

Joan McClure papers 6636546

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Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
Creator:	McClure, Joan, 1914-2005
Title:	Joan McClure papers
ID:	6636546
Date [bulk]:	1955-1989
Date [inclusive]:	1955-1980s
Physical Description:	7 document boxes
Physical Description:	1 print box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Joan McClure (1914-2005) was a resident of the West Village in New York City for more than sixty years and active in many local civic and social issues. She was closely involved in the planning for the Westway highway along the Hudson River, the creation of a landscaped traffic island at Abbingdon Square, and the founding of the Village Halloween Parade.

Preferred Citation

Joan McClure papers. Located in the Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

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Biography

Joan McClure was a resident of the West Village in New York City for more than sixty years and active in many local civic and social issues. Worked initially as an advertising copy writer for Vogue, and later became full-time community activist, McClure's many activities ranged from the local beginnings of the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade, the creation of a landscaped traffic island at Abbingdon Square, to the close involvement in the planning for the Westway highway along the Hudson River.

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Biography

Westway was first proposed in 1969 by the city planner Samuel Ratensky responding to the rapid deterioration of the highway along Manhattan's Far West Side which was originally built in the 1930s. In 1971, the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) proposed to build the highway at the Interstate standard. The UDC plan, the "Water Edge Study," called for the highway to be routed along the ends of the then mostly abandoned piers on the Hudson River and some additional land for parks and apartments, all to be constructed on concrete platforms between the bulkhead and the pierhead lines. Renamed "Westway" in 1974, the final plan called for burying the highway in new landfill south of 40th Street, placing the accompanying development on land instead of on platforms, and a construction budget of \$2.1 billion. The project had since become the largest development battle in New York City history in the following sixteen years.

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Biography

McClure's concern about increasing park space in the Village prompted her in the 1980s to work enthusiastically in favor of the proposed Westway highway and park on Hudson River landfill. She organized community support, participated in many regional development meetings and led a protest after then Mayor Koch announced against the project. In 1982, the U.S. District Court blocked the permit, and the order was subsequently affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. On September 30, 1985, the City officially gave up on the project, allocating portions of its interstate highway funds to mass transit and the "West Side Highway Replacement Project".

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Biography

In addition to Westway, McClure was involved in setting up free health clinics in the Village and Chelsea in the 1960s and 70s, supporting people with H.I.V., and working with Housing

Works in finding places for homeless people with AIDS to live. She organized for the first Halloween Parade, helped address several neighborhood safety issues from adding lights to the sidewalk to implementing the whistles program.

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Biography

With her husband, Dean McClure, an architect, Joan lobbied for years for a green traffic island at Abingdon Square. The proposal came through after she'd moved to California in 1995. She died in August 2005 at the age of 90.

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Scope and Content

The collection includes correspondence, meetings and speeches notes, articles, newspaper clippings, communicational material, proposals and petitions, research material, photographs, audio recordings, [35mm film] and realia related to the community activism of Joan McClure from the 1960s through the 1980s. The material is arranged into three series: Westsiders For Westway (Formly Villager For Westway), Community Files, and Media Files.

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Scope and Content

Series I: Westsiders For Westway (Formly Villager For Westway)

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Scope and Content

A more extensive documentation of McClure's close involvement with the West Side (Westway) Highway Project through the community organization she founded, the series contains administrative records of the organization, correspondence with affiliated personnel and agencies, as well as related information, study and research of the project.

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Scope and Content

Series II: Community Files

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Scope and Content

The series consists of administrative records, correspondence, newsletters, flyers, documentational photographs, articles and newspaper clippings of McClure's other community organizational activities such as Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Bank/ Bethune Block Association and various other initiatives with primarily focus on the West Village neighborhood.

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Scope and Content

Series III: Media Files

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Scope and Content

This series contains mixed media material including audio cassette tapes, ¹/₄" audio reels, 35mm films, [large format posters] and some realia related to the files arranged in the previous two series as well as other civic activities.

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Arrangement

This collection is made up of three series: Series I: Westsiders For Westway (Formly Villager For Westway); Series II: Community Files; Series III: Media Files

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-06-25 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Gift of Joan McClure. Accession number--1994.007.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Chialin Chou (Archives Intern) under the supervision of Shelley Hayreh, Avery Archivist, in 2013.

Custodial History

Gift of Joan McClure, 1994.007

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Controlled Access Headings

- Community development -- New York (State) -- New York.
- City planning -- New York (State) -- New York
- Waterfronts -- New York (State) -- New York
- Women political activists -- United States
- Women in community development -- United States
- Westway (New York, N.Y.)
- Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.)
- Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.) -- Buildings, structures, etc
- Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.) -- Social life and customs -- 20th century
- Sound recordings
- Video recordings (physical artifacts)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Westsiders For Westway (Formally Villager For Westway)

Scope and Contents

A more extensive documentation of McClure's close involvement with the West Side (Westway) Highway Project through the community organization she founded, the series contains administrative records of

the organization, correspondence with affiliated personnel and agencies, as well as related information, study and research of the project.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence [4 Folders], 1971-85	box 1	folder 1-4
Scope and Contents		
Includes correspondence with James Larocca, Edward Koch and Mario Cuomo		
Notes [2 Folders], 1971-84	box 1	folder 5-6
Scope and Contents		
General and for meetings, trials, public hearings and some newspaper clippings		
Finance, 1976-81	box 1	folder 7
Statements of Support, 1974-84	box 1	folder 8
Scope and Contents		
From Congressman John M. Murphy, Richard S. Kaye, Dean McClure, New York City Partnership and Greenwich Village Chamber of Commerce		
Speeches, 1978-84	box 1	folder 9
Scope and Contents		
At CB2, Army Corp Public Hearing, and City Planning Commission. Includes resources		
Administrative Files, 1978-85	box 1	folder 10
Scope and Contents		
Notes, proposals, meeting attendance, membership, contributors, file lists and some clippings		
PR & Communication Material [3 Folders], 1978-85	box 1	folder 11-13
Scope and Contents		
Press release, media list, mailings, labels, pamphlets,		
flyers, newsletters, campaign and advertisements		
	box 1	folder 14-15
	box 1	folder 14-15
Miscellaneous [2 Folders], 1975-85	box 1	folder 14-15

Scope and Contents			
Traffic, planning, federal aids, notes, article "The Mass Transit Panacea" by Charles A. Lave and some newspaper clippings			
Research [2 of 2], 1976-82	box 2	folder 1	
Scope and Contents			
Traffic, planning, federal aids, notes, article "The Mass Transit Panacea" by Charles A. Lave and some newspaper clippings			
Articles and Clippings [6 Folders], 1972-85	box 2	folder 2-7	
Scope and Contents			
Greitzer letters, Letters to The Editor on NYT and Voice and anti-Westway clippings			
West Side Highway Project (WSHP), General Information [2 Folders], 1972-81	box 2	folder 8-9	
Scope and Contents			
Fact books, pamphlets, concept drawings, travel studies, Applications for indirect source permit, work program, Letters to NY State Legislate, correspondence with Dept. of Transportation, private development plan and memorandum of understanding			
West Side Highway Project (WSHP), Plans and Court Decisions, 1982-85	box 2	folder 10	
Scope and Contents			
Public Notice, press release, some correspondence and member's communication			
Environmental Studies, 1971-84	box 2	folder 11	
Scope and Contents			
Clean Air Act, Land Fill, Wateredge Development Study			
Photographs, [1982]	box 2	folder 12	
Scope and Contents			
17 photos and negatives			
Land Use, Planning and Related Development, 1978-83	box 2	folder 13	

Scope and Contents			
Westway Park, piers, bus garage, biking, ramps at Chelsea Clinton Neighborhood, list of possible resource and some newspaper clippings			
Westway Coalition, 1977	box 3	folder 1	
Scope and Contents			
Membership meeting notice, press conference and some newspaper clippings			
Community Board 2 (CB2) [2 Folders], 1977-84	box 3	folder 2-3	
Scope and Contents			
Application, correspondence, meeting notes and waterfront committee			
Sunshine Suit, 1977	box 3	folder 4	
Village Advisory Committee on Westway (VACOW), 1977	box 3	folder 5	
Scope and Contents			
Attendance, correspondence, "The Artist Looks At WestWay" talk and surveys			
New York Citizens for Balanced Transportation (NYCBT) [3 Folders], 1980-85	box 3	folder 6-8	
Scope and Contents			
Notes, correspondence, memos, meeting minutes, agendas, statements, mailings, newsletters and position paper			
Regional Plan Association, 1980-82	box 3	folder 9	
Scope and Contents			
News release, reports, membership newsletters, and annual dinner invitation			
Army Corp of Engineers, 1982-85	box 3	folder 10	
Scope and Contents			
Public Notice, press release, some correspondence and member's communication			
West Side Highway Project Environmental Impact Statement, 1974?	box 8		
Scope and Contents			
Draft environmental impact statement and section 4(f) statement for West Side highway, Interstate route 478, Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel to Lincoln Tunnel, New York			

County / [by] U. S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and New York State Dept. of Transportation.

WFW landfill photos	box 8
Scope and Contents	
Xerox copies	
West Side Highway News clippings	box 8

Series II: Community Files

Scope and Contents

The series consists of administrative records, correspondence, newsletters, flyers, documentational photographs, articles and newspaper clippings of McClure's other community organizational activities such as Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Bank/ Bethune Block Association and various other initiatives with primarily focus on the West Village neighborhood.

Title/Description	Instances	
Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Invitations, Flyers and Press Release, 1975-78	box 3	folder 11
Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1976-79	box 3	folder 12
Scope and Contents		
Includes "Confessions of A Grownup Trick-or-Treater" in The New Yorker		
Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Correspondence and Notes, 1977-80	box 3	folder 13
Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Presentation Booklet, [1978]	box 3	folder 14
Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Photographs, 1979-81	box 3	folder 15
Scope and Contents		
90 photos, contact sheets, and negatives		
Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Photographs	box 8	
Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Fundraising [1 of 2], 1979-82	box 3	folder 16

Scope and Contents		
Notes, plans, flyers, grant applications, contributor lists, receipt books, financial and legal files		
Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Fundraising [2 of 2] [2 folders], 1979-82	box 4	folder 1-2
Scope and Contents		
Notes, plans, flyers, grant applications, contributor lists, receipt books, financial and legal files		
Lights for the Sidewalks of New York (LFSNY), Administrative Files, 1967-74	box 4	folder 3
Scope and Contents		
Correspondence, notes, stationary, information pamphlets, press contacts, memberships, Harvard Club meeting, Historic District Council Meeting and Municipal Arts Society speech		
Lights for the Sidewalks of New York (LFSNY), Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1972-73	box 4	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
Includes "And the Mayor Said, Let There Be Lights?" in The South Manhattanite		
Lights for the Sidewalks of New York (LFSNY), Bank/ Bethune Association Lighting, 1973-74	box 4	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
Correspondence, product brochure, design sketches, 3 drawings		
Lights for the Sidewalks of New York (LFSNY), Photographs and Slides, 1974	box 4	folder 6
Scope and Contents		
12 photos and 127 slides		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Abingdon Square Park South, 1967-81	box 4	folder 7
Scope and Contents		
Notes, correspondence, photos, proposal to improve the park and the location plan for installing new benches		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Traffic Plan [2 Folders], 1979-82	box 4	folder 8-9

Scope and	Contents
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Final and drafts of the plan, Manhattan Valley studies, maps of the area, sketches of the existing traffic condition, drawings of the proposed fitch barrier installation, design for the safety triangle, 2 photos, and 48 slides		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Administrative Files, 1979-82	box 4	folder 10
Scope and Contents		
Correspondence, block association list, file organization, meeting sign-up sheets, legal and financial files; demonstration rally and CRASH meeting		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), General Information, 1980-82	box 4	folder 11
Scope and Contents		
Memos, maps of the area, introduction texts, proposed traffic plans and drawings		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Declaration, 1981	box 4	folder 12
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Flyers and Mailings [2 Folders], 1981-82	box 4	folder 13-14
Scope and Contents		
Includes Xerox originals and the original 1981 AD on The Villager		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Meeting Notes, 1981-83	box 4	folder 15
Scope and Contents		
For Community Board No. 2, Horatio Street Block Assc, Dept. of Transportation Info Session, 19 photos and film negatives		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Miscellaneous Notes, 1981	box 4	folder 16
Scope and Contents		
Includes notes for speeches and hearing prep		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Newspaper Clippings, 1981-82	box 4	folder 17

Scope and Contents		
Includes 1981 The Villager "Letters to the Editor"		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Signed Coupons, 1981	box 4	folder 18
Scope and Contents		
Mailing lists and blank copies of the coupon		
Beautiful Abingdon Square Is Coming (BASIC), Signed Petitions, [1981]	box 4	folder 19
Scope and Contents		
Duplicates and blank sheets		
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Administrative Files [3 Folders], 1971-75	box 5	folder 1-3
Scope and Contents		
Constitution and By Laws, structure of organization, logo film, membership, attendance lists, correspondence, notes, articles, clippings and 2 copies of the publication "The Grass Roots Primer" by James Robertson and John Lewallen (pp. 189-199)		
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Meeting Minutes and Notes, 1970-74	box 5	folder 4
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Flyers and Newsletters, 1972-75	box 5	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
Includes the originals		
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Block Party, 1972	box 5	folder 6
Scope and Contents		
Announcements, notes, permit, 66 photos, contact sheets and film negatives		
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Whistles [2 Folders], 1967-76	box 5	folder 7-8
Scope and Contents		
Programs, safety campaigns, correspondence, crime studies, 1976 Apr. Good House Keeping Magazine article "Blowing The Whistle On Crime", other articles and newspaper clippings		
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Waterfront/ Piers, 1971-76	box 5	folder 9

Scope and Contents			
Notes, correspondence, maps, 2 drawings, petitions for pier 49, the Waterfront booklet by City Planning commission and Warehouse Newsletter - Piers 48 and 51			
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Various Initiatives, 1972-76	box 5	folder 10	
Scope and Contents			
Trees & Tree Fences; Stolport; Garden Committee Reform; Resolution for Westway; West Village Housing; Water Quality, Landmarks and Shoe Repair			
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Traffic [3 Folders], 1971-75	box 5	folder 11-13	
Scope and Contents			
Correspondence, traffic light petition and truck traffic research			
Local Affairs [1 of 2], 1970-79	box 5	folder 14	
Scope and Contents			
Issues about traffic, crimes, community exterior, includes correspondence with Rita Lee about Abingdon sq., Traffic Speakout pamphlets, traffic regulation pamphlets, text about The Woonerf, 34 photos and negatives; Bethune St. Parking and The South Manhattanite, publication of Neighborhood Gov't			
Local Affairs [2 of 2] [2 folders], 1970-79	box 6	folder 1-2	
Scope and Contents			
Issues about traffic, crimes, community exterior, includes correspondence with Rita Lee about Abingdon sq., Traffic Speakout pamphlets, traffic regulation pamphlets, text about The Woonerf, 34 photos and negatives; Bethune St. Parking and The South Manhattanite, publication of Neighborhood Gov't			
Community Board 2 (CB2), 1969-77	box 6	folder 3	
Scope and Contents			
Appointments, by laws, correspondence, flyers, women's house of detention and documents related to Arthur Stoliar			
Various Initiatives, 1971-79	box 6	folder 4	

Art, Street painting, Roller rinks, Post office, Trees NYC, Tree Fences, health clinic and sanitation folder 5 Save Our Stores, 1970-76 box 6 **Scope and Contents** Press release, notes, correspondence, flyers, articles on Hal Mayerson speech (published in Village Independence Democrats) and clippings folder 6 West Village Committee, 1970-79 box 6 **Scope and Contents** Bulletins, newsletters, meeting agenda, West Village Housing info, correspondence and clippings; general housing research including rent control origins and squatters housing folder 7 Welfare Hotel, 1970-72 box 6 **Scope and Contents** Committee meetings announcements, programs and heroin research folder 8 Village Neighborhood TV, 1970-73 box 6 **Scope and Contents** Notes, correspondence and grant proposals box 6 folder 9 People's Community Board 2, 1975 **Scope and Contents** Notes, correspondence, ruler & procedure, letterhead, flyers, membership and clippings folder 10 Westbeth, The Artists' Community (463 West Street, New box 6 York, NY 10014), 1979-80 **Scope and Contents** 10th Anniversary celebration, party and photos and clippings Miscellaneous, 1971-81 box 6 folder 11 **Scope and Contents** Political Correspondence, speeches, lists, letterheads

and research on NYC Government

Personal Papers [3 Folders], 1973-85

Scope and Contents

folder 12-14

Scope and Contents

Contains the1979 Oct, Villager article on McClure House and personal files and the Village of Saltaire Lawsuit

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Series III: Media Files

Scope and Contents

This series contains mixed media material including audio cassette tapes, ¹/₄" audio reels, 35mm films, [large format posters] and some realia related to the files arranged in the previous two series as well as other civic activities. Bank / Bethune Block Association Meeting typically included annoucements and messages from committee members on sanitation and dog behavior; traffic and transportation; local history; crime prevention; entertainment; trees and plantings; recycling.

Title/Description	Instances	
Westway, Audio Recordings [2 Folders], 1972, 1981	box 7	folder 1-2
Physical Description: 7 audiocassettes		
Digital Object: Westway, Audio Recordings [2 Folders]		
Scope and Contents		
7 audio cassettes, 2 in original envelopes. WSHP meetings		
West Side Highway Project Meeting on the Amendment to the Federal-Aid Highway Act, circa 1973	box 7	folder 13
Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes		
Digital Object: West Side Highway Project Meeting on the Amendment to the Federal-Aid Highway Act		
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Audio Recordings - Meetings, 1971-1973	box 7	folder 5-8, 11, 13
Physical Description: 21 audiocassettes		
Digital Object: Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Audio Recordings - Meetings		
Scope and Contents		
23 audio cassettes. Includes steering meetings, general meetings, W12th St. members meeting, pier meetings, planning speak out, Traffic meeting, emergency meeting and CPC HRG - CPD #2.		
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Audio Recordings - Block Party, 1972	box 7	folder 9
Physical Description: 6 open reel audiotapes		

Digital Object: Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Audio Recordings - Block Party

Scope and Contents

6 1/4" audio reels. Bethune Street Block Party Sound Roll #1-6. Wild Track Pop Com.

Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Audio Recordings - Whistle Program, undated	box 7	folder 10	
Physical Description: 1 open reel audiotapes			
Digital Object: Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Audio Recordings - Whistle Program			
Scope and Contents			
1/4" audio reel. New York, New York Interview			
Interview with Joan McClure about Block Association and Whistle Program	box 7	folder 11	
Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes			
Digital Object: Interview with Joan McClure about Block Association and Whistle Program			
Neighborhood Government / Block Associations Meeting <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 audiocassettes	box 7	folder 11	
Digital Object: <u>Neighborhood Government / Block</u> Associations Meeting			
Bank / Bethune Block Association and South Manhattan Committee for Neighborhood Government Joint Meeting <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 audiocassettes	box 7	folder 11	
Digital Object: Bank / Bethune Block Association and South Manhattan Committee for Neighborhood Government Joint Meeting			
Community meeting with male speaker	box 7	folder 11	
Physical Description: 1 audiocassettes			
Digital Object: Community meeting with male speaker			
Conversation with Village inhabitant [Helen Shanley?] talking about growing up in the neighborhood	box 7	folder 11	
Physical Description: 3 audiocassettes			
Digital Object: <u>Conversation with Village inhabitant</u> [Helen Shanley?]			
Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Film Recordings - Block Party, ca. 1970s	box 8		
Physical Description: 4 film reels			

Digital Object: Bank/ Bethune Block Association, Film Recording - Block Party, ca. 1970s

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Series IV: Ephemera

Title/Description	Instances		
Westway, "Save Westway" Buttons, [undated]	box 7	folder 3	
Village Halloween Parade (VHP), Buttons, [undated]	box 7	folder 4	
Miscellaneous Buttons, [undated]	box 7	folder 12	
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Scope and Contents

Includes election campaign buttons

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