LABOR INTERPRETIVE CENTER: An Inventory of Its Records

OVERVIEW
Agency: Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center.
Series Title: Records.
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 1sp sess 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Organizational files, 1985-1999.</th>
<th>11 folders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Articles of Incorporation and related records, 1994.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minnesota Labor Interpretive Center, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Board of Directors, press releases, articles, applications, 1993</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ideas for the LIC when completed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LHC governance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous information on LIC, 1985-1995.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mission statements.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Location     Box
154.J.12.9B  1

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,
Subject files, 1943-1999. 16 folders.
   MLIC background information and photocopies for exhibits, 1997-
   1998.
   MLIC pledge list, March 24, 1997.
   MLIC Web site.
   Prof. [Mario] Bognanno’s letter to Governor, April 8, 1985.
   Martin Duffy, University of Minnesota, correspondence, 1985.
   Newspaper clippings and research materials regarding LIC, 1943-
   1993.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|              |     | 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,  
|              |     | 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  
|              |     | Survey of Institutional Resources for the MLIC, prepared by  
|              |     | American History Workshop for the CAAPB, November 10,  
|              |     | 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  
|              |     | 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

“On the Line: A Dramatic Reading” MLIC in collaboration with the Great American History Theatre, flyer and postcard, April 21 [1999].
Unions Visitor-Interpretive Center Program by Bruce Knutson Architects Inc., undated.