2017

Guide to the Therese Whitcomb papers

Therese Whitcomb

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Guide to the Therese Whitcomb papers

Overview of the Collection

Title: Therese Whitcomb papers
Dates: 1971-1995
Creator: Whitcomb, Therese Truitt
Quantity: 2 boxes, (1.5 linear feet)
Summary: Therese Truitt Whitcomb was the first graduate of the University of San Diego College for Women and taught at the University of San Diego for 35 years. These papers document her work at the University and in the San Diego community between 1971 and 1995.
Identification: USDA_2009_023
Language: English
Repository: University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections
Copley Library
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: 619-260-2730
spcoll@sandiego.edu

Biographical Note

Therese Whitcomb was the first and only graduate of the San Diego College for Women in 1953 when she received her Bachelor of Arts. She then attended the Art Students League in New York City, and received a Master of Arts from San Diego State University. Upon completion of her MA, Whitcomb became a full-time faculty member at the University of San Diego in 1969 where she taught for 35 years. Whitcomb chaired the Department of Art, established the Founders Gallery, and was the first Director of Institutional Design. In that role, Whitcomb was
tasked with preserving the consistency of Spanish Renaissance architecture on
campus and ensuring the beautification of building interiors. Whitcomb received
the Davies Award for Faculty Achievement in 1985, and was awarded a Doctor of
Humane Letters in 2015. As of 2017, she was a Professor Emerita of Art.

In addition to her involvement at the University of San Diego, Whitcomb served on
the board of many art history and community organizations. She guided the
restoration of the San Luis Rey Mission, Irving Gill's Sacred Heart Church in
Coronado, the San Diego Mission Basilica, and other historic buildings. She served
as a trustee of the San Diego Museum of Art and the Timken Museum, and as a
chair for the San Diego County Committee of the National Society of the Colonial
Dames of America in California.

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Scope and Content Note

The Therese Whitcomb papers document Therese Whitcomb's involvement as an
instructor and administrator at the University of San Diego as well as her
involvement in the San Diego community. University and community related
correspondence make up the majority of these records. University correspondence
document the variety of roles Whitcomb held at USD including as the founder and
curator of the Founders Gallery, the Chair of the Department of Art, an art
professor, and the Director of Institutional Design. Whitcomb's correspondence
in each of these roles reveals University processes in the 1970s through the 1990s.

Records documenting her community involvement include correspondence,
research notes, brochures, plans, and proposals that Whitcomb put together to
advance art education and community beautification. Also reflected in these
materials are Whitcomb's close relationships with University staff and faculty,
community members, and her students.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized into four series:

Series I. General Correspondence

Series II: Faculty Correspondence

Series III. University Records

Series IV: Community Involvement

Each series is organized in chronological order.
Restrictions

The majority of this collection is open for research. Some materials in the Faculty Correspondence series have been restricted for 50 years from creation date.

Related Material

More information on Whitcomb's involvement with the Founders Gallery can be found in The Founders Gallery records.

Index Terms

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Cosgrove, Thomas
Hughes, Author E.
Whitcomb, Therese Truitt
University of San Diego
San Diego (Calif.)
art collections
art exhibitions
fine arts
galleries (display spaces)
curators
professors

Administrative Information

Preferred citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Therese Whitcomb papers, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Therese Whitcomb.
### Processing Information

This collection was initially processed by Tessie Camina in 2009. Further processing was conducted by Ashley Toutain in 2017.

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### Detailed Description of the Collection

#### Series I: General Correspondence, 1970-1995

This series includes correspondence between Whitcomb and those she worked with at USD and in the community. Topics largely center on her role as art professor and Director of Institutional Design.

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Series II: Faculty Correspondence, 1970-1994

This series consists of correspondence with and about University of San Diego faculty members.

A good portion of this series is restricted for 50 years from creation date. Correspondence available for research includes that with James Rocha, Duncan McCosker, and Marianne Pfau.

Box Folder
1 35-48 [Correspondence regarding faculty members], 1970-1994


Records in this series include memoranda, correspondence, meeting minutes, and planning materials for university related activities. These records document Whitcomb's work at the University of San Diego serving on various committees, curating exhibitions for the Founders Gallery, and supporting area cultural institutions. Also included are course materials and records pertaining to Whitcomb's sabbaticals.

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1 49 [Ana Elizabeth Montforte materials], 1970, 1971, 1992
50 [Knights of Columbus Library exhibit], 1971
51 [Founders Gallery Exhibit list], 1971
52 [Founders Gallery materials], 1971, undated
53 [Founders Gallery], 1972-1995
54 [Docent Training], 1973-1975
55 [Sabbatical 1], 1974
56 [Art Fund - Records], 1974-1992
57 [Liturgical Art], 1977-1988
58 [Honors Convocation], 1977-1990
59 [Mission San Diego Exhibition Design course], 1979
60 [Art Management Certification], 1979-1981
61 [Curatorial Work], 1983, 1986

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2 1 [Sabbatical Report], 1983-1988
2 [Student-Faculty Ratio Trends], 1985
3 [Standing Crosses], 1986
4 [Sabbatical 2], 1986, 1988
5 [Copley Library Exhibit - "Ireland and the Hellenic Tradition], 1988
6 [Program in Art in Public Service proposal], 1989, 1991
7 [Correspondence regarding Art 44 course], 1990
8 [Master of Fine Arts - Cultural Context Course], 1990
10 [Course Materials - Catholicism and Western Culture - Pachence], 1992 Fall
11 [Museum Studies Alumni], 1994
12 [Director of Institutional Design - Sharon Siegan Memorial Lecture], 1994
13 [Director of Institutional Design - Torero Manual], 1994
14 [Director of Institutional Design - Vista Article], 1994
15 [Thomas Cosgrove], 1994, 1995
16 [Mission San Diego Loans], 1994
17 [Alumni Admissions Advisory Committee], 1994-1995
18 [Ex Corde Ecclesiae Committee Materials], 1995

Series IV: Community Involvement, 1978-1984

In addition to the 35 years spent in the Department of Art at the University of San Diego, Whitcomb assisted the surrounding San Diego community in the areas of art and culture. Materials in this series include brochures, design plans, notes, and correspondence related to some of Whitcomb's community activities.

Box Folder

2 19 [Sonora Notes], undated
20 [Mission San Antonio de Pala], 1976
21 [Assorted Material], circa 1980
22 [Silver Seal Analysis], 1980
23 [Frank Harmon Myers biography], 1981
24 [Ray Brandes], 1983-1985
25 [College Art Association Conference], 1986
26 [Minge International Museum], 1986
27 [Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art, and Architecture], 1988
29 [College Art Association Conference], 1993