

Olivia Diggs Papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DuSable Museum of African American History

12/03/2012

Chicago, IL

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Summary Information

Repository	DuSable Museum of African American History
Title	Olive Diggs Papers
Date [inclusive]	1942-1980
Extent	1.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Olive Myrl Diggs (d. 1980) served as editor of the Chicago Bee from 1937 until it folded in 1947. After her time at the Bee, she served as director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps, and in 1979, retired as Administrative Assistant in the Chicago Department of Planning, City and Community Development. The Olive Diggs papers span from 1942 to 1980. Her writings and collected material on the conditions of Chicago housing and plans for urban redevelopment make up a large portion of the papers. The papers are arranged into four series: "Speeches and Writings," "Urban Redevelopment," "Personal Life," and "Clippings and Other Publications."</p>

Biographical Note

Olive Myrl Diggs (d.1980) was born in Mound City, Illinois. She earned a B.S. in Economics and Accounting from Northwestern University and an M.S. from Roosevelt University. She served as editor of the Chicago Bee from 1937 until the paper folded in 1947. The Chicago Bee was started by Anthony Overton, and it reported heavily on the activities of African-American women. After her time at the Bee, Diggs focused on improving housing conditions for African-Americans in Chicago, and she advocated for urban redevelopment and slum clearance. She served as director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps, and in 1979, retired as Administrative Assistant in the Chicago Department of Planning, City and Community Development. Diggs also held memberships in the Links, Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Gamma Pi, Theta, and American Association of University Women.

Scope and Contents note

The Olive Diggs Papers span from 1942 to 1980. Documents within the collection written by, or collected by Diggs, focus on her concern for the housing conditions for African-Americans in Chicago. The papers are arranged into four series: "Speeches and Writings," "Urban Redevelopment," "Personal Life," and "Clippings and Other Publications." Both the "Speeches and Writings" and "Urban Redevelopment" series contain material related to urban housing in Chicago. "Speeches and Writings" contains documents written by Diggs, while "Urban Redevelopment" is prominently material collected by Diggs. The "Personal Life" series includes letters, personal memorabilia, pamphlets, invitations, awards, and six photos dated 1970. The "Clippings and Other Publications" series includes various published materials collected by Diggs. Books from Diggs' personal library are housed at an off-site location. Her career as editor of the Chicago Bee is not reflected well in the papers with the exception of one edition of the newspaper dated March 15, 1942. Researchers interested in urban housing, especially in Chicago, and African-American history will find these papers useful. Of interest in these papers is a signed program from Langston Hughes dated 1944.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

DuSable Museum of African American History 12/03/2012

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Diggs, Olive

Subject(s)

- Chicago (Ill.). Dept. of Urban Renewal
- Chicago Bee Newspaper
- Illinois Commission on Human Relations
- Public housing--Illinois--Chicago
- Urban renewal--Illinois--Chicago

Series I: Speeches and Writings,

Collection Inventory

Series I: Speeches and Writings, 1942-1980		
	Box	Folder
Speeches and Writings	1	1-4
Series II: Urban Redevelopment, 1942-1980		
	Box	Folder
Urban Redevelopment	1	5-19
Series III: Personal Life, 1942-1980		
	Box	Folder
Personal Life	2	20-25
Series IV: Clippings and Other Publications, 1942-1980		
	Box	Folder
Clippings and Other Publications	2	26-42