

RINGLING MEMBERS COUNCIL RECORDS

[Overview](#)
[Administrative Information](#)
[Timeline](#)
[Historical Note](#)
[Scope and Content Note](#)
[Related Material](#)
[Subject Headings](#)
[Contents of the Collection](#)

Overview

Repository	Archives The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art 5401 Bay Shore Road Sarasota, FL 34243 archives@ringling.org
Creator	Ringling Members Council members and presidents, 1958-2017
Title	Ringling Members Council Records
Dates	1958-2017, bulk 1999-2012
Extent	2.95 linear feet
Language	English
Arrangement	Arranged by subject. LCSH used for individual names.
Summary	The Ringling Members Council Records is represented in “A Guide to the Archives of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art,” 1994. Here it is listed as a series (MC, series 02) in the Museum Records Collection under Committee and Council Records. The Ringling Members Council Records are arranged in two categories; Meetings and Administrative Records. The records consist of Members Council operating files, meeting minutes,

correspondences, administrative and financial files, directories and handbooks, governance records and event files. There are three Gravel Awards for “Best Continuing Project.” The official name in the articles of incorporation of 1965 is the Member’s Council of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Inc.

Administrative Information

Provenance	The Ringling Members Council (RMC) Records were kept by various council members and presidents. At the discretion of the creators, these records were stored by the Ringling Museum. When the Archives was formed in 1991, the stored records were transferred to the custody of the Archives. The transfer of records to the Archives consisted of administrative files and event files for the period 1967-1985, along with three awards. In 2017, additional records were brought to the Archives by RMC president, Jim LeTellier. The date range for the records, brought by LeTellier, is 1958-2017, with the bulk from 1999-2012.
Information about Access	The Records of the Ringling Museum Council 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, Ringling Museum Council Records, and should include the box and folder listing.

Processing Note First transfer processed by D. Walk. 2017 deposit processed by L. Hernandez. Updated by H. Connor 2020.

Timeline

- 1932 The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art officially opens to the public.
- 1957 The Members Council of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Inc., a non-profit support organization, formed to support the Museum.
- 1958 Ringling Members Council's charter and Articles of Incorporation filed in Sarasota County Circuit Court on March 28th.
- 1959 The Florida State Legislature creates the Board of Trustees for the Museum and gives it jurisdiction over the management of the Museum.
- 1965 The Ringling Members Council (RMC) is reincorporated and gains 501(c)(3) status.
- 1968 The Board of Trustees authorized the establishment of the Museum Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation, to provide charitable and educational aid to the Ringling Museum.
- 1978 The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Foundation is incorporated.
- 1980 The Ringling Museum is designated a State Art Museum of Florida.
- 2000 The Ringling Museum is transferred to Florida State University on July 1st. RMC became an independent organization.
- 2008 IRS mandates all 501(c)(3) organizations file annual taxes.

- 2012 RMC 501(c)(3) status dissolved to resolve tax issues. Articles of dissolution filed on August 20th. RMC seeks to “Transform” into the “Ringling Members Advisory Council (RMAC).”
- 2017 RMC articles of dissolution are effective May 23rd.

Historical Note

The Members Council of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Inc., referred to as the Ringling Members Council (RMC), was governed by a Members Council Board of Directors to support the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. As stated in “A Guide to the Archives of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art: The State Art Museum of Florida,” the primary aims of this volunteer organization was to increase its community participation in the activities of the Museum, to aid the Director and staff, to help financially in areas where State funds were not available, and to promote the Museum (Walk, 1994). To support the Museum, the RMC conducted fundraising activities to pay for special programs. In 1957 the first fundraiser was held, *Mozart’s opera, Abduction from the Seraglio*. Significant records exist for the Art Carnival, Christmas at *Cà d’Zan*, the Craft Festival (ended in 1992) and Medieval Fair. Membership events include the Children’s Art Carnival, exhibition receptions and hospitality, concerts, Monday Morning Coffees, lectures and speaker’s bureau, Candlelight Dinners, and tours.

The RMC was incorporated in 1958 and dissolved in 2017. The RMC developed membership and related programs and renewals. During the period 1985-1992, under Museum Director, Laurence Ruggiero, the relation of the Members Council with the Museum was strained. The role of the Members Council was changed and transferred to Museum staff. In 1992, the new Museum Director, David Ebitz, sought to rebuild the relationship with the Members Council. In 2000, when the Ringling Museum of Art was brought under the stewardship of Florida State University, the RMC was not included. When the IRS changed tax requirements for 501(c)(3) organizations in 2008, the RMC sought to transform itself. In 2012, the RMC filed articles of dissolution and engaged in transforming itself into the Ringling Members Advisory Council. On May 23, 2017 the articles of dissolution were effective and the RMC was dissolved.

Scope and Content Note

As an auxiliary organization, the files of RMC were deposited with the Archives at the discretion of the RMC president. Due to this, there are significant gaps in the collection. The bulk of the material dates from 1999-2012. There are event records dating from the late 1960s to 1980s, and scant records of the 1950s, 1990s and after 2012.

This collection is divided into two categories. The first category, Meetings, contains meeting agendas, minutes, and correspondences of the RMC, RMC Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, Ringling Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., the Board of Directors and various Museum committees.

The second category, Administrative Records, contains correspondences, directories, governance records, histories, manuals and handbooks and other office documents. The committees and groups section holds limited records of the Advisory Council, Docent Advisory Council (DAC), Friends of the Ringling Museum, the Hospitality Committee; and the Informal Activities Group. There are handbooks and manuals from the Board of Directors, RMC, Florida State University Ringling Center, the Ringling Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., and the Board of Directors Manual. Additionally, there are files pertaining to the business affairs of the Ringling Museum of Art including exhibition schedules, membership development, and reports. Records for events and programming that the RMC was responsible for or involved with from 1966-2009 are held in the collection. The bulk of event and programming material dates from the 1970s to the 1980s. There are three Gravel Awards that were awarded to the RMC by the Sarasota Herald-Tribune in 1979, 1980 and 1983.

Related Material

Ringling Museum of Art (RMA) Research/Reference files, Members Council

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Governing Boards meeting minutes and related records, 1948-2013.

Subject Headings

administrative records

correspondence

meetings

Contents of the Collection

Box	Box title	Folder no.	Folder title
1	Meetings		
		1	Annual meeting notifications, 1996, 1967, 1971
		2	Handwritten notes (loose), no date
		3	Meeting Schedules, 2008-2013
		4	Minutes and agendas for RMC, Board of RMC and ad hoc Member's Committee, 2000
		5	Board minutes and agendas, 2001
		6	Board minutes and agendas, 2002
		7	Board and RMC minutes and agendas, handwritten notes, 2005
		8	Board minutes and agendas, email correspondences, business cards, printout of image collage, 2006
		9	Board, RMC and Facilities Committee minutes and agendas, 2007
		10	Board minutes and agendas, handwritten note, memorandums, 2008

- 11 Board minutes and agendas, handwritten note, correspondences, membership report, 2009
- 12 Board and RMC minutes and agendas, handwritten note, correspondences, 2011-2012
- 13 RMC minutes, 2017 February 23
- 14 Board minutes, 1966, 1967
- 15 Board minutes, 1999
- 16 Board minutes and agendas, 2000
- 17 Board minutes and agendas, emails, 2004
- 18 Board minutes and agendas, special events list, emails, Board contacts, 2005
- 19 Board minutes and agendas, brainstorming list, 2006
- 20 Board minutes, 2007
- 21 Board minutes, RMC initiatives, volunteer position description, 2008
- 22 Board minutes, 2009
- 23 Board and RMC minutes, emails, handwritten note, 2010
- 24 Board minutes, emails, 2011
- 25 Board minutes, 2012
- 26 Board of Trustees minutes and agendas, 1968
- 27 RMA Foundation Inc., Board of Directors, Annual Meeting booklet, 2010

2 Meetings

- 1 Executive Committee handwritten notes, brainstorming session, correspondences, minutes, 2005
- 2 Executive Committee correspondences, agendas, minutes, 2006
- 3 Executive Committee minutes, agendas, emails, 2007
- 4 Executive Committee minutes, 2008

- 5 Executive Committee minutes, handwritten notes, emails, 2009
- 6 Executive Committee minutes and email, 2010, 2011, 2012
- 7 Nominating Committee agenda and contact list, 1999
- 8 Nominating Committee report, 2011 March

3 Administrative Files

- 1 Archival Inquiries correspondence regarding Rudolph Mathies and Henry Wilmer, 2017
- 2 Article, "Museums and Community, Shaping the Dialogue," 2000
- 3 Business cards, Ringling Museum of Art and local businesses
- 4 Calendars and handwritten notes, 2010, 2011
- 5 Correspondences, 1999, 2008, 2011
- 6 Correspondences, Gallop, Allyn, 1999-2000
- 7 Correspondences, Christ-Janer, Arland, 2000
- 8 Correspondences, Ebitz, David, resignation, 2000
- 9 Correspondences, Haborak, George J., legal issues, 1999-2001
- 10 Correspondences, Ray, Gene, 1999
- 11 Correspondences, Rousseau, Marshall, no date
- 12 Correspondences, Wetenhall, John, 2002
- 13 Correspondences, RMC emails, 2007
- 14 Correspondences, New Members Welcome, 2005-2008
- 15 Correspondences, New Members Welcome, 2009-2010
- 16 Correspondences, New Members Welcome, 2011-2013
- 17 Correspondences, resignations from RMC, 2005, 2008
- 18 Correspondences, transformation of RMC, 2012
- 19 Directories, North American Reciprocal Museum Members, 2011
- 20 Directories, RMC members, printout date 2009

- 21 Directories, RMC, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007
- 22 Directories, RMC, 2006-2007, 2010, 2017
- 23 Financial records and correspondences, 2005, 2008, 2009-
2010, 2012
- 24 Graphic folders designed by the Ringling Museum of Art
that RMC files were kept in
- 25 Friends of the Ringling Museum fundraising letter, 1973
- 26 Governance, articles of incorporation, 2000, 2003, 2008
- 27 Governance, goals and objectives, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011-
2012
- 28 Governance, bylaws, amendments and organization, 1967,
1980, 1995, 2000, 2006, 2008
- 29 Governance, Florida Sunshine Law, 1994
- 30 Governance, RMC Membership Operations Plan (Strategic
Plan), 2007-2008
- 31 Governance, RMC policies, 2006
- 32 Governance, Roberts Rules of Order, Parliamentary
Procedures, no date
- 33 Governance, vision statement, mission, purpose and
organization, 1998, 2000, 2006, no date
- 34 Greeting cards, 2011
- 35 History of the RMC, “An Incomplete History. . .” by Arch,
Martin, correspondences and edits, 2006
- 36 Multimedia, CD-Rom archive, 2011 (printed contents list,
2017)
- 37 Museum support project matrix, 2012
- 38 News clippings and letters to the editor, 1967, 1999, 2000,
2010, no date
- 39 News release, 2011
- 40 Handwritten notes on scrap paper
- 41 Officers and members, Decker, Donald F.

- 42 Officers and members, Cook, Marlow and Cook, Nancy
- 43 Officers and members, new officers, 1999
- 44 Officers and members, prospective members, 2011
- 45 PowerPoint Arboretum Status presentation and handwritten note
- 46 Long term planning survey
- 47 Various surveys, 2010, no date
- 48 Volunteer Service Department graphs, handouts, business card, 2009-2011
- 49 Volunteer Time Sheets (blank)
- 50 Email regarding RMC website, correspondences, Board directory, mission and about statement, 2006
- 51 Board directories, 1976-1977, 2000, 2004, 2008-2010
- 52 Governance, Board of Directors polices, 2008
- 53 Officers and members, prospective members, 1999
- 54 Advisory Council schedule of volunteers, 2012
- 55 Docent Advisory Council Communication Committee email, 2012
- 56 Development Committee copy of handwritten list, correspondences, reports, proposed plan, 1998, 2011
- 57 Friends of the Ringling Museum invitation to participate, 1973
- 58 Friends of the Ringling Museum fundraising letters
- 59 Hospitality Committee schedule of events, lists of events held, chairman responsibilities, 1972-1983

4 Administrative Files

- 1 Informal Activities Group description, correspondences, expense report, postcard, events, press release, 1973-1975
- 2 Board of Directors Handbook, title page, table of contents, statements, directories, 2011

- 3 Board of Directors Handbook, governance and history, 2011
- 4 Board of Directors Handbook, members A-G, 2011
- 5 Board of Directors Handbook, members H-R, 2011
- 6 Board of Directors Handbook members S-Z, 2011
- 7 RMC Handbook/Directory, title page, statement, board members, directory, 2008
- 8 RMC Handbook/Directory, governance and history, 2008
- 9 RMC Handbook/Directory, members A-H, 2008
- 10 RMC Handbook/Directory, members I-Z, 2008
- 11 RMC Members Council Notebook, loose material from front inside pocket and cover page
- 12 RMC Member's Notebook, calendars and schedules.
- 13 RMC Member's Notebook, officers
- 14 RMC Member's Notebook, goals, charts, plans, finances and agendas
- 15 RMC Member's Notebook, meetings, directory, governance, correspondences and history
- 16 RMC Member's Notebook, slide printout, dissolution articles, 2012
- 17 RMC Member's Notebook, RMA membership
- 18 RMC Member's Notebook, IRS tax status
- 19 RMC Member's Notebook, Board of Directors
- 20 RMC Member's Notebook, Enlow, Grady
- 21 RMC Member's Notebook, loose material from back pocket
- 22 FSU Ringling Center, cover page
- 23 FSU Ringling Center, conceptual plan
- 24 FSU Ringling Center, legacy of John Ringling
- 25 FSU Ringling Center, questions and answers

- 26 Ringling Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors Manual, cover page, table of contents, statements and goals, 2012
- 27 Ringling Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors Manual, governing documents, 2012
- 28 Ringling Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors Manual, operations, 2012
- 29 Ringling Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors Manual, current Board members, 2012
- 30 Ringling Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors Manual, profiles, 2012
- 31 Ringling Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors Manual, fact sheets, 2012
- 32 RMA brochures
- 33 RMA exhibition schedule, 2008-2012
- 34 RMA expense report, 2015, 2017
- 35 RMA marketing handout and Web 2.0 basics.
- 36 RMA membership, bulletins and newsletters
- 37 RMA membership campaigns
- 38 RMA membership card sample
- 39 RMA membership correspondences, 2000, 2011
- 40 RMA membership costs and benefits
- 41 RMA membership list, 1999
- 42 RMA membership reports, 2008-2011
- 43 RMA membership strategic plans, 2009-2010, 2010-2011
- 44 RMA quarterly reports, 2010-2011
- 45 RMA Tibbals Learning Center and complex development
- 46 Activities schedules, 1977-1982
- 47 Art Rental-Sales Gallery, 1971-1973
- 48 Art Carnival, 1968
- 49 Art Carnival, 1969

	50	Art Carnival, 1970
5	Administrative Files	
	1	Art Carnival, 1971
	2	Art Carnival, 1972
	3	Art Carnival, 1973
	4	Art Carnival, 1974
	5	Art Carnival, 1975
	6	Art Carnival, 1976
	7	Art Carnival, 1977
	8	Art Carnival, 1978
	9	Art Carnival, 1979
	10	Art Carnival, 1980-1981
	11	Art Carnival, 1983
	12	Children's Art Classes, 1966
	13	Children's Programming, Through the Looking Glass, 1981-1983
	14	Christmas at Cà d'Zan, 1973-1977
	15	Christmas at Cà d'Zan, 1978
	16	Christmas at Cà d'Zan, 1979
	17	Christmas at Cà d'Zan, 1980
	18	Christmas at Cà d'Zan, 1981
	19	Christmas at Cà d'Zan, 1982
	20	Christmas at Cà d'Zan, 1983
	21	Coffee Hours.
	22	Concerts in the Courtyard, 1981-1983
	23	Craft Festival, 1976-1978
	24	Craft Festival, 1979
	25	Craft Festival, 1980
	26	Craft Festival, 1981-1982
	27	Craft Festival, 1983

6

Administrative Files

- 1 Craft Festival, 1986
- 2 Craft Festival, 1989
- 3 Deck the Halls, 2010
- 4 Events, 1955-2011, no date
- 5 Events, 2010-2011
- 6 Events for members, 1972, 1974, 1983
- 7 Lecture material, 1980-1982
- 8 Medieval Fair, 1978-1979
- 9 Medieval Fair, 1980
- 10 Medieval Fair, 1981
- 11 Medieval Fair, 1982
- 12 Medieval Fair, 1983
- 13 Medieval Fair, 1985-1986
- 14 Medieval Fair, 1988
- 15 Medieval Fair, 1992
- 16 Medieval Fair, 1995
- 17 Medieval Fair, 2000
- 18 Meet the Artist Reception, Rosenquist, James, 1979
- 19 "Museum Without Walls," 1971
- 20 Rubens Gala, 1980
- 21 Tours offered by RMC material, 1972-1981
- 22 Programs, educators, 2005, no date
- 23 Programs, "Handz-On," 2005
- 24 Programs, speakers, 2008-2009
- 25 Workshops flyer, 2006

7

Administrative Files

- Gravel Award, Best Continuing Project, 1979 September 5
- Gravel Award, Best Continuing Project, 1980 September 8

Golden Gavel Award – Best Continuing Project, 1983
September 7