

**Title:** Milwaukee County. Special Committee on Works Progress Administration Projects

**Reference Code:** Mss-0733

**Inclusive Dates:** 1936 – 1943, 1969 – 1976

**Quantity:** 18.8 cu. ft. total

**Location:** WC, Sh. 037-044 (17.5 cu. ft.)  
RC15, Sh. 012 (0.4 cu. ft.)  
LM, Sh. 001 Box #18 (0.4 cu. ft.)  
MV, Sh. 080 (0.5 cu. ft.)

**Abstract:** The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was one of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal agencies during the Great Depression. The Milwaukee County Office of the WPA was created on November 1, 1935 and operated continuously until 1942. The program provided numerous jobs for the unemployed to work on county bridges, roads and parks or perform clerical work for the city and county. WPA projects also focused on social and cultural efforts. Artists painted murals in schools and public buildings; writers researched and wrote regional and state guidebooks; and orchestras played concerts in new areas. Less skilled individuals found work on various handicraft projects as well.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of numerically arranged project case files; case files on the Myra Peach Historical Costume Pageant, the Handicraft Project and Writer's Project; correspondence, memoranda, newspaper clippings, reports, artwork and other ephemera.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English

**Notes:**

For additional WPA material, see the following manuscript collections:

- Mueller Family Box 1, Folder 16
- Lange, Hugo
- Wisconsin's New Deal Art
- Schnabel, Albert
- Rutz, Henry
- Neergaard, Mabel C.

Cudahy: See WPA Project #00946

Whitefish Bay, West Milwaukee, South Milwaukee: See W.P.A. Project # 10415 (Progress Chart)

**Arrangement:**

| <b>Folder Heading</b>   | <b>Box #</b> | <b>File #</b> |
|---|--------------|---------------|
|   |              |               |
| Project Files (Inventory available in research library)   | 1-14         |               |
|   |              |               |
| General Info. Pamphlets for W.P.A. in Milwaukee.  | 15           | 1             |
| Pay schedules, County budgets, wage classification.   | 15           | 2             |
| Purchase requisitions and instructions.   | 15           | 3             |
| Labor - instructional memos, classification, and correspondence.  | 15           | 4             |
| Instructions for forms 710 & 710A sponsor's contributions, project examples.  | 15           | 5             |
| Minutes of special committee, P&S projects, approved projects, proposed schedule of projects.   | 15           | 6             |
| Instructions for and used form 5010, material purchase orders.  | 15           | 7             |
| List of names of workers, telephone directory.  | 15           | 8             |
| City of West Allis - mayor and city council correspondence.   | 15           | 9             |
| City of West Allis – Correspondence.  | 15           | 10            |
| Binders-2 Final cost reports for projects 8670 & 10656 - one loose in numerical sequence and one alphabetically.                                    | 15           |               |
| Proposal and information re proposal for historical exhibits.   | 15           | 11            |
| Information and correspondence project #9661 – no project proposal on computer.   | 15           | 12            |
| Correspondence projects #9661 & 11173 – no project proposals on computer.   | 15           | 13            |
| Gas vouchers, purchase orders, service transfer vouchers, request for termination forms, equipment request/transfer forms - projects #9661 & 11173. | 15           | 14            |
| Police Court - report on codes of procedure.  | 15           | 15            |
| All special reports to Geo. F. Breitbach, Co. Clerk.  | 15           | 16            |
| Names and addresses for Town of Granville, South Milwaukee, Shorewood Branch.   | 15           | 17            |
| Names and addresses for Taverns - 1940.   | 15           | 18            |
| Writer's Project - General Information.   | 15           | 19A           |
| Writer's Project - Milwaukee Histories.   | 15           | 19B           |
| Writer's Project - Milwaukee Histories.   | 15           | 19C           |
| Handicraft Projects - Doll, Quilt, Banners, & General Information. (See also: Edmund Wichman Mss-0365)  | 15           | 20            |
| Handicraft Projects – Training, Exhibits, & Misc.   | 15           | 20A           |
| Newspaper clipping - relief, strikes, cost and changes, projects.   | 15           | 21            |
| Newspaper clippings (1935-43) - programs, classes.  | 15           | 22            |
| Newspaper clippings - depression stories.   | 15           | 23            |
| Address by Harold S. Ickes, Sec. of Interior at the Milwaukee Housing Conference, May 25, 1935.   | 15           | 24            |
|   |              |               |
| Wisconsin Symphony - misc. information and newspaper clippings.   | 16           | 25            |
| Wisconsin Governors.  | 16           | 26            |

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|---|----|-------|
| Maps.   | 16 | 27    |
| Art.  | 16 | 28    |
| Binder: Promotional material for Open House Week, May 20-25, 1940 for District No. 4.   | 16 |       |
| Stapled Handicraft Projects - Material Cost List (inc. Book projects #1170, 3278, 8598, 10091). (See also: Edmund Wichman Mss-0365) | 16 |       |
| Paper Binder: Inventory of City Records in the County Historical Society.   | 16 |       |
| Paper Book: Project # 5684 - Newspaper digest instructions to abstractors.  | 16 |       |
| Book: First Year of Women's and Professional Projects (includes projects # 1170 and 3278).  | 16 |       |
| Small Book: Professional and Service Division 1939 - Lists Milwaukee and Wisconsin projects.  | 16 |       |
| Book: Records of Sheriff's Office and County Clerk - Project # 9722.  | 16 |       |
| Historical Pageants.  | 16 | 29    |
| Historical Pageants (Continued)   | 16 | 30    |
| Sheet Music for the Historical Pageants.  | 16 | 31    |
| Binder: Sketches, Magazine Photographs, Scenery Information & Newspaper Clippings of the Historical Pageants                        | 16 |       |
| Memorandum and correspondence, 1937-40.   | 16 | 32    |
| Administrative orders - Harry Hopkins, 1936.  | 16 | 33    |
| WPA clippings, 1937   | 16 | 34    |
| WPA-related booklets.   | 16 | 35    |
| WPA sponsored booklets.   | 16 | 36    |
| WPA bulletins 1934 and 1936.  | 16 | 37    |
| Misc. material and equipment cost information, 1935-37.   | 16 | 38    |
|   |    |       |
| Surveys of police beats, 1936.  | 16 | 40    |
| WPA clippings, 1933-43.   | 16 | 41    |
|   |    |       |
| County WPA Committee minutes, 1935-36.  | 17 | 42    |
| Reports and directory, 1932, 1936, 1937.  | 17 | 43    |
| Address by Harold L. Ickes, 1935.   | 17 | 44    |
| Approved projects sponsored by Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, 1935-37.  | 17 | 45    |
| Weekly employment reports, July 1938.   | 17 | 46    |
| National Youth Administration Relief clippings, 1942-43.  | 17 | 47    |
| Lists of projects, n.d.   | 17 | 48    |
| Time/Personnel reports and invoices - West Allis, 1935.   | 17 | 49    |
| Misc. West Allis material, 1935-36.   | 17 | 50    |
| WPA miscellaneous.  | 17 | 51    |
| WPA miscellaneous.  | 17 | 52    |
| Contract Digest of Decision of the Comptroller General of the United States Pertaining to Federal Government Contracts              | 17 | Loose |
| Handbook of Procedures for State and District Works Progress Administration - Appendix D Forms, 1936.                               | 17 | Loose |

|  |               |       |
|--|---------------|-------|
| <p>WPA Artwork/Calendar Artwork (folder)</p> <p><i>-At the Zoo: A Book of Block-Prints of Wild Animals at Washington Park Zoo &amp; Cut by Kendrick Bell</i></p> <p>- B&amp;W photo prints of WPA art</p> <p>- Assorted WPA calendar art pages</p> <p>-1936 Wisconsin Artists Calendar</p> <p>-1937 Wisconsin Artists Calendar</p> <p>-1938 Wisconsin Artists Calendar</p> <p>-1940 Wisconsin Artists Calendar</p> <p><i>-Album of American Art, A Cross Section of Contemporary American Art. Gutenberg Publishing Company, Milwaukee 1937</i></p> <p><i>-Milwaukee Junior High School Block Prints. 1938</i></p> <p><i>-Come and Sing. Milwaukee State Teacher's College, screen printed and bound by the WPA handicraft Project</i></p> | 18            | Loose |
| <b>OVERSIZE ITEMS</b>  |               |       |
| Scrapbooks of WPA Professional and Service Division, Humboldt & Washington park concerts, photos, and documents #1 1940-41; #2 Photo Album   | RC15, Sh. 012 |       |
| Photo album of construction projects, 1940-41  | MV, Sh. 080   |       |
| Atlas/Plat Map #71: W.P.A. Property Information Atlas of Milwaukee Suburbs/Townships (W.P.A. Project #9437)  |               |       |
|  |               |       |
| <b>Microfilm Collection:</b> REELS # 59, 61, 147, 149, and 150   |               |       |
|  |               |       |
| <b>Photographs:</b> See Works Progress Administration File   |               |       |