



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Fine Arts Workshop collection**

1961-1986 [bulk 1961-1977]

Sc MG 484

## Summary

**Creator:** Fine Arts Workshop (New York, N.Y.)

**Title:** Fine Arts Workshop collection

**Date:** 1961-1986 [bulk 1961-1977]

**Size:** 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Gift of Lucille G. Beards, 1993.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** The Fine Arts Workshop collection is sparse and does not contain comprehensive documentation of the activities of this organization from its inception to its final years. The collection consists of a few Board of Directors' notices of meetings and minutes, letters of introduction for students recommended to the Fine Arts Workshop, letters of appreciation from former students, and schedules of classes. There is also correspondence, a scrapbook, printed matter, including news clippings, press releases, programs, grant proposals, and financial records.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Fine Arts Workshop collection, Sc MG 484, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Accessioned by Janice Quinter, January 1993.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

## Creator History

The Fine Arts Workshop was founded in 1959 by Lucille Beards and provided full scholarship art classes to children, ages eight to twenty-one, from New York City. The Workshop aided underprivileged

children who showed talent, and provided classes without cost to the students in modern dance and ballet, drama, voice and diction, music, and the fine arts.

Hundreds of children of many ethnic backgrounds, including African American, were accepted into the program. The classes were held after school hours and on Saturdays. The faculty was composed of distinguished artists, chosen for their professional and teaching experience, and their belief in the purpose of the school. A number of students later became professional artists, and some won scholarships for advanced training at professional schools. Students did not give performances, since the Workshop felt that they should concentrate on technique and appreciation. Classes were originally held at Carnegie Hall, but the Fine Arts Workshop ceased its full operation in 1972 due to loss of revenue. Through grants and other means, scholarships were provided for children to study at independent schools. By the mid-1980s, the Fine Arts Workshop ceased functioning.

## **Scope and Content Note**

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## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Art -- Scholarships, fellowships, etc

Art -- Study and teaching

Art in education

### **Names**

Fine Arts Workshop (New York, N.Y.)

## **Container List**

- b. 1 f. 1 Board of Directors meetings 1967-1975
- b. 1 f. 2 Scrapbook 1962-1975
- b. 1 f. 3 Grant proposals 1966
- b. 1 f. 4 Financial records 1961-1977
- b. 1 f. 5 Income tax reports 1966-1986
- b. 1 f. 6 Press releases, event programs, and booklets
- b. 1 f. 7 News clippings 1964-1977