

Guide to the WBAR Radio Records BC37.07

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
Creator:	WBAR. Barnard College Radio
Title:	WBAR Radio Records
ID:	BC37.07
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/2/resources/284
Date [inclusive]:	1992-2023
Physical Description:	17.30 Linear Feet 1 document box, 1 half document box, 3 custom sized boxes, 1 photo binder. 4 oversized flat file folders
Physical Description:	0.18 Gigabytes 158 files docx, xlsx, jpg, and pdf files
Physical Location:	This collection is located in the Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection consists of materials from WBAR, the Barnard College radio station.

Preferred Citation

WBAR Radio Records, 1992-2023, undated; Box and Folder; Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

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Historical Summary

WBAR Barnard College Radio (WBAR) was established in 1993 by Jen Small '93, Heather Willihnganz '92, and Susan Leff '92. At the time of their proposal to the Student Government Association (SGA) in 1991, Barnard College was the only one of the Seven Siblings without

its own radio station. WBAR is a non-profit, non-commercial radio station which serves the Barnard College and Columbia University community.

According to their own website, "WBAR staff members get trained in the basics of broadcasting, music programming, event planning, and are encouraged to explore diverse music tastes which reflect the DJ's differing opinions and backgrounds. WBAR's commitment to a multiplicity of viewpoints and opinions is the heart of WBAR"(WBAR website, February 2024).

In October 1993, WBAR originally broadcasted to only Barnard and Columbia students from the McIntosh building using existing AM cables because the buildings were not properly wired to carry the station yet. Students would dial AM frequency 640 to listen within their dorms. By April 1993, WBAR officially went live on FM radio channel 87.9, where Barnard students could listen in their dorms. In 1998, WBAR acquired AM frequency 160 in addition to its FM channel to widen their audience. By 1999, WBAR was broadcasting online, widening its reach internationally. Since around 2007, WBAR left FM radio and broadcasts exclusively online which is why they are not regulated by the FCC. According to their own website, WBAR currently has 77 shows and around 100 DJs who broadcast online 22 hours a day without limits on what they can play (WBAR website, March 2024). Some of WBAR's major events include WBAR-B-Q, an annual spring outdoor concert, and the Winter Formal concert, which happens every December.

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Scope and Content Summary

Most of the materials represented are from the late 1990s to mid 2010s. The records include training documents; foundational documents, such as a club charter and constitution; administrative materials like meeting minutes, agendas, event budgets and event planning, programming notes, alum rosters; and event ephemera, such as posters, photography, flyers, and invitations.

This collection also contains hundreds of photographs from WBAR events such as WBAR-B-Q, Winter Formal, and miscellaneous events. Included with the photographs are also minidiscs and computer disks (CDs). All the photographs on the computer disks have been transferred off and are noted as digital objects within subseries 2.3 Digitized Images.

Series 1: Administrative Materials, 1993-2023, undated contains materials related to the administration of WBAR Radio including correspondence, various meeting minutes and agendas, operational documents training DJs how to work the radio station equipment, and foundational documents like the club charter and club constitution.

Series 2: Event materials, event ephemera, and photographs, 1993-2010s, undated contains event-related materials like posters, fliers, invitations, photographs, and ephemera about

WBAR-sponsored events. Some of the recurring events include the WBAR-B-Q and Winter Formal.

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Collection Arrangement

Some high-level physical rearrangement happened to allow the digital materials to be easily integrated into a single system of arrangement. The digital materials, at the highest directory level, were placed into a new folder with a new file name.

- Series 1: Administrative Materials, 1993-2023, undated, is further arranged into subseries that the archivist provided to reflect the record types. It is organized by record type for paper, analog, and digital files. This series contains born digital materials.
 - 1.1 Correspondence, 1998-2023, undated
 - 1.2 Meeting minutes and research files, 1992-2023, undated
 - 1.3 Operational documents and technical guides, 1999-2023, undated
- Series 2: Event materials, event ephemera, and photographs, 1993-2023, undated, is further arranged into subseries that the archivist provided to reflect the record types. It is organized by record type for paper and digital files. This series contains born digital materials.
 - 2.1 Fliers, invitations, and posters, 2005-2023, undated
 - 2.2 Event ephemera, 2016 and undated
 - 2.3 Photographs, circa. 1990s-2010s, undated

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

3009 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

archives@barnard.edu

URL: <http://archives.barnard.edu/>

Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Accruals

Additions are expected.

Acquisition Information

The majority of the collection was transferred to the Barnard Archives in 2023 by WBAR historian Skylar Nieman.

Processing History

This collection was processed and the finding aid written by Charlotte Kostelic in November 2015. Significant descriptive changes and large 2023-2024 accruals processed by Olivia Newsome in February 2024.

Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard. Machine readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002. Finding aid written in English.

Publication Rights

Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Barnard Archives and Special Collections. The Barnard Archives and Special Collections approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Reproductions Restrictions

Photocopies or scans may be made for research purposes.

Appraisal

The archivist removed duplicates and materials with preservation concerns from the collection.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

Related materials are included in BC 17, Photographs, in boxes 82, 83, and 84. Selections from these boxes may be digitized and available through our Digital Collections, digitalcollections.barnard.edu.

Related materials are included in BC12.40, WBAR Zine. You can request to view them in the Barnard Archives and Special Collections. <https://collections.barnard.edu/public/repositories/2/resources/451>

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Controlled Access Headings

- College student records
- College radio stations
- Barnard College
- Students -- Social life and customs

Collection Inventory

Administrative materials, 1996-2023, undated

Series Scope and Content Summary

Series 1: Administrative Materials, 1993-2023, undated, is further arranged into subseries that the archivist provided to reflect the record types. It is organized by record type for paper, analog, and digital files. This series contains born digital materials.

Correspondence and communications materials, 1998-2023, undated

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

This subseries contains materials that WBAR has created to communicate with its members, the WBAR listening community, and WBAR alums. It also contains cassette tapes sent to WBAR DJs to listen to

with the hopes of them playing the songs during radio shows, articles and writings written by WBAR members, and program guides for the semester radio shows.

Title/Description	Instances	
Alum contact materials and substck article drafts, 2022-2023, undated		
Digital Object: Alum contact materials and substck article drafts, 2022-2023, undated		
Scope and Contents		
Includes WBAR communications sent to alums, such as the first WBAR alum newsletter and alum contact lists. This folder also includes a draft and final version of a WBAR substack article titled "Cloud 909" written in 2023, and a list of other stations for WBAR to collaborate with		
Eight unidentified cassette and mini disc tapes sent to WBAR (1 of 2), undated	box 1	folder 1
Seven unidentified cassette and mini disc tapes sent to WBAR (2 of 2), undated	box 1	folder 2
WBAR program guides, 1998-2017	box 1	folder 6
Scope and Contents		
Includes the following program guides: Fall 1998, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2007, and Fall 2017		
WBAR writings and articles, 1996-2005	box 1	folder 8
Scope and Contents		
Includes an article titled "WBAR Summer Concert 7/19/96" and a pamphlet titled "Guide to NYC Venues and Record Shops 2005"		
Sticks and Stones Zine Issue #3:Sticks and Stones Will Break Your Bones But WBAR Will Never Hurt You, 2012	box 1	folder 12

Meeting minutes and research files, 1992-2023, undated

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

This subseries contains WBAR's executive board (E-board) meeting minutes and the general WBAR meeting minutes as well as the budgeting and planning for the broadcasting setup which was managed by the executive board members. This subseries also contains research files about other college radio stations as well as newspaper clippings about WBAR.

Title/Description	Instances	
Executive and general board meeting minutes and budget materials, 2021-2023		

Digital Object: [Executive and general board meeting minutes and budget materials, 2021 - 2023](#)

Scope and Contents

Includes the 2023-2024 academic year budget (including donations); executive board meeting minutes for Fall 2022, Spring 2023, and Spring 2024; 2023 Tech Team meetings; and general meeting materials (slideshow presentations about WBAR, signup sheets, and general interest presentations).

college radio station research and newspaper clippings about WBAR, 2000-2001, undated	box 1	folder 7
broadcasting set up in Barnard basement budget materials, 1992-1996	box 1	folder 5

Operational documents and technical guides, 1999-2023, undated

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

This subseries contains materials operational documents training DJs on the technical equipment and general running of WBAR radio. This subseries also contains the technical reports on how the FM cables were originally installed.

Title/Description	Instances	
Operational documents, WBAR constitution, and WBAR membership lists, 2022-2023 Digital Object: Operational documents, WBAR constitution, and WBAR membership lists, 2022 - 2023		
Scope and Contents		
This folder includes 2022-2024 WBAR staff roles and membership lists and rosters. This folder also includes the updated WBAR constitution revised in 2023, training documents and training schedules for DJs including training zines "How To Fix WBAR Zine" and "How To Run Sound Zine", and an A-Z alphabetized catalog of the full WBAR physical media music list.		
Technical report on FM cable system, 2002	box 1	folder 3
WBAR operating manual, 1999-2000, undated	box 1	folder 4

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Event materials, event ephemera, and photographs, circa. 1990s-2023, undated

Series Scope and Content Summary

Series 2: Event materials, event ephemera, and photographs, 1993-2023, undated, is further arranged into subseries that the archivist provided to reflect the record types. It is organized by record type for paper and digital files. This series contains born digital materials.

Fliers, invitations, and posters, 2005-2023, undated

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

This subseries contains fliers, invitations, and posters related to the events WBAR sponsors.

Title/Description	Instances	
Event fliers, invitations, and posters (1 of 2), undated	box 1	folder 9
Event fliers, invitations, promotional materials, and posters (2 of 2), 2005-2023	box 1	folder 10

Scope and Contents

This folder includes the following: A flier for a show titled "Dear Nora Casiotone for the Painfully Alone" on 11/04/2005, a flier for the WBAR executive board application for the 2005-2006 academic year, and a general promotional flier for the Fall 2023 WBAR Radio program.

New Moon event flier, undated	oversize 06	folder 1
Digital posters, 2018-2019, undated		
Digital Object: Digital posters, 2018-2019, undated		

Scope and Contents

Most of the materials in this folder are undated. This folder contains posters promoting the following: "WBAR-B-Q XXII", an undated W-BAR-B-Q poster, "Winter Formal: Goth Prom", "WBAR-B-Q 25th Anniversary Edition", and two WBAR general promotional posters.

Event rider, 2023		
Digital Object: Event rider, 2023		

Scope and Contents

This folder contains the event rider for the 2023 Winter formal.

Event ephemera, 2016 and undated

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

This subseries contains t-shirts, stickers, and other promotional ephemera related to the events WBAR sponsors.

Title/Description	Instances	
WBAR event stickers, undated	box 1	folder 11
WBAR t-shirts, undated	box 2	item 1-2
LSD event poster, undated	oversize 06	folder 2
Scope and Contents		
This is an event poster. It might be a poster from a 1970s themed WBAR-B-Q.		
Winter Formal picture frame, 2016	oversize 36	folder 3
Goth Cotillion picture frame, undated	oversize 36	folder 4

Photographs, circa. 1990s-2010s, undated

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

This subseries contains hundreds of photographs, some held within WBAR created scrapbooks, both analog and digital, of WBAR events.

Title/Description	Instances	
WBAR scrapbook, 1993-2001, undated	box 3	item 1
WBAR event polaroids binder (1 of 2), circa. 1990s-2010s	box 4	binder 1
WBAR event polaroids binder (2 of 2), circa. 1990s-2010s	box 5	binder 1
Unidentified WBAR member photos (1 of 2), circa. 1990s-2010s	box 6	folder 1
Unidentified WBAR member photos (2 of 2), circa. 1990s-2010s	box 6	folder 2
Photo negatives, undated	box 6	folder 3
CDs of transferred photographs, 2009	box 6	folder 4

Scope and Contents

These images are in represented in the digital objects titled "Digitized images" with the following filenames: BC37-07_001 and BC37-07_002.

Digitized images (1 of 2), October 2009

Digital Object: [Digitized images \(1 of 2\), October 2009](#)

Digitized images (2 of 2), October 2009

Digital Object: [Digitized images \(2 of 2\), October 2009](#)

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