



Record ID 00082  
Donor ID 00048

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK  
LEONARD DAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

**Main Entry:**

City University of New York. City College. Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts.

**Title:**

Records, 1971-1986 (bulk dates 1971-1981).

**Physical Description:**

4 boxes, 2 linear feet

Blueprints

Posters

**Restrictions:**

Chairs reports, letters of recommendation and personnel files less than fifty years old are restricted.

**Scope and Contents:**

Records contain material about admissions to the Center's programs in dance, theater and film, personnel files; lists of courses and film (Picker Film Institute, Music and Theater Arts (including dance) personnel files; lists of courses and syllabi; various proposals made to the National Endowment for the Humanities. Also material on the construction of Aaron Davis Hall, including a set of presentation drawings (blueprints), and a poster celebrating the inaugural season (1979-80), signed by the artist Romare Bearden. The files on, Paul Mann, Arthur Saxon and Herman Shumlin contain extended material on progress and problems of the Center in its early years.

Patrons may also wish to consult the Leonard Davis Center material in the Office of the President (Robert Eugene Marshak) Records and his Academic Renewal in the 1970's

(pp. 105-107) on the Archives Reference Shelf.

**Preferred Citation:**

City University of New York, City College, Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts Records, 1971-1986, City University of New York, City College, Library, Archives.

**Historical Note:**

The Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts was established in 1971 on the foundation of funds provided by Leonard Davis (Class of 1944 at the School of Business) and activities began in the spring 1972. Professor Arthur Waldhorn of the English Department was the first chair of the Planning Committee for the Center. The Leonard Davis Center offers professional training in Theater, Dance, Music and Film (through the Picker/Film/Video Institute), leading to the B.F.A. degree (although the B.A. degree was offered instead at the beginning). The Center developed some core courses of its own and offered others through the Departments of Music, Theater Arts and the Picker Film Institute. Aaron Davis Hall, with a 700 seat theater and two experimental theaters, open in the fall of 1979.

The records in this inventory were transferred from the Davis Center in 1985 soon after the Division of the Arts: The Leonard Davis Center was created effective with the fall 1984 semester. The Departments of Theater and Dance, Speech, Music, Communications, Film and Video and Art now report to this dean.

Directors of the Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts

Arthur Waldhorn (Acting)	1971- 73
Herman E. Krawitz	1973-1974
Arthur E. Waldhorn	1974-1975
Earle Gister	1975-1979
Arthur Waldhorn (Interim)	1979-1980
C. Bernard Jackson	1980
Arthur Waldhorn (Interim)	1980-1981
Virginia S. Red	1981-1994

(In 1984 the Division of the Arts: The Leonard Davis Center was created and the Director of the Center became the Dean of the Division.)

**Finding Aids Note:**

Inventory available in reading room; folder level control.

**Subject Headings:**

Mann, Paul

Saxon, Arthur

Shumlin, Herman, 1898-

Blueprints

Posters

Aaron Davis Hall

Class of 1944B

**Added Entries:**

Bearden, Romare, 1911-1988.

City University of New York. City College. Department of Music.

City University of New York. City College. Department of Theater Arts.

City University of New York. City College. Division of the Arts.

City University of New York. City College. Picker Film/Video Institute.

DAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (DCPA)

AARON DAVIS HALL

Box

Administration Assistant. 1982-83.

[Applications of candidates interviewed and Affirmationve Action background material. Job title: Assistant to H.E.O.]

4

FACULTY

[The files on Paul Mann and Arthur Saxon offer extended material on progress and problems of DCPA in early years.]

2

Jacoby, Gordon (1974-1975)

2

Lerman, Philip (1974-1976)

2

Mandel, Robert (1973-1975)

2

Mann, Paul (1974-1976)

[Corres. and documents relating to his appointment as professor of Theatre and artistic partner in the DCPA Theatre program, as well as to the decision not to reappoint him for 1976/77. Included are letters about P.M. from Elia Kazan, Sidney Poitier and Anna Sokolow. Correspondence on Mann's appointment provides background on directions envisioned for DCPA Theatre Program at its commencement.]

2

Saxon, Arthur (1971-1975)

2

Schneider, Alan (1974)

2

Sergievsky, Orest (1978)

2

Shumlin, Herman (1974-1975)	2
Talbot, William (“William Francis”) (1968-1975)	2
Sidney Meyers Memorial Fund. 1972-197? [College is recipient of fund monies for its film training program. See form letter signed by Earle Gister of Theatre Arts (undated but after 1973). The fund was administered by the museum of Modern Art up to 1972-73.]	4

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DAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (DCPA)	
	Box
MISCELLANEOUS (1975-1981)	
[Includes lists of courses offered and instructors, as well as a few syllabi.]	4
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES	
Choral Program. Grant Application. 1979 [Pan-CUNY Choral Festival].	3
[The DCPA regularly submitted applications to the various grant programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Not all were funded. The supporting materials to these applications indicate the range of programs envisioned by DCPA and their often complex funding and instructional arrangements].	2
Division of Education Programs. (1979-1981)	3
Draft Proposal requesting approval of a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree for students in the Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts . . . February 9, 1973.	4
Picker Film Institute, 1986 Film Festival Poster	
General Programs. Visiting Artists. (1976-1977) [To fund visiting film artists].	3
Jazz/Folk/Ethnic Music. (1974-75) [To fund a “Festival of New Jazz.”].	3

Jazz/Folk/Ethnic Program. (1974-1978) 3

Jazz/Folk/Ethnic Music. (1977-1979)  
[To fund visiting professional jazz artists to conduct workshop  
and concerts]. 3

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DAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (DCPA)

Box

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES Cont.

Grant for Renovation of Park Gym. (1979-1981)  
[Park Gym was converted into facility for dance classes and work-  
shop space. Includes floor plans of Park Gym]. 3

Proposals to N.E.H. (1974) 3

Public Media Program. (1976)  
[To support film stock and related expenses at Picker Film Institute 3

Special Opera-Musical Theatre Projects. (1979-1980).]  
To produce musically and historically important works at Aaron  
Davis Hall: Onanga, In Dahomey. 3

Special Projects: Arts Centers and Festivals. 1981  
[Application for two-year grant to create Hispanic and Black Theatre  
festival; outreach programs (street theatre) and outreach into the  
community]. 3

Special Projects. Grant Application. 1979  
[Grant to expand audience development]. 3

Visual Arts Program. (1979)  
[Grant received to fund design of poster by Romare Bearden which  
would both publicize and symbolize DCPA]. 3

PROGRAMS

Acting Program. Students Accepted. Fall 1976 1

Acting Program. Students Accepted. Spring 1977 1

Acting Program. Students Accepted. Fall 1977	1
Admissions. Letters and Transcripts. 1978	4
Byrd, John (admitted to Arnold Picker Film Institute) [Folder contains film script to "Ain't Nothing Happening" by Clarence Bullard and John Byrd, 1972].	1
Dance Program. Students Accepted. Fall 1976	1
Dance Program. Students Admitted. Spring 1977	4

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DAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (DCPA)

Box

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES Cont.

PROGRAMS Cont.

Dance Program. Student Applications, etc. 1974-1977. [This file contains materials on students with financial and academic problems, etc.].	1
Film Program. Student Enrollment. Fall 1974	1
Film Program. Students Accepted. Fall 1976	1
Film Program. Students Accepted. Fall 1977	1
Independent Study. Spring 1976	1
Music Program. Enrollment. Fall 1975	1
Music Program. Students Accepted. Fall 1975	1
Music Program. Students Accepted. Fall 1976	1
Music Program. Students Accepted. Fall 1977	1
Theatre. Student Enrollment. 1975-19976	2

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK  
LEONARD DAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
(After 1984, The Division of the Arts: the Leonard Davis Center)

General and about. 1971—

Aaron Davis Hall (Construction of)  
Aaron Davis Hall. Programs of events.  
    See also Throwaway Books.  
Aaron Davis Hall. Set of presentation drawings.  
    (Blueprint No., 198: 11" X 17")  
"Three Theaters for CCNY". Architectural Record.  
    June 1980.

Division of Humanities. Dean's Report. Virginia S. Red. 1982-83.  
    [Includes Davis Center] Box 6

Visiting Committee Review of the Davis Center for the Performing  
    Arts. Report. Patricia Kerr Ross, Chair.  
    April 28, 1983 Box 6

Poster celebrating 1979-1980 inaugural season,  
    Designed by Romare Bearden.  
    1 copy signed by the artist (no text) B1 X  
    1 unsigned copy with text B1 X

Picker Film Program.  
    Poster 1986. 2X/X  
    Poster 1995. 2A/X



