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La Guardia Memorial House records 4079914

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	La Guardia Memorial House
Title:	La Guardia Memorial House records
ID:	4079914
ID:	MS#0376
Date [inclusive]:	1899-1993
Physical Description:	4 linear feet 9 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); La Guardia Memorial House records; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Historical Note

During the late 1800s Manhattan's East Harlem experienced a dramatic increase in population and economic activity as transportation lines were extended into the area and new housing was constructed. Successive waves of Irish, German Jewish and Italian immigrants moved into tenement buildings and formed a vital community establishing small businesses benevolent societies and fraternal organizations. But the dense concentration of population also gave rise to a host of urban problems poor housing inadequate health care lack of educational opportunities and crime.

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Historical Note

Such an increase in the social problems attending urban growth had led reformers and philanthropists in England to establish Toynbee Hall the first settlement house in 1884. Originally distinguished by the commitment of educated upper and middle-class volunteers to settle in working class communities in order to understand their problems first-hand the settlement model was imported to the United States in 1886 when Neighborhood Guild was established on New York's lower east side. American settlement houses were in the vanguard of efforts to provide social services in their neighborhoods through such programs as kindergartens day care hot lunches health clinics visiting nurses camps playgrounds and arts education. In addition the settlements joined Progressive-era reform movements for improved housing public health and sanitation.

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Historical Note

In 1898 Anna C. Ruddy a Canadian who had done missionary work in East Harlem for the previous eight years decided to establish a settlement house in the neighborhood. Ruddy opened The Home Garden in a tenement on East 115th Street but soon moved to 322 Pleasant Avenue where the settlement was legally incorporated in 1901. Its early focus was on programs for children including clubs a day nursery and classes in sewing cooking and carpentry. There was also a strong religious emphasis through Bible classes and a Sunday school. During the 1910s under the leadership of Headworker Bertha Muriel Gage the settlement broadened its focus to the adults of East Harlem through mother's clubs debating groups and citizenship classes. Children's activities were expanded to include Fresh Air Camp a Boy Scout troop and health care by hosting a district nurse sponsored by Henry Street Settlement. To facilitate these activities the settlement moved to larger quarters at 405 East 116th Street and eventually to 311-316 East 116th. In 1916 the settlement's name was changed to Haarlem House.

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Historical Note

During the 1920s and 30s East Harlem's demography began to shift as Puerto Ricans and African-Americans moved into the neighborhood. Many other ethnic groups remained as well reflected by a 1926 news clipping which reports that people of 27 different national origins

participated in Haarlem House activities. Italian-Americans were well represented among these and Director of Men's Work Edward Corsi coordinated many citizenship programs oriented to them. Corsi also served briefly as Executive Director of the settlement before going on to a political career that included positions as U. S. Commissioner of Immigration and New York State Industrial Commissioner. In 1955 he returned to the settlement as Executive Director then joined its Board of Directors.

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Historical Note

In 1956 Haarlem House was re-named LaGuardia Memorial House in honor of former East Harlem congressman and New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. During this period the settlement operated a music school and worked to improve relations between Puerto Rican and Italian-American youth in the area. In 1967 LaGuardia Memorial House transferred title of its East 116th Street property to the New York City Housing Authority which built new housing for senior citizens on the site as well as a new community center facility which has since been operated by the settlement. In 1973 Peter Pascale became Executive Director of LaGuardia Memorial House. Pascale had grown up in East Harlem using the settlement and first joined its staff as Athletic Director in 1931. Both he and his successor Jim Soler maintained the agency's historic commitment to the youth of East Harlem through such programs as day care after school recreation summer day camp and athletics.

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Scope and Content

The LaGuardia Memorial House Records document the settlement's activities from its earliest years as "The Home Garden" to its current social service programs for the youth of East Harlem. They offer a unique view of the first wave of the settlement movement in America, and document social conditions, demographic change, political activity, philanthropy and social work in East Harlem over a 90 year period. The records include: annual reports, board minutes and correspondence, headworker correspondence, financial records, fundraising information, and photographs.

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Scope and Content

The first three decades of the settlement are documented by annual reports, board minutes, correspondence, newsletters and program files. Of particular interest is administrative correspondence from 1919-20, which provides insight on the vigorous "Americanization" work the settlement undertook in this period; and Fresh Air Camp records which evidence the ethnicity of program participants. Records from subsequent years are much less complete. They include brochures and newsclippings describing settlement activities, biographical information on board members including Edward Corsi, and photographs of settlement staff, programs and participants.

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Arrangement

Arranged into two series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. XML document instance created by Catherine C. Ricciardi EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-06-26 2014-09-10 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

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Restrictions on Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Records: Source of acquisition--La Guardia House. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--09/29/1994. Accession number--M-94-09-29.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of La Guardia Memorial House, 1994.

Processing Information

Records Added to RLIN HR 05/13/2002.

Processing Information

The LaGuardia Memorial House Records were identified for preservation by the New York City Settlement House Records Survey of LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, LaGuardia Community College, The City University of New York. The survey was funded by a 1993-94 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The survey was conducted by: Richard K. Lieberman, Director, LaGuardia and Wagner Archives; Sarah Lederman, Project Coordinator; and James Moske and Holly MacCammon, Project Archivists. Emily Marks and Suzy Edelstein of United Neighborhood Houses lent invaluable assistance to the project. Julius C. C. Edelstein has provided inspiration and guidance from its inception.

Processing Information

Donation of the records was coordinated by: Jean Ashton, Director, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University; Bernard Crystal, Curator of Manuscripts, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University; and Jim Soler, Executive Director, LaGuardia Memorial House. The records were processed and this finding aid prepared by

James Moske and Holly MacCammon of LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, with funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Processing Information

Finding aid written by James Moske, October 2001. This Finding Aid is dedicated to Peter Pascale, LaGuardia Memorial House board member and former Executive Director, whose affiliation with the settlement spans seven decades.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Selected Related Material-- Other Repositories

[Edward Corsi Papers](#), Syracuse University.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Community centers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Human services -- New York (State) -- New York
- Immigrants -- New York (State) -- New York
- Public housing -- New York (State) -- New York
- Social service -- New York (State) -- New York
- Social settlements -- New York (State) -- New York
- Public welfare -- New York (State) -- New York
- East Harlem (New York, N.Y.) -- History
- New York (N.Y.) -- History
- New York (N.Y.) -- Social conditions
- Administrative records
- Annual reports
- Brochures
- Bylaws (administrative records)

- Certificates
- Financial records
- Lists (document genres)
- Memorandums
- minutes (administrative records)
- negatives (photographs)
- Newsletters
- Photographs
- Reports
- Slides (photographs)
- Child welfare workers
- Social workers
- Women social workers
- Haarlem House (New York, N.Y.)
- Home Garden Settlement (New York, N.Y.)
- United Neighborhood Houses of New York, Inc. (New York, N.Y.)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Administration

Scope and Contents

Annual reports, Board of Directors minutes and biographical information, brochures and promotional materials, correspondence, financial records, headworker files, and program information. Folders arranged alphabetically. Documents arranged chronologically, except in correspondence files where existing alphabetical document arrangement has been maintained.

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual Reports, 1899-1900, 1909	box 1	folder 1
Benefits, 1920-1924	box 1	folder 2
Benefits, 1945-1966	box 1	folder 3
Benefits, 1985-1992	box 1	folder 4
Benefit Programs, 1921-1936	box 1	folder 5
Benefit Programs, 1937-1982	box 1	folder 6
Board of Directors: Correspondence, 1915-1955	box 1	folder 7
Board of Directors: Members-Alfange, 1982-1983	box 1	folder 8
Board of Directors: Members-Corsi, 1956-1969	box 1	folder 9
Board of Directors: Members-Pascale, 1979-1981	box 1	folder 10
Board of Directors: Membership Lists, 1916-1919, 1988	box 1	folder 12
Board of Directors: Minutes (Bound Volumes), 1911-1915	box 1	folder 12

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Board of Directors: Minutes, 1912-1915	box 1	folder 13
Board of Directors: Minutes (Bound Volumes), 1915-1916	box 2	folder 1
Board of Directors: Minutes, 1916-1919, 1925	box 2	folder 2
Brochures and Promotional Material, 1924-1954	box 2	folder 3
Brochures and Promotional Material, 1956-1988	box 2	folder 4
By-laws, 1915-1919	box 2	folder 5
Contributions, circa 1930's	box 2	folder 6
Corporate Certificates, 1901-1919	box 2	folder 7
Correspondence (A), 1919-1920	box 2	folder 8
Correspondence (B), 1919-1920	box 2	folder 9
Correspondence (C), 1919-1920	box 2	folder 10
Correspondence(D), 1919-1920	box 2	folder 11
Correspondence(E-F), 1919-1920	box 2	folder 12
Correspondence(G-H), 1919-1920	box 2	folder 13
Correspondence(J-L), 1919-1920	box 3	folder 1
Correspondence (M), 1919-1920	box 3	folder 2
Correspondence (N-P), 1919-1920	box 3	folder 3
Correspondence (Plunkett), 1919-1920	box 3	folder 4
Correspondence (R), 1919-1920	box 3	folder 5
Correspondence (S), 1919-1920	box 3	folder 6
Correspondence (T-U), 1919-1920	box 3	folder 7
Correspondence (V-W), 1919-1920	box 3	folder 8
Correspondence-Fundraising, 1935-1939	box 3	folder 9
Correspondence, 1936	box 3	folder 10
Correspondence-Fundraising, 1941-1950	box 3	folder 11
Correspondence, 1957-1968	box 4	folder 1
Financial Reports, 1919-24	box 4	folder 2
Financial Reports, 1935, undated	box 4	folder 3
Fresh Air Camp: Camper Lists, 1921-1924	box 4	folder 4
Fresh Air Camp: Camper Lists, 1925	box 4	folder 5
Fresh Air Camp: Camper Lists, 1927	box 4	folder 6
Fresh Air Camp: Camper Lists, 1928	box 4	folder 7

Fresh Air Camp: Camper Lists, 1929	box 4	folder 8
Fresh Air Camp: Correspondence, 1922-1927	box 4	folder 9
Fresh Air Camp: Gardens of Friendship, 1922-1924	box 4	folder 10
Fresh Air Camp: Miscellaneous, 1920s-1950s	box 5	folder 1
Fresh Air Camp: Sites, 1924-1925	box 5	folder 2
Fundraising, 1918-1939	box 5	folder 3
Headworker Correspondence, 1922-1923	box 5	folder 4
Headworker Correspondence, 1924-1926	box 5	folder 5
History, 1993	box 5	folder 6
Museum of the City of New York, 1985-1986	box 5	folder 7
Music School, 1956-1958	box 5	folder 8
News Clippings, 1926-1980s, undated	box 5	folder 9
Newsletter-"Home Garden Settlement", 1911-1912	box 5	folder 10
Newsletters, 1951-1965	box 5	folder 11
Playground, undated	box 5	folder 12
Programs, 1919-1926	box 5	folder 13
Spring Festival, 1925-1926	box 5	folder 14
Summons and Complaint, 1918	box 5	folder 15

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Series II: Audio-Visual Materials

Scope and Contents

Black and white and color photographs of settlement staff, board members, programs and participants. Folders arranged alphabetically by subject. Photographs arranged chronologically when possible.

Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Activities, 1900-1970s	box 6	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
[See also Oversize Photographs, Box 9]		
Board Members-Dean Alfange, undated	box 6	folder 2
Board Members-Edward Corsi, 1940s-1960s	box 6	folder 3

Scope and Contents

[See also Oversize Photographs, Box 9]

Board Members-Irene Impellizzeri, [nd]	box 6	folder 4
Board Members-Peter Pascale, undated	box 6	folder 5
Buildings, 1940s-1980s	box 6	folder 6
Children, 1900-1980s	box 6	folder 7

Scope and Contents

[See also Oversize Photographs, Box 9]

Day Camp, 1940s-1950s	box 6	folder 8
Day camp, 1960s-1980s	box 6	folder 9
Exhibits and Displays, 1959-1980s	box 6	folder 10
Fresh Air Camp, 1900-1930s	box 6	folder 11
Fresh Air Camp, 1969, 1978	box 7	folder 1
Group Photos, 1900-1980s	box 7	folder 2

Scope and Contents

[See also Oversize Photographs, Box 9]

Head Start, 1968	box 7	folder 3
Holidays, circa 1930, 1955, circa 1970s	box 7	folder 4
LaGuardia, Fiorello, circa 1880s, 1930s	box 7	folder 5
Medical Care, 1920s-1980s	box 7	folder 6
Miscellaneous, 1900-1970s	box 7	folder 7
Neighborhood Scenes, circa 1900, 1950s	box 7	folder 8
Performances, 1920s-1960s	box 7	folder 9

Scope and Contents

[See also Oversize Photographs, Box 9]

Performances, 1970s-1980s	box 7	folder 10
Roof Garden, 1980	box 8	folder 1
Seniors, 1960s-1980s	box 8	folder 2

Scope and Contents

[See also Oversize Photographs, Box 9]

Sports, 1950s-1980s	box 8	folder 3
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Scope and Contents

[See also Oversize Photographs, Box 9]

Staff, 1961-1980s	box 8	folder 4
Teens, 1940s-1980s	box 8	folder 5
Wagner, Robert, 1950s	box 8	folder 6
Contact Sheets, 1960-1970s	box 8	folder 7

Negatives

Title/Description	Instances	
Activities, 1980s	box 8	folder 8
Boy Scouts, undated	box 8	folder 9
Buildings, undated	box 8	folder 10
Children, 1940s, 1984	box 8	folder 11
Day Camp, 1960s-1970s	box 8	folder 12
Exhibits and Displays, 1980s	box 8	folder 13
Fresh Air Camp, 1978	box 8	folder 14
Holidays, undated	box 8	folder 15
Miscellaneous, 1963, undated	box 8	folder 16
Performances, 1980s	box 8	folder 17
Roof Garden, 1980	box 8	folder 18
Sports, 1950, 1980s	box 8	folder 19
Staff, undated	box 8	folder 20

Slides

Title/Description	Instances	
Harlem Historical Scenes	box 8	folder 21

Oversize Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
Oversize Photographs	box 9

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