

Foster School Reunion Collection

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Shorefront Legacy Center

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Summary Information

Repository	Shorefront Legacy Center
Title	Foster School Reunion Collection
Date [inclusive]	1926-2004
Extent	0.5 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Foster School was a de facto segregated public school in Evanston, Illinois. Opened in 1905, Foster School began with a one hundred percent white student body and faculty, but demographics began to shift, and by 1945, it was nearly one hundred percent African-American. In 1976, the school was closed. The Foster School Reunion collection includes Reunion Committee meeting minutes, Foster School Yearbooks, programs, event fliers, mailers, newspaper clippings, and photographs detailing the School's working history and its continuing legacy.</p>

Historical Note

Foster School was a de facto segregated school in Evanston, Illinois named after Northwestern University president Randolph Sinks Foster. Founded in 1903 and opened in 1905, Foster School began with a one hundred percent white student body and faculty, but by 1945 it was nearly one hundred percent African-American. Foster School was one of the only public schools in the Evanston where African American children were encouraged to attend and where African American teachers could find employment until 1967, when School District 65 was desegregated. In 1967, Foster School transitioned into the Martin Luther King Jr. Laboratory School in which 25% of the school's student body was African American during the first year of enrollment. The school moved from the Foster School building into the Skiles Middle School building in 1976.

Scope and Contents note

The Foster School Reunion collection is arranged into three series: "History," "Reunion," and "Photographs." It spans from 1926 to 1992 and includes Foster School Yearbook, Reunion Committee meeting minutes, programs, event fliers, mailers, newspaper clippings, and photographs detailing the School's working history and its continuing legacy.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Shorefront Legacy Center 6/21/2012

Processing Information note

Processed by CLIR funded Black Metropolis Research Consortium "Color Curtain Processing Project."

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- African American parents' and teachers' associations
- African American--History.
- African Americans--Illinois--Evanston.
- Evanston (Ill.)--History.
- Parents' and Teachers' associations.
- School integration--Illinois.
- Segregation in education.

Cited Sources

Gavin, Larry. Evanston Roundtable, "A History of Foster School and Desegregation in School District 65." June 19, 2002. Accessed July 10, 2012. <http://evanstonroundtable.com/main.asp?>

Series I. History,

Collection Inventory**Series I. History, 1940-2004****Scope and Contents note**

This series is comprised of materials documenting the history of Foster School, including the Parent-Teacher Association, the integration of, and events and activities taking place and relating to the school.

	Box	Folder
Programs and Events, 1940-2004	1	1
Newspaper Clippings and Articles, 1926-1991	1	2
Foster Parent-Teacher Association, 1943-1961	1	3-4

Series II. Reunion, 1989-1992**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains material detailing the organization and carrying-out of the Foster School Reunion. It includes both draft versions and published copies of Foster School Yearbook, Reunion Committee meeting minutes, programs, fliers, and mailers.

	Box	Folder
Reunion Materials: Programs, Fliers, and Meeting Minutes, 1989-1992	1	5

Series III. Photographs,

Foster School Yearbook, 1991

1

6

Box

Foster School Reunion t-shirt, undated

1

Series III. Photographs, 1945-1957**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains photographs and copies of photographs of students and classes at Foster School.

Box**Folder**

Photographs, 1945-1957, undated

1

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