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Collection Summary

Repository: Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

Creator: Hands Across the Merrimack, Inc.

Title: Hands Across the Merrimack Collection

Collection Number: 9800.003

Accession Number: 2010.10

Dates: 2000-2010

Volume: 1 cubic foot and 1 oversized map tube

Languages: Collection materials are in English (majority) and French.

Access: Access to collection is open to the public. Please contact the archives for an appointment to view materials. Cite the collection number, box and folder numbers when making an appointment. Materials may be accessible online; please reference the digital note below. Videos in this collection exist on DVD and VHS mediums. The archives may not have the appropriate equipment, hardware, and/or software to provide access.

Digital Note: Materials are not accessible online at this time.

Conservation Notes: Not applicable.

Finding Aid Prepared by: Mike Intranuovo, 2015.

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Historical Note

Hands Across the Merrimack, Inc. (HAM) was a non-profit corporation based in Manchester, NH that was established in 2001. The project was an outgrowth of the 1993 Intown Manchester Development Plan developed by LDR International and the City of Manchester. A specific group of meeting attendees was particularly enticed by the idea of redeveloping an old trestle bridge spanning across the Merrimack River. This idea eventually evolved into the mission of HAM.

HAM's mission was "to garner the necessary private and public resources and support to transform and maintain a landmark Piscataquog rail-trail bridge for pedestrian and cycling use." HAM worked to convert a railroad bridge, which spanned the Merrimack River and Interstate Route 293 in Manchester, into a recreational pedestrian/bicycle crossing. The bridge was to also serve as a landmark which would demonstrate Manchester's commitment to parks and residential complexes being developed on both sides of the river at the time. This project was connected with the Manchester's Riverwalk Project and was a public/private endeavor, soliciting funds from private and public entities. The corporation was lead by several volunteer local residents, most notably Helen Closson.

The project was completed and the pedestrian bridge was officially opened in April 2008, with the Hands Across the Merrimack, Inc. organization dissolving in 2010.

Collection Description

This collection documents the efforts of HAM in the planning, financing, and construction of the pedestrian bridge over the Merrimack River and Interstate Route 293 in Manchester, NH. It contains records related to the construction of the bridge, materials used to publicize the project, photographs, financial records, and governance documents such as meeting minutes. There are also videos of various events related to the organization.

A strength of the collection is the meeting minutes of the Board, found in record series 3. The minutes create a linear timeline of the organization's actions and decisions before, during, and after the construction of the pedestrian bridge. They often cite other records included in the collection, such as the feasibility study and the general summaries.

Series Descriptions and Inventory

The series is arranged in five record series:

1. Construction Records, 2004-2008
2. Financial Documents, 2000-2009
3. Governance Documents, 2000-2010
4. Photographs, 2002-2007
5. Publicity Materials, 2000-2008

Series 1: Construction Records, 2004-2008

This series consists of records detailing the planning and construction of the pedestrian bridge over the Merrimack River. It includes contract documents and technical specifications from consulting engineers, construction plans, cost estimates, project schedules, oversized grading and drainage plans, oversized site plans, and signage plans. Arranged chronologically.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Grading and Drainage Plan, 2004	1	1
Cost Estimates, 2005-2006	1	2
Construction Plans, 2006	1	3

Construction Plans (Oversized), 2006	O-1	
Project Overview, 2006	1	4
Project Schedule, 2006	1	5
Contract and Technical Specifications, 2007 (1 of 2)	1	6
Contract and Technical Specifications, 2007 (2 of 2)	1	7
Site Plans, 2007	1	8
Signage Plans, 2008	1	9

Series 2: Financial Documents, 2000-2009

This series consists of tax documents, and reports created by the HAM treasurer, also known as treasurer reports or general summaries. A general summary records the overall financial status of the organization during a specific period of time, and includes information such as total revenue and expenses, including from pledges and donations. Arranged chronologically.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Tax Documents, 2000-2002	1	10
General Summaries, 2004	1	11
General Summaries, 2005	1	12
General Summaries, 2006	1	13
General Summaries, 2007	1	14
General Summaries, 2008-2009	1	15

Series 3: Governance Documents, 2000-2010

This series consists of studies and reports, policies, and minutes of the Hands Across the Merrimack Board of Directors Meetings. For many meetings, attachments to minutes include agendas and other supporting documents. This series offers a record of official actions taken by the organization, as well as official policy. Some documents include marginalia from Helen Closson. Videos on VHS were not viewed, and were arranged/described only according to the description written on their labels.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Annual Report Certificate, 2005	1	16
Articles of Agreement, 2000	1	17
Board of Directors (Lists of), 2001-2005	1	18
Bylaws, 2001	1	19
Feasibility Study by Advancement Consulting Group, 2002	1	20
Minutes of the Board, 2000-2003	1	21
Minutes of the Board, 2004-2005	1	22
Minutes of the Board, 2006-2008; 2010	1	23
Policy: Conflict of Interest	1	24
Policy: Insurance, 2005	1	25
Riverfront Development Plan, n.d.	1	26
Statement of Dissolution, 2010	1	27
Video: Presentation to Board of Mayor and Aldermen, November 21, 2000 Item Note: Video stored on VHS.	1	28
Video: CIP Meeting, n.d. Item Note: Video stored on VHS.	1	28
Video: Appearance before Board of Mayor and Aldermen, April 19, 2004 Item Note: Video stored on VHS.	1	28

Video: Contract Award, May 31, 2007 Item Note: Video stored on DVD.	1	28
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Series 4: Photographs, 2002-2007

This series consists of processed color photographs and printed color digital images. Images focus on the pedestrian bridge, and include aerial views of its location, its on-site construction, and model designs.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Aerial, n.d.	1	29
Construction, 2007	1	30
Model Designs, 2002	1	31

Series 5: Publicity Materials, 2000-2008

This series consists of items used to promote the pedestrian bridge over the Merrimack River. It contains brochures, fliers, invitations, letterheads, speeches, videos, newspaper clippings, and other materials used to promote the project. Videos on VHS were not viewed, and were arranged/described only according to the description written on their labels.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Brochures, n.d.	1	32
Fliers, n.d.	1	33
Invitations, 2004-2005; 2007-2008	1	34
Letterhead, n.d.	1	35
Newspaper Clippings, 2006-2008	1	36
Press Releases, 2005; 2008	1	37
Project Narratives and Descriptions, n.d.	1	38
Speeches, 2000-2008	1	39
Thank You Card, n.d.	1	40
Video: Animation by James Travers, 2007 Item Note: Video stored on DVD.	1	41
Video: Groundbreaking, 2008 Item Note: Video stored on VHS.	1	42
Video: Hands, n.d. Item Note: Video stored on VHS.	1	42
Video: Piece on Bridge (Hands Across the Merrimack), n.d. Item Note: Video stored on VHS.	1	42
Web Content (Printed), 2002; 2004	1	43