



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

**LABOR INTERPRETIVE CENTER:
An Inventory of Its Records**

OVERVIEW

- Agency:** Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center.
- Series Title:** Records.
- Dates:** 1943-1999 (bulk 1985-1999).
- Abstract:** Records documenting the proposed Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center and its advisory body, the Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center, Inc.
- Quantity:** 1.8 cubic feet (1 box and 1 partial box).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

HISTORY

The proposal to build a Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center began in 1984 when Governor Rudy Perpich announced the idea at the Minnesota AFL-CIO annual convention. Perpich appointed David Roe, president emeritus of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, to head a task force to plan a new interpretive center affiliated with the Minnesota Historical Society. In 1985, a \$228,000 state appropriation was made to the Department of Administration to "plan and design the Labor History Center" [Laws 1986 1spsess c15 sec3 subd4f].

In 1993, the Center was separated from the Minnesota Historical Society. The Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center, Inc., a non-profit corporation authorized in the creating legislation, was formed with its own board of directors to advise the Center and engage in fundraising on its behalf. The ten directors were to be representatives of labor, business, state and local government, local education authorities, and arts groups and were appointed by the governor, the mayor of St. Paul, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Subcommittee on Committees of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration [Laws 1993 c369 sec60].

Of primary importance to the Center was the preservation and interpretation of the story of the workers and their institutions in Minnesota [Laws 1986 c3 art4 sec8]. In addition, the Center was to spur an interest among the people of Minnesota in family and community traditions of work; help young people discover their work skills and opportunities for a productive working life; and advance the teaching of work and labor studies in schools and colleges. Not intended as a conventional museum or research library, the Center was to achieve these goals through exhibits, audio-visual programs, educational programs, theatrical presentations, seminars, conferences and symposia.

The Center was to be a state-of-the-art structure featuring exhibit galleries, educational facilities, and a theater. Several options for site locations were considered, but in 1995 it was decided that the Center would be constructed in the East Building of the former Science Museum of Minnesota complex in St. Paul. The 1998 legislative session approved six million dollars for the renovation of the East Building, with a projected completion date of December 2001 [Laws 1998 c404 sec13 subd5].

However, the Center suffered a severe setback when at the completion of the 1999 legislative session, Governor Jesse Ventura used the line item veto on two bills containing appropriations for the Center. Although still statutorily alive, the Center was, as of July 2000, not active.

Sources: Minnesota Laws, Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center records, and Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center Web site.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The files contain organizational materials, including incorporation documents, mission statements, board of director and task force lists, and affirmative action plans; minutes of board of director meetings and workshops, committee meetings, and site planning meetings; subject files; and publications.

The subject files, which include correspondence, newspaper clippings, and background materials, document planned exhibits, pledges, and relations with various architectural firms, the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Historical Society. They also include correspondence of Board Chair David Roe.

The publications are mainly studies and reports documenting proposed programs, exhibits, and sites for the Center, particularly the proposed 1999 move into the vacated Science Museum of Minnesota building in St. Paul. They also document the Center's relations with the Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board, the exhibit planning firm Charnell, the city of St. Paul, and the Great American History Theatre. Included are an undated Minnesota labor history map, a 1999 proposed exhibit on automobile manufacturing in Minnesota, and an undated two-volume history of organized labor in Minnesota.

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Affirmative action programs--Minnesota.
Automobile industry and trade--Minnesota.
Culture.
Labor unions--Minnesota.
Labor-- Criticism, interpretation, etc.--Minnesota-- History.
Labor--Minnesota--History--Societies, etc.

Mission statements--Minnesota.
Museums--Minnesota.
Research libraries--Minnesota.
Working class--Minnesota--History--Societies, etc.

Persons:

Roe, David.

Organizations:

Charnell (Firm : Little Falls, Minn.).
Great American History Theatre (Saint Paul, Minn.).
Minnesota Historical Society.
Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center, Inc.
Minnesota. Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board.
Saint Paul (Minn.).
Science Museum of Minnesota.
University of Minnesota.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center. Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession numbers: 2001-13

Processing Information:

Catalog ID No.: 1737181

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below. Each file consists of one folder unless specified otherwise.

Location	Box	
154.J.12.9B	1	Organizational files, 1985-1999. 11 folders Affirmative Action Plan, 1998-2000. Articles of Incorporation and related records, 1994. Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center, Inc. Board of Directors lists and related records, 1994-1999. Board of Directors, press releases, articles, applications, 1993 Bylaws-LIC, 1994. Ideas for the LIC when completed. LHC governance. Miscellaneous information on LIC, 1985-1995. Mission statements.

Location	Box	
154.J.12.9B	1	<p>Statutory reference, 1985-1998. Task Force members and mail lists. Minutes of Board meetings, 1985-1999. 36 folders. Labor History Center Information Workshop, April 25, 1990. Labor History Center Steering Committee, August 8, 1990. 1993. 3 folders. October 28, December 2, December 28. 1994. 3 folders. January 14, June 16, September 19. 1995. 7 folders. January 18, March 22, April 17 media tour, April 19 (meeting canceled), May 25, July 20, November 14. 1996. 5 folders. April 29, June 20 all day workshop, August 15 all day workshop, November 19, December 10. 1997. 3 folders. January 17, special search meeting, June 9, October 29. 1998. 5 folders. April 14, May 14, August 3, October 13, December 3 all day workshop. 1999. 5 folders. February 16 History Center meeting: "Speaking of Work," April 7, June 14, December 14, and two cassette tapes of Board meeting on June 24 and December 14. Site planning meetings, 1993-1994. LIC Site Plan, 1990-1995. Miscellaneous LIC budgets and meetings, 1985-1993. Subject files, 1943-1999. 16 folders. Labor Day message by Dave Roe, September 4, 1995. Memorial to Fallen Workers, MLIC, 1998-1994. MLIC background information and photocopies for exhibits, 1997- 1998. MLIC pledge list, March 24, 1997. MLIC Web site. Newspaper clippings regarding LIC, 1985-1986. Prof. [Mario] Bognanno's letter to Governor, April 8, 1985. Martin Duffy, University of Minnesota, correspondence, 1985. John Herbst, New Jersey, correspondence, 1985. Bruce Knutson Architects, correspondence, 1985-1986. Minnesota Historical Society, correspondence, 1985-1986. Miscellaneous correspondence regarding LIC, 1986-1993. Newspaper clippings and research materials regarding LIC, 1943- 1993.</p>

Location	Box	
154.J.12.9B	1	Gerald Robinson, Architect, correspondence, 1985-1986. Dave Roe, Board Chair, correspondence, 1985-1998.
154.J.12.10F	2	Task Force members, correspondence, 1985-1986. Publications, 1985-1999. 36 folders. Minnesota Labor History map: "Workers and Allies: The Labor Movement in Minnesota," undated. Credentials for Development of the MLIC's Program Document by BRW, October 8, 1985. The Labor History Interpretive Center Program by Bruce Knutson Architects, November 1985. The Labor History Interpretive Center Program Study Report, December 29, 1986. MLIC Summary Report and Recommendations by Dober, Lidsky, Craig and Associates, February 1991. CAAPB [Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board]: Celebrating the Work of Minnesota's Hands, [1991?]. Celebrating the work of Minnesota's Hands, "Minnesotans at Work:" The Labor Interpretive Center, by CAAPB, [1991?]. MLIC Site Selection Study: Summary Report and Recommendations by Dober, Lidsky, Craig, and Associates, Inc., May 1991. Site Selection Workbook by CAAPB, Potential Sites, October 1992. Survey of Institutional Resources for the MLIC, prepared by American History Workshop for the CAAPB, November 10, 1992. Final Report to the CAAPB on the planning of "Minnesotans at Work" for LIC by American History Workshop, February 10, 1993. Ankeny Kell Richter Walsh Architects Presents our professional qualifications to the CAAPB for the MLIC, November 23, 1993. Rafferty Rafferty Tollefson Architects, qualifications submittal for LIC and CAAPB, November 24, 1993. Qualifications for Architectural Planning and Analysis Services for LIC to CAAPB by Carlsen and Frank Architects, November 24, 1993. Facility Program for the MLIC by Russell W. Fridley, March 3, 1995. Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center, Science Museum Re-use Feasibility Study, prepared by Ankeny, Kell, Richter, Walsh Architects, P.A., July 17, 1995. Development Agreement By and Between City of St. Paul, Minnesota and The Science Museum of Minnesota, by Briggs and Morgan, 1996. MLIC From Dream to Reality a commentary by CHARNELL, May 5, 1998.

Location	Box	
154.J.12.10F	2	<p><i>Minnesota Works</i>, LIC newsletter, fall 1997 and winter 1998.</p> <p>Predesign Report for the Reuse of the Science Museum of Minnesota East Building, for the MLIC, prepared by LIC and Ankeny Kell Architects, P.A. September 23, 1998.</p> <p>MLIC Program Applications Concept Working Group, Final Report by CHARNELL, October 1998.</p> <p>MLIC Exhibit Development Working Group, Final Report by CHARNELL, February 1999. 2 folders.</p> <p>Predesign Report for the Reuse of the Science Museum of Minnesota East Building for the MLIC, prepared by MLIC and Ankeny Kell Architects, P.A., February 1999.</p> <p>“On the Line: Automobile Manufacturing in Minnesota,” A proposed exhibit, May 1999.</p> <p>“Coming to St. Paul in the East Building of the Former Science Museum of Minnesota,” pamphlet, [ca. 1999].</p> <p>A History of Organized Labor in Minnesota- Book #1 of 2, undated.</p> <p>A History of Organized Labor in Minnesota- Book #2 of 2, undated.</p> <p>MLIC Exhibit Development Workbook, [ca. 1998]. 3 folders.</p> <p>MLIC Exhibit Layout Proposal by CHARNELL, May 1998.</p> <p>MLIC Pilot Project for Exhibit Development by CHARNELL, May 1998.</p> <p>“On the Line: A Dramatic Reading” MLIC in collaboration with the Great American History Theatre, flyer and postcard, April 21 [1999].</p> <p>Unions Visitor-Interpretive Center Program by Bruce Knutson Architects Inc., undated.</p> <p>“The World of Work: Work History in Minnesota:” an Exhibit on the World Wide Web, undated.</p>