

## **Center Arts Council records, 1952 – 1971**

Accession Code: 94.02.PA  
Collection Code: WAC RG 6 S1  
Inclusive Dates: 1952 – 1971  
Volume: 5 linear feet  
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### Provenance:

These files are part of the Walker Art Center institutional records. They were created by Walker Art Center staff and volunteers and stored on the roof since 1971.

### Bio / History:

The Center Arts Council (CAC), a volunteer organization under the aegis of the Walker Art Center, organized performing and performance art, film and other arts related events for the Walker Art Center. CAC was active from 1954 to 1971.

These records are the Walker Art Center's files for CAC. See Special Collections for individual members papers donated to the Walker.

Walker Art Center Staff coordinators were James Elliott, John Ludwig, and Jay Belolli. These records include some coordinator files for James Elliott and Jay Belolli. John Ludwig became the first Performing Arts coordinator for the Walker Art Center and the Guthrie Theater. As part of his duties he also was coordinator for CAC. See John Ludwig's Performing Arts Coordinator Papers, 1964 - 1968 for more information.

Scope and Content:

**Arrangement:** The Center Arts Council records are divided into two series: Administration and Programming. Subseries in Administration includes: Executive Committee, Membership, Organizing Committee, Public Relations, Treasurer, and Walker Art Center Coordinator. Files are chronologically arranged after alphabetical subseries order.

**Description:** The Center Arts Council records contain information about the organization and operation of the CAC. The CAC was committee driven. Members participated in various areas according to their own interests. The CAC was very active during the 1950s and 1960s programming memorable events such as the Doc Evans Courtyard concerts (1950s) and Allan Kaprow's "A Happening in a Mushroom Cave (1962)." The CAC's most successful project was the Center Opera Company founded in 1964. The COC became the Minnesota Opera in 1973, after splitting with the CAC and the Walker Art Center in 1969. Although there are some programming events in these records most of the files pertain to the operation and management of the CAC. The files contain questionnaires, memos, notebooks, dues, etc. of CAC members. Active members included:

Connie Goldman, Phoebe Hansen, Fred Koepper, Molly Bowen, Gordon Morris, and Donald Judkins, to name just a few. CAC had a very active, enthusiastic membership that sought to fulfill a need for innovative arts programming in the Twin Cities. As other professional organizations began to execute similar programming the CAC became obsolete and eventually disbanded sometime in the early 1970s. The Walker Art Center Opening Event: An Evening with Louise Nevelson, May 25, 1971 was one of the last events sponsored by the CAC. From the Nevelson file and Coordinator Jay Belolli's file one gets the sense that the CAC is near the end. Similarly, Coordinator James Elliott's file and the Organizing Committee files for 1952 through 1954 reflect the enthusiastic beginnings of the CAC.

Restrictions:

No Restrictions

Separation Note:

Press Clippings for CAC events have been removed.  
See Press Collection.

Access:

By appointment only.

Container List to follow

**WALKER ART CENTER INSTITUTIONAL RECORDS: CENTER ARTS COUNCIL 1952 - 1971, FOLDER INVENTORY**

Box	Folder		Date
01	01	Center Arts Council: Administration: Executive Committee	1953 - 1954
		O	
01	02	Center Arts Council: Administration: Executive Committee	1960 - 1970
		O	
01	03	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership Invitations	1954 - 1957
		O	
01	04	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership Invitations	1958 - 1960
		O	
01	05	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership Lists	1955 - 1968
		O	
01	06	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership Returns: Annual Dues	1954 - 1955
		O	
01	07	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership Returns: Annual Dues	1955 - 1956
		O	
01	08	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership Returns: Committee Interest	1954
		O	
01	09	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership Returns: Committee Interest	1955
		O	
02	01	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership: Annual Dues and Committee Interest	1958 - 1959
		O	
02	02	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership: Returns: Annual Dues and Committee Interest	1959 - 1960
		O	
02	03	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership: Returns: Annual Dues and Committee Interest	1960 - 1961
		O	
02	04	Center Arts Council: Administration: Membership: Returns: Annual Dues and Committee Interest	1967 - 1968
		O	
03	01	Center Arts Council: Administration: Music Committee Correspondence	1952-1956
		O	
03	02	Center Arts Council: Administration: Organizing Committee	1952 - 1953
		O	

Box	Folder		Date
03	03	Center Arts Council: Administration: Organizing Committee: Questionnaire	1952
		O	
03	04	Center Arts Council: Administration: Public Relations: Calendar: Subscriber Questionaire	1955
		O	
03	05	Center Arts Council: Administration: Public Relations: Calendar Twin Cities	1953-1956
		O	
03	06	Center Arts Council:Administration: Public Relations: Publicity	1953 - 1964
		O	
03	07	Center Arts Council: Administration: Public Relations: Publicity: Brochures, Announcements, Program Notes	1953 - 1969
		O	
03	08	Center Arts Council: Administration: Treasurer	1953 - 1956
		O	
03	09	Center Arts Council: Administration: Walker Art Center Coordinator: Elliott, James: Notebook	1953 - 1956
		O	
03	10	Center Arts Council: Administration: Walker Art Center Coordinator : Belloli, Jay	1971 - 1972
		O	
04	01	Center Arts Council: Programming: Carnival: May (May Carnival)	1954
		O	
04	02	Center Arts Council: Programming:Carnival: May (May Carnival)	1955
		O	
04	03	Center Arts Council:Programming: Happening: A Happening in a Mushroom Cave: Allan Kaprow	1962
		O	
04	04	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Juilliard String Quartet, February 28	1953
		O	
04	05	Center Arts Council: Programming:Music: Doc Evans concert, August 20	1953
		O	
04	06	Center Arts Council: Programming:Music: Fernando Valenti, March 2	1954
		O	
04	07	Center Arts Council: Programming:Music: Doc Evans Courtyard Concert Series, July - August	1954
		O	
04	08	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Facade and Serenade, March 15	1955
		O	

Box	Folder		Date
04	09	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Operas, November	1955
		O	
04	10	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: First Contemporary Music Festival Fall/Winter	1956 - 1957
		O	
04	11	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Doc Evans Courtyard Concert Series, July - August	1957
		O	
04	12	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Music on the Water, August 29	1957
		O	
04	13	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Winter Concert Series	1957 - 1958
		O	
04	14	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: The Unicorn, the Gorgon, and the Manticore, June 6 -7	1958
		O	
04	15	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Winter Concert Series	1958-1959
		O	
04	16	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Center Opera Company	1964-1965
		O	
04	16a	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Whole Earth Rainbow Band, July 31, 1971	1971
		O	
04	16b	Center Arts Council: Programming: Music: Bottleneck II, September 5	1971
		O	
04	17	Center Arts Council: Programming: Poetry Series	1958, 1962-1963
		O	
04	18	Center Arts Council: Programming: Sales and Rental Gallery	1954-1955, 1958
		O	
04	19	Center Arts Council: Programming: Sales and Rental Gallery: 1956 Biennial Gala	1956
		O	
04	20	Center Arts Council: Programming: Travel: European Trip	1959 - 1960
		O	
04	21	Center Arts Council: Programming: Walker Art Center Opening: An Evening with Louise Nevelson, May 25, 1971	1971
		O	