Arts Council, Nebraska

RG089

Nebraska. Nebraska Arts Council

Records: 1963-1985 Cubic ft.: 2.75 No. of Items: 5,200

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Nebraska Arts Council began officially on January 1, 1966, when Legislative Bill 593 took effect. The council was set up as a non-profit autonomous agency operating within the executive branch of the state government " for the purpose of benefiting all citizens through the promotion of cultural and artistic activities." The council began its actual operations on July 1, 1966. The council performed its mandate by coordinating conferences on specific areas of interest, exchange programs, exhibitions, and reference services. In addition to advisory, informational, and coordinating functions, the council supported the arts through grants-in-aid of federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, as well as state appropriations and private donations. Legislative Bill 121 (1973) reorganized the Nebraska Arts Council, repealing the 1965 organizational statute and implementing an entirely new council effective September 1, 1973. Prior to 1973, two-thirds of the directors of the board of directors had been elected by the membership. Legislative Bill 121 empowered the governor to appoint fifteen council members, with legislative approval. The governor was also empowered to designate chairmen and vice-chairmen.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This record group documents the programs carried out by the Nebraska Arts Council and the history and goals of the council. The collection consists of eight boxes of material arranged in seven series: (1) Organizational plans, 1963-1976; (2) Correspondence and News Releases, 1965-1974; (3) Agendas and Minutes, 1965-1974; (4) Grants, 1966-1974; (5) Budgets and Annual Reports, 1967-1976; (6) Project File, and (7) Governor's Arts Awards Files, 1978-1985.

The records in Series One include the council's constitution and by-laws, survey data, council policies and procedures, and information about arts councils in other states.

The correspondence and news releases in Series Two document the programs the council supported and the committees which were added over the years. A better source of information for specific projects can be found in Series Three and, to a lesser extent, in Series Four. The minutes and committee reports in Series Three provide detailed information about projects the council reviewed, the decision making process, and status reports on ongoing projects. Series Four contains a small number of grant proposals,

primarily those of the council seeking funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Series Five consists of the council's budgets and annual reports and show how the council handled its finances. Series Six contains information about different projects, ranging from cultural activities to sculptures created for Interstate 80 during the Bicentennial. Series Seven contains nominations and correspondence regarding the awarding of the Governor's Arts Award to individuals and organizations who have been beneficial to the arts in Nebraska.

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