



Guide to the Bob Stupak Professional Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Stupak, Bob
Title:	Bob Stupak Professional Papers
ID:	MS-01016
Date [bulk]:	approximately 1970 to 2000
Date [inclusive]:	1900 to 2007
Physical Description:	57.77 Cubic Feet (52 boxes, 11 oversized boxes, 1 roll, and 18 flat files)
Physical Description:	105.86 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	65 Digital Files (3.400 GB) VOB, DAT, DOC
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Bob Stupak Professional Papers (approximately 1900 to 2007) primarily documents the career of Las Vegas, Nevada casino owner, Bob Stupak. The materials in the collection include the planning of two resorts in Las Vegas, Nevada created by Bob Stupak: Vegas World and the Stratosphere. The collection also includes planning materials for the Titanic Las Vegas, an unbuilt resort envisioned by Stupak. Planning and promotional materials for Stupak's resorts including photographs, memorabilia, audiovisual materials, advertising mockups, and architectural drawings. The collection includes several scrapbooks and photographs of Stupak and his wife Sandy at events around Las Vegas. The materials also document Stupak's political campaigns running for mayor of Las Vegas in 1983 and 1987 and lieutenant governor of Nevada in 2006.

Preferred Citation

Bob Stupak Professional Papers, approximately 1900-2007. MS-01016. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Bob Stupak (1942-2009) was a casino owner who built two major resorts in Las Vegas, Nevada: Bob Stupak's Vegas World and the Stratosphere. Stupak first opened the Million Dollar Historic Gambling Museum & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1973. When the museum burned down, Stupak decided to build Bob Stupak's Vegas World in 1974, a space-themed casino. Vegas World closed in 1994, and the remaining buildings and property location were used to create his next venture: the Stratosphere. The Stratosphere, built in 1994, is a 1,149 foot building that is the tallest building in the state of Nevada and the tallest freestanding observation tower in the United States. In 1999, he began planning for a new *Titanic*-themed resort, but the plan was ultimately not approved by the Las Vegas City Council.

Stupak also participated in local politics. He ran two campaigns for mayor of Las Vegas in 1983 and 1987, as well as a campaign for lieutenant governor of Nevada in 2006. Stupak died from leukemia in 2009 at the age of 67.

Sources:

Koch, Ed and Mary Manning, "Bob Stupak, builder of Stratosphere and Vegas World, dies at 67," *Las Vegas Sun*, September 25, 2009. Accessed March 5, 2021. <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2009/sep/25/bob-stupak-builder-stratosphere-and-vegas-world-di/>

Stutz, Howard, "The World according to Stupak," *Las Vegas-Review Journal*, July 30, 2014. Accessed March 5, 2021. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/the-world-according-to-stupak/>.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Bob Stupak Professional Papers (approximately 1900 to 2007) primarily documents the career of Las Vegas, Nevada casino owner, Bob Stupak. The materials in the collection include the planning of two resorts in Las Vegas created by Bob Stupak: Vegas World and the Stratosphere. The collection also includes planning materials for the Titanic Las Vegas, an unbuilt resort envisioned by Stupak. Planning and promotional materials for Stupak's resorts including photographs, memorabilia, audiovisual materials, advertising mock-ups, and architectural drawings. The collection includes several scrapbooks and photographs of Stupak and his wife Sandy at various events around Las Vegas. The collection also includes materials documenting Stupak's career beyond the casino industry, including storyboards and drafts of his screenplay *Bloody Mary*. The materials also document Stupak's political campaigns running for mayor of Las Vegas in 1983 and 1987 and lieutenant governor of Nevada in 2006. Other materials in this collection document the political campaigns of Stupak's children, Nicole and Nevada, as well as singer Phyllis McGuire who was in a relationship with Stupak in the 1990s.

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Arrangement

Materials are organized into two series:

Series I. Professional papers, approximately 1900-2007;

Series II. Personal papers, 1942-2006.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2020 by Nevada Stupak; accession number 2020-015.

Processing Note

In 2020, Tammi Kim reboxed materials, foldered loose items, and wrote the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2021, Sarah Jones processed the collection, wrote the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Gaming -- Las Vegas (Nev.)

- Hotels -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Casinos -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Promotional materials
- Vegas World Hotel Casino
- Stratosphere Hotel and Casino (1996-2020)
- Titanic Las Vegas

Collection Inventory

Professional papers, 1900 to 2007

Physical Description: 21.32 Cubic Feet (23 boxes, 7 oversized boxes, 1 roll, 16 flat files)

Physical Description: 59.31 Linear Feet

Physical Description: 65 Digital Files (3.400 GB) VOB, DAT, DOC

Scope and Contents Note: The Professional Papers series (approximately 1900-2007) contains materials relating the Bob Stupak's two Las Vegas, Nevada projects: Bob Stupak's Vegas World and the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino. Materials include architectural drawings for design and planning of both casinos, as well as artistic renderings used for advertisements. Poker tournaments, interior and exterior casino property photographs, and documents relating to the opening and closing of Stupak's properties are also contained in this series. Additionally, these papers contains plans for unbuilt designs, including the *Titanic* Las Vegas and the "Grip of the Gorilla" attraction planned for the Stratosphere tower. This series also contains audiovisual material relating to Stupak's career, and coupon books he collected as part of his advertising research.

Arrangement: Materials are roughly arranged by subject.

Access Note: Collection is open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

Title/Description	Containers
Bob Stupak's Vegas World and Stratosphere	
Bob Stupak's Vegas World renderings and advertising mockups, 1975 to 1994	oversized box 57 oversized box 60 box 23 oversized box 61
Bob Stupak's Vegas World construction: photographic prints, 1974 to 1979	oversized box 59
Slot machine design and advertising mockups for Bob Stupak's Vegas World, approximately 1980 to 1995	oversized box 58
Progress photography of Bob Stupak's Vegas World expansion construction: photographic prints, 1983 to 1989	box 11 box 12
Interior and exterior shots of Bob Stupak's Vegas World: photographic prints, negatives, and slides, approximately 1980 to 1995	box 14

	box 15
Promotional images from Bob Stupak's Vegas World: photographic prints, negatives, and slides, approximately 1980 to 1995	box 15 box 16
Grand opening, exterior views of signage, and aerial views of Bob Stupak's Vegas World: photographic prints and negatives, 1979 to 1993	box 17
Bob Stupak's Vegas World showrooms, expansion construction, and exterior signage views: photographic prints, 1979 to 1993	box 18
Poker tournaments and winners at Vegas World: photographic prints, negatives, and slides, 1979 to 1993	box 01 box 02 box 07
Entertainer advertisements for Vegas World's Galaxy Showroom scrapbook, 1988 to 1991	oversized box 55
Bob Stupak's Vegas World closure and Stratosphere planning and construction documents, 1990 to 1994	box 24
Bob Stupak's Vegas World interior and exterior perspectives: renderings by Paul Steelman, Ltd., approximately 1990 to 1996 Physical Description: 14 Items	flat file 72 flat file 73 flat file 74 flat file 75 flat file 81
Legal documents and paperwork for Stratosphere and Vegas World properties; trademark and patent documents; and contracts for Vegas World performers including Muhammad Ali, approximately 1979 to 2007	box 26 box 27 box 28 box 29 box 30
Coupons and coupon books for Bob Stupak's Vegas World and other Las Vegas, Nevada locations, approximately 1970 to 1999	box 32
Coupons and coupon books for other Nevada locations, approximately 1970 to 1999	box 33
Bob Stupak's Vegas World and Stratosphere memorabilia and ephemera, including dice, playing cards, shot glasses, guest hotel keycards, and pins, approximately 1970 to 2003	box 34
Bob Stupak's Vegas World promotional signs and oversized photograph of Stupak overlooking the Strip from "Big Shot" ride, approximately 1980 to 1999	flat file 68

Physical Description: 3 Items

Stratosphere Tower construction renderings (phase I and II), approximately 1990 to 1996 Physical Description: 5 Items	flat file 70 flat file 81
Stratosphere Tower ride renderings, approximately 1990 to 1996 Physical Description: 2 Items	flat file 69
Stratosphere construction, licensing, and grand opening: photographic prints, approximately 1990 to 1996	box 19
Stratosphere advertising and publicity scrapbooks, 1991 to 1994 Physical Description: 2 Items	oversized box 54
Vegas World and Stupak Tower private function room architectural drawings and plans, 1990 to 1991 Physical Description: 14 Items	flat file 78
Vegas World and Stratosphere renderings, approximately 1990 to 1999	oversized box 57 oversized box 60 flat file 80
Assessor parcel map, Paradise office building plans, and aerial photograph of Stratosphere construction, 1994 to 1999 Physical Description: 13 Items	flat file 65
Digital files containing Stratosphere mailing lists and promotional videos, approximately 1995 January Physical Description: 65 Digital Files (3.400 GB) VOB, DAT, DOC Processing Note: In 2021, Sarah Jones transferred the files off of floppy disks. No access copies were made at this time.	digital file 00
Other proposals and designs	
Thunderbird Hotel renderings and aerial photographic prints, approximately 1950 to 1991	oversized box 57 oversized box 59
Thunderbird Hotel renovation: photographic prints, approximately 1980 to 1989 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 10
Appraisal report for Thunder Inn, Thunderbird and Bob Stupak's Vegas world: photographic prints, 1979 to 1999	box 17
Moulin Rouge Bar-Restaurant tenant improvement and accessibility architectural drawings, 1999 May 21	flat file 79

Physical Description: 8 Items

Bob Stupak's Riverside Hotel and Casino, Reno, Nevada architectural drawings, 1996	flat file 76
"Grip of the Gorilla" rendering, 1995	oversized box 59
"Belly of the Beast" proposed ride renderings, 1990 to 1996 Physical Description: 2 Items	flat file 71
Wedding Center at the Little White Wedding Chapel (part of <i>Titantic</i> Las Vegas) and Thunderbird Hotel & Casino architectural drawings and plans, 1991 to 1998 Physical Description: 14 Items	flat file 77
<i>Titantic</i> casino proposal, newspaper clippings, renderings, and mock-ups, approximately 1990 to 2000	box 21 box 22
"The Boat" <i>Titantic</i> Las Vegas architectural drawings, 1999 Physical Description: 10 Items	oversized box 57 oversized box 60 roll 63 flat file 64
<i>Titantic</i> sinking and recovery newspaper clippings, 1900 to 1945	oversized box 59
Audiovisual material	
Bob Stupak's television appearances for local Las Vegas, Nevada news stations, approximately 1987 to 1994 Physical Description: 36 VHS Tapes	box 40
Christmas tapes, White House appearance, and Vegas World bankruptcy coverage, approximately 1983 to 1996 Physical Description: 37 VHS Tapes	box 44
Phyllis McGuire television appearance, New Year's Eve 1990, and Bob Stupak television appearances, approximately 1990 to 1996 Physical Description: 37 VHS Tapes	box 46
Mike Tyson boxing matches, McGuire Sisters performances, Bob Stupak television interviews, and Harlem Globetrotters ticket giveaway, approximately 1989 to 2001 Physical Description: 38 VHS Tapes	box 51

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Personal papers, 1942 to 2006

Physical Description: 36.45 Cubic Feet (29 boxes, 10 oversized boxes, and 2 flat files)

Physical Description: 46.55 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Personal Papers series (1942-2006) contain materials relating to Bob Stupak, his family, and his interests outside of his casino businesses including multiple political campaigns.

Materials include photographs, scrapbooks, audiovisual material, and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement: Materials are roughly arranged by subject.

Title/Description	Containers
Stupak family political campaigns	
Bob, Nevada, and Nicole Stupak attending various political campaign events: photographic prints, 1987 to 1999	box 10 box 13
Bob Stupak's mayoral campaign, Nicole Stupak's "Proud to be Las Vegas" city council campaign, and Las Vegas City Hall scandal scrapbooks, approximately 1987 to 1991 Physical Description: 4 Items	oversized box 52 oversized box 53
"Stupak for Lieutenant Governor" banner made from <i>Nevada Gazette</i> cover image, 2006	oversized box 52
Bob and Nevada Stupak political campaign materials, approximately 1980 to 2004	oversized box 57
Stupak family and Bob Stupak personal photographs: photographic prints, negatives, and slides, approximately 1950 to 1999	box 05 box 06
Headshots of Bob Stupak, family photographs, and Bob Stupak with Phyllis McGuire: photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1980 to 1999	box 03 box 04
Phyllis McGuire and McGuire Sisters posters, magazine cover, and paintings, approximately 1960 to 1989 Physical Description: 7 Items	flat file 66 flat file 67
Phyllis McGuire and McGuire Sisters vinyl records, approximately 1950 to 1979 Physical Description: 2 Items	oversized box 60
Bob Stupak and Phyllis McGuire photographs, drawings, and posters, approximately 1980 to 2006	oversized box 58
Personal correspondence to and from Phyllis McGuire, approximately 1980 to 2006	box 31
Bob Stupak in Harlem Globetrotters game: photographic prints and scrapbook, 1996 February	box 10 oversized box 56
Newspapers and assorted publications featuring articles about Bob Stupak, 1979 to 1990	box 31

	oversized box 60
Bob Stupak statue renderings and photographic prints, approximately 1990 to 2000	oversized box 57
Bob Stupak and Donald Trump comparison documents, newspaper clippings, and photographic prints, 1989	box 20 box 21
Poker tournament, Bob Stupak and Donald Trump, and Bob Stupak and Atlantis Casino scrapbooks, 1989	oversized box 53
"Stupak: The Ultimate Game of Skill & Chance" board game and design mockups, approximately 1989 to 1999	oversized box 59
	oversized box 62
Bob Stupak at events in Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic prints, 1970 to 1999	box 08 box 09
Bob Stupak publicity and event scrapbooks, approximately 1970 to 1999 Physical Description: 3 Items	oversized box 55 oversized box 56
Scripts, storyboards, and lyrics for original movies and songs including <i>Bloody Mary</i> , <i>Hotel Transylvania</i> , and <i>Jake the Christmas Snowflake</i> , approximately 1986 to 2000	box 25 oversized box 59
<i>Las Vegas Bullet</i> logo design and newspaper clippings, approximately 1990 to 1999	oversized box 58
<i>New York Times</i> "Bob Stupak Birthday Edition" bound newspaper, 1942 April 06	oversized box 53
Commercial and personal cassettes, microcassettes, and miniDVDs of recordings including Phyllis McGuire songs, the 1996 Harlem Globetrotters game, and Stupak inspecting casino properties, approximately 1990 to 2006 Physical Description: 37 Items	box 82

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