



Robert “Michael” Van Zant Collection (Series XXXVII)
2023 Dec 21

Draft finding aid updated

2024 May 9 by Vincent Slatt

Alternative Titles

Robert Van Zant Collection

Michael Van Zant Collection

“MS 0764 RHP Series [???” at the [DC History Center](#)

Online description and digitized items, archives.rainbowhistory.org (add hyperlink)

DC History Center Accession number

2024.005; Jan 21, 2024

MS 0764 RHP Series number(s)

Series XXXVII (37).

Extent

5 Hollinger boxes; approximately 2.5 linear feet

Abstract

Provide a 2-sentence description of what was delivered/known about the collection at pick-up/delivery.

Creator/Donor Biographical Note

Robert Michael Van Zant collected the material through decades of activism and participation in gay Black organizations, HIV/AIDS work, as well as religious communities. He was active with Intercity AIDS Network (ICAN) and Faith Temple.

Scope and content of collection

Provide a detailed summary of the collection for online description and public outreach.

What types of records are included, what subjects are covered? What is not included?
Why are these materials important or being preserved?

Related materials

Are there other materials/collections that are/not relevant or related?

System of arrangement

List here the main groups of documents in the collection, and how those are arranged within each group.

1. Sub-series A: topical files on HIV/AIDS organizing, sexual health, and religion, bulk 1980-2010
Most materials in this category have been minimally processed and placed into folders without specific arrangement. Some single-topic folders were created while processing, though additional material belonging to those topics are certainly interfiled in the other larger subject folders.
2. Sub-series B: Publications and conference proceedings
Conference proceedings have been removed from damaged binders and individually foldered. Magazines and children's books are also in this sub-series.
3. Sub-series C: 12 AIDS posters

Processing history and next steps

Donor gathered materials and brought them to an RHP board meeting; Vincent Slatt took possession and took them to his home to begin processing, [Summer 2023]. Those folders were organized.

Delivery of two large partially full boxes to Vincent, [2023 Dec 12]. A number of materials showed signs of water damage. Vincent and Julie Botnick organized the contents of the boxes and removed duplicates and extremely damaged materials. Collection is now in one box. Certain publications have been removed to transfer to periodicals collections.

Minimal processing of remaining material [2024 Jan 6]. Several volunteers removed additional damaged materials and duplicates. Materials were broadly organized into three categories: religion and LGBTQ+/HIV/AIDS materials; sexual health and HIV/AIDS information and organizing; and individual conference proceedings. Several single-topic folders were created, though additional material on those topics are certainly interfiled in the other larger subject folders.

Additional minimal processing [2024 Jan 11].

12 Flattened AIDS posters were packaged with Lilli Vincenz posters and delivered from VES home to RHP Storage Shed in preparation for delivery to DCHC.

Next steps include:

- Deliver posters to DCHC and photograph 12 flattened AIDS posters.

Repository and Access

12 AIDS promotional posters at RHP storage shed, info@rainbowhistory.org; available by appointment only.

It is *[not yet]* open to *[all people]* [at the DC History Center](#), as of [YYYY Month DD].

Container List -- Current Inventory

Last processed on

2024 Jan 11

1. Sub-series A: topical files on HIV/AIDS organizing, sexual health, and religion, bulk 1980-2010

Box 1

- 1 document box of miscellaneous flyers, pamphlets, and promotional materials

Box 2

- 13 folders of sexual health topical files, unarranged
 - Includes:
 - Federal and DC agency publications and fact sheets on HIV/AIDS
 - Information sheets from drug manufacturers and for clinical trials
 - Event flyers, fundraising appeals, and organizational documents from community organizations and advocacy groups
 - Black LGBTQ+ organizing materials including Us Helping Us
 - Resources for people living with HIV/AIDS
 - Folders 1-10

Box 3

- Folders 11-13, Sexual Health
- 10 folders of religion topical files, unarranged
 - Includes:
 - Metropolitan Community Church
 - Damien Ministries
 - Faith Temple
 - Interfaith Pride event materials
 - Prayer breakfasts and other events
 - Essays, pamphlets, and other materials on the topic of HIV/AIDS and religion
 - Event flyers and advertisements
 - Organizational documents
 - Folders 1-5

Box 4

- Folders 6-10, Religion
- AIDS Education South Africa
- Black LGBT organizing (general)
- Bridge Builders Fund 1998
- Coalition of Black Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals

- Damien Ministries
- DC CARE Consortium
- Events (general)
- Faith Temple
- Intercity AIDS Network (ICAN)
- Lambda Student Alliance
- Michael Van Zant personal papers

Box 5

- Organizations and fundraising (general)
 - Pride (general)
 - SMYAL (Supporting Youth Advocates and Leaders)
2. Sub-series B: Publications and conference proceedings
 - Children's books
 - Comprehensive AIDS Training Initiative training workbook
 - Episcopal Caring Response to AIDS 1998
 - Magazines
 - National Black Religious Summit on Sexuality 1999
 - One in the Spirit Conference 2009
 - Witness our Welcome Conference 2003
 - Women's Health Institute Howard University AIDS
 - Youth AIDS Conference 2006

Not yet at DCHC; RHP Storage Shed, May 2024

3. Sub-series C: 12 AIDS posters
 - 11 AIDS posters from an 18 poster pack from the AIDS Research Foundation
 - 1 AIDS poster from the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 1985