: 1905-2001

Size: 4 linear feet (10 boxes)

Source: Transferred from Mott Haven Branch Library.

Abstract: The Mott Haven Branch of The New York Public Library, located at 140th Street and Alexander Avenue in the Bronx, opened in 1905. The library building was designed by the architectural firm of Babb, Cook and Willard and was constructed with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie. It was modeled after Carnegie's residence (now the Cooper-Hewitt Museum) and is the oldest public library building in the Bronx. The original cost of the three-story, 15,342 sq. ft. building was $96,796. The Mott Haven Branch served as headquarters of the Bronx Bookmobile from 1953-1979. In 1967, Mott Haven was one of eight NYPL branches to participate in the South Bronx Project, an effort to introduce new services in predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhoods. The Project employed Spanish-speaking staff, established collections of Spanish and bilingual materials, and presented library programs in cooperation with social service agencies. Reports, administrative files and publicity material documenting operations of the Mott Haven Branch of The New York Public Library.

Conditions Governing Access:

Boxes 2, 5, 6, 7, 9 are closed to research.

Preferred citation: Mott Haven Branch Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Compiled by Jim Moske; machine readable finding aid created by Jim Moske.

Creator History

The Mott Haven Branch of The New York Public Library, located at 140th Street and Alexander Avenue in the Bronx, opened in 1905. The library building was designed by the architectural firm of Babb, Cook and Willard and was constructed with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie. It was modeled after Carnegie's residence (now the Cooper-Hewitt Museum) and is the oldest public library building in the Bronx. The original cost of the three-story, 15,342 sq. ft. building was $96,796. The Mott Haven Branch served as headquarters of the Bronx Bookmobile from 1953-1979. In 1967, Mott Haven was one of eight NYPL branches to participate in the South Bronx Project, an effort to introduce new services in predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhoods. The Project employed Spanish-speaking staff, established collections of Spanish and bilingual materials, and presented library programs in cooperation with social service agencies.

Scope and Content Note

Reports, administrative files and publicity material documenting operations of the Mott Haven Branch of The New York Public Library.

Key Terms

Names
New York Public Library. Mott Haven Branch.

Container List

Mott Haven Branch Records 1905-2001

b. 1 f. 1-4	Branch Annual Reports 1921-1986
b. 1 f. 5	Adult Services Annual Reports 1950-1978
b. 2 v. 1	Adult Registration Book 1915-1919 Closed to research
b. 3 f. 1-6	Children's Services Reports 1930-1959, n.d.
b. 4 f. 1-2	Children's Services Reports 1960-1972
b. 4 f. 3-4	Children's Services - Clubs 1927-1943
b. 5-7	Children's Registration Books 1915-1975 Closed to research
b. 8 f. 1	Reference Services Annual Reports 1934-1956
b. 8 f. 2	Young Adult Services, Annual Reports 1949-1979
b. 8 f. 3	Brochures 1940-1975
b. 8 f. 4	Building Rehabilitation 1973-1980
b. 8 f. 5	Building Renovation 2001
b. 8 f. 6	Circulation - Journal of Fines and Expenses 1904-1906
b. 8 f. 7-8	Circulation Statistics 1944-1955
b. 9 v. 1	Deposit Receipt Book 1923-1930 Closed to research
b. 10 v. 1-2	Accession Books 1905-1912
b. 10 f. 3	Adult Inventory 1940-1947
b. 10 f. 4	Deductions From the Book Collection, 1921-1945
b. 10 f. 5	Programs - Opening 1905
b. 10 f. 6	Programs - 50th Anniversary 1955
b. 10 f. 7	Programs - 60th Anniversary 1965
b. 10 f. 8	Programs - Exhibits 1940-1952
b. 10 f. 9	Programs - Announcements 1968-1972
b. 10 f. 10	South Bronx Project Files v.d.