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Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 535)

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Descriptive Inventory

**MSS 535 SOUTHERN Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKYPAC) –
 Bowling Green, Kentucky**

1 boxes. 8 folders. 143 items. 1998-2007. Originals or photocopies

SC 2012.114.136

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Created in 2000, SKYPAC Inc. is an agency of Warren County, Kentucky government established to oversee the design, building and maintenance of The Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center. In turn, SKYPAC Inc. accepted a proposal from The SKYPAC Foundation, formed in 2010, to operate the facility.

Since a renovation of Bowling Green's venerable Capitol Theater on Fountain Square was completed in 1981, the Capitol, along with Van Meter Auditorium at Western Kentucky University, stood as Bowling Green's primary venues for major performing arts activities, especially those touring from outside the region. However, by the end of the next decade it was becoming clear that the Capitol had built an audience for larger productions than Bowling Green could accommodate.

A group of concerned civic leaders, not only interested in creating a new, larger venue for the Performing Arts, but also creating an attraction that would help stimulate downtown development, sought support for such a center. In July 2000, Warren County created the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center, Inc. (SKYPAC) to accept a \$6.77 million dollar appropriation from the Commonwealth of Kentucky designed to fund early architectural and feasibility studies, acquire land, hire architects and fund early operating costs. Subsequent legislative efforts led by Representative Jody Richards of Bowling Green helped to create economic development incentives and initiatives that gave local city and county governments a state partner and the financing tools necessary to begin the redevelopment of Bowling Green's center (Tax Increment Financing District or TIF). Fortuitously, the construction contract for the Center was bid in January 2009 which coincided with the bottom of the construction market when steel and concrete were at an all-time low; accordingly SKYPAC was able to take advantage of these significantly lower building costs. As a result, the construction cost for SKYPAC was \$25 million for a building budgeted at \$30 million and valued closer to \$40 million. Programming began on 22 September 2012 with a performance by the Capitol Steps, a satirical troupe that concentrates on political humor.

SKYPAC also has operational responsibility for the Capitol Theater on Fountain Square Park in downtown Bowling Green.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection is not an archive for SKYPAC, rather it is the compilation of some early documents related to the organization and building of the facility in downtown Bowling Green. The collection includes administrative papers, board minutes, correspondence and some planning documents for the arts facility that opened in 2012. Folder 3 contains information about an early arts partnership—Capitol Arts Alliance, Western Kentucky University, and SKYPAC—and their initial efforts to locate the facility near Western Kentucky University's campus. Folder 8 includes additional documentation about this earlier site as well as information about land purchases for the facility in its downtown location.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	SKYPAC	1998-2007	143 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Administrative papers: By-laws, Articles of Incorporation, etc.	2000	4 items
Folder 3	Arts Partnership Committee – Minutes, memorandums of agreement, planning documents	2000-2002	11 items
Folder 4	Agendas for board meetings	1999-2003	51 items
Folder 5	Minutes of board meetings	2000	22 items
Folder 6	Minutes of board meetings	2001-2003	22 items
Folder 7	Correspondence, reports, etc.	1998-2007	17 items
Folder 8	Reports, information related to site purchase and development.	2001	14 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS SOUTHERN Kentucky Performing Arts 1998-2007
 535 Center – Bowling Green, Kentucky

Administrative papers, agendas and minutes for board meetings, correspondence, and planning documents for SKYPAC, an agency of Warren County, Kentucky government responsible for building (completed in 2012) and now managing a large arts facility built in downtown Bowling Green, Kentucky.

1 box. 8 folders. 143 items. Originals, photocopies, digital images.

SC 2012.114.136

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Arts facilities – Bowling Green – Relating to
 Capitol Arts Alliance – Bowling Green – Relating to
 Capitol Arts Center – Bowling Green – Relating to
 Combs, Geri
 DuBose, Rick B1,F7
 McCue, Rick
 Performing arts centers – Bowling Green
 Ransdell, Gary Alan, b. 1951 B1,F7
 Richards, Walter D. “Jody,” b. 1938 – Mentioned B1,F7
 Rodgers, Johnna – Correspondence B1,F7
 Western Kentucky University – Relating to

SEE or SEE ALSO

SKYPAC – Bowling Green

See:

Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center – Bowling Green

Jeffrey 03/19/2015