



BHC-MSS 0155
Guide to the Newspaper Clipping Collection of Cesar Batalla
By Meg Rinn
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Batalla, Cesar

Title: Newspaper clipping collection of Cesar Batalla

Dates: 1970-1992

Quantity: 1 ½ manuscript boxes

Abstract: Cesar Batalla was one of Bridgeport's most well-known and well-regarded activists. Born in Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico on June 14, 1945, the Batalla family moved when Cesar was eight. He began his career in activism in 1970 as a NAACP delegate, and would go on to become a key part of Bridgeport's Hispanic and Latinx communities in their work for social change and social justice. This collection was created by Cesar Batalla and reflects coverage of both his career and the causes he championed, especially with regards to housing and transportation.

Language: English, Spanish

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

Cesar Batalla was one of Bridgeport's most well-known and well-regarded activists. Born in Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico on June 14, 1945, the Batalla family moved when Cesar was eight. As a child he attended one of the city's parochial schools, and then Bassick High School. But he did not complete his time at the University of Bridgeport due to being drafted to fight in the Vietnam War.

A full biography of Cesar Batalla written by Professor Sonya Huber as a part of the Bridgeport History Center's *Grassroots Historians* series is [available online](#), and delves into his childhood in Bridgeport and offers extensive details of his activism career, which began in 1970 as a delegate of the NAACP. Readers are strongly advised to refer to her work.

Batalla became engaged with Hispanic and Latinx affairs in the city of Bridgeport after witnessing a renter's strike protest lead by the Young Lords Party - info - in 1971. By 1972, Batalla began working in the City of Bridgeport's Department of Humane Affairs, and then later, on a study of the city's health services. This would be only a portion of his career. He helped to organize free transportation for senior citizens (see the FISH file in the collection), worked with the Spanish American Coalition to provide services including drug treatment and Puerto Rican Festivals. He also worked with Action for Bridgeport Community Development (ABCD) along with Charles Tisdale.

His interests would go on to expand to affirmative action, block grants, education, housing, and block grants. This was also all done while he worked at the Southern Connecticut Gas Company located on State and Broad streets in Bridgeport and raising two daughters.

Cesar Batalla was diagnosed with leukemia in 1993, dying of it on July 30, 1996. In addition to having a school and a street named after him in Bridgeport, a great number of colleagues, reporters, and residents of Bridgeport still recall him and his brand of activism with both deep fondness and respect.

Bibliography

Grimaldi, Lennie. Remembering The Mighty Social Irritant Cesar Batalla, More Than A School, Only in Bridgeport. 2013-10-13. <http://onlyinbridgeport.com/wordpress/remembering-the-mighty-social-irritant-cesar-batalla-more-than-a-school/>

Huber, Sonya. *Cesar Batalla*. Grassroots Historians Series, 2018. <http://hdl.handle.net/11134/110002:19375>

Scope and Content note:

This collection was created by Cesar Batalla and reflects coverage of both his career and the causes he championed. Much of it focuses on Bridgeport's Hispanic and Latinx communities, especially with regards to housing and transportation.

Arrangement Note:

Subject files arranged alphabetically. It is unclear if the folder titles were his original ones or if they were assigned when minimally processed at an unknown date.

Administrative information:

Provenance: 1996.14, Gift of Sara Batalla, Cesar's daughter

Preferred Citation:

Newspaper clipping collection of Cesar Batalla (BHC-MSS 0155), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Batalla, Cesar

Corporate names

Action for Bridgeport Community Development

City of Bridgeport

Spanish American Coalition

Subject tracings

Education

Educational equalization

Education, Bilingual

Housing

Housing policy

Discrimination in housing

Housing and health

Transportation

Detailed box/folder listing

Box 1

1. Action for Bridgeport Community Development, 1977-1978
2. Arson, 1978-1978
3. Awards, 1978
4. Batalla, Cesar – Affirmative Action, 1976-1980
5. Batalla, Cesar – Puerto Rican Coalition, 1976-1988
6. Block grants, 1976-1978
7. Crime, 1982-1984
8. Cesar Batalla photos, 1985-1987
9. East Side neighborhoods, 1988-1989
10. Education, 1978-1988
11. Fish Service Group – transportation for poor, 1978-1980
12. Flood, Puerto Rico, 1985
13. Franco Tours Travel Agency, undated
14. Fund drives, 1977-1987
15. Health Clinic, 1972-1978
16. Hispanic credit union, 1977-1987
17. Hispanic politics, 1980-1989
18. Housing, 1972-1985
19. Legal issues, 1976-1987
20. Minority hiring, 1975-1989
21. Moran, Mary – Mayor of Bridgeport, City and deficit policies, 1990
22. Police brutality, 1977-1978
23. Puerto Rican Arts Festival, 1973-1974
24. School grant, 1988
25. School racial balance, 1980-1989
26. Social services, 1975-1977
27. Spanish merchants, 1988-1992

Box 2

1. SAC, Spanish American Coalition, 1970-1989
2. Summer jobs, 1978-1982
3. Teen center, 1977-1987
4. Utilities, 1985-1987
5. Veteran affairs, 1972-1979
6. Welfare, 1977-1980