



BHC-MSS 0241
Guide to the Papers of Judith Muniec
November 2022

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Muniec, Judith

Title: Papers of Judith Muniec

Dates: 1973-1976

Quantity: 1.5 linear feet

Abstract. Judith Muniec was a highly active force in Bridgeport's civic life, born in the city and working for the *Bridgeport Post* before becoming an employee at the Bridgeport Public Library. Both she and her husband Victor were strong proponents of revitalizing the city through the arts, and her subject files reflect the work done to accomplish that goal.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

Judith Priestly, later Muniec, was born in Bridgeport and graduated from Barnard College in New York City. She worked at the *Bridgeport Post*, and went on to become the Community Relations Director at the Bridgeport Public Library. Victor E. Muniec, who also worked at the *Bridgeport Post*, was her husband.

The couple were incredibly active Bridgeport citizens. Victor held a number of positions at the University of Bridgeport over the years, especially within the Continuing Education division, and was an assistant professor, as well as Director of Public Relations, complimenting Judith's position at the Bridgeport Public Library. Both sat on a vast swath of boards, committees, and associations, that had a particular emphasis on revitalizing the city of Bridgeport, especially through arts and historic preservation. A 1974 interview with the *Bridgeport Post* laid out their view that the city had all of the potential to become a cultural center with concert halls and art galleries, and that the development would help lift the city immensely, and they pushed for it through various organizations reflected in the collection. Both were also keen environmental activists.

The two left Bridgeport as a part of retirement, resettling in the Washington, D.C. area, where Judith died in 2009 and Victor passed away in 2012.

Bibliography

Muniec, Judith and Victor. Biographical files, Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/judith-muniec-obituary?id=5926585>

Scope and Content note:

Material in the collection primarily focuses on the Bicentennial and the Bridgeport Art Center, highlighting the emphasis on revitalizing the city through the arts. The never-realized Bridgeport

Center for the Arts is the best expression of this relationship. Part of the Congress Plaza development project, the Bridgeport Center for the Arts was an attempt to create a cultural center in the area. There was a particular emphasis on restoring the Majestic and Palace theaters (which as of writing in 2022 are still in disrepair) in order to enable this. The project was disbanded around 1976 or 1977. There are a few other subject files, and more about Muniec's involvement with the city can be seen in her husband's papers (BHC-MSS 0240) and the Judith Muniec Collection of Records of the Bridgeport Commission on the Arts and Bridgeport Arts Council, 1970-1978 (BHC-MSS 0190) which she donated separately to the archives.

Arrangement note:

Subject files arranged alphabetically.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Donation of Judith Muniec, 1979.41

See also:

Judith Muniec Collection of Records of the Bridgeport Commission on the Arts and Bridgeport Arts Council (BHC-MSS 0190), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library

Papers of Victor Muniec (BHC-MS 0240), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Judith Muniec (BHC-MSS 0241), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

added in aspace

Corporate names

added in aspace

Subject tracings

added in aspace

Detailed box/folder listing

Box 1

1. Bicentennial, minutes 1975-1976
2. Bicentennial, correspondence, 1975-1976
3. Bicentennial, proposals, 1975
4. Bridgeport Architectural Conservancy, 1975-1976
5. Bridgeport Area Cultural Council, 1964
6. Bridgeport Art Center, minutes, 1975
7. Bridgeport Art Center Memos, 1975
8. Bridgeport Art Center Proposals, 1975=1976
9. Bridgeport Art Center Bylaws, officers, and statements, 1974-176
10. Bridgeport Art Center Correspondence, 1975-1977

11. Bridgeport Center for the Arts, 1976-1977
12. The Block survey, 1977

Box 2

1. David Palmquist grant, 1976-1977
2. History of Bridgeport book proposal, 1973-1976
3. International Institute, 1975-1977
4. Video grant, 1976
5. Photographs [?] at Bridgeport Public Library, 1975