

Records of J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue, Office of the Museum Director

Overview

Repository	Archives The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Archives 5401 Bay Shore Road Sarasota, FL 34243 archives@ringling.org
Creator	J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue
Title	Office of the Museum Directors, J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue
Date span	1957 - 1964
Language	English
Extent	1.5 linear feet
Arrangement	Chronological
Location	The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Archives

Summary

J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue became the Acting Director of the Museum following Austin's death in March 1957, and was officially named Director in May. Donahue came to the Museum as a Curatorial Librarian and later became Curator before being named as Director. Donahue inherited several ongoing projects from Austin and saw them to their successful conclusion. The files on the reinstatement of the Asolo Theater in its new building and establishment of Legislative Weekends in 1959 are interesting. Donahue's directorship marked the beginning of the Museum's acquisition of contemporary art. It was during Donahue's tenure that air

conditioning was installed in the Art Museum. With the Wadsworth Athenaeum the exhibition “A Director’s Taste and Achievement,” a tribute to Everett Austin.

Provenance	The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art
Information about access	The Records of J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue may be viewed by appointment. Use of certain materials is restricted by statute, by the office of origin, or by the donor. For the protection of its collections, the Archives also reserves the right to restrict access to records which are not arranged, are being processed, or are exceptionally valuable or fragile. In some cases, copies may be substituted for the originals.
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Cite As	Credit must be given for any use of materials. The credit line should read: The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Florida State University, Records of J[ohn] Kenneth Donahue 1957-1964 and should include the box and folder listing.
Processing Note	Collection updated May 2022 by H. Connor.
Related materials	Records of the Governing Boards

Subject Headings

Administration of estates – Florida
Business records
Business records-Florida-20th century
Executors and administrators – Florida
Florida – Officials and employees
Museum directors- Administration

Reports
State government records

Contents of the Collection

Box listing

Box	Folder
1	Air Conditioning – Board of Trustees, reports to
	1 Air Conditioning, 1960-62
	2 Air Conditioning, 1963
	3 Air Conditioning, 1964
	4 Alarm System, 1962-1963
	5 American Association of Museums, 1963
	6 Asolo Theater chairs, 1957-1958
	7 Asolo Theater Opening, 1957-1958
	8 Asolo Theater chairs donations, 1958-1961
	9 Association of Art Museum Directors' Conference, 1962
	10 Association of Art Museum Directors' Conference, 1962
	11 Association of Art Museum Directors' Conference, 1962
	12 Board of Control Correspondence, 1957
	13 Board of Control, Office of Architect, 1957
	14 Board of Trustees, miscellaneous correspondence, 1962-1964
	15 Board of Trustees, reports to, 1964
	16 Harry A. Franklin Gallery, 1961
2	Collection Acquisitions to Special Citizens
	1 Collections/Acquisitions, 1959
	2 Collections/Acquisitions, 1960
	3 Collections/Acquisitions, 1961
	4 Collections/Acquisitions, 1962
	5 Collections/Acquisitions, 1963

- 6 Collections/Acquisitions, 1964
- 7 Florida Education Television Commission, 1964
- 8 Frank Ross Production Circus Kings, 1961-1963
- 9 Gifts, miscellaneous, correspondence, 1957-1967
- 10 Grobman, Hale Smith Committee, 1958
- 11 Haley lawsuit, 1958-1959
- 12 Job descriptions, 1960
- 13 Loan of art, 1957-1958, 1962-1963
- 14 Legislative Weekends, 1959-1962
- 15 Mausoleum, 1960-1962
- 16 New York World's Fair, 1963-1964
- 17 Postcards
- 18 Rinehart, Hollis correspondence, 1957
- 19 Salary, 1960
- 20 Ringling Special Committee and supporting material, 1948-1957
- 21 Ringling Special Committee Correspondence, 1957
- 22 Ringling Special Committee meeting minutes, 1957

3 Directors

- 1 Southern Art Museum Directors' Association, 1955
- 2 Special Citizens Committee, 1957
- 3 Southeast Gallery Lighting, 1957-1959
- 4 Acquisitions and Achievements Gallery, 1957-1958
- 5 Suida, William, 1956-1959
- 6 Easements, 1960

- 7 Frames Study, 1964
- 8 John Ringling's Will, 1964
- 9 Museum Properties, 1961
- 10 Thoughts of Museum's Future in 1984, 1964
- 11 Audit, 1962

4 Report of Special Committee

- 1 Report of Special Committee, May 6, 1957